

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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CAN'T WAIT TO GO HUNTING?

TRY A SHOOTING PRESERVE!

Stan Widney
Associate Editor

September 1 was the opening date of the pheasant season—on a shooting preserve, that is. And it runs through March 31, as opposed to the November 14 commencement with only 15 to 22 days of the regular season. Besides, a hunter is absolutely SURE of his game on the preserve. The birds are plentiful and handy and if he happens to be a poor shot, he can still get his money's worth. The preserve owner will GIVE him a bird for every \$4 he's spent, more or less at the owner's discretion, for his day's hunting. Five pheasant, six chukars or eight quail are usually guaranteed.

Not that we're running down the shooting preserves—far from it. Experience has proved that such preserves have their place—such as offering an opportunity to train dogs before the regular season starts. Shooting preserves furnish dogs and guides at no extra cost, but the hunter who owns a dog would be foolish not to seize the opportunity to let his pup work under (almost) real field conditions.

It also gives our hunter a chance to improve his shooting, in case he needs instruction, or, if he's an old hand who is tied to a job that won't let him out to practice long hours in the field, presents fast action. His dog, or the one furnished by the owner, will find the birds he wounds and cripples, so none is lost or wasted.

For those who can't get away to hunt during the regular season, it is a boon indeed. A man can take the afternoon off, hop in his car, drive to the preserve (still in business clothes) and change to hunting togs which are furnished by most preserve owners. He can walk a few hundred yards and commence firing. His limit is his shooting ability and the time he can spend. He can easily shoot a dozen—or buy the four or five which the owner allows



George Tovey Photo.

Shooting preserves furnish dogs, but the wise hunter will take his own dog and give it some training under field conditions with real birds to retrieve.

him—take a hot shower, change back to business attire and be home in plenty of time for dinner.

Private clubs often offer much more than this, with fishing, duck hunting, trapshooting, horseback riding, picnic areas, rifle and pistol ranges, private cabins and spacious clubhouses to attract members. They have their charters and bylaws and some of them have long waiting lists.

The clubs and shooting preserves are both governed by the same laws and regulations. For instance, they can't harvest more than 80 per cent of the birds they release. That's easy, because they scatter rapidly and even the best of hunters don't usually come within the 80 per cent figure.

Some new owners get started because they know of some preserve or club that, well established



Jim Sherman Photo.

The initial cost of starting a shooting preserve is high. Cover and food must be planted and fences built that will keep the birds in and the varmints out.

SEASONS RE-SET

To facilitate both the Saturday hunter and traffic safety, the opening days of pheasant, quail, and partridge shooting were again moved. Season lengths remain the same.

Pheasant—(long zone) November 14 to December 7; (short zone) November 14 to November 29

Partridge—November 14 to December 7

Quail—(long zone) October 31 to December 14; (short zone) October 31 to November 23

All dates inclusive. Shooting time is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

in the business after five or six lean years, is now making real money. These new owners figure that 5,000 pheasants at \$4.50 a bird equals \$22,500. Real lush chicken farming, they think. Not so, say a couple of disillusioned former farmers and sportsmen who tried it. Contrary to the popular belief that the birds are practically held against the hunter's gun muzzle, the opposite is true, because the rule is to try to keep everything natural. The birds are far from tame and the cover is excellent. Besides, none but the novice hunter, or the very rare selfish non-sportsman, would stand for such shenanigans. The game-farmer is lucky if he recovers 50 per cent of the birds he puts out.

The right kind of land has to be purchased or leased, unless it

(Continued on page 175)

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Are You in Shape?	175
Changing Times	171
Conservation Clinic	170
Hunting—Arrowheads	174
Land Management	172
Quality Control	173
Shooting Preserves	169
Two Rare Deer	175

Iowa Conservationist

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ENTER MR. STREWBALL

The scene is peaceful. The stream is clear and sparkling. The forest casts shadows over a clean campground.

Enter and leave Mr. Strewball. The scene is peaceful. But the stream is no longer clear and sparkling—the campground is no longer clean. Mr. Strewball has left his trademark—a sample of his handiwork. In the stream are beer cans. Watermelon rinds, egg shells, paper and broken bottles litter the campground. In short, things are a mess.

Mr. Strewball is careless, thoughtless and inconsiderate. He violates the laws of our state, but he is unafraid. He knows that unless he gets caught he has nothing to fear. Tossing debris out of a car when no one is looking comes easy to the inconsiderate.

Small wonder then that Mr. Strewball multiplied by thousands can bring havoc upon the land by littering the landscape, ruining the scenery and forcing landowners to close their lands to all.

Small wonder, too, that thousands of dollars of your tax money is spent each year to clean up debris along the state's highways. The U. S. Forest Service also spends many thousands of dollars per year—50 per cent above what's actually necessary—in cleaning up the campgrounds in national forests. Remember that this is all money that could be spent to provide better highways, more game and fish and more campgrounds.

One point to ponder is the value of a truly great resource—scenery. Tourists spend millions of dollars each year and one reason is because of scenery. Scenery provides something more for the hunter and fisherman than just meat in the bag or fish in the creel.

How can we rid ourselves of Mr. Strewball and his like? We won't, completely, but a couple of things come to mind. Maybe a realization by all citizens that Mr. Strewball is costing them money in the form of taxes and



Attentive faces show the serious nature of topics under discussion at Iowa's First State-wide Conservation Clinic, Hotel Fort Des Moines, September 8, 1959. George Tovey Photo.

STATEWIDE CONSERVATION CLINIC

The first "grass roots" assembly of conservation-minded Iowans was called to order by Chairman George Jeck of the State Conservation Commission in Des Moines, September 8. The tone of this meeting was serious and down to earth. Conservation is serious business.

Charged by Governor Loveless to find ways to render greater opportunities for recreation for the common citizen, the clinic listened to keynoter Ernest F. Swift of the National Wildlife Federation before panel discussions answered probing questions.

