

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

IOWA STATE TRAVELING LIBRARY
JAN 11 1962

MISS BLANCHE SMITH
DES MOINES IOWA
LIBRARY COM 1A
61 61 SENIOR DES

Volume 21 January, 1962 Number 1

THE "HOW" OF WINTER FISHING

COUNTY PARKS

Carol Buckmann

With the increase in leisure time, the community need feel secure that recreational facilities are adequate to meet the future demand. Although county conservation can't supply everything from soup to nuts, they can supply a wide form of outdoor recreation from fishing in access areas to hiking in county park playgrounds. There is a multitude of types of recreational areas that the relative new park boards have started or have in progress; the common is the multiple-use

These are the largest of the county parks, ranging from 20 to several hundred acres. This type of park contains as many forms of recreation compatible with the natural characteristics as the area is capable of supporting, such as picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking, and nature study. The parks also support playgrounds and organized play areas as well as baseball diamonds, boat launchings and the usual water and sanitary facilities. If there is a lake, multiple-use parks may supply beach areas. The presence of a lake doesn't ban the possibility of a beach. In some counties are planning artificial lakes.

For those planning a family reunion, church breakfast, civic meeting or other group function, the county board has built a community building. A phone call to the county board member reserves a building for day-time use. The county board doesn't discourage a group of most multiple-use county parks are equipped with shelter buildings. These differ from community buildings in that the latter are entirely enclosed and former are just a roof.

All multiple-use parks can have all these facilities. The type of recreation available depends on the natural features of the park. If it could also include, and has planned, golf courses, tennis courts, and other recreational facilities in wild ranges "where the deer and the antelope play." The main purpose of the community forest is management of existing timber for future gener-



Jim Sherman Photo.

A fine example of the winter fishing harvest. The stubby rod, heavy clothing, big grin, and mess of fish typify those lowans who desert the hearth to brave winter wind and cold to hit their favorite lakes and rivers for panfish, walleye, northerns, bass and trout.

for fishing and boating. These are small, varying from a fractional acre to 20, for the purpose of providing the public with an access to water.

Here the public finds launching facilities but further development varies with size and type. They may have picnic, hunting, camping, and parking facilities with marsh areas for waterfowl.

In addition to the public access, the county boards acquire and build ponds for public fishing similar to large farm ponds. The boards have acquired abandoned gravel pits or natural ponds created by changing stream courses or other natural methods.

Community forests are also set aside by the county boards, but are primarily for production of timber products.

The main purpose of the community forest is management of existing timber for future gener-

ations with hunting as a side-value. Although not selected for such, some provide access for fishermen and boaters.

For classroom study and those with a yen to learn more about nature, county boards are planning county school forests of some 40 to 160 acres. Here any school in the county can study natural sciences including botany, ornithology, entomology, zoology, as well as geology, forestry and soil conservation.

The purpose of the school forests is to provide an area where a teacher can point out existing examples of the things he or she attempts to teach by theory in the classroom. In combining teaching with field work, the value of conservation is put into practice.

This is a cooperative venture between educational authorities and the county board. The land is pur-

(Continued on page 8)

Tom Moen

Fisheries Biologist

Although winter fishing was legalized over ten years ago there are many fishermen who have not taken part in this winter sport. Angler contacts and fisherman counts taken by Conservation Commission personnel indicate that, even on a popular winter and summer fishing area such as Spirit Lake, only ten per cent of the total fishing takes place while that body of water is covered by ice. There are many acres of good fishing water that seldom have a winter fisherman. Biologists have long maintained that winter sport fishing is good fish management. If you are not already taking part, why not extend your fishing pleasures to an ice covered body of water? With a little "know how" you should not be disappointed.

What can you expect to catch? Almost any species that is available from a given body of water during the summer months, but certain species are much more easily caught in the winter. The more important kinds of fish that bite during the periods of ice cover include yellow perch, bluegill, crappie, walleyes, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass. Although not caught through a hole in the ice, trout are fast gaining prominence in the winter fishing picture. At times even the notoriously poor winter feeders such as bullheads and catfish will take a notion to add some fun to the sport of winter fishing.

You need not be too concerned about that business of know-how mentioned earlier. Your tackle need not be specialized. Chances are that if you are a fisherman, you already possess most of the equipment necessary for a fishing trip to an ice covered lake or pond. Tackle for winter fishing can be as varied as that used during the open water season, except that your pole should be relatively short. Very few fishermen that consistently catch fish use a pole any longer than a conventional bait casting rod, usually shorter. Many prefer a "shortie" rod of 15 to 24 inches in length. These short poles

(Continued on page 3)

Iowa Conservationist

Vol. 21 January, 1962 No. 1

Published monthly by the State Conservation Commission, East 7th and Court, Des Moines, Iowa. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579, manuscripts, mail items) to street address above.

Subscription price: two years at \$1.00

Second class postage paid at Des Moines, Iowa

(No Rights Reserved)

NORMAN A. ERBE, Governor
GLEN G. POWERS, Director
JAMES R. SHERMAN, Editor
DENNIS L. REHDER, Managing Editor
CAROL BUCKMAN and STAN WIDNEY, Contributing Editors

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

CLYDE M. FRUDDEN, Chairman.....Greensburg
A. N. HUMISTON, Vice Chairman.....Cedar Rapids
SHERRY R. FISHER.....Des Moines
EARL E. JARVIS.....Wilton Junction
GEORGE H. MEYER.....Elkader
ROBERT E. BEEBE.....Sioux City
ED WEINHEIMER.....Fontanelle

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE.....50,500

**COMMISSION MINUTES
GENERAL**

Approved award of contract and routing of funds to the Great Lakes Sanitary District.

Lakefront development on Lake Manawa was authorized for Julius Novak.

Approval was given to aerial surveys of state parks by Tri-State Aerial Engineering Company of Bettendorf, total cost of \$13,464.

A report was given on area signs and directional road markers by the Chief of Fish and Game and the Superintendent of Parks.

**COUNTY CONSERVATION
ACTIVITIES**

Black Hawk County received approval for the acquisition of 40 acres along the Wapsipinicon River at a cost of \$37.50 per acre.

Benton County received approval for the acquisition of 26½ acres at a cost of \$100 per acre, as part of a plan to establish a multiple-use park called the Hoeffle Area.

