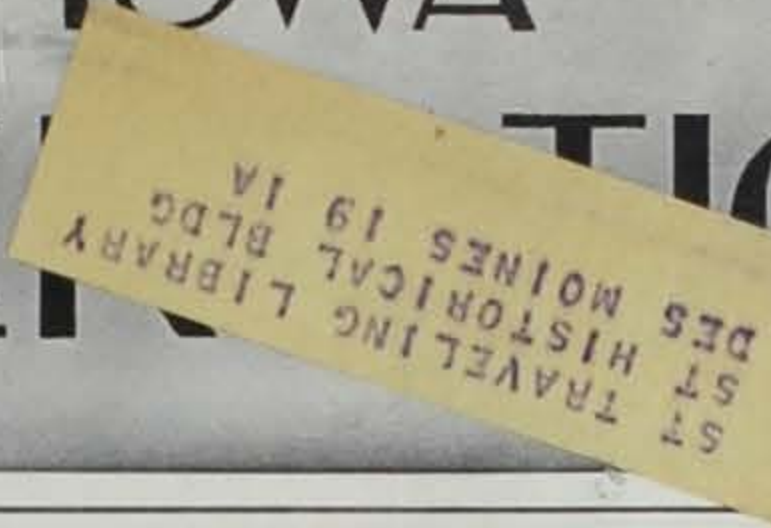
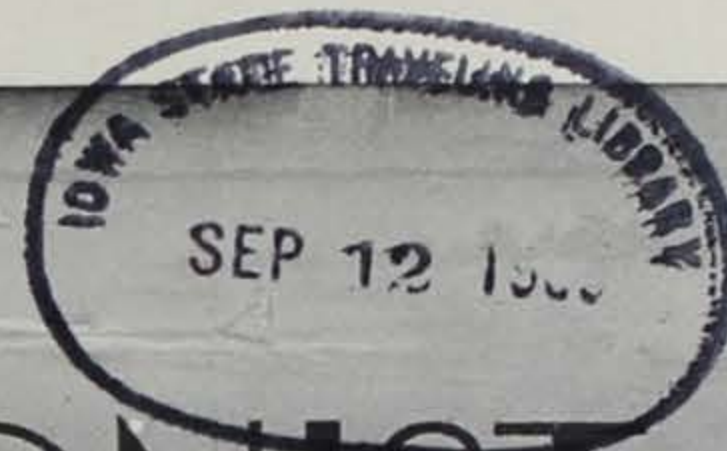


# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST



Volume 19

September, 1960

Number 9

## DEER SEASON OUTLOOK — 1960

### SEPTEMBER SQUIRRELING

Malcolm K. Johnson

"O'mon boy, shake a leg, it's daylight in the swamp." That familiar call has awakened my sleep-groggied mind more times than I could count. With a breakfast hastened by slurping interjections of, "It's get moving, those bushy-tails are waiting," and a short drive to the woods through the early morning fall mist, the awaited hour was at hand. We waked stealthily in dew-soaked grass, eyes focused far ahead peering over the forest floor and up every tree, each limb getting its place in search of a diminutive tail-shaking form. We each chose a spot to sit a few minutes. Few birds broke the silence, the time at mood one to be savored; dawn's half-light intensifying, revealing more and more detail of our surroundings; a distant crow holding his companions, and other, the shriek of a jay.

Opening day of a hunting season means many different things to different people, but there's a special niche in my sentiments for the squirrel opener. Perhaps it's the hush of fall in the air before the sun is well up with the warm lameness of summer following close behind that makes you want to get up and out, and then relaxes you as midday approaches. The damp, dry air is full of nature and as your eyes are getting an unaccustomed workout on other than the printed page and animated electron tube, your mind is left free to inspect itself and pass over many topics unattended to during busy working days. Introspection, some would call it. To me, it's just a chance to sort out unrelaxed ideas, speculate and meditate.

Then, in an instant, it's all forgotten.

At the edge of vision a flicking of reddish brown encases attention on the crotch of an old oak tree. While still slowly raising my head a sudden crack filled the air when it died, erased every thought except for a couple of



Jim Sherman Photo.

Look who's chewing his nails in anticipation of the excitement to come September 17. Do you have any doubt where the expression "bright eyed and bushy tailed" originated? Don't forget to hunt watering spots and the edge of cornfields by woods.

scratching feet on tree bark and a slight thud. Ol' deadeye had been watching that one for a couple of minutes before I became aware of it. Neither of us moved, waiting and hoping that his cousin or playmate would come looking around to see what the fuss was. No luck. After a few minutes I said softly, "First blood, huh?" The reply came back, "Yep, a fat one." I couldn't hear the silent hee-hee, but it was there as evidenced by a grin and bright eyes.

We moved on. No hurry or need for it. The faster one moves, the

less chance to come upon your quarry. Sudden movements are more easily seen; this is what you look for and it works in reverse. Likewise, the faster you move, the more noise you make, so one of the cardinal rules of squirrel shooting is, *take it easy*. I'd stopped to look around and when I turned back again, was almost face to face with a fox squirrel coming towards me on a fallen tree. When he stopped to look up, a head shot put him on the road to the frying pan. Easy does it all right, but it

(Continued on page 68)

Eldie W. Mustard  
Game Biologist

The Conservation Commission allows 7,000 deer permits, a three-day shotgun season, and a 45-day bow season for deer!

All Iowans who have followed Iowa deer seasons in past years will note the increase in the number of shotgun permits (from 6,000 to 7,000) and in the number of days that hunters may pursue deer. The deer population is presently higher than it has been at any time since the innovation of our modern deer seasons, and the Conservation Commission, in keeping with its general policy of allowing for increased recreational opportunities whenever possible to do so, is permitting a more liberal season than Iowa hunters have had since 1955.

Aside from more permits and longer seasons, regulations governing the 1960 deer seasons, both bow and gun, are the same as last year's. The potential deer hunter is urged to read the summary of the regulations found elsewhere in this issue and to obtain and read a copy of the current hunting regulations before taking to the field.

### Deer Population

The February deer census, taken at a time when the deer population is at about its lowest point of the year, indicated there were at least 13,101 deer in the state at that time. This was an increase of approximately 11 per cent over the 1959 February population. Of major importance is the fact that the reported February, 1960, population was 21 per cent above the five-year (1955-1959) average.

Sixty-nine counties reported increased or stable deer populations, while 29 indicated a decline, usually slight, in the deer population from the previous year. Only one county, Grundy, reported no deer present.

The anticipated fall deer populations should be in excess of 21,000 animals. This figure includes the deer reported in February plus the calculated annual increase of fawns.

### Where They Are

Telling sportsmen where to hunt deer is a bit like getting out on a

(Continued on page 67)



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## IOWA HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS SET

The State Conservation Commis-  
sion has made some changes in the  
1960-61 hunting season that will  
please all who take to the field for  
sport and game.

Most important of the new regu-  
lations are:

- ... Pheasants and quail are no longer limited by short zone counties.
- ... Plymouth County has been added for the hunting of partridge.
- ... The shotgun deer season has been lengthened by one day, making three days instead of two.
- ... Bow-deer season is 45 days, instead of 30.
- ... There will be 1,000 more shotgun deer licenses issued this year—7,000 instead of 6,000—on the first come, first served basis as before.
- ... Because of a down trend in the muskrat population, trapping them in state-owned areas will be by permit only.
- ... Raccoon hunters should have a banner year—raccoons are in a state of extreme abundance, particularly in timbered areas along streams.

The 1960-61 regulations in detail:

### Deer

The 1960-61 Iowa deer season, as in former years, is for Iowa residents only. Daily bag limit is one deer, possession one deer, season limit one deer. Deer of any age or sex may be taken. Shotgun season—December 17, 18, 19, 1960 (Saturday, Sunday and Monday). Bow and arrow season—October 15, 1960 to November 27, 1960, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours—shotgun, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; bow and arrow, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Shotguns of 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge with rifled slugs only and bows of 40 pound pull or more with broad head arrows only will be permitted in taking deer.