Swift, this year's recipient of the coveted Aldo Leopold award for service to conservation's cause, reminded us of the great men of conservation who were fired in youth by Iowa's rich, rolling prairies and woodlands. Leopold himself originated here, as did our conservation-selling cartoonist—

Ding Darling. "Unmindful of our heritage of land and men, there are too many people more willing to talk conservation than to practice it. Expressing admiration for the non-political commission system that sets the policies, Swift remarked that the system should act as a buffer between the administration of a state and the department of conservation, allowing the director sufficient elbow room to operate capably without constant challenge. "Continuity of effort over many years is a necessity."

As a democracy we have so far been a great success, but other successful civilizations have failed miserably because they couldn't make a lasting adjustment to the land. "Think big—money in the bank won't bring back the soil washed down to the Gulf, but sincerity will overcome any obstacles."

The morning panel convened at 10:00 o'clock and discussed problems under the general topic of lands and waters. An eleven man panel moderated by Wilbur Rush answered written questions submitted before and during the meeting. The afternoon session was lively and spirited as moderator Dr. Arnold Haugen guided panelists in their effort to satisfy queries on fish and game. Far from finishing the stack of questions, many were left unanswered and will be taken care of by mail as time permits.

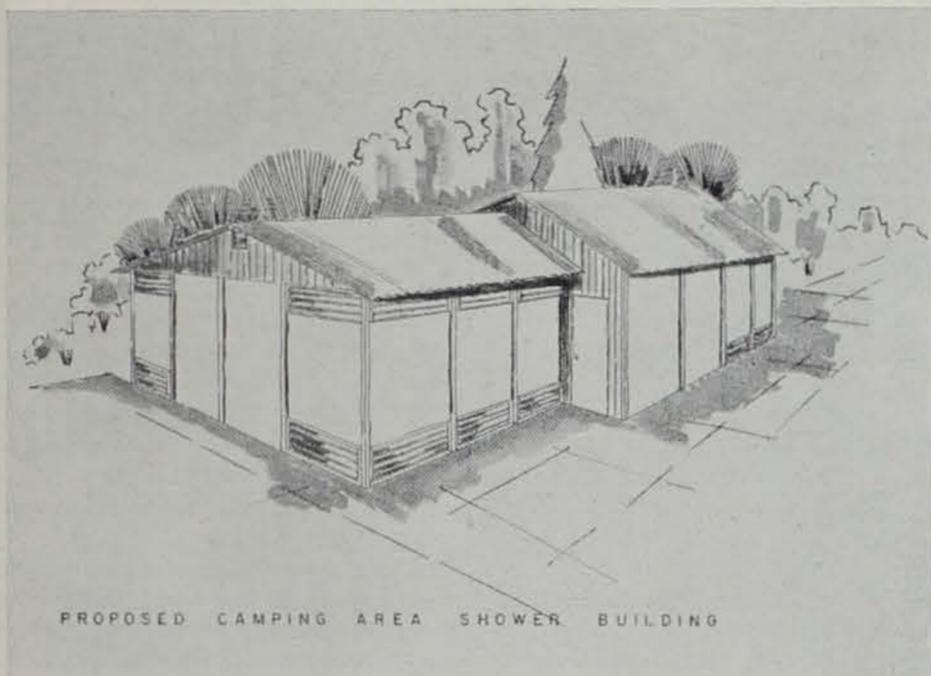
Dr. A. N. Humiston summarized the progress of the meeting by saying that different opinions are often merely different paths to the same destination, but he hoped that the all-day meeting gave everyone a better understanding of what the people want and the operating programs of the Commission.

game and fish license money will help. At least the Strewballs won't be popular fellows in the outdoors. And the litterbug laws will be more enforceable. We'll bet that some wider publicity on the conviction of Strewballs would help.

Perhaps the answer lies with our youth, with the boys and girls going to school. Perhaps they can be educated to do what it seems impossible to teach their parents. It would be a matter of making outdoor vandalism a moral crime. This, of course, is a part of conservation education—something we need more of in schools.

We really wonder, though, if the answer doesn't lie in Mr. Strewball himself. If he really thinks things over, can he afford to act like he does?—Charles Hjelte, in *Colorado Outdoors*.





PROPOSED CAMPING AREA SHOWER BUILDING

CHANGING TIMES

Malcolm K. Johnson

In answer to the exploding population of campers, the Conservation Commission is expanding the facilities for this group in our state parks. Thirty areas have been selected on the basis of need and use to receive improvements costing \$211,750 and Backbone Park near Strawberry Point is number one on the agenda. Both camping and picnic facilities will be developed, with a standard design for the new shower, toilet and latrine buildings. All work is scheduled to be completed by fall of 1960.

Campers Utopia

A shower house complete with flush stools and wash tubs will be constructed at Backbone Park. It will be a model of the advanced-design facilities to be built in other parks as time and funds permit. The drawing shows an architect's conception of this (original in Iowa), new style, center of morning activities, where a hot shower and refreshing shave may be obtained without the usual permeating odor of an outdoor toilet. Though hardly as complete and automatic as a "laundromat," the wash tubs will fill a long-felt need for rinsing dirty socks without

straining algaed lake water through them. It won't be long before a camping expedition will be no more strenuous than moving to the summer cottage.

Already completed at Backbone Park is a waterline extending through the main camp area, making, as many of the experienced campers call it, one of the nicest campgrounds they've ever visited. A dead-end road which runs by the park officer's home into the "campers only" grounds, presents an ideal situation for those who desire a restful evening—unbroken by noisy cars and moonlight-seekers.

As though an atom bomb had been dropped in the minds of the populace, this fever to live under canvas has produced a chain reaction nearly as rapid as the fission of atomic particles. Folks who remember Boy Scout days as fun, but for whom lumpy nights in a pup tent held no joy, can now rest luxuriously in warm sleeping bags whose contained air mattresses absorb all but brick-sized bumps. Truly water proof tents preclude damp retreats to the car or shelter house. Mobile tent-trailer combos are common sights these days



A far cry from his Boy Scout days, the adult camper nevertheless recalls the camping trips with a yearning that must be fulfilled. Modern science makes this easy and much more comfortable than his sleeping bag and pup tent days. All the comforts of home—and our parks must keep pace by supplying facilities to match.

and they add the high to dry for real camping comfort.