Approval was given for a gift of one acre near the Delta Covered Bridge to Keokuk County.

Wright County received approval for a lease on four-tenths of an acre at \$1 per year to be used as a picnic area on Lake Cornelia.

Wright County received approval for acquisition of 16½ acres along the Boone River at a cost of \$184 per acre for an area called Sportsman Park.

Carroll County received approval for a development plan for the Merritt Access Area consisting of 67½ acres to be used for a fishing access on the Raccoon River.

Franklin County received approval for a development plan for Galvin Park consisting of six acres near Sheffield to be used primarily as a neighborhood picnic area and winter sports area.

Approval, subject to final approval by the State Executive Council, was given for a 25-year maintenance and management agreement for Cold Springs Park in Cass County with the Cass County Board of Supervisors.

A request for the transfer of title of the Childs Access Area to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board was refused.

**MANY COMMUNITIES NEED PLAY AREAS
NEARER HOME**

The increasing demands for outdoor recreation usually mean more national and state parks. But there is a widespread need for such open-air opportunities closer to home for most people. Iowa has a county-conservation law that is filling this void. It enables counties to develop local natural resources to provide outdoor recreation.

The law, enacted in 1955, works simply. If the voters favor the project, the County Board of Supervisors will appoint a County Conservation Board of five qualified members. They are empowered "to acquire, maintain and make available . . . public parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreational centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas."

When the first chance to vote on the proposition came at the 1956 election, it was adopted by sixteen counties. So popular has it proved that now sixty-two of the state's ninety-nine counties have recreation programs underway. Latest figures show that these include some 200 separate conservation areas, ranging in size from a few acres up to 1,250 acres. For the most part, the smaller areas are historical sites, roadside parks or boat-launching facilities, while the larger ones are being developed for multiple-use parks.

Some counties are building artificial lakes, and the first one was completed in Benton County in 1960. This forty-five acre lake was constructed in a 160-acre park, which gives it an attractive setting. Iowa has numerous streams, and many counties are developing shoreline resources along them.

The use Iowans are making of the county-conservation act is all the more impressive because Iowa has a better-than-average system of state parks. Other states should find it an applicable way to provide more recreation for more people.—*Reprinted by special permission of the Saturday Evening Post © 1961 by the Curtis Publishing Company.*

FISH AND GAME

An option was approved for purchase of 62 acres at a total cost of \$11,200 adjacent to Kettleston Slough in Dickinson County.

An option was approved for 10 acres at a cost of \$400 adjacent to Jemmerson Slough in Dickinson County.

Action was deferred concerning a request to purchase four sets of two-way radios for Conservation Officers.

Approval was given for the expenditure of \$100,000 from this year's budget for the start of construction on a new fish hatchery located at Spirit Lake.

Approval was given for a construction permit for county road widening adjacent to Allen Green refuge in Des Moines County.

FORESTRY

A progress report was given by the Superintendent of Forestry concerning work in the Yellow River Forest Area.

An option was approved for the purchase of 30 acres at a cost of \$75 per acre for an addition to the Little Paint Creek Forest Unit.

PARKS

The Superintendent of Parks gave a report on work progress which will provide about 35 camping sites at Pikes Peak State Park.

A request for fill dirt to be taken from Silver Lake State Park in Delaware County was not considered.

An Attorney General's opinion was read concerning the transfer of land for use as an air strip in Mill Creek State Park which stated that such a transfer would not be legal.

A management agreement proposal was cancelled concerning the use of Mini-Wakan State Park due to a trap shooting clause in the

Hunting is probably among the safest of participant sports, according to insurance statistics, but making it even safer is a prime concern of everyone. Hunting ranks way down in seventeenth place, in terms of accidents per 100,000 participants, following football, baseball, horseback riding, skiing, boating, skating, swimming and several other popular participant sports.

Four options for the purchase of 23 acres of land at a cost of \$5,277 at Decatur Bend in Monona County were approved.

A permit for road widening adjacent to Frank A. Gotch State Park in Humboldt County was approved.

Eleven concessions contracts in state parks were approved.

An option on two acres of land adjacent to Lizard Lake at a cost of \$800 received approval.

Action was deferred for 30 days on two options in the Lake Anita Area.

WATERS

An Attorney General's opinion was read concerning transfer of title to a dredge fill area on Storm Lake which indicated that it would not be legal.

Administrative Orders No. 307, No. 308, No. 309 concerning boating regulations were approved.

A request of the City Council of Clinton to zone Joyces Slough as a harbor area received approval.

New sand, gravel, rock, and stone applications and agreements were approved which would require a \$5,000 surety bond and \$50 cost for each permit.

A compromise settlement to determine a portion of shore line on Carter Lake in Pottawattamie County was approved.

**MADSON'S BOOK
CENTERS ON IOWA**

A new book of outdoor-adventure stories, written for both armchair and active adventurers, is just being released by the Iowa State University Press. "Stories From Under The Sky" is a collection of 36 stories written by John Madson, a former editor of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST magazine. Fifteen of the stories in the book were originally printed in the CONSERVATIONIST.

Madson has an engaging style that paints a vivid picture in the mind's eye. He relays to his readers a bit of that awe which continues to grow in a man who lives with nature. Some of the stories display a quiet humor that elicits a chuckle, but never a guffaw. Illustrated with drawings by his wife, Dycie, and photographs from selected sources, the book weaves a pattern that will inject you along with Madson, into some interesting, though sometimes painful experiences.

You'll meet some familiar faces in this book that centers on Iowa: Joe Martelle, Charlie Gibbs, Conservation Officer George Kaufman, Public Relations Officer Roy Downing, and a host of other Iowans, each adding his particular color to a colorful book.

The book is available at book stores and from the publishers at \$3.95.

**60 YOUNG TURKEYS
SIGHTED AT YELLOW
RIVER FOREST**

Last year about this time, 30 turkeys from Texas were stocked in the Yellow River Forest in Allamakee County. During the summer about 60 young birds were sighted by Commission personnel in the area. Although the reproduction has been encouraging, it will take several years before the success of the stocking can be evaluated. During the winter the game section will conduct a census of the big birds in an attempt to obtain a relatively accurate count of the present population.