Crossbows or any mechanically operated bows are prohibited. The use of dogs, domestic animals, automobiles, aircraft, or any mechani-

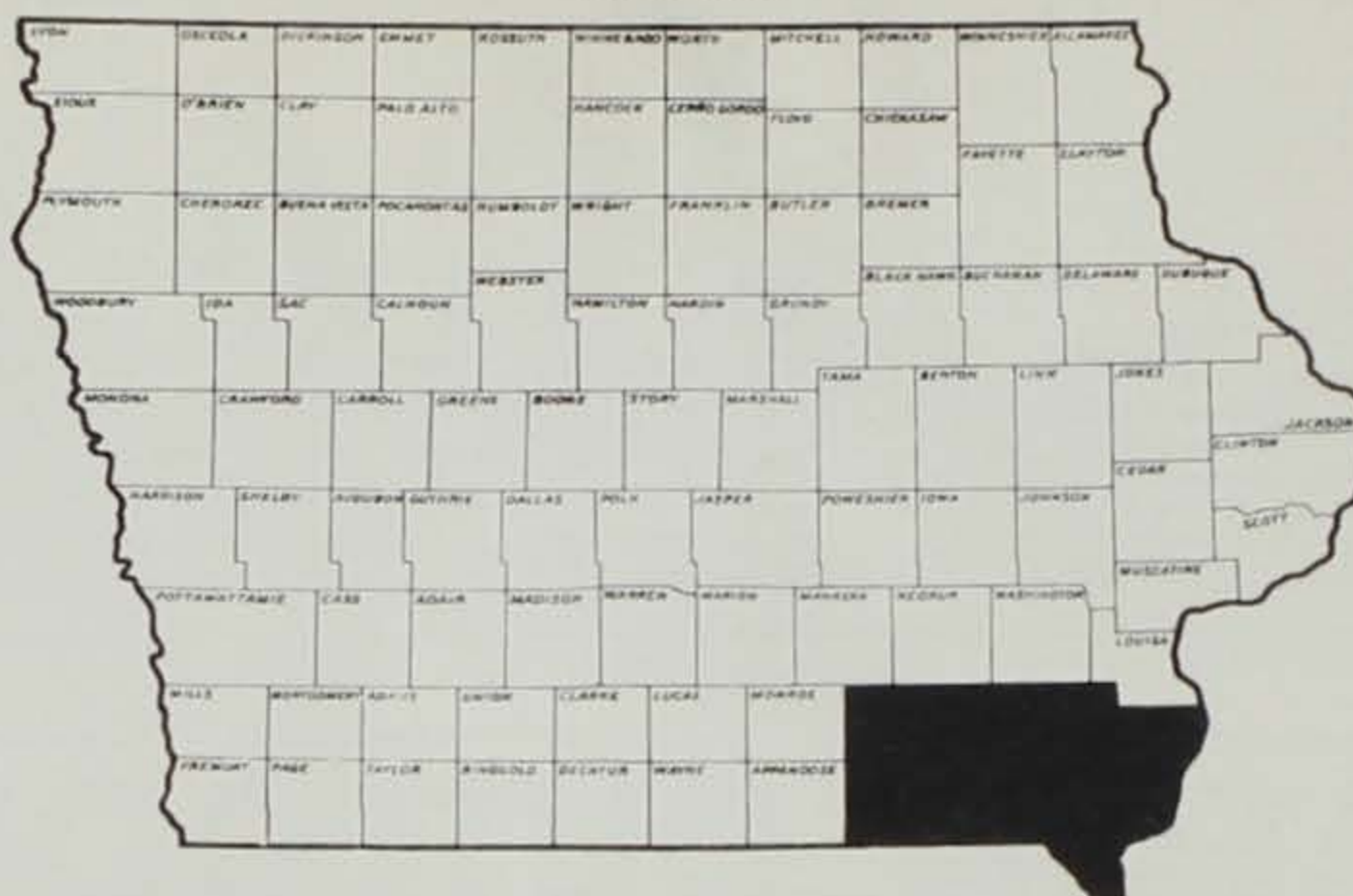
cal conveyance, salt or bait is prohibited.

A metal locking seal bearing the license number of the licensee and year of issuance must be affixed to the carcass of each deer, between the tendon and bone of a hind leg before the carcass can be transported.

Owners or tenants of land and their children may hunt, kill, and possess one deer, provided it is not removed from said land, whole or in part, unless tagged with the seal affixed to the animal.

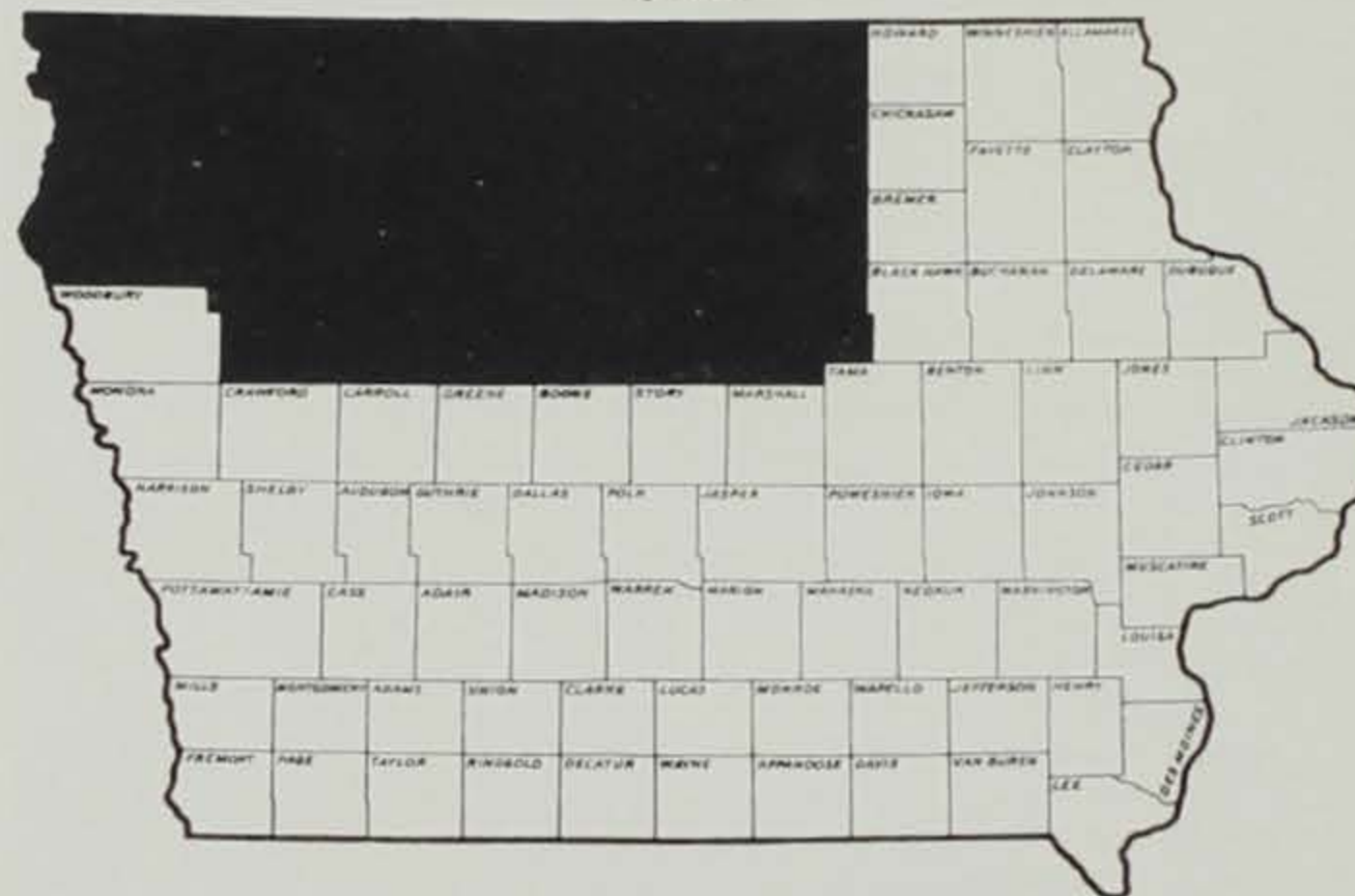
All hunters other than those exempted by law must possess a 1960