Gadgetry has invaded the realm of the outdoorsman and sometimes to the utter dismay of the purists. Bottled gas lamps and stoves, plastic dishes, folding furniture of shiny aluminum, all in bright colors, make one wonder what happened to the former khaki canvas and sputtering wood fires that smoked as well as cooked the usual fare of beans or stew.

The change has come about nearly overnight. The state-owned areas that cater to campers have, as a result of this, been forced to gear up the rate of capital improvements, a process that normally moves quite slowly to give the best possible service to the public for the least expenditure. Like a child at the candy counter, our wants are usually greater than our willingness to pay. The camper, however, generally pays his own way. A dollar a night for the use of the park plus an average of \$65 a week to nearby communities for services and supplies should make him a welcome visitor anywhere that the Chamber of Commerce is aware of his potential spending power.

How We Compare

Our system of parks is much better than many Iowans suspect. Overcrowding in some states is a serious problem, both from the standpoint of excess use of individual areas which is detrimental to the grass, trees and sanitary facilities, and the lack of available spaces for travelers by midafternoon, which is disheartening to anyone forced to drive on and on in hopes of finding a place to set up his canvas castle. We have room to expand in most cases and we also possess areas held in reserve which can be opened and developed. As the mid-point in east-west travel and as a crossroads for vacationers, our campgrounds

not only entertain Iowans, but people from every state in the Union and Canada. The campground itself is a great leveler of status, producing the closest thing there is in the U. S. to a classless society. The word camper, as a matter of fact, has taken on a new meaning; no longer is traveling with a tent looked down upon as merely an economic measure, but as a respected way to wring the most pleasure from life out-of-doors. Our state parks are dedicated to help fulfill this desire—use them!

MAGIC GUN

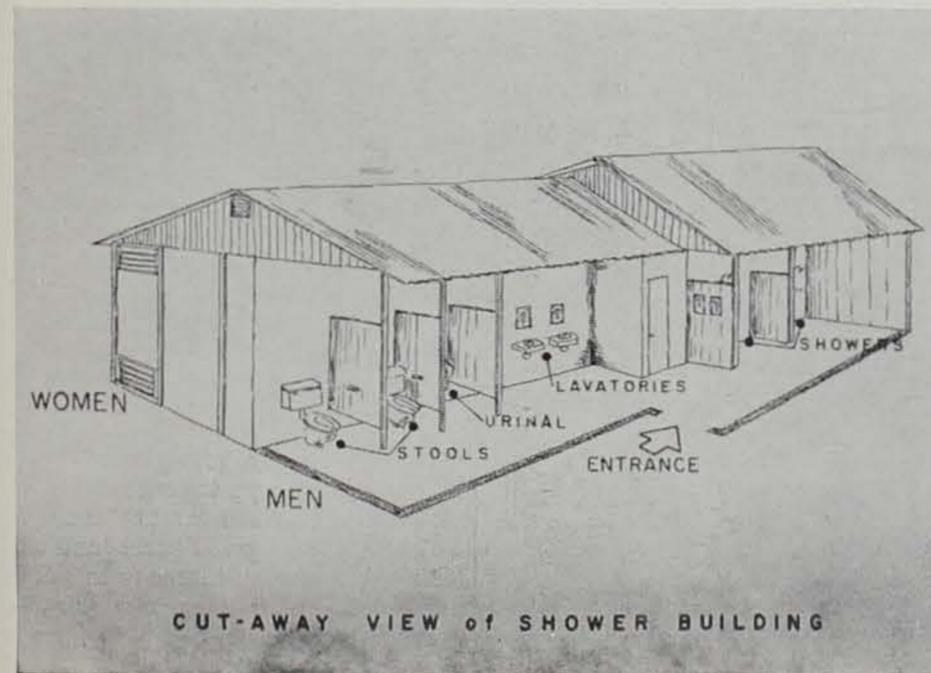
In the fall, conservation officers find a number of hunters traveling on the road with uncased and assembled guns, which is contrary to Iowa law. My favorite story along these lines happened a couple of years ago while checking a hunter in his car. I found an assembled shotgun in the back seat but the driver swore it had been in three separate pieces when he left home. When I reminded him that someone must have assembled the gun, the perspiring hunter hopefully suggested, "Maybe it just worked itself back together?"
—Howard T. Lovrien, Conservation Officer.

A POINT TO REMEMBER

Fish, particularly carp, can have a dramatic influence on environment. For proof, just observe what happened at Wallace Lake in Wisconsin.

Before chemical control of the fish population a white disk could be seen only 46 inches down. After poisoning the same disk could be seen 204 inches down.

The same type of observation can be repeated in winter. As the bottom feeders become inactive in cold water, the water clarity increases.—C. W. Threinen, Wisconsin Conservationist.



CUT-AWAY VIEW of SHOWER BUILDING



Jim Sherman Photo.

Pheasants, hiding in high, dense fall cover, might lead one to think that this is their favorite habitat. No so—

LAND MANAGEMENT FOR WILDLIFE HARVEST

William Brabham
Federal Aid Section

The landed face of Iowa has seen many drastic changes since the advent of the first settlers. Survival of those pioneer farmers demanded these changes. Much of the land managed by the Conservation Commission now was developed first through the early programs initiated to promote settlement of this state. The drained lake beds which were not sold for drainage costs remained the property of Iowa and have been turned over to the Conservation Commission for management. Other lands now owned by the state have been acquired as gifts and still more has been acquired through outright purchase. Much of this land was agricultural land and it is now the responsibility of the Conservation Commission to manage it in a manner which will best serve the people of Iowa. The agricultural land varies from extremely fertile lake bed soils to marginal upland ground. In all cases, it is managed in the best interest of wildlife.

The production of wildlife is directly related to the land management of the area on which this wildlife is reared. Wildlife can be considered a crop the same as corn, oats, wheat, potatoes, carrots, etc. It is truly a product of the land and this product is important to each and every citizen, whereas the agricultural crops grown on privately owned land are the sole property of the owner.

Wildlife, regardless of the species, is a direct product of the land. When man transforms the land from forest to field, from marsh or native prairie to cultivated and crop acres, the wildlife

that survives usually changes with it. The surviving species must adjust themselves to the changed conditions as best they can. The less adaptable forms vanish from the area.