Wild turkeys need a minimum of six to ten thousand acres of forest cover. The birds range over a considerable area and are quite wary of man and his intrusions.

There are some dangers to the birds from predation, diseases contracted from domestic fowl of nearby farms, and the fact that the turkey stocked was not the Eastern turkey, a former native bird, but the Rio Grande Turkey.

If the turkeys do well in the area there is always the possibility that they can be spread along the Mississippi and into the forested areas of southeast Iowa. Such speculations are reserved for the future, however, and at present we must content ourselves with a rare glimpse of this magnificent bird as it slips from view in the Yellow River Forest.

WHERE ARE THE FISH?

Jim Mayhew
Fisheries Biologist

With winter ice fishing becoming ever more popular with the southern Iowa angler, basic knowledge of the vertical location of various species of fish is important. Studies relating to the depth distribution of fish during winter are almost absent from fisheries literature. It is hoped that the information from this study of Red Haw Lake might be applied by the artificial lake angler to improve his methods of winter fishing and increase his rate of success.

Complete winter ice cover is present on the lake from mid-December through the latter part of March. Ice thickness ranges from twelve inches depending upon the severity of atmospheric temperatures and the depth of ice cover. The water is extremely clear during most of the winter. Vertical distribution of six species of fish was studied by using a depth-marked experimental nylon gill net. Mesh size increased from one to two and one-half inches, bar measure, in four 50-foot segments. Depth was marked at two-foot intervals with colored yarn to a depth of 18 feet.

The netting station in the middle of one arm of the lake, with a maximum depth of 21 feet, was used throughout the study. The net direction parallel or perpendicular to the shoreline was varied at predetermined intervals of 14 days. Netting was started as soon as the ice was thick enough to provide safe working conditions, and continued into the late winter. Nets were inspected at intervals ranging from 24 to 72 hours. The depth at which each individual net was netted was recorded with color-coded pins on a styrofoam sheet with marked depth intervals. All data from the winters of 1959, 1960, and 1961 were compared for analysis.

During the study a total of 2,451 fish were captured in 160 net days. The number of each individual species caught during the project was as follows: golden shiner, 1,067; crappie, 362; bullhead, 622; bluegill, 160; yellow perch, 124; and channel catfish, 116. Occasionally mouth bass, green sunfish, and warmouth were also caught, but they were not taken in great enough numbers to be considered significant.

In general, winter angling in Red Haw Lake is concentrated for bluegill, crappie, and yellow perch. Infrequent catches of bullhead, mouth bass, and channel catfish have been recorded, but these species are normally taken accidentally while the angler is fishing

\$15 - \$30 FOR A TREE PLANTING MACHINE



Jack Kirstein Photo.

Tree planters such as this are being built in some southern Iowa Vo-Ag shops from old parts gleaned from junkyards and scrap-piles. The cost of these tree planting machines is being held down to \$15-\$30 a unit. The schools plan to rent the machines to farmers.

Bruce Plum
District Forester

Plans are well underway for the tree planting season which begins about April first. The seven district foresters of the Forestry Section are busy inspecting tree planting sites for land owners. After looking over a planting site the forester recommends species best adapted to the particular site. Most of the planting will convert waste land into productive tree plantations.

For those who wish to receive government cost sharing on planting trees under the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) the forester will explain the program to him.

The earlier the trees are planted the higher the survival rate. They should be planted before May 15. Since the tree planting season is only about six weeks long a considerable amount of planning and scheduling of tree orders and tree planting machines is necessary. To plant over a million trees in this length of time requires a considerable amount of coordination. Without assistance from the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service and other Conservation Commission personnel the planting of this many trees in six weeks time could not be accomplished.

One bottleneck in meeting this time schedule is a shortage of tree planting machines. Each district forester has one Conservation Commission owned tree planting machine assigned to him. In some counties Soil Conservation Districts or other organizations have a tree planting machine which has been placed at the disposal of the district forester.

These machines cost from three hundred dollars up. Most groups interested in purchasing a machine to help alleviate the problem find it difficult to round up this amount of money.

In Oskaloosa, Keota, Washington and Fairfield the high school Vocational Agriculture classes are coming to the rescue. They have for a shop project this winter the construction of a tree planting machine. The construction of these machines will not only provide experience in construction and welding for the FFA boys, but will give a big lift to the tree planting program. These additional machines will help in getting more trees planted in a shorter period of time. Having a machine locally available will undoubtedly increase the interest in tree planting in the respective areas.

All four machines are built to fit on the popular three point hitch farm tractors. The machines are built out of scrap and army surplus material for the most part. Each machine is built around a plowbeam. A plow coulter is fastened to the usual place on the front of the plowbeam. The coulter

WINTER FISHING—

(Continued from page 1)

are particularly useful inside the fish house where you have limited elbow room. There are a lot of fish caught with a length of monofilament line tied to a 12- or 15-inch length of yardstick. Fishermen using the latter type of gear usually go for a jigging type bait in relatively shallow water. The old fashioned tip-up is still common or a modification that is stripped down to a short stick with nail or ice pick blade in one end that can be stuck in the ice to hold the rod upright. If you prefer to use a rod and reel, the reel can be of almost any standard type, but be sure it will operate well in below freezing weather. More and more fishermen are turning to the spinning reels, especially the open faced reels, for their winter fishing. Regardless of the type of reel you use, it is only good business to use a monofilament line. This type of line will eliminate a lot of line problems due to ice build-up and so forth. Any ice that does accumulate on one of these lines can be wiped off with your fingers.

Terminal tackle, i.e., hooks, or artificial baits, will depend on the species you plan to catch and what you intend to use for bait. At times the artificial bait will take fish better than the live baits, but day in and day out the live bait fisherman will take more fish than those fishing strictly with artificials. Your fishing trip is usually planned far enough ahead so that you have some idea of what kind of fish are present and biting the best. There are a few special techniques that apply to each species that may assist you to put more fish on ice. A short discussion on each of the

(Continued on page 5)

Species (in %)	Depth interval (ft.)								
	0-2	2-4	4-6	6-8	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18
Bluegill							33	33	33
Bullhead	26	22	20	10	2	8	6	2	2
Channel Catfish							15	10	75
Yellow Perch							17	33	50
Golden Shiner	61	20	2	6	11				

(Continued on page 8)

THE HARDY SPORT — WINTER FISHING



Down in old "shanty-town" the ice fishermen are out in full force after their share of the winter fish harvest. Although the bulk of the ice fishing is done in the open, you can still see a few "shanty-towns" at both Spirit Lake and West Okoboji in Dickinson County.