### PHEASANT



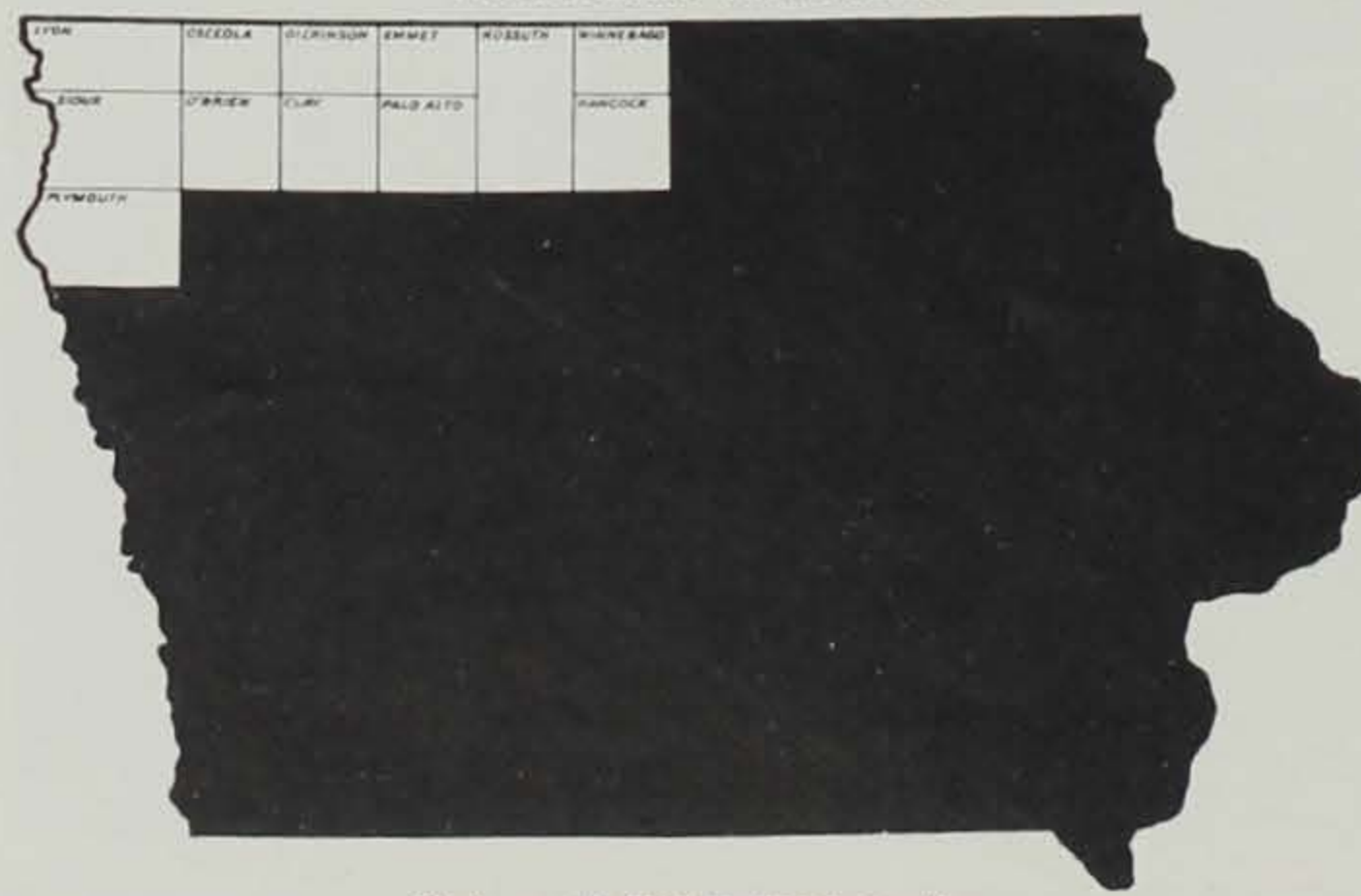
Black area indicates closed counties.

### QUAIL



Black area indicates closed counties.

### HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE



Black area indicates closed counties.

issue shows all open counties. Chinese, Mongolian, or ringneck pheasants may be taken from November 5, 1960 to November 28, 1960, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Daily bag limit, three cock birds; possession limit, six cock birds. NO HENS MAY BE TAKEN.

### Bobwhite Quail

The "short zone" for quail hunting has also been discontinued. The map on this page shows where they may be taken legally. The season on bobwhite quail opens November 5, 1960, and closes December 4, 1960, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The bag limit is five possession limit, ten birds.

### Hungarian Partridge

Hungarian Partridge may be taken from November 5, 1960 to November 28, 1960, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Daily bag limit, two; possession limit, two birds. The map on this page shows the legal counties.

### Squirrels

Gray and Fox squirrels may be taken from September 17, 1960 to December 11, 1960, both dates inclusive. Bag limit is six per day, possession limit 12.

### Rabbits

The open season for both cottontail and jack rabbits opens September 17, 1960 and closes February 19, 1961, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bag limit, ten per day. There is no possession limit on rabbits.

### Raccoon

Raccoon, plentiful all over the state this year, may be hunted from 12 noon, October 24, 1960, to midnight February 10, 1961. There is no bag or possession limit on raccoon.

### TRAPPING

#### Mink and Muskrat

The open season for trapping both mink and muskrat is from midnight December 1, 1960, to midnight December 31, 1960.

#### Beaver

Beaver may be trapped from midnight November 20, 1960 to midnight March 1, 1961.

#### Badger, Skunk, Opossum and Civet Cat

Badger, skunk, opossum and civet cat may be legally trapped from midnight November 10, 1960 to midnight January 10, 1961.

#### Raccoon

Trapping season for raccoon from midnight November 10, 1960 to midnight February 10, 1961.

Water sets permitted only during the open season on mink and muskrat.

The 17-year cicada lives underground for 17 years as a grublike larva, feeding on root sap, and emerges as an adult the 17th summer of its life. As an adult, it seeks a mate, breeds, lays its eggs and then dies—all in a week or less.

### Pheasants

The "short zone" for pheasant hunting has been discontinued this season. A map on this page of this





Duane DeKock Photo.

Iowa teacher tells some students about her terrarium. The materials for this indoor habitat of the wild can be gathered early in the school year for use during the whole term. As a class project, it is something to which all can contribute.

## BEAUTY AND SCIENCE IN A TERRARIUM

Duane DeKock

There is no more interesting way to bring the outdoors indoors—whether for study or decoration—than through the use of a terrarium. (A terrarium is a container, usually glass, which contains an arrangement of plants and animals. It may be used for keeping and raising various types of land animals.) Not only are they interesting and attractive, they take almost no care except for feeding small animals which may be kept in them.

In setting up your own terrarium it is possible to choose from a num-

ber of types of habitat. You can make it a small replica of a field, meadow, woodland or, if you choose, a miniature desert complete with cactus and other small plants.

The first thing you must do is choose a suitable enclosure. An aquarium makes the ideal container even if it leaks a little. If an aquarium is not available, a wide vase, a clear glass battery case or even a mason jar, held on its side so it won't roll, will make a reasonable substitute. If none of these is available or satisfactory for your use you could make a container out of five yards of adhesive

## DEER OUTLOOK—

(Continued from page 65)

limb, but this piece of advice should stop anyone from cutting down my perch: If possible to do so, hunt your home county, or at least look it over well before you decide to go someplace else.

It is only human to think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, or, similarly, that any other county offers better deer hunting than the home county. My suggestion along these lines is that some nice day late in the fall you put on the hiking boots, and take a look along the wooded streams and rivers that flow through your local territory—the number of deer tracks and other signs you see may surprise you! It might also save a long trip and help your chances of bagging a deer this season.

The deer in many of our Iowa counties are not adequately harvested, with some areas having almost as many deer killed accidentally as are taken by legal hunters. This is unfortunate because it in-

dicates that there are some good hunting possibilities which are not being utilized.

A deer distribution map, with counties also rated as to their relative deer populations (1, best; 2, good; 3, fair; 4, fair to poor) is included for your information.

### Chances of Success

Every deer hunter can potentially bag a deer. Our statistics, based on data from hunter report cards, indicates that from 33 to 40 per cent of the licensed deer hunters have been successful in past years. These are the factors which tend to favor our deer hunters this year: (1) an increased deer population, (2) more permits will mean more hunters to keep the deer moving, and (3) a longer season which should allow for a more relaxed and productive hunt.

Weather has been a big factor in determining hunter success during some of our past deer seasons. This year's longer season may at least soften the impact of inclement or rough weather should it occur.



or masking tape and six 8" x 10" panes of single strength window glass.

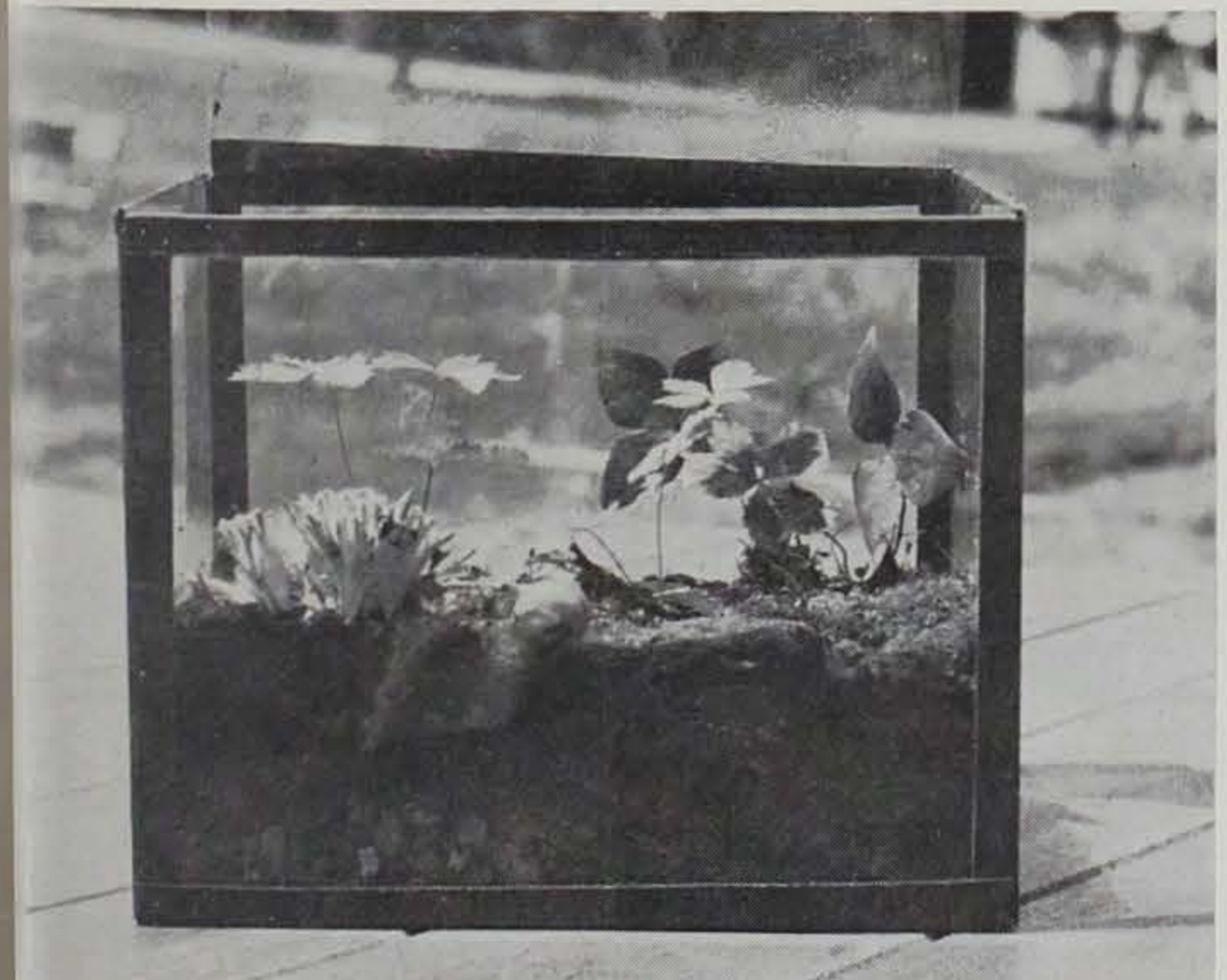
Once you have a container, begin collecting the materials to fill it. The bottom layer should be sand, about one inch thick if the size of your terrarium permits this much. On top of this you should place a thin layer, approximately one-half inch, of charcoal and a thin layer of soil which has been taken from the area where you collected the plants to be used. Bank this soil gently toward the backsides. Now you are ready to plant your terrarium.