Many people believe that wildlife does not need fertile land, that a weed patch is sufficient. This is not true. Management research has proven that wildlife is a product of the land and that strong populations are most noticeable on land that is fertile and where the farming practices are the best.

Many of the areas we have are poor from the standpoint of soil conditions. However, through proper land management, these localities can be developed to the point where they will not only produce wildlife, but also abundant crops. An important aspect of our program is that the agricultural land under the management of the Federal Aid Section has been analyzed by the SCS for the development of an agricultural farm plan. This plan includes an aerial photograph of the land in question and shows its areal extent. It also classifies the land according to soil type. The drainage is studied, any terracing, strip

cropping and contouring are covered in this conservation plan, and are set up to accommodate the best land use practices. As a final result, a rotation system is established which will produce the most favorable wildlife habitat and secondly the maximum agricultural crops. Hay, for instance, is not mowed until the nesting season is over, usually around July 1 of each year.

Basically, conservation is wise use. The upland areas are put on a rotation program of corn, hay, oats, seedings, etc., and the rotation period is longer than would be normal from the standpoint of crop production alone. As a matter of fact, where the usual three year rotation would be satisfactory for production of farm crops, a six year rotation is worked in for the benefit of the wildlife in the area.

Pheasant

Considering some of the individual cases will give an idea what we have found to be the most practical procedures. The pheasant, for instance, is a bird of agriculture. In fact, within its range, the better the land, the better the production and harvest should be.

* * * * *



Jim Sherman Photo.

—Pheasant, quail, partridge and, in fact, most any wildlife needs a place to nest, dust (for mites) and feed. They nest at left in tall weeds, feed in the corn and dust in dry dirt between rows.

The favorable land use pattern for pheasants consists of 65 to 80 per cent of the farm in a cultivated crop, such as corn, soybeans, and wheat, 15 to 30 per cent in hay and rotation pastures, 5 to 10 per cent in brush and woods, and 3 per cent or more of the total area in brush fence rows, odd areas, and protected herbaceous cover. The pheasant's greatest need in most places is undisturbed nesting cover, and good winter cover with an adequate food supply.

Quail

Another example is the bobwhite quail. Like the pheasant, this bird is also a bird of agricultural lands. An ideal land use pattern for the bobwhite would be an area with 30 or 40 per cent of grassland, 40 to 60 per cent cropland, 5 to 20 per cent in brush cover, and 5 to 40 per cent in woodland. The greater the interspersing of these types, the better the area for bobwhites.

A Mathematical Twist

As a final note, wildlife production in general is increased by the use of edge effect. As an example of this, by taking a 40 acre field and

splitting it in two with a row of trees or shrubs, you have increased the edge by one-half of the total perimeter. In other words, where you had four sides on the 40 acre tract, you now have six sides, two more than before. If you took this same forty acres, and split it into three equal parts, you would increase the perimeter or edge effect from four sides to eight.

By constantly revising and improving the ways that game management units are maintained, the 4,674 acres of agricultural land are showing a steady increase in game produced which means a greater surplus for the ever-growing numbers of hunters to harvest.



Whatta' you say we just forget the whole thing?

QUALITY CONTROL AT SQUIRREL HOLLOW

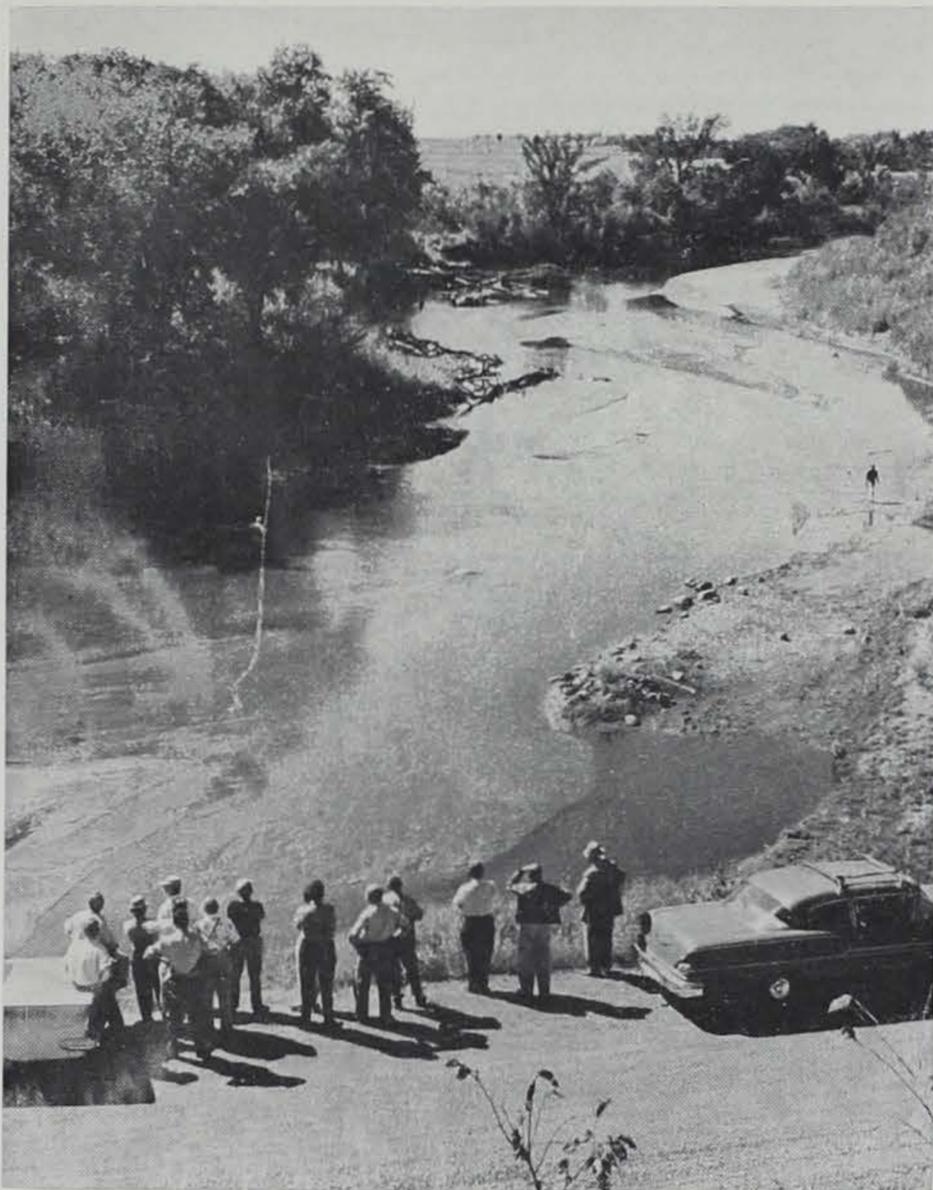
On a cool, sunny September afternoon just south of Jefferson, Iowa, the Conservation Commission treated a small audience to an experiment in fish management. We've all heard of mule skinkers and shepherders, but how about fish drivers? If you've ever tried to chase a fish you can imagine how difficult it is to make a stream full of them do your bidding. Therefore, an effective method of control is needed.