George Tovey Photo.



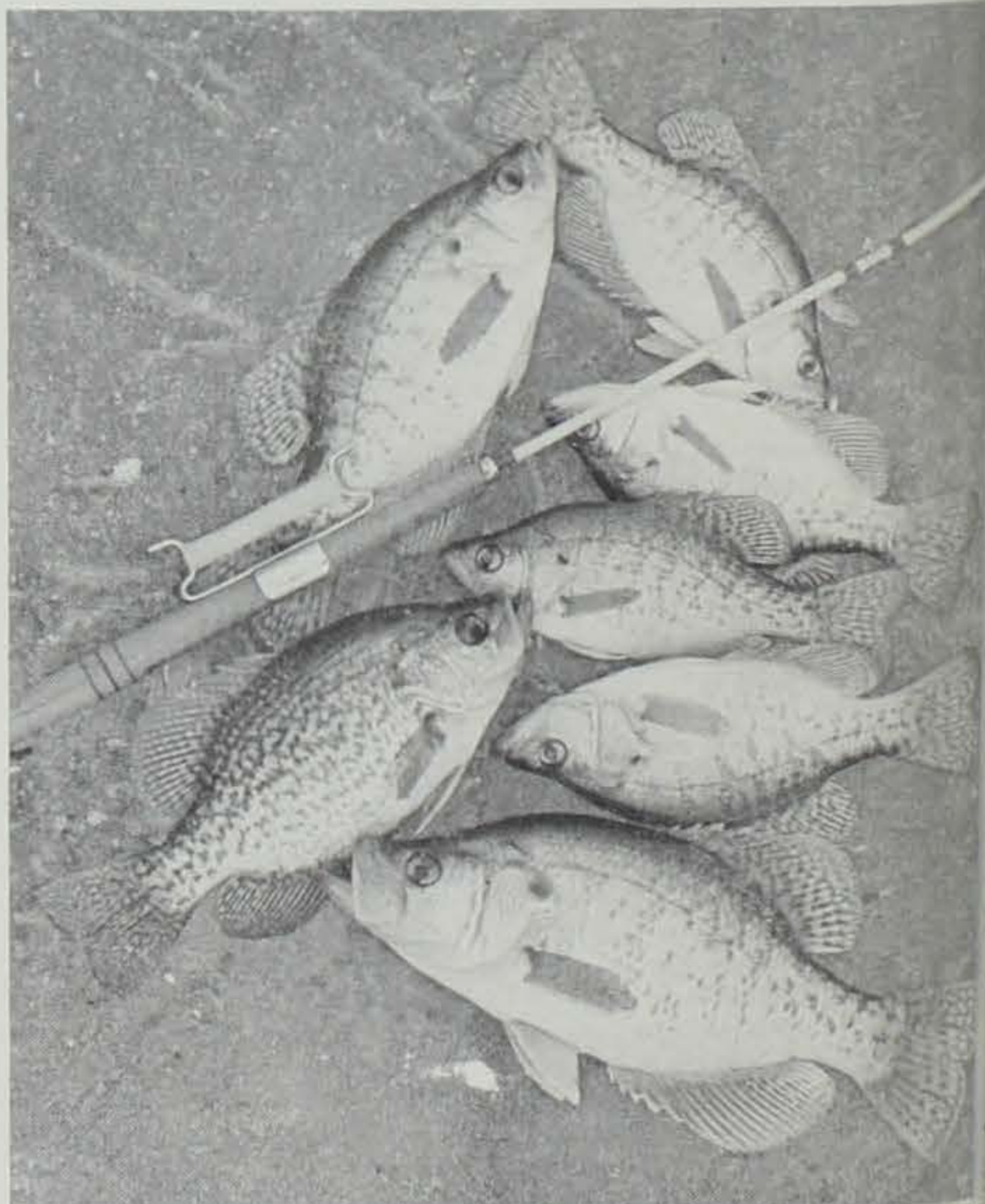
An early morning spudder gets ready for a day of winter fishing fun. He has got there early for first crack at the fish.

George Tovey Photo.



On some days, about the only company you'll find is your own dog. But when the fish are biting you can't take the time to sit smoking and chatting with your neighbors.

George Tovey Photo.



Crappies and other panfish form the bulk of the ice fisherman's take in most areas. Crappies congregate in schools and once the school is located you may have good fishing for a week. Small minnows seem to be the best bait, but sometimes small jigs work

Jim Sherman Photo.

...clothing in a
...wear inside
...comfortable

...up as you like
...at any moment
...for them out wi

WATER
...piece of stov
...with your f
...makes a r
...down into
...fishing under
...head is too
...block off
...helps. One
...of winter
...to see just
...the fish,
...minnow or

BLUEGILL
...fish are es
...just about
...bluegills at
...off bottom
...junks. Gaud
...and red ar
...fish will
...little bat

CRAP
...hooking
...not to strike
...much muscle
...have a t
...hook will pu
...them.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Proper clothing is a must when you venture onto the ice for some winter fishing. Most anglers wear insulated boots, insulated underwear, and heavy outside clothing so they can stay comfortable all day. Dress warmly; don't ruin your day with wrong clothing.



Jim Sherman Photo.

That northern in the foreground was 36 inches long. How would you like a string like this for added emphasis when you're trying to justify your winter fishing to the wife?

WHERE TO FISH

Bill Tate

Asst. Supt. of Fisheries

One distinct advantage of ice fishing is that you don't need a boat; you can walk to the spot where fish congregate. As with any other fishing, the two most important factors for fishing success are a knowledge of the habit of the fish you want to catch and a knowledge of the waters you are fishing. The importance of these factors is minimized for winter fishing since the beginning angler can cut a hole near an experienced angler and be in business. Unless you want to spend most of your time cutting holes in the ice while looking for fish, it is best to consult local fishermen in areas that are known to produce fish. The same angler that is secretive about his open water fishing activities, welcomes company in operation deep freeze.