In choosing plants and small animals, be careful to use only those which are found in the type of area you are representing. Possibly the most interesting terrarium can be made up of materials found in woodlands. Small plants such as mosses, small-leaved evergreen plants that grow only a few inches high; hepatica, small ferns, wood violets and many other varieties of plants found in this type of area

make ideal vegetation. Animals might include small snakes, toads and land snails. Don't forget to use some small rocks for landscaping and keep a small container, such as a jar lid, full of water for the animals.

The care which you use in arranging the plants will make a great deal of difference. Small sticks with moss growing on them, small rock cliffs and natural rock bridges all help to make your collection more attractive and interesting.

When your arrangement is completed, cover the terrarium with a glass plate. If you notice from time to time that drops of water collect on the glass, raise it or put it slightly to one side so that some of the moisture can evaporate into the atmosphere. Excessive moisture may cause the plants to mold. If you find the plants are drying up, add a small amount of water. This, along with feeding any small animals you might have, is all the care needed.



Duane DeKock Photo.

masking tape and glass terrarium contains a coral mushroom, wild strawberry, hepatica, land snail, toad and many other minor species of wildlife all living and flourishing in a bed of sand, charcoal and good Iowa soil.



## SEPTEMBER SQUIRRELING—

(Continued from page 65)

takes some people a long time to learn.

The sun was full out by now and a light breeze set the leaves arustle. This makes hearing your game more difficult and works for you, too, covering slight foot noises. If the wind really came up strong the hunt would practically be over. On excessively warm, cold or windy days, our chattering friends usually hole up with only a few of the more restless or adventuresome out watching the works.

We'd come to a place where, by cautiously parting the grass, our silhouettes didn't disturb nearly a dozen squirrels, busy in their squirrelly fashion on the flat below us. Two more for the game bag and then an overly curious one after a few moments. While I was retrieving the last effort, "grampa" had removed his specs and was voicing his usual complaint about "not being able to see 'em any more," each word punctuated with a handkerchief stroke on the already polished lenses. Having been exposed to this comment almost from the time I was in the cradle (it seems), I paid no attention. Hearing no more, I glanced his way to see him slip them back on, raise his 22 and shoot at something beyond my ken. When he fired I then saw a movement on a far limb. Once, twice more he shot and the unrecognizable shape (to me) dropped from the top to the underside of the limb, still hanging on. Three more rounds, each with a wait between, were necessary to loosen its grip from that high branch.

Ribbing him as I started toward it, I said, "Wasted some shells that time." On the return trip I didn't say anything—five holes in the head and one in the neck of that bushy-tail made me wish I had "a pair of tired old eyes" like his.

That completed that morning's hunt and even though severely bested I was just as happy as he—fried squirrel was still in the offing. Delicious they are and just like peanuts, you can't stop eating

## WINDBREAKS—HELP IN ANY WEATHER

Windbreaks, like modern detergents, help you to do anything better. Best of all, they keep you warm in winter and cool in summer. What more could anyone ask of a device that beautifies your property, prevents drifting of snow, protects crops, helps to prevent erosion, and can cut your fuel bill up to thirty per cent?

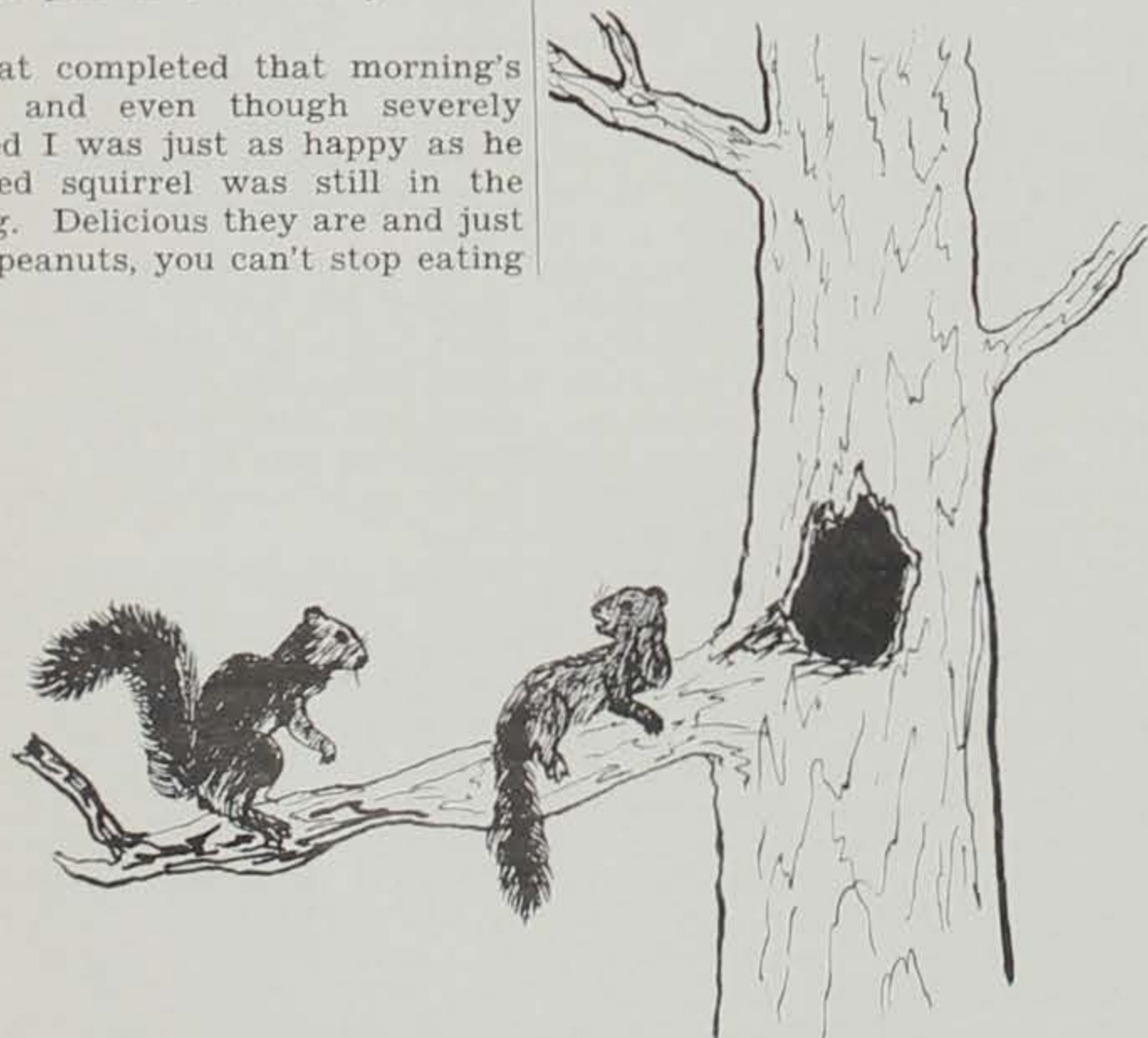
There is an art and a science to proper planning for a windbreak. First of all, it should blend with the landscape and set off your buildings. Secondly, it should be functional and, thirdly, it should be efficient.

