

05
9
1



Iowa Conservationist



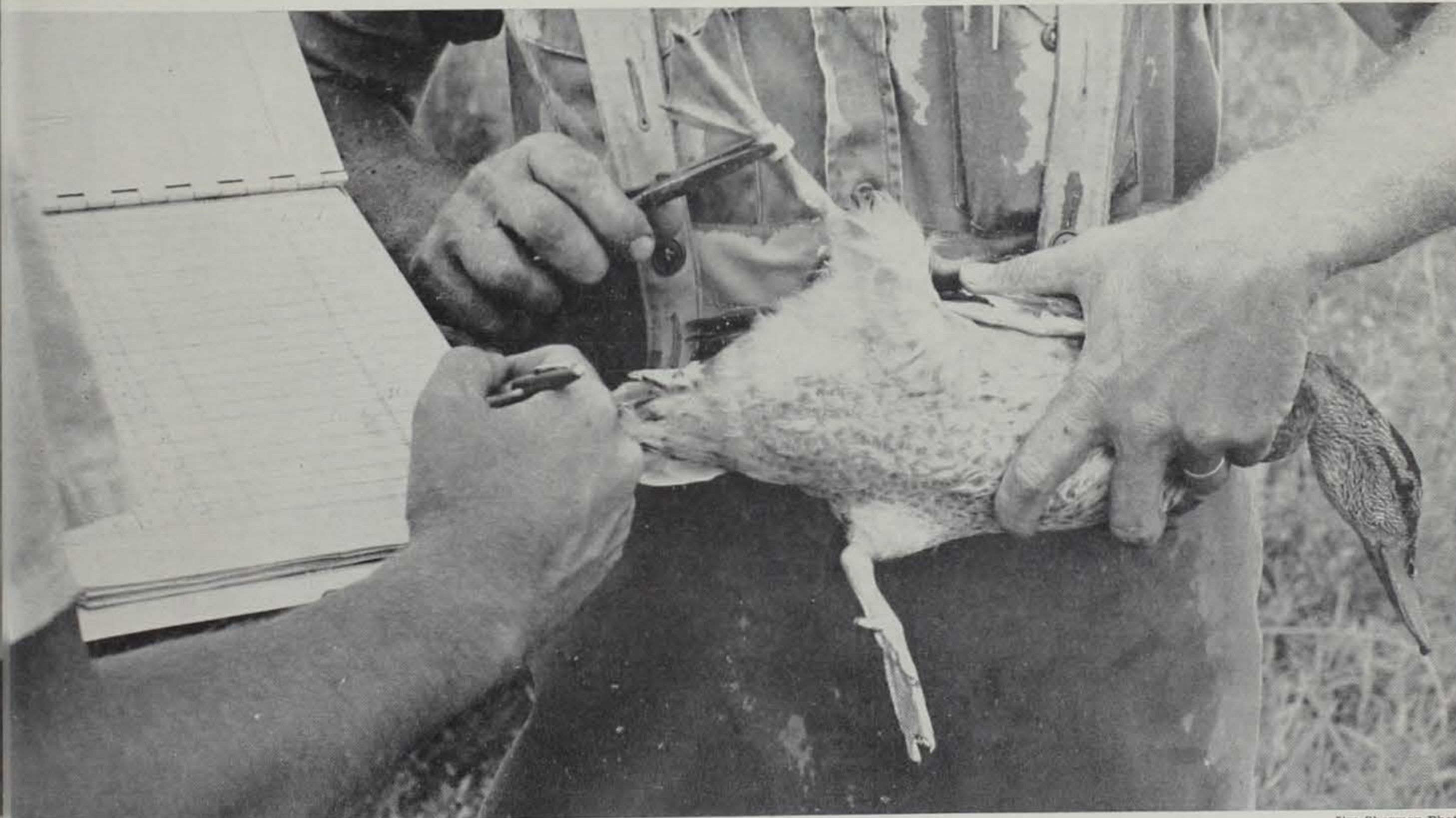
ST TRAVELING LIBRARY
ST HISTORICAL BLDG
DES MOINES IA
OCT 19 1962

Volume 21

October, 1962

Number 10

THOSE LONELY WATERFOWL GUARDIANS



Jim Sherman Photo

Although our banding program showed a good production of local ducks, this is only a drop in the Flyway bucket.

Written for the Iowa Conservationist
By John Madson
Conservation Department
Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation

duck situation in North America than the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No other group has more basic equipment for setting waterfowl regulations.

Work on these federal hunting regulations begins while gunsmoke is still lifting from the southern marshes.

An intensive aerial survey of all important waterfowl wintering areas is made in early January. This survey extends from Canada down through the states to the brackish marshes of the Gulf Coast and even into Mexico and South America. For years it was the only annual waterfowl inventory made by federal authorities. But since 1947—when a collapse of northern duck production made a mockery of regulations founded solely on optimistic wintering grounds counts—careful surveys have also been made of the nesting grounds in southern Canada and the northern United States.

It is impossible to learn the total number of breeding ducks and ducklings in the vast northern "Duck Factory," and waterfowl biologists don't even try. They deal with trends indicated by extensive surveys.

The most important of these are made from low-flying planes along rigidly-defined "transects." These aerial survey routes may be only seven

(Continued on page 75)

ever a conservation agency stood naked and alone, it's the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife this October.

On the brink of another amputated duck season, federal wildlifers find themselves in the bitter position of having almost everyone mad at them—conservationists, hunters and even many state wildlife chiefs. In one corner is the group demanding a completely closed season. In the other is the group that wants business as usual, fewer ducks or not. Caught in between, bloody and bruised, is the federal agency that has set the most restrictive waterfowl season in American history. To further confuse the issue, the powerful voice of Ducks Unlimited claims that duck production in Canada this year may have been high enough to offset the reduced breeding stock, and that we may actually have more ducks than last year.

The poor duck hunter doesn't know who to believe, and is confused and angry.

Through all the current recrimination and outrage, one point is unavoidably clear: no one is better equipped to know more of the

Iowa Conservationist

Vol. 21 October, 1962 No. 10

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 BUCKMANN and STAN WIDNEY, Contributing Editors

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

A. N. HUMISTON, Chairman, Cedar Rapids
GEORGE H. MEYER, Vice Chairman, Elkader

SHERRY R. FISHER, Des Moines
EARL E. JARVIS, Wilton Junction
ROBERT E. BEEBE, Sioux City
ED WEINHEIMER, Fontanelle
CLYDE M. FRUDDEN, Greene

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE 54,000

IOWA MAMMALS

Eldie Mustard
Game Biologist

GRAY SQUIRREL
Sciurus carolinensis

Identification Upper portions are medium gray changing to lighter gray-white on underparts. Long bushy tail usually with whitish fringe. Range in length from 15.5-21 inches with 7.5-10 inch tail. Weights range from 0.75-1.50 lbs. Melanistic (black) individuals common in some areas.

Range Not clearly defined, but has been reported from widely scattered points. Primary range in Iowa is in eastern portion.

Habitat Prefers dense stands of timber in bottomlands with plenty of mast bearing trees.

Reproduction Mating occurs in mid-winter and after a gestation period of 44 days 1-4, usually 2-3, young are born. There may