The areas that produce the best ice fishing in Iowa are the larger natural lakes in Northwest Iowa and the many sloughs, chutes and backwater lakes along the Mississippi River. Although there are hot spots along the entire Mississippi boundary, the lower pools are drawn down in winter and the major concentrations of winter fishermen that fish the frozen backwaters are north of Bellevue.

Hotel, motel and service station personnel in the areas where ice fishing is popular can provide information regarding tackle, bait, where to fish and even give valu-

able tips on how to fish. Once on the ice, talk to other fishermen and observe how the successful fishermen are fishing and the lure or bait that they are using. Often in areas where fishing has been good there will be some holes already cut that are not in use. Look for signs of activity, cigarette butts, etc., around the holes. Bloody spots around a hole indicate that fish have been caught there before. Open up these old holes and try them before "taking off" on your own.

Although some walleyes and other game fish are caught, panfish make up over 90 per cent of the catch in most areas. In Mississippi backwater areas, some areas only five to eight feet deep produce large numbers of bluegills and crappie. In the deeper natural lakes, rock reefs or rocky or weedy areas in eight to 30 feet of water are most productive. Under ice cover, most fish that are caught are taken on or very near the bottom! Usually fishing from a few inches to a foot above bottom is most productive.

The winter trout fishermen will find a good population of trout in any of the better trout streams during the winter. Stretches of streams with a high proportion of spring flow stay open all winter and only the larger pools freeze over in extremely cold weather. Trout feed more frequently in the warmer spring water during the winter, and this increases your chance of catching fish. Trout fishing during the winter may occasionally be productive, but is low compared to spring and early summer fishing.

However, don't discount other areas that may be closer to home. There are good fishing areas we haven't mentioned, but these are the kind that have to be fished to tell whether there will be good success. The only way to find out if there's a potential treasure spot is to fish it and see.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Setting up at you like two great eyes, these two holes may deliver you a fine perch or crappie at any moment. If it gets too fast to use both poles, you can always ditch one and tag them out with the other. Ice fishing provides plenty of chances for tall tales.

WATER PEEPERS

A piece of stovepipe open at one end and with your head closing the other makes a reasonable tool to use for fishing down into the water while standing under a bright sky. If your head is too small to completely block off the light a dark hat helps. One of the nicer aspects of winter fishing is being able to see just how your bait is working as the fish, whether it be a minnow or jig.

BLUEGILLS

Small flies are effective for bluegills about anytime of year. Bluegills are deep, fish your bait just off bottom in slow, deliberate jerks. Gaudy patterns with yellow and red are effective. Small flies will also take these sassy little battlers.

CRAPPIES

When hooking crappies, be careful not to strike too hard or put too much muscle in playing them. Crappies have a tender mouth and the hook will pull free if you try to string them.

WINTER FISHING—

(Continued from page 3)

Important species will serve to illustrate.

Walleye: Walleyes may feed at any time during the day but the best fishing will occur during the twilight hours of early morning or late evening. In the early days of winter fishing there were very few artificial baits used for walleyes, 99 per cent of the fishermen used live bait. Large chubs, stoneroller minnows or any species of shiner that might be available can be used. Use a medium hook (6-0) with enough weight to hold the minnow near the bottom and a bobber just large enough to float the weight and prevent the minnow from pulling it under. When fishing deep water with such a rig a bobber may give you trouble as you reel in your fish. If you hand-over-hand the line to bring in a fish you are apt to lose him. One remedy for this is to run your line through a small button, then through a bobber, then tie the hook. A half bow-knot at the depth you wish to fish will either allow the knot to go on through the guides

(Continued on page 6)

SOME LIKE IT COLD

Stan Widney

When the boss told me we might try some ice fishing after our meeting at McGregor three years ago I thought about telling him I had to get back to Des Moines for my niece's wedding or anything that would get me out of it. It was Saturday and I actually didn't have to go when you come right down to it. The thermometer had been below zero Thursday and Friday mornings of the meeting and I had the chillblains already from walking all over the Yellow River Forest Area.

But everyone else was going and the boss had some guests from out-of-state he wanted to impress with Iowa fishing so Friday evening I went over to the drugstore and bought one of those little poles with two stobs on the handle to wind your line on, a tiny bobber and a little gold hook.

Next morning when I went down for breakfast it was five below outside and I wished my niece had been getting married. We left for Harper's Ferry at eight with me wearing so many clothes I could hardly sit down in the car. Besides my usual longies, I had on a suit of thermal underwear and a quilted jacket I'd borrowed from another guy in the section. Over this I wore a sheep-lined car coat.

We drove up to the Lynxville dam and out on the ice of the backwater above the levee. The hardier, and younger, guys got out and began spudding in, that is, chopping holes through the foot-thick ice with a crow-bar-like tool flattened and sharpened on the business end.

The sun was bright and I was still warm so I got out too on my new furlined boots with the 75-cent pole I had bought. Someone said I could use a hole he had just spudded. I took off my mittens, baited the hook and dropped the monofilament line down, setting the bobber when my split shot sinker touched bottom—as instructed by the friend who had provided the bait. Then I started to light my pipe.

I never did get it lit for the next two hours. My sinker had scarcely touched bottom until the bobber went out of sight. I grabbed the pole and yanked—and a bluegill that would weigh three-fourths of a pound came up and flopped on the ice.

I caught 35 fish before noon that Saturday, bluegills, perch, and bass, all keepers. Before I had stripped down to my thermal underwear and thrown my fur cap aside, the thermometer reached 30 degrees and I was a confirmed ice fisherman.

Since then I have ice fished all over Iowa without even looking at the thermometer. I've sampled the ice shacks on Spirit Lake, West Okoboji and Clear Lake for perch, walleyes and bluegills, and the artificial lakes and farm ponds of



You might call these fellows dyed-in-the-wool ice fishermen. Maybe you've had an old buddy who was a dichard and insisted on fishing in any weather. And did he also insist that you come along because the sport was just too much for one lonely fellow?

WINTER FISHING—

(Continued from page 5)

In certain areas the jig has all but taken over the walleye fishing.

Northern Pike: With the stepped up program of northern pike production by the fisheries management section these fish should become more prominent in the winter angling catch. In areas or times of abundance the northern pike cooperate very well, taking both artificial bait and minnows about equally well. The northern pike inhabits the shallower, weedy areas of your favorite lake while

southern Iowa for crappies and bluegills and once in a while a fine bass. At Ahquabi one Saturday afternoon my cousin Newt and I caught a nice big mess of bluegills in an hour before skaters got so numerous they were almost cutting our lines.