To be functional, you should remember that a double or triple row of trees is a much more efficient windbreak than a single row.

For year-round protection windbreaks should be placed about sixty feet from the north and west (or otherwise exposed) side of your building to create a "still air" space to insulate your home in winter. Similarly for laneways, windbreaks should be placed sixty to seventy-five feet to the windward side of the lane to prevent snow from drifting.—*Sylva*.

until the platter is clean. As we strolled back to the car we came upon a couple of youngsters shooting indiscriminately at nests. After explaining to them how they were wasting powder and shot because those leafy summer nests are generally abandoned for a warmer winter home in a tree, he said to me with a pained expression, "Looks like those kids learned that from someone who ought to know better."

So goes what could easily be (except for school kids) the favorite month of the year. And to top it off, October and November are often just as good.



"What this world needs is a good five-cent bullet-proof vest."

## ANYONE FOR HORNED POUT?

Stan Widney

For sheer joy in the eating department, give me horned pout (bullhead) everytime. Of course, they have to be fried just right (to please me) and nothing else but the old-fashioned skillet and butter, margarine or cornoil will do. That, and some salt, good pancake flour and a paper bag are all that's necessary for a gastronomic thrill that would please the taste buds of even the late Duncan Hines, whether we used his pancake flour or not.

Horned pout is a fish that inhabits most any stream or lake in the United States and in many foreign countries. They won't give you quite the tussle of a largemouth bass, but they will fight. I've seen a seven incher clear the water as many as four times with the hook in him clear down to the sinker before he could be pulled out. Also, like a bass, they're unpredictable. One day they'll bite on worms and the next day they won't even give them a snifter and prefer liver, grasshoppers, minnows, or even steak. They'll be in one place one hour and miles from there the next, it seems.

One time when I was ten years old I went fishing for pout in Snake Creek (a little stream south of Yorktown in Page County that is never over four feet wide on the straightaway, but up to twenty or twenty-five on some curves and that's where you find the pout holes) when a cloudburst came up. My pal Newt and I crawled under a bridge and let it pour. It lasted about fifteen minutes and while we sat there, Newt amused himself by tossing our fishworms into the quickly raising creek until there were only about a half dozen scrawny critters sticking to the sides of the can.

When it let up we left our shelter and started back up the creek to the railroad track that led back to town. Pretty soon we came to a curve where the freshet had caused the back water to form a whirlpool. I don't know what ever made me bait up and toss a line into that muddy whirlpool, but I did—and WHAM!—a 12 inch pout took it. Newt was baiting up as I unhooked my prize. He caught one before his sinker was out of sight. Our few worms were gone in no time and I went to a nearby wheat field for grasshoppers. While I was gone Newt put a bigger hook on each of our lines. We baited them with hoppers and pulled in fish one after another. Finally, exhausted from running to and from the wheat field for hoppers, we gave up and started counting the fish on the bank. We had caught 56 horned pout (bullheads), and none of them were less than eight inches long. Most of them measured 10 and a dozen were all of 15 inches. Man! I can taste the fish fry Aunt Pearl

cooked up yet!

I told you this story to make the point that horned pout are the most unpredictable of fish. Every time it rained hard for all of five years after that, Newt and I went fishing in whirlpools—and never caught a one (in the whirlpool). Oh, we found them elsewhere—a rising stream is most always good fishing—but not in any one place and certainly not as numerous.

This is one of the best months for this species. Almost any lake, backwater, farm pond or a wide place in a creek that is over two feet deep will produce whiskered cousins to the catfish, the fish that most Iowans favor, according to the latest creel census or poll or whatever.

Some folks sneer at them, I don't know why. Maybe they just don't know how to cook them—like my friend Bob who was raised in the trout country and the first time he caught a pout he cooked and ate it, skin and all. I thought everyone knew you're supposed to skin all fish of the cat family.

Anyway, as much as I like carp-burgers and frog legs, I'll guarantee anyone who wants to furnish the fresh dressed fish that I can cook a mess of bullheads that, if they'll tell the truth, is just as good as any trout, pike or bass they ever tasted!

## FISHING POLE CATCHES FOX

Catching a fox with a fishing pole is quite a feat but, according to reports from Oakville, it can be done.

While fishing on a bridge near the John Kramer home Victor Breese saw some dogs chase a fox directly across the bridge. A few seconds later a second fox ran over the bridge. Breese tossed his fish line toward the fox and caught it by the tail.

His cane fishing pole broke but the 50 pound test line held and the fox rolled up in it and was unable to get away.—*Wapello Republican*.

## THE WINNER

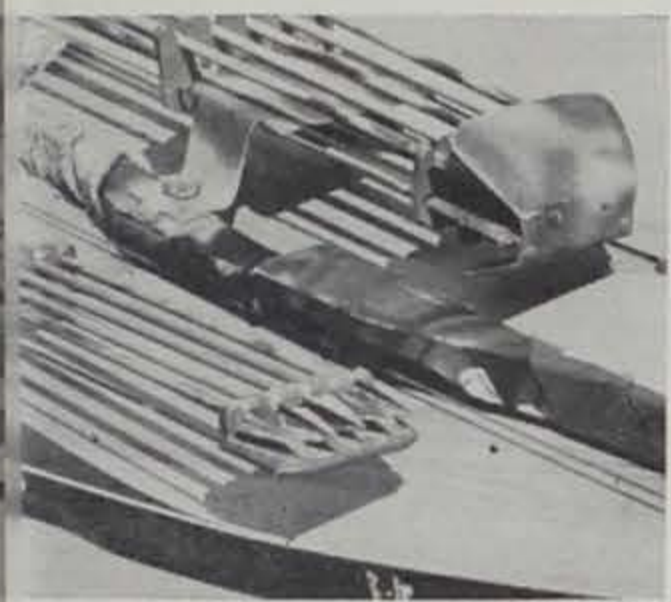
One evening recently Conservation Officer Louis Lemke of Dallas and Madison Counties was out checking licenses on the Raccoon River. While talking with a fisherman, the strangest noise they ever heard broke up the conversation. Upstream a couple of animals were struggling furiously on the bank. Coming closer, they saw it was a common rat holding a big frog by the loose skin on the frog's back. Most everybody knows how a bull frog can roar, but evidently this one was grunting and shrieking at the same time—truly a strange combination of sounds. As the rat tried to get a better grip, froggie broke loose and bounded six feet to the water with his frustrated attacker in hot pursuit. The change of elements saved the day for Mr. Frog and we'll bet he won't venture that far from home again for quite a spell.



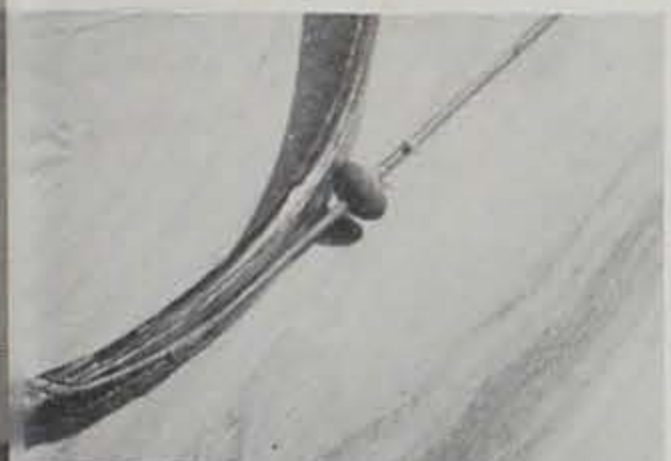
## TO BE A BOWMAN

From the Editor's Notebook

Experts are not made by rubbing eyeballs on the written word—they only sound that way. The master of an art makes his claim to fame via diligent application—in the case of archery, practice. With the bow season for deer around the corner it's almost late to get in shape for what may be your one opportunity to bring down a deer in the fashion