In recent years there have been many new chemicals developed to combat the sea lamprey in the Great Lakes. Some of these have proved helpful in other areas for other reasons. "Toxaphene" and "Rotenone," for instance, have been used in Iowa to curb over-population of streams by rough fish.

But better chemicals are constantly sought to solve the problem. Even with rough fish gone, dense growths of underwater plants prevent optimum growth of game fish, especially in lakes and ponds. And mechanical weed control hasn't been very successful. Again the answer has been found in chemistry.

With an organic compound produced by an oil company called "aqualine," a double action system of improving fish habitat may be in the offing. Used previously at Cold Spring, near Atlantic, a high concentration of subsurface plant life was eradicated, thereby reducing the protective cover for forage fish which will allow the predatory game fish to find them easier, eat more and grow faster. It's like putting food in a cow's stall rather than making her climb up in the haymow after it.

Not only does this chemical kill plant life, it also acts as an irritant and causes fish to move away from it, either downstream or to the center of a lake, whichever the



Conservation Commission personnel and other interested parties watch "Quality Control" in operation at Squirrel Hollow. The men in the river at top center are releasing "aqualine" under pressure. It floats down stream driving the fish before it to where they can be netted.

case may be. By proper dosage and placement the fish can be driven into a net where their removal from the water is not too difficult.

At Squirrel Hollow, an experiment area, one could, by standing high on the bank, see hundreds of fish moving slowly downstream to the net, after a small dose was administered for 15 minutes. Myriads of carp, quillback, redhorse

and suckers, probably outnumbering every other species by one hundred to one, were taken out. A very few catfish were found in the net and these were promptly thrown back in the water as was the sole bass recovered from nearly a mile of good stream.

The fisheries shocking boat was also used to perform a clean-up operation just before the net (stretched clear across the stream) was brought to shore. The electric stunning device drove the leery big ones back into the net to make as clean a sweep as possible.

With the mud-raising carp out of the way, this water, once famous for smallmouth, became much clearer than before; a better place for better fish and fishing.—
M. E. J.



Conservation Commission Officers and Biologists net rough fish in the Squirrel Hollow experiment at Jefferson. The fisheries shocking boat was used in connection with the test of "aqualine" to stun the wary big ones back into the net to help rid the river (Raccoon) of as many carp, etc., as possible.



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING—

Stan Widney

The IOWA CONSERVATIONIST has come into possession of some very valuable (to conservationists) books recently—the Biennial Report of the State Conservation Commission from the years 1875-6. At that time it was a paper back, 38 page booklet. The present book is a 244 page, bound volume.

The first books concentrated entirely on fish, game being so plentiful as to need no conserving (so they thought) and there were plenty of natural parks and forests. They did recognize the value of fish and the fact that something had to be done—just what, they apparently did not know for sure, but were plenty willing to find out, especially B. F. Shaw, who loved fish and fishing beyond all else.

So Fish Commissioners were appointed by Governor Carpenter. Naturally, he chose B. F. Shaw of Anamosa to head the commission.

The ability of Mr. Shaw cannot be doubted when a letter like the following, written in 1874, is noted:

"Governor Carpenter, Dear Sir:—A matter of so grave import, relating to the preservation of our most valuable fish, has come so forcibly to my notice during the last year, and especially in the last few days, that I have thought best to call your attention to the facts.

"It is a well known fact to those who have studied the habits of fish, that all varieties of bass push out into our sloughs during the months of May and June to deposit their spawn. So far but little if any improvement could be made by the interference of the fish-culturist; but here the trouble commences; as the water begins to fall and get clear, the parents leave the young in the shoal water, where they are safer from the rapacity of large fish and seek greater security for themselves in deeper water; the water falls, and communication with the river is cut off, and soon what was living water becomes a succession of small ponds, then mud holes, then dry land. I have long held the theory that a great many fish are in this way destroyed, and during the past year I have been testing the matter practically, and I will give you the result of my last effort, made on last Monday, in the sloughs of the Mississippi river at Clinton. I selected one out of a dozen mud holes that were in sight in the bed of a dry slough,

(Continued on page 176)



A two-pound carp on a sand bar, driven there by "aqualine." This organic compound has the double action of eradicating unwanted subsurface plant life, and causing fish to move away from it so they can be guided, as this carp was, to a spot where they can be netted easily.

HUNTING— INDIAN ARROWHEADS

Wendell Simonson
Conservation Officer



Wendell Simonson Photo.

Though some arrowheads are found lying out in the open, most are just barely visible with only a small part exposed. Plowed ground, freshly rainwashed, provides the best hunting area.

Most of today's hunters and fishermen judge the success of their day's outing according to the number of fish in the creel, or a limit of game. Many others, however, are considering the "fringe benefits" derived from a day in the out-of-doors. Many fall fishermen combine river fishing and squirrel hunting—also keeping an eye out for fall mushrooms. Another activity that can be carried on at the same time is the search for Indian arrowheads.

Admittedly, spring is the best time for finding the various kinds of Indian artifacts. Most of the ground is bare, and heavy spring rains help wash them to the surface. Then after spring plowing and harrowing, another rain will wash still more of these ancient hunting implements to the surface. But even during the summer and fall there are areas that will yield much to a sharp-eyed hunter.