Baits I like best are "mousies," a tiny grub with a hair-like tail, corn borers and red worms for bluegills and other panfish, and any shiny rectangular lure with a minnow for walleyes and north-erns. I still use the same gear I started with, plus a couple more like it that my son made. I have my own spud and can dig through 18 inches of ice in five minutes.

We dress for it, we ice fishermen. Quilted underwear over a cotton sweatshirt covered with a light storm coat will do till the thermometer gets down to zero. I still like the fur cap with earflaps. Silk socks covered with good insulated boots keep my feet warm enough and when the wind blows in below zero weather, I simply add the sheepskin car coat I started out with. Hands? Take a hand-warmer along. There are plenty of them on the market—but when they're biting, who cares?

the walleye is more apt to be caught in deeper water or if in shallow water they like to look for their food around rock reefs and sand shoals. Tackle for northern pike can be the same as that for walleye fishing.

Other Game-fish Species: Small-mouth bass and largemouth bass are both taken during the winter fishing season but are not considered an important species except in one or two areas. Even in the better areas winter fishing is not consistent from year to year or even during the year. This also applies to white bass and catfish to a greater degree. Basically these species are not considered winter feeders but occasionally they provide some good fishing through the ice.

The smallmouth, largemouth and white bass will be taken on artificial baits much more easily than on live bait. When and if you find catfish that will feed in the winter, live bait in the form of minnows, particularly big chubs, is the best bet.

Yellow Perch: When the perch are really biting the expert with a

small artificial bait will outfish his buddy using minnows, but over the long haul the fellow that stays with live bait will catch as many or maybe a few more. The artificial baits successfully used on perch vary from small (weighted) to large metal jugs that are large enough to take walleyes. Thus it is not uncommon to catch both walleyes and perch from the same hole in the ice. It is a real thrill to catch a half-dozen perch then set the hook on something that feels for a second as though you had snagged a log.

When using minnows for bait use a small minnow and small hook, most of the perch will be caught near the bottom, so use small split shot about one foot above the hook to be sure your minnow stays down. For perch fishing a rather slender bobber is often used to provide less resistance. Some fishermen fish with a float of any kind, using the tip of the pole to signal a bite. Perch have been known to try anything from cranberries to buttons a many times they seem to prefer

(Continued on page 7)



"I tell ya, I heard him say he was going down into the basement!"

A LONELY MONUMENT

Denny Rehder



Denny Rehder Photo.

The chimney swift tower remains as an unknown monument to one of Iowa's foremost ornithologists. Standing in an overgrown backyard—an instrument of science desert.

tiring woman. She expressed her opinions readily and always welcomed visitors. She was not a "bird lover" by the common definition—no room for sirupy sentimentality in her scientific approach.

She died in April 1943 and was buried in the cemetery at National. Other than her printed works, the lonely Swift tower stands alone as a testimony to her contribution in the field of ornithology.

WINTER FISHING—

(Continued from page 6)

the knot in the line to a nice fat minnow.

Bluegills: On a statewide basis the bluegill has become one of the most important winter angling species. Bluegills are largely insect feeders the year around. Thus the best bait is some type of insect larvae, corn borers, wood grubs, or gall worms. If you fish bluegills from an ice house where you can see the fish you can use small artificial flies, slightly weighted, but these are not too effective while fishing in the open. You may want to lay on the ice with a blanket or coat over your head to simulate a dark house in order to observe the fish.

The important item in bluegill fishing is finding the fish. These fish are "home-bodies" and seldom move from one locality as the wall-eye and perch do. If you know that the lake or area in the river has had bluegills during the summer you can expect to have good winter fishing once you find them. A small hook is essential for bluegill fishing.

Crappies: Our Iowa waters are blessed with an abundance of bluegill and crappie that are not being harvested sufficiently to promote good growth. These species bene-

(Continued on page 8)

TREE ORDERING NEARS

John Stokes

Orders for trees and shrubs to be planted this spring are now being accepted by the Conservation Commission. The hardwood and conifer seedlings plus wildlife shrub plants are usually shipped from the Forest Nursery at Ames the latter part of March through early May. First orders can be shipped to landowners as soon as the weather permits the lifting of the nursery stock.

The conifer seedlings, including the various species of pines, are usually the most popular with Iowa landowners. A table is included in this issue showing the seedlings available, costs, and ordering procedure. Landowners in a county can pick up their trees in one lot to assure fresh trees to plant.

Tree planting has been going on in Iowa for many years. Early

CCC plantings made in the 1930's are being marketed in eastern Iowa for pulpwood. By studying existing plantations foresters have indicators of which pine will do best considering soil type and aspect. The Conservation Commission now has seven District Foresters located at Adel, Chariton, Denison, Anamosa, Fairfield, Muscatine, and McGregor who assist landowners in choosing species to plant and other timber management problems. The foresters also assist landowners in signing up under the county ASC Program. The Tree Planting Practice under this program assists landowners by paying part of the costs involved in clearing for tree planting, land preparation, actual planting, and fencing where needed. Additional information on this practice may be obtained from your county ASC office or your District Forester. Land planted

(Continued on page 8)

NEW NURSERY PRICE LIST TREES AND SHRUBS AVAILABLE FOR FARM PLANTING, SPRING OF 1962

SPECIES	AGE	CLASS	PRICE FOR:			
			250	500	750	1,000
Austrian pine	3 years		\$5.50	\$11.00	\$16.50	\$22.00
European larch	3 years		5.50	11.00	16.50	22.00
Jack pine	2 years		5.50	11.00	16.50	22.00
Ponderosa pine	2 years		5.50	11.00	16.50	22.00
(western half of Iowa only)						
Red pine	3 years		5.50	11.00	16.50	22.00
Scotch pine	2 years		5.50	11.00	16.50	22.00
Virginia pine	2 years		5.50	11.00	16.50	22.00
White pine	3 years		5.50	11.00	16.50	22.00
Asiatic trailing						
raspberry	1 year		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Caragana	2 years		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Dogwood	1 year		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Green ash	1 year		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Honeysuckle	1 year		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Multiflora rose	1 year		5.00	10.00	15.00	20.00
Nannyberry	1 year		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Ninebark	2 years		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Purple willow—Rooted cuttings			4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Russian mulberry	1 year		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Russian olive	1 year		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00
Walnut	Stratified seed		1.50	3.00	4.50	6.00
Wild plum	1 year		4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00

Special Wildlife Packet 4.50 each

The wildlife packet contains 250 plants including 50 evergreens, 50 honeysuckle, 25 Russian olive, 25 wild grape, 25 multiflora rose and 75 other plants beneficial to wildlife. Illustrative suggestions for odd areas and farm pond plantings will be furnished with each packet.