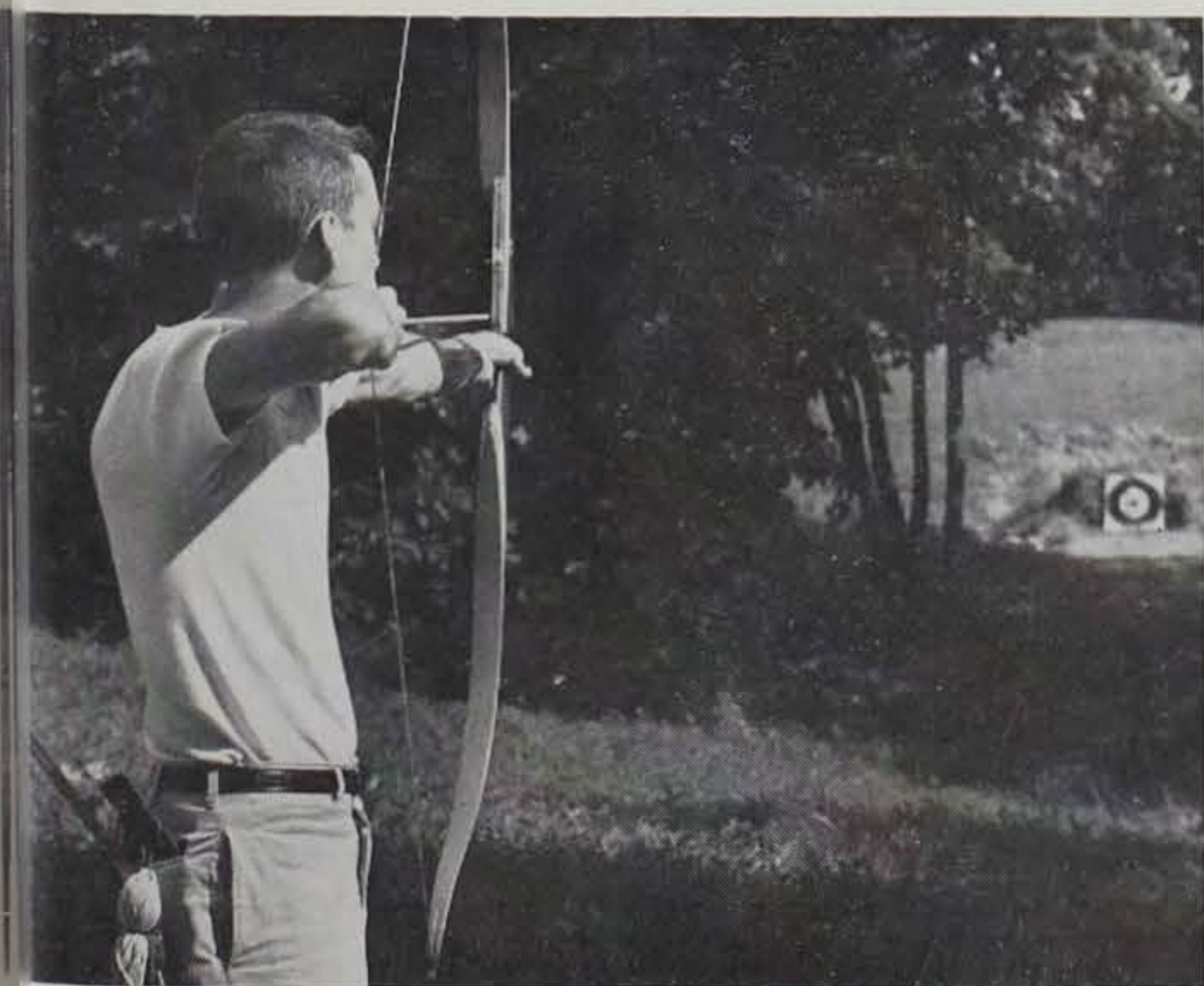
A broadhead shield mounted on a bow is a safety feature no hunter should lack. Some types are of sponge rubber, leather or plastic. Any is better than none.



Often forgotten, but useful article, bow-buttons help keep out the weeds and to silence the vibrating bowstring. Their cost is small, worth every cent.



Broadheads bearing last year's edge can be disappointingly dull. Always keep a whetstone handy.



George Tovey Photo.

Price pays off! Those who like to shoot and seriously plan on taking a deer put at least 100 arrows per day in the target a few weeks before the season begins.

of the ancients. Constant attention to shooting form and technique is the best insurance for success afield. This again spells practice. Although many hunters have several chances for close-range shooting during the season, it is something you can't count on; you must be ready for that unexpected moment when a small fraction of a minute is all you have to make the day one to remember.

Fine details loom importantly, especially when you've just missed the boat (and your deer) through neglect of some small item. Maybe the twang of the bow string gave your quarry just enough warning to avoid the arrow. Brush buttons not only tend to eliminate a weed-clogged bow, but also deaden the sound of vibrating bow strings. Frayed bow strings (always just good enough for one more trip) can certainly puncture momentary dreams of that magnificent rack mounted on the wall of your den. It's always the little things that make up the big difference between success and failure.

Such matters as proper camouflage can give an expert the willies. Most deer are probably shot by hunters well covered so as to make their silhouette indistinguishable from the surroundings, or from tree stands, or both. As a little test, how many times have you walked up on a deer within good bow range and had time to let fly an arrow? If you're sitting or standing quietly by a trail you'll see more game and they will come closer. Praise be the modern day Robin Hood who comes cheerfully tromping over twigs, unwrapping his candy bar and stridently whistling Yankee Doodle—a better driver of deer could hardly be imagined. If you're going for a walk through the woods, leave the bow at home and you won't suffer from eye-strain looking for deer that are a mile ahead of you.

Broadheads bearing last year's edge can be disappointingly dull.



George Tovey Photo.

Camouflaged to a "T", including the bow and arrows. Grease paint (theatrical) will do instead of a face mask. Who says bowhunters don't take great pains?

A small file or whetstone isn't out of place in your kit for use during bull sessions as conversation waxes and wanes of your own and other's experiences. Three-bladed broadheads are easiest to hone and they should be sharpened to the point that a razor seems dull by comparison. Cracked or warped arrows are not any more fit for the field than a clogged shotgun barrel. Identification of arrows can be important also. Some states require that the arrows bear the owner's name. This is easily done with decals or by scraping off the finish, applying your name with a ball point pen and covering with varnish or clear nail polish. Your ar-

rows might be identical with those of another archer who shot at that juicy chunk of venison. If he's bigger than you are, who do you suppose will go home happy and loaded down with fresh meat?

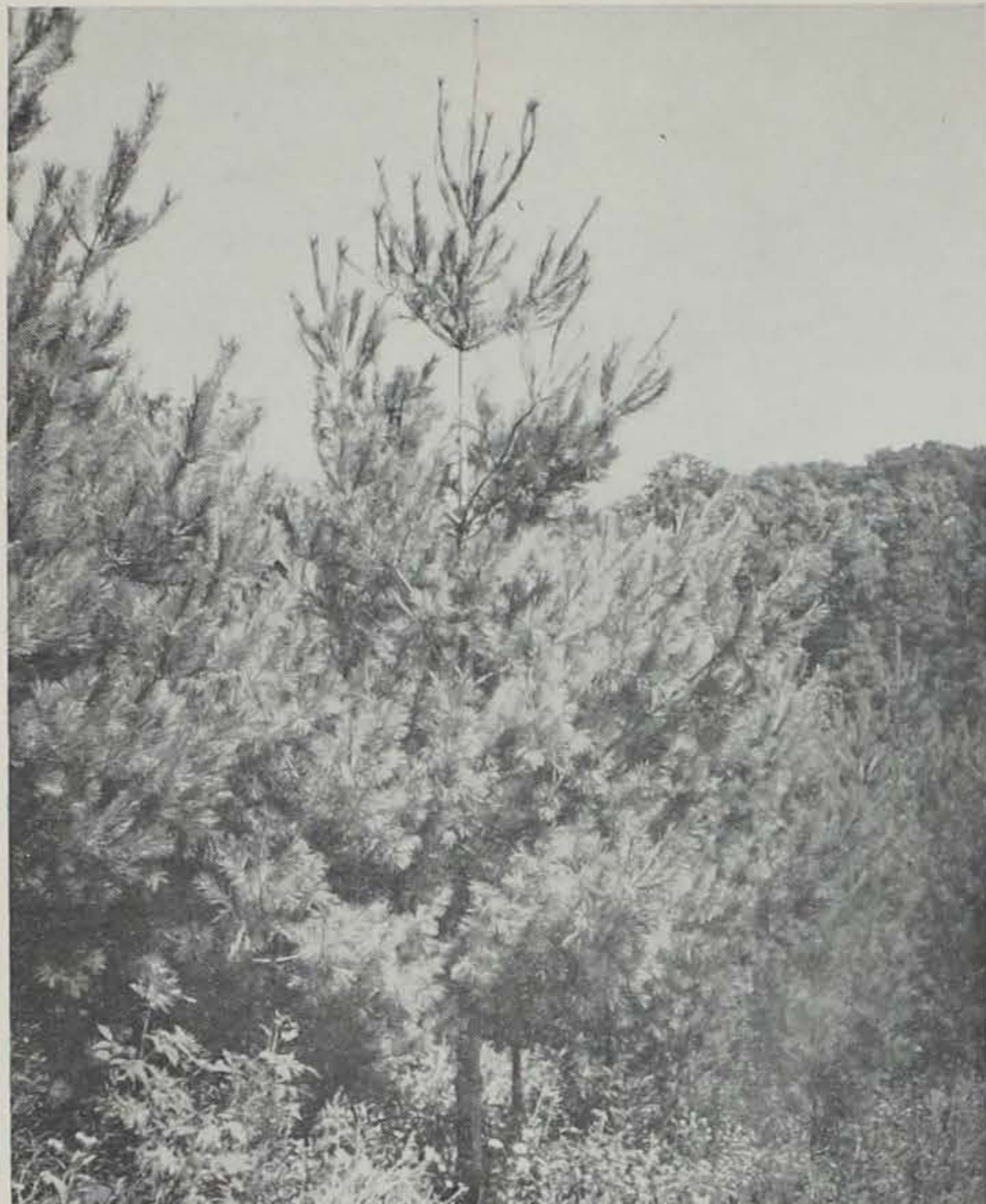
Lastly and very important is your ability to track a wounded animal once hit. Much has been said about bowhunters not finding their game, though the evidence points the other way. Once an animal has been shot, either with gun or bow, they should be allowed time to stop after fleeing the scene to relax, hemorrhage and stiffen. They are then reluctant to get up and go when you appear to deliver the coup de grâce.