While my search for arrowheads began just this past spring, I have already collected about three dozen various items. It has taken several trips just to learn where and how to look for them. The most productive areas for me have been on the high hills overlooking the Iowa river in the Amana colonies. A number of places have apparently been campsites for ancient tribes for centuries—as evidenced by the different types of arrowheads found there. Any range of hills overlooking a stream may well be as good.

My first search of one of these hills turned up nothing more than about half a bucket full of broken

bits of flint (for which I still haven't found a good use!). Succeeding trips following each rain have turned up quite a number of arrowheads, broken drills, lance heads, thumb scrapers, celts (type of scraper), and other articles of Indian ornamentation.

Outdoor author Archibald Rutledge claims to have found quite a number of Indian items around old water springs that have been running for hundreds of years. Apparently springs were much used by Indians, and legend has it that they would toss their best arrow into a spring to thank their gods for a plentiful supply of clear water. Rutledge found that cleaning the sand and silt out of the spring and running the waste through a screen turned up a lot of items for his collection. Several hunters have found arrowheads where small rock streams join larger rivers.

While searching for arrowheads don't overlook even a small piece of flint or broken "rock"—it might well be the edge of the point of a perfect arrowhead.

Should you find any arrowheads, wash them carefully with a brush and water. Any object that looks like it's been worked on and might be "something" should be saved. One piece I found was chipped out in a perfect circle about the size of a quarter. A collector friend of mine told me it was a thumb scraper—used to scrape bits of flesh from a fresh hide. There are quite a few amateur archeologists around the state that might be able to identify it for you. Jack Musgrove of the State Historical Building in Des Moines, or Professor Ruppe at the State University of Iowa in Iowa City might also be interested in helping you to classify your collection. I believe it might be wise to get in touch with either one of these men should you find a spot that shows an exceptional amount of material. They have the scientific know-how to properly evaluate the area and gain the most information from it. Incidentally, the State Historical Building in Des Moines and the SUI museum both have fine collections to study and refer to.

When you find your first arrowhead, you will probably wonder, as I have, about the history of this particular item. Did the arrow kill a deer, or was it shot at an enemy from a neighboring tribe? Or was it chipped out by an Indian craftsman, found to be imperfect, and thrown away?

Try and classify your collection with dates and areas where found. Show them to your outdoor companions—they'll stir up a lot of interesting conversation. I've found that my youngsters enjoy hunting arrowheads, also—their eyes are sharp and they've come up with some nice pieces. And I think they've gained a more healthy appreciation of the out-of-doors.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH



NEW ENGLAND ASTER

Common Name: New England Aster.

Name Derivation: It is Latin taken from the Greek word *aster* meaning star.

Description: Along with Goldenrod, Asters of late summer and fall cover the fields with an endless profusion of bright color. This variety, called the New England Aster, is a sturdy plant with a long, hairy stem often rising to six feet. Each flower head, one to two inches in diameter, possesses about 50 rays one-half to three-quarters of an inch long and they are a very deep blue to purple as though expressing the richness of our soil with royal colors. Occasionally some are found with rose or white rays, but these are not very common. The flowering period extends from August to October.

Where to Look: An inhabitant of moist fields, woodlots, waste places and roadsides from eastern Canada through the midwest and down to Alabama, New England Asters should not be hard to spot from the car window on that Sunday afternoon country cruise.



FLEXIBLE CONCRETE

To go along with the general park improvement program is an innovation which will be the delight of boaters. Where before it was necessary to back a trailer down a rutted sandy ramp or a treacherous wooden affair, a new type of concrete ramp is being installed. Composed of steel reinforced concrete slats that measure about 14 inches by 5 inches by 10 feet long, these newly built permanent fixtures at Lake Macbride and Lake of Three Fires are impervious to the ravages of winter ice, frost heave and high water. Very sturdy and yet flexible because the slats are bolted together about 4 inches apart, these ramps should serve indefinitely for the betterment of our state parks.

ARE YOU IN SHAPE TO HUNT THIS FALL?



"I've helped pick birdshot out of faces and buckshot out of other places—"

By Charles Ives, M.D.

Rather Than an Apple a Day, Try Common Sense

You don't know me, but one day you may open your eyes and I'll be that red-faced, winded guy leaning over you as you lie on the ground in the country where I practice medicine. I'll be red-faced and winded because your friend, who came for me, was practically hysterical and insisted that I get to your side quickly as you lie there with your broken leg or heart attack or twisted ankle, sprained back, gunshot wound or whatever. I'll also be red-faced because I'll be upset. You see, I wanted to go hunting today, too.

No, you don't know me and I don't know you, and during the hunting season let's keep it that way.

The job of avoiding me is largely yours, because I can't go with you and keep you out of trouble; not all of you. As a country doctor, I find myself taking care of a section of country about the size of Manhattan Island and there are just too many hunters for me to escort each one.

And what happens? Well let's see. Last year the deer hunting season was one hour old when the first victim came in with a severely sprained ankle. As I remember, he was carrying a loaded rifle and jumping from one wet rock to another to get his hunting spot. So he slipped and twisted his ankle. Thank heaven he didn't shoot himself!

Later in the season, we carried another hunter out of the woods on a stretcher. His error was running up a hill to try and get in front of a fast-traveling buck. So he had a heart attack. Surprisingly, he lived.

Accidents? Well, maybe. That first man I mentioned worked in

an office, never took any exercise and suddenly, infused with the hunting fever, he got the idea he was an athlete and started leaping around like a mountain goat at 6:30 a.m.—of all times.

The man with the heart attack? Another sedentary worker about 50 pounds overweight; not used to exercise. All of a sudden, he started making like a cross-country runner.

That's just two cases I happen to recall on the spur of the moment. There have been others. The point I want to make is that here were two men I saw needlessly because of their thoughtlessness.

And what can you do about it? Well, let's see. You could stay in good physical condition all the time. Now there's a real good idea; really the best. Or, if that doesn't fit in with your plans you can use a little common sense in the woods and fields. Stay within your physical capabilities and you won't meet me in my professional capacity. Remember, just getting into red clothes doesn't qualify you for the world's record broad jump or put you in condition to outrun a spooked buck up the nearest hill.

Stay within your physical capabilities. If you're not in tip top shape hunt slowly and easily, plan ahead, take your time and don't subject your body to unnecessary strains and risks. The encyclopedia says a deer can run 49 miles per hour while a man can only do 21.9. You can't outspurt him so you've got to out-fox him. Plan, plot, scheme and think. These things you're in shape to do. Leave the running and jumping to the year 'round athletes.

Now then, another thing: Gunshot wounds. I've been practicing in this neck of the woods for more

than 20 years and I've seen quite a few wounds from firearms. I've helped pick birdshot out of faces and buckshot out of other places; I've helped clean up shattered bones in arms and legs and puncture wounds that didn't break any bones; I've pronounced a few dead, too. And in all of these cases, only one could be classified as an honest-to-goodness accident, pure and simple. Every other case had its cause in someone's carelessness.

Let's make doubly sure we don't meet because of a gunshot wound; they're so messy, so completely unnecessary and, sometimes, so awfully final.

So, here's the plan. You be careful with your gun and take extra good care of yourself in the woods around my town and you and I will remain strangers. What's more, maybe this year I'll get a chance at that darn buck that's been making a fool of me the last couple of years. Good luck, stranger!—*New York State Conservationist.*

TWO RARE DEER FOUND IN IOWA

By
Eldie W. Mustard
Game Biologist

Ever see a doe deer with antlers? Chances are that you haven't as they are quite rare, but one was turned up during the 1958 Iowa deer season.

This freak of nature, masquerading as a buck, was harvested by Ray Grabin of Oxford, Iowa. So convincing were the doe's male adornments (antlers) that the hunter at first thought he'd shot a buck. Closer examination by game biologist Elden Stempel and the hunter revealed, however, that the old girl was just posing as a gentleman.

The antlered-doe possessed a set of antlers which were still in the velvet; this fact has some significance, as research workers have pointed out that antlered-does which maintain the velvet are usually capable of bearing young. Mr. Grabin reported that he observed a young deer running with the antlered-female, and it was assumed that this was her fawn-of-the-year.

So, it seems, that despite her masculine appearance, our antlered-doe was leading a perfectly normal life. In spite of the hormone imbalance which permits antlers to grow on female deer, she was doing her part to perpetuate white tails in Iowa.

The second instance of rare deer reported last year, while perhaps not so spectacular as the antlered-female, was nevertheless interesting. This was the occurrence of a mule deer in Iowa.

We are certain that more mule deer exist in the state than are reported, and we would like to hear about it if one of our readers spots

one. Mule deer can be differentiated from our whitetail deer in a number of ways, but the most striking is the difference between the tails of these two species. The whitetail has a large (about 11 inches long on the adult), flag-like tail which is very prominent, especially when the animal is alarmed. The mule deer has a tail which is thin, rope-like, and shorter than that of a whitetail deer (only about seven inches long on a mule deer), and it has a black tip.

Another difference, noticeable in the males, is a difference in antler formation. The antlers of a mule deer exhibit dichotomous branching, that is, they fork and then re-fork, while the tines of whitetail antlers come off singly from a main beam.

In closing, I would again like to impress on our deer hunters the importance of saving reproductive organs and the cheek teeth of the lower jaw and, by so doing, play a part in our deer-research program. All of our readers can aid us by reporting the sighting of mule deer so we can learn more about the distribution of this species in Iowa. Your help in both of these matters is needed and appreciated.

SHOOT PRESERVES—

(Continued from page 169)

is owned, and then game houses must be built; cover must be planted, the right kind of grain and forage food started or bought, incubators contracted for and installed and the farm must have the right kind of electric current to run the incubators. Then the proprietor must learn all about cannibalism in baby pheasants, all the different diseases that might attack them, how to build pens that will hold them when they begin to fly and how to trim a pheasant's beak so he can't fight or else buy aluminum blinders for the same reason.

And then there are the predators. Strong range pens have to be built because captive birds are easy victims of raccoons, foxes, skunks, civet cats, owls and even house cats.

After three or four years of fighting all these battles successfully our man may have something pretty good. Many have, and they are very enthusiastic about it.

Around 600 or 700 Iowa hunters take advantage of the shooting preserves. Proprietors and clubs tell us that their greatest problem is getting hunters to realize that this is not a rich man's sport any more than ordinary hunting.

Whether the operators are right or wrong is up to you to decide. The State of Iowa and many other states say shooting preserves are O. K. and even encourage them. That should be recommendation enough for at least a try at one of them, shouldn't it?

APOLOGY TO A CRIPPLED MALLARD

John L. Steele, Jr.

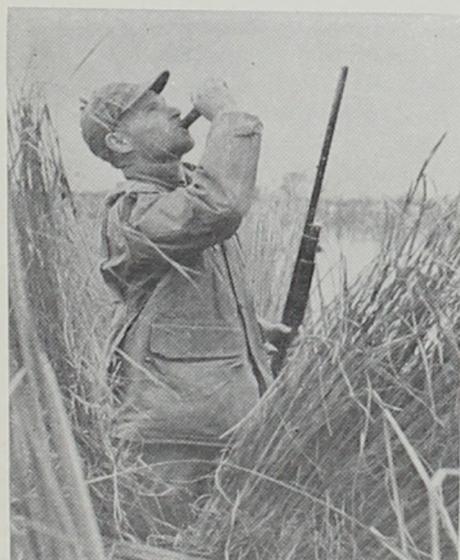
The sky-raking shot of an unskilled hunter brought you down with a shattered wing to hide among the smartweeds along the lake. He never tried to find you, a prime mallard drake.

His face shining through the makeshift blind warned you to fly at least 80 yards above him. Disregarding all thought of sensible range, he fired and one pellet of No. 4 shot cut a vital wing muscle. After you fell he continued to shoot at any duck that came within 50 yards. He was particularly proud of the "long" shot that ended your swift flight. He saw other hunters leaving the lake empty-handed. He was a "better shot"—at least he had "knocked one down." Little did he know the disgust and resentment others felt for constant bombardment that had kept ducks well out of range of their decoys.

He knew not, nor would he have cared, that you had burst your shell while the Northern Lights probed long fingers of cold, mysterious fire into the Arctic night. He knew not, nor cared, that you had known the bayous, canebreaks and ricefields of the southland, of your northward flight with a mate to the Arctic and then southward again—until today.

Death came quickly when the mink found you. Pray to God that all hunters' guns were as final.

Author's Note: Amateur hunters, poor shooting, inability to judge range, results in a 20 to 25 per cent cripple loss. Hunters could have an extra duck in the bag if the 3,070,964 ducks and geese lost in 1955-56, for example, were killed cleanly or zealously retrieved.—*Oklahoma Wildlife*.



Jim Sherman Photo.
Calling all ducks!

HISTORY—

(Continued from page 173)

that is, a slough that was all dry except these holes.

"The one selected was about 30 feet long, 20 feet wide in its widest part, and about 14 inches deep. With a minnow seine 20 feet long we made two hauls and took out over a thousand young black

bass, yellow bass, striped bass, croppies, sunfish, catfish, and other valuable varieties. Other trials at this and also at other times resulted similarly, and I am certain that with a corps of men and proper appliances, millions of these valuable young fish could be taken from these sloughs and put into our now nearly depleted waters. It is sad to think that these millions of young fish that would soon make our waters abound with valuable food, are all doomed to almost certain destruction. The ponds are muddied by the efforts of turtles, muskrats, mink, snakes and other animals to catch them; they are the prey of cranes, pelicans, geese, ducks, snipe and other birds, and then what escapes these dangers, are killed by extreme heat and stagnation of the water, or by its entirely drying up.

"Had the Commissioners money enough at their disposal to be able to do any efficient service, I should appeal to my colleagues to undertake this work at once, but as we have but limited means to carry out the work already undertaken, I will have to content myself with calling your attention, and through you the attention of the people, to a subject which I feel largely affects the interest of every citizen of the State.

"Yours very respectfully,
B. F. Shaw."

A look at the laws of the Sixteenth General Assembly will show what Mr. Shaw was up against even with the Governor's help:

"That during the years 1876 and 1877 the fish commissioner shall have the power to expend one thousand dollars of the money hereinafter appropriated in facilitating the increase of the fish that are natives of this State—and in such ways and manner as in the judgment of said commissioner shall be most conducive to that end."

In succeeding issues of the *Conservationist* we will delve into the past for other interesting, sometimes adventuresome, events—historically speaking.

OUR CARTOONIST

If praise would buy Cadillacs, our unsung cartoonist, Officer Jim Baldwin, could have a fleet of them for taxicabs. From comments heard at the State Fair, where a group of his originals were posted in the public relations booth, the editor feels that a vote of thanks is long overdue. His creative pen has produced many wonderful peepholes into the life of a conservation officer and few of his inked efforts are without a personal experience with the subject pictured. Many thanks, Jim. You are appreciated!—*M. K. J.*

Wild geese live longer than any of our game birds. They have been known to live to be 70 years old.



SUNRISE AND SUNSET

For the information of waterfowl hunters the following sunrise and sunset tables are published, thanks to the U. S. Weather Bureau, Des Moines, Iowa.

From October 20 to December 8, both days inclusive, duck and coot may be hunted in Iowa. Geese may be taken from October 7 to December 15 and the jacksnipe from October 20 to November 18, all days inclusive. So we start with October 7, remembering that these times are at the Municipal Airport, Des Moines, Iowa, and that to approximate other times of sunrise and sunset at other points, we must add 4 minutes to each time hereon published for each degree of longitude west of Des Moines; subtract 4 minutes for every degree east of Des Moines (one degree of longitude equals approximately 51 miles due east or west in the latitude of Des Moines).

Day	OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	.....	.....	6.47	5.10	7.21	4.46
2	.....	.....	6.48	5.09	7.22	4.45
3	.....	.....	6.49	5.08	7.23	4.45
4	.....	.....	6.50	5.07	7.24	4.45
5	.....	.....	6.51	5.06	7.25	4.45
6	.....	.....	6.53	5.04	7.26	4.45
7	6.17	5.47	6.54	5.03	7.27	4.45
8	6.19	5.45	6.55	5.02	7.28	4.45
9	6.20	5.44	6.56	5.01	7.29	4.45
10	6.21	5.42	6.57	5.00	7.30	4.45
11	6.22	5.40	6.58	4.59	7.31	4.45
12	6.23	5.39	7.00	4.58	7.31	4.45
13	6.24	5.37	7.01	4.57	7.32	4.45
14	6.25	5.36	7.02	4.56	7.33	4.45
15	6.26	5.34	7.03	4.55	7.34	4.46
16	6.28	5.33	7.04	4.54	.....	.....
17	6.28	5.31	7.06	4.54	.....	.....
18	6.30	5.30	7.07	4.53	.....	.....
19	6.31	5.28	7.08	4.52	.....	.....
20	6.33	5.27	7.09	4.51	.....	.....
21	6.33	5.25	7.10	4.51	.....	.....
22	6.35	5.24	7.11	4.50	.....	.....
23	6.35	5.22	7.13	4.49	.....	.....
24	6.37	5.21	7.14	4.49	.....	.....
25	6.37	5.19	7.15	4.48	.....	.....
26	6.38	5.18	7.16	4.48	.....	.....
27	6.41	5.17	7.17	4.47	.....	.....
28	6.41	5.15	7.18	4.47	.....	.....
29	6.43	5.14	7.19	4.46	.....	.....
30	6.44	5.13	7.20	4.46	.....	.....
31	6.44	5.11	.....	.....	.....	.....

The most interesting and the busiest season of the year for the outdoor lover is almost here. It's nature's time to shower us with her surplus. In the woods you will find wild berries, mushrooms and nuts.

Late summer and early fall pro-

vide us with the opportunity for some of the finest color pictures. Sight-seeing trips pay off in that you will see colored leaves on trees, more clear water than usual, and most birds will be filled out with fall plumage.—*Russ Graham, Cedar Rapids Gazette.*