SPECIAL NOTICE

- (1) The nursery reserves the right to substitute species of a suitable type if a shortage occurs.
- (2) **PAYMENT COVERING NURSERY STOCK MUST ACCOMPANY THE ORDER.** A signed nursery order blank must be sent in and the payment check or money order attached.
- (3) Nursery stock must be ordered in multiples of 250 plants. Each order must total at least 500 plants except the wildlife packet which may be ordered singly.
- (4) All trees and shrubs will be sent to the purchaser EXPRESS COLLECT unless the order will be called for at the nursery.
- (5) **TREES PER ACRE AT DIFFERENT SPACINGS**

5' x 5'—1,742	5' x 6'—1,452
6' x 6'—1,210	6' x 7'—1,037
7' x 7'— 889	8' x 8'— 681
- (6) Order blanks for forest, wildlife, and erosion control plantings may be obtained from Conservation officers, District Foresters, Extension, SCS and ASC offices. Requests will be accepted until March 30 or until the nursery supply is exhausted.

Sherman was not a shy, re-

COUNTY PARKS—

(Continued from page 1)

chased through the county board and owned by the people of the county. The board supplies any material needed by the class such as wood for signs, paint, or tools in the operation of forest projects. The school system provides books and instruction within the range of study.

The idea is for each class to develop projects which will be beneficial to the area and the class.

A tree planting project where the students plant and take care of trees is an example. They might also measure usable timber and compute the value, survey the area, lay out terraces for soil conservation and erosion control. Students could identify plants and mark them for future classes. The real value comes in carrying out these projects.

In addition to instruction from schools, other organizations may furnish technical personnel drawn from the Conservation Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, Natural Resources Council and Soil District Commissioners.

Preserves are another type presently under county-owned supervision. Here the county preserves a piece of prairie, marsh or natural area where plants and animals can flourish in their natural, undisturbed condition. These are set aside for preservation and have no development.

To aid game, refuge areas are being established. Here the habitat is planned to aid the population of wild animals. These are areas showing good potential for wildlife but where human destruction has caused its depletion.

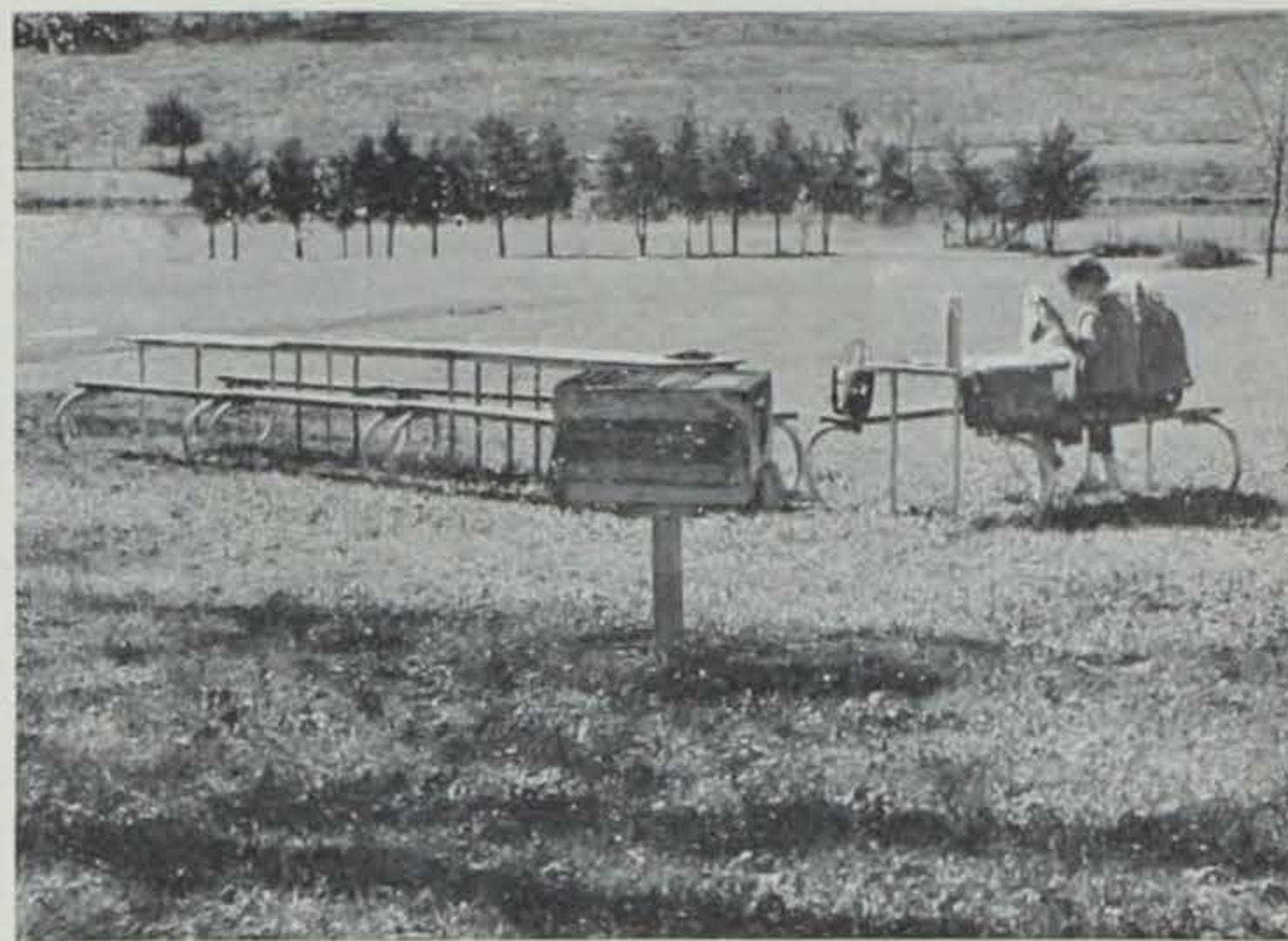
So folks can hunt without dodging "no trespassing" signs, public shooting areas are being set up by county boards. They are open to the public strictly for hunting.