George Tovey Photo.

Some of the equipment you'll need besides the bow and arrows. At the top, a tree stand. Below, left to right, a spare bow string, hunting knife, buck lure, grease paint, finger tab, whetstone and wrist guard. It all comes in handy at one time or another.





This could never be the Lonesome Pine of story and song because it stands among thousands of its brothers in the Yellow River Forest Area in northeast Iowa.

## IOWA'S NATIVE EVERGREENS—THE WHITE PINE

Professor George B. Hartman  
School of Forestry  
Iowa State University

Professor Hartman acted as a research associate and consultant to the forestry section of the Conservation Commission for two months the past summer. Besides contacting Iowa forest industries to increase the number of wood products manufactured and speaking to civic groups on various phases of forestry, Dr. Hartman wrote a series of articles about some of Iowa's more important species of trees, the first of which is printed this month. Most of these writings give a brief history, describe a species or two, and tell of the primary uses to which the type of wood is put.

Eastern white pine was the source of much of the lumber used for manufacture in the United States for almost 300 years beginning shortly after the first settlers landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. This tree is one of the five coniferous species native to Iowa. The broad range of this beautiful and valuable tree extends from Newfoundland west to Manitoba in Canada and southward in the United States along the eastern mountains to Georgia and westward to Minnesota and Iowa. The range of white pine in Iowa is confined to the northeastern part of the state extending southwesterly as far as Eldora in Hardin County.

In Iowa, the white pine usually does not occur in pure stands, but more often is found intermingled with hardwoods.

Most of the legends and stories about the American lumber industry are based on logging and manufacture of white pine. It was while logging this wonderful all-purpose wood that most of the Paul Bunyan stories originated. Scarcely enough credit can be given eastern white pine for the part it had in the development and building of this nation from New England all the way to the Great Plains.

As compared to the American yew, Iowa's smallest native conifer, white pine is our state's largest evergreen. It grows tall and straight—from 50 to 100 feet high. The leaves (needles) of this tree are three to five inches long, bluish green on the upper surface and somewhat whitish beneath, occurring in bundles of five needles in a cluster.

The fruit of eastern white pine is a slender, tapering cone, three to six inches long with the ends of the cone scales colored a light tan to white in contrast to the darker tan and brown of the rest of the scale.

The bark on small branches and twigs is smooth and colored a reddish green. On larger and older parts of the tree the bark is dark gray broken into broad flat ridges.

The wood of white pine is light in weight, soft and easily worked. It is cream to light brown in color. Many products are made of eastern white pine some of which are lum-

ber and construction material, boxes and crates, match sticks, woodenware and many others.

Because of its versatility, white pine is widely planted in Iowa woodlots for the production of wood for manufacture and for farmstead windbreaks.

Those who travel in northeastern Iowa have probably seen the tall, straight white pine growing in mixtures with hardwoods where the lighter green or leaf-bare hardwoods form an outstanding background for the dark bluish green of the white pine foliage. In a few spots such as White Pine Hollow State Forest and Backbone State Park the white pine may be found growing in limited areas in almost pure stands. But, whether mingled with hardwoods or not, the magnificent white pine stands out as Iowa's finest conifer.

## ARTIFICIAL LURES FOR BASS?

Dr. L. A. Meder  
Elkader, Iowa

Anyone living in the clear water area of northeast Iowa who enjoys fishing for smallmouth bass has found a fisherman's paradise. For in such fresh water streams as the Turkey, Volga, Yellow and Upper Iowa Rivers—plus their numerous tributaries—the bass enthusiast has found the natural habitat of the smallmouth.

I have been a bass fisherman for many years, starting first with minnows and crayfish as bait, but in recent years have switched exclusively to the artificial lures. My favorite is a nickel spinner with a

gray hackle fly and white streamer. In the early part of the season I cut the streamer close to the hook to pick up the "short strikes" that often occur at that time of the year—especially if the water I'm fishing is on the cloudy side.

I have found, however, that I have my best luck in late August and late fall, either walking stream or fishing from a canoe. I fish small eddies and particularly rocky shore lines with dark or fairly deep water adjoining.

For the live bait fisherman, I would suggest a shiner minnow about three inches long. Hook it just under the dorsal fin and use a so-called dead line (no sinker or weight on line). This shiner—slightly crippled—will swim on the surface, making a highly effective bait.

I've been told that the smallmouth bass is on the increase and a good spawning year means that in three or four years there'll be plenty of tight lines for the smallmouth bass fisherman—Dubuque Herald.

## BOAT IN DISTRESS

The U. S. Coast Guard has put out a new regulation effective May 20, 1960, adding a new distress signal to those which are permissible. The text of the ruling states:

"Daytime. (1) Slowly and repeatedly raising and lowering arms outstretched to each side."

The new provision is added to the Pilot Rules governing inland waters under the general heading of "Distress Signals."



The blue-green (on the top) and whitish (on the bottom) needles come in groups of five in the white pine. The cone varies in length from three to six inches.



## COMMISSION MINUTES

July, 1960

## General

**Commission:**  
 Formally accepted the option for Cone Marsh.  
 Authorized travel for:  
 Prison Labor Foreman to Congressional Congress at Denver, Colo.  
 Superintendent of Parks to National Conference on State Parks at Rockland, Maine.  
 County Conservation Board Coordinator to American Institute of Park Executives at Long Beach, California.  
 Superintendent of Federal Aid to Federal Aid Coordination Meeting at Bismarck, North Dakota.  
 Approved administration of a examination for park and lake Conservation Officers this fall.  
 Decided not to consider using Margo Frankel State Park as a small zoo for the city of Des Moines.

## Parks

Agreed to allow the Bedford Club to install underground piping and a lighting system for the shelter house at Lake of Three Rivers Park.  
 Granted the Iowa Historical Society permission to construct and maintain a small interpretive building on the Abbie Gardner Camp Cabin site if the specifications are submitted and approved.  
 Accepted a gift of \$2,000 to be used for development of the Rock Creek State Park beach from the nonprofit Rock Creek Development Corporation.  
 Listened to a report on the pool situation of the Coralville Reservoir.  
 Met with a delegation from McGor who requested that part of Pikes Peak State Park be developed for camping.  
 Heard a report that Lake Wapella will be drawn down four to six feet this fall and Springbrook Lake will be drained this fall.

## Waters

Have permission for use of a 1958 passenger excursion boat on West Okoboji if the sanitary equipment is approved. This boat will replace the Boji Belle.  
 Granted a construction permit for a boat ramp on East Okoboji to the East Okoboji Lake Shore Corporation if the general public is allowed to use the ramp without charge.  
 Ordered the Superintendent of Waters to have an illegally constructed dock removed from the North Shore Drive at Clear Lake.

## County Conservation Boards

Approved the following: A 194 acre marsh along the Skunk River in Polk County. A nine acre addition to a youth camp in Greene County. A three acre boat access picnic area to be leased on Spring Creek in Linn County when title is gained. A 128 acre south of Central City on the Tippecanoe River for picnicking, boating and boat access in Linn County. The development plan for

## CONE MARSH

Rich in Past, Present and Future

Roger Fliger

Three hundred twenty acres of Iowa's choice wetland has been purchased by the State Conservation Commission with the aid and cooperation of the Pittman-Robertson Fund. In a way, sportsmen themselves are paying part of the bill because the P-R Fund is derived from the 11 per cent tax on firearms and sporting goods. The nimrods will get their money's worth many times over for Cone Marsh is located in Louisa County near the junction of the Cedar and Iowa Rivers and has long been the gathering place of hunters and watchers for hundreds of miles around. Spring and fall migrations bring practically every species of waterfowl known to enter Iowa.

Perhaps no other marsh in the state can boast of a past like Cone. From black powder days to the present it has been in the limelight. For many years during the "gay nineties," trains from Chicago, St. Louis—even as far away as Washington, D. C.—carried hunters to nearby stations from whence they traveled by wagon to the marsh, shot so many ducks, geese and plovers they often walked back while the wagons overflowed with their game. Photographic proof of this is in many a velvet bound album.

parking and boat launching facilities in the Chain Lake Wildlife Area in Linn County. Development of picnicking, parking and boat launching sites in the Waukeek Quarry area in Linn County. A 111 acre area around Lake O'Delhi for boat launching and parking in Delaware County. A request from Hamilton County to consider development of a pumping station on the north side of Little Wall Lake.

John Wymore of the Polk County Conservation Board met with the Commission to discuss construction of three lakes in Polk County.

## Forestry

Heard a report on the present status of the prison labor program in the Yellow River Forest.

## Fish and Game

Approved an option for purchase of six acres of marsh area on the north shore of Cheever Lake in Emmet County for \$180; area is to be used for access. Approved construction of a trout raceway on South Bear Creek and expansion of nursery ponds at the Mount Ayr Fish Hatchery. Adopted the departmental rules for controlled hunting at Lake Odessa. Set the 1960 hunting seasons. Heard a report on the condition of the Commission airplane and decided to have it overhauled rather than buy a new one.

Clarification of last month's minutes: A building that occupies part of the Lazy Lagoon area (not Lazy Lagoon itself) will be purchased by the commission.



George Tovey Photo.

What do you give a duck who has everything? Why, a dose of No. 4 shot, of course. It's true, waterfowl that visit Cone Marsh will certainly find everything to their liking—as will the hunter!

During World War II this marsh was the site of a naval survival course for the Sea Hawks stationed at the University of Iowa. Bernie Bierman, the well known former coach of the Minnesota Gophers, was the school's director. He and the marshland helped in training the boys for the rigors of jungle

warfare. Recently the area has been under private control by the Iowa Moose Club.

Under the Commission, the marsh will continue to provide excellent habitat for all forms of wildlife. Being a tremendous bird resting and feeding area, many birds stay to raise their broods. Blue-winged teal, wood duck, bitterns, coot, and gallinule can be seen during the summer months.

Boundary areas provide excellent cover for quail, rabbit and pheasant. Squirrel, fox, and deer are found in the marsh itself. Cattail and arrowhead jungles harbor a large muskrat and raccoon population.

Management of Cone Marsh, and routine maintenance, will be under the direction of the Odessa Unit for the present. Located west of the town of Conesville, from whence the marsh gets its name, it is less than 25 miles from Lake Odessa.

Come fall, icy fingered hunters will creep through the bullrushes gazing skyward at the ribbons of mallards and formations of geese funneling southward over the waters and feel assured that Cone Marsh will remain a waterfowl haven for generations to come.

Although the silk in a spider's web seems fragile, it is really one of the strongest materials known. This material will stretch one-fifth its length before breaking and possesses a tensile strength exceeding that of steel.

Birds capable of being taught to talk include parrots, mynas, crows, ravens, jackdaws and some species of jays.



George Tovey Photo.

The game birds and animals are a small part of the wildlife existing in Cone Marsh. This least bittern couldn't make up his mind whether to fly or not while the big eye of the camera focused on him.





George Tovey Photo.

Dolliver Memorial's sights and natural features are the best in the state. Camp and group camp sites, picnic grounds and cabins are available facilities. There is plenty to do here that will keep every member of the family busy and in the out-of-doors.

## STATE PARKS OF IOWA

*A Where To Go and What To Do Feature*

Stan Widney

### DOLLIVER MEMORIAL

Dolliver Memorial Park, south of Fort Dodge near Lehigh on Highway 121, is 527 acres of the most varied beauty anywhere in Iowa if not in the whole middle-west. Slopes of over 1,100 feet, covered with vegetation of many varieties, wander down to the Des Moines River from Indian Mounds atop one of the highest points in the state. Massive sandstone cliffs tower 150 feet above babbling brooks and ledges of rock and caves hidden by overhanging Virginia creeper. These are glens where butternut, quaking and large-toothed aspen, white and black ash trees grow, and in which the ostrich fern, lungwort, mandrake, hepatica, black-eyed susans and almost every kind of wildflower and shrub are found. All of them can be reached by trails well marked by the feet of hundreds of hikers.

Space does not permit us to name all the varieties of flora found here, nor the different kinds of rock and rock formations, except the most unusual—the copperas beds. Said by many to be the most interesting spot in the park, they are located in a sandstone bluff some 150 feet high and several hundred of feet in length. The path that leads to them has some unusual features, one of which is a cathedral-like glen, grassy, and with an atmosphere so sublime that church groups worship there.

Fishermen spend many happy hours on the bends and curves of the Des Moines River and many are the tales of big walleyes and channel cat taken.

This park is a fitting memorial to the scholar, orator, statesman and conservationist for whom it was named. Jonathan P. Dolliver

lived and worked in these hills and valleys as a boy and young man and he always returned to them when in need of solace. A sandstone ledge in the center of the park, over a bubbling spring, holds a bronze likeness of Dolliver. This memorial tablet was unveiled on June 28, 1925, at the park's dedication ceremony.

Boneyard Hollow, a narrow ravine running out from the river for perhaps a quarter of a mile, gets its name from the wagon loads of buffalo bones unearthed there by the early settlers. The abrupt cliffs on either side go up 75 to 100 feet and it is claimed that Indians used this dead-end valley as a buffalo trap, a fact substantiated by the ancient artifacts found there.

Outside the park proper lies Woodman Hollow and Wildcat Cave. Woodman Hollow is a gorge cut out of the sandstone made by water dashing over the rock for centuries. It is famous for its variety of ferns and wild flowers and trees such as butternut, basswood and elm. Wildcat Cave also has a stream which empties into the Des Moines River. Along the west walls are a series of six or seven shallow chambers hollowed out of the cliffs that tower upward 60 to 70 feet. The "cave" is reached by a scenic drive along tree-lined, flower and fern covered grandeur.

Lehigh, also on the scenic drive, is a river town with a past that rivals Dodge City, Kansas, for gun-fighting action. Gypsum miners and workers in the huge tile factory (still there and going strong) made the old town ring with payday celebrating. Nowadays, it is a very peaceful community of 900 population, but oldtimers are glad to relive adventures that might curl the hair of a present day "cow-boy." Don't miss all these extras when you visit this, one of Iowa's most scenic parks.

## GREEN VALLEY WALLEYES

By Jim Mayhew  
Fisheries Biologist

Want to catch walleyes? There is welcome news for southern Iowa anglers and those heading south. Until recently, the only fishable walleye populations in the state existed in northern Iowa lakes, large inland streams, and the Mississippi River. In 1954 the State Conservation Commission decided to try an experimental walleye planting at Green Valley, a newly constructed artificial lake near Creston in Union County.

Walleyes had been stocked as early as 1927 in municipal water supply impoundments, but never with long-range success. This species was also stocked in state-owned recreational lakes built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the mid-30's. These plantings also failed to produce fishable walleye populations. Failure of these plantings was attributed mostly to the lack of satisfactory walleye habitat and the inability of the species to propagate itself naturally.

Green Valley Lake differs physically from most of the man-made impoundments in southern Iowa. It was these differences in physical and topographical features that the original stocking of walleye was



George Tovey Photo.

The copperas beds in Dolliver State Park attract many visitors, especially students who have papers to write on rare rock formations. Copperas is an iron sulphate deposit appearing here in sandstone bluffs over 100 feet in height.

based upon. Unlike most artificial lakes, Green Valley is relatively shallow with gently sloping bottom contours and numerous mud and shoal areas. Maximum depth is approximately 22 feet. The lake does not stratify thermally or chemically during summer months, and has sufficient oxygen in the deep regions to support fish life throughout the year. There are only sparse wooded areas in the watershed, and the shoreline is completely open to wind action, making the lake fall habitat for walleyes.

The first walleyes were stocked in 1954 during the second year of impoundment. This planting consisted of 1,500 fingerlings and 1,000 yearlings. Yearling walleyes were from 10 to 12 inches in length that had escaped nursery pond seining the previous year. Since 1954, a total of 2,500,000 fry, 13,800 fingerling, and 3,020 yearling walleyes have been stocked.

This year 200 walleyes were marked by inserting a small numbered metal strap tag in the upper jaw. A majority of these fish were captured in two nights by electrofishing. By mathematical employment of the ratio between fish caught with tags and those without, an estimate of the actual population can be determined. It is also possible to determine the angler exploitation of a fish population by the number of tagged fish caught in relation to the number tagged. One month after the tagging, three per cent of the tagged fish have been caught by anglers. Population estimates found on the small return indicates an average of approximately 14 walleyes per acre of water. This is considered a good fishable walleye population.

One of the most outstanding features of Green Valley walleyes is the growth attained since they were introduced. In six years the largest fish captured to date weighed in excess of eight pounds. Average growth has averaged 11.0, 20.0, 22.1, and 24.3 inches total length for the first, third, fourth, and fifth years of life, respectively. This is far above the average growth for walleyes. Normally, four to five years is required for Iowa walleyes to grow to 20 inches instead of the three years here.

At present time it appears that the stocking of walleyes in Green Valley has been extremely successful. However, it should be pointed out that this has been an experimental study and there is not sufficient data for full evaluation. This also cannot be considered a blanket endorsement for walleye stocking in all artificial lakes. Green Valley is considerably different in structure, physical and biological characteristics than all other related impoundments. The main point—Green Valley has walleyes and they don't care who's hook the latch onto.

Besides its regular diet of minnows and insects, the brown trout will eat mice, shrews and frogs.