Counties lacking playgrounds are establishing small, highly developed play areas with swings, slides, ball diamonds and volleyball. These are strictly for playground use.

To aid history in its battle with the bulldozer, counties through their county boards are preserving historical sites. The one-room school house (with its old-time desk and blackboard), first log cabin, country store, old mill or any other significant site can now keep its place in the county's permanent history.

County boards are playing their part in highway safety by cooperating with the Roadside Improvement Division of the Highway Commission in setting up roadside parks. The parks are highway safety facilities designed for the comfort and safety of travelers passing through and are not designed for local recreation.

Many boards have taken over maintenance and management of state-owned areas by long-term agreement to continue the opera-



Jack Kirstein Photo.

Everything from a pond to horseshoe courts is found in this multiple use park in southern Iowa. Included are picnic facilities, shelter, playground equipment, all right off the highway to provide a place for the traveler or local resident to stop.

WINTER FISHING—

(Continued from page 7)

fit by heavy winter fishing. As with bluegills it is necessary to locate the crappies. They will congregate in large schools and once they are located the fishing may last for a week. Small minnows seem to be the best bait but under certain circumstances they will take ice flies or small metal jigs.

Trout: Winter trout fishing is relatively new but there is a growing group of this hardy winter variety of fisherman. Most of the fishing is done in the upper portions of the larger streams. The winter trout fisherman should fish a stream with good carrying capacity for trout in the upper, ice free portion of the stream. Trout like cold water, but, as with many other species, water near the freezing mark reduces their desire to feed.

Live bait in the form of corn borers, milk-weed gall worms, and small redworms (if you can find them) seem to be the preferred bait. A few nice trout are taken in the traditional manner of flyrod and flies, but live bait is your best assurance.

tion of the area for what it was originally intended. These are state parks of a local nature and access areas acquired by the Fish and Game Division.

Along the Mississippi River, some counties are planning and developing marinas with harbors, parking, and docking service to boats with concession stands operating for the needs of the boaters. Such areas will be operating for the user with a fee for the service.

Some counties are acquiring land with as much river frontage as possible knowing that as time passes, the need for water access will become vital. Others are acquiring blocks of land for future areas. Here no development is contemplated but land is acquired with future needs in view.

TREE ORDERING NEARS—

(Continued from page 7)

must be protected from grazing and fire.

Trees for sale from the State Forest Nursery are to be used for forest land and game area plantings. The trees cannot be used for ornamental, shade, or other landscaping purposes and may be used for windbreaks only when the area planted will be at least 200 feet in width and 300 feet in length.

Planting trees as recommended by Commission Foresters means the return to production of idle sub-marginal farmland, isolated areas, and hillsides that erode easily and other lands where trees provide the most desirable type of vegetable cover. The trees will provide many benefits including erosion control, financial return, wildlife cover, and aesthetic values which bring the greatest satisfaction to many landowners. Bruce Plum, District Forester at Fairfield, recently pointed out in an article that tree planting can provide various products for Iowa's wood using industries. About seven or eight years after planting, Christmas trees can be cut as the plantation is thinned. Mr. Plum points out, however, that Christmas tree growing is not a get-rich-quick scheme. Christmas trees are one of the secondary products produced as the plantation grows. Iowa has two pulp mills in eastern Iowa which use conifer and hardwood trees from planted stands. The outlook in the pulpwood industry is increasing demands for wood and trees being planted now. In cases where wind-breaks have been cut down for roads, the larger sawlog size trees can be cut into good lumber for home use or commercial uses.

The view of a pine plantation covered with winter snow appeals to many people. Others like to combine wildlife shrubs with their plantations to provide necessary game cover. Whatever the reason, trees are a crop that will appeal to many Iowans.

TREE PLANTERS—

(Continued from page 3)

cuts the line through which the slit will be made in the ground. It cuts through sod or brush roots to prepare the way for the "planting shoe" which follows.

Two cultivator shovels are welded together to form a double thick shovel. This is fastened to the lower end of the plowbeam. Behind this a "shoe" is constructed to the beam. With the modified cultivator shovel digging into the soil and the shoe following behind a slit is opened up in the ground. The slit is about two inches wide and about eight inches deep. The tree seedlings are placed in the slit. Mounted behind the plow beam is a carriage that swivels on two planes. (Up and down for uneven terrain; back and forth for working on the contour.) The carriage is mounted over two packing wheels each about six inches in diameter. The wheels are tilted at an angle so that the wheels come close together at ground level and wide apart at the tops. The wheels sit astraddle the slit created by the shovel. The wheels close the slit as they pass by and pack the trees firmly in the ground. The man feeding trees into the slit sits on a seat directly over the wheels on the carriage. This applies weight to the wheels for packing the trees in the ground.

The Vo-Ag boys have been quite successful in obtaining scrap parts necessary for the construction of these machines. Plow beams from discarded plows have been found easy to find. Old cultivator shovels are easy to obtain around most farms. An old corn cultivator can still be found around a school pile. Channel iron for the carriage frame, parts for the point hitch and coulters are a little harder to find. The packing wheels are the hardest item to obtain without cost. These are wheels with pneumatic tires. Often a small outlay is necessary for this item. In one case a Soil Conservation District purchased them for the FFA boys so they could complete their machine.

The Keota Vo-Ag class was first to complete a machine. It took four boys six weeks in one-hour classes to do the job. Before the ground froze their machine was checked out in the field by their instructor, Eldon Bergstrom, and the local district forester. Except for a couple of minor adjustments it worked as well as better than commercial models.

Through innovation and a sharp eye for scrap parts in the junk piles these boys are keeping costs down to \$15 to \$30 per planter excluding labor. It is planned to rent the machines for a nominal fee to help pay construction and maintenance.

These new tree planting machines will give a real boost to tree planting program this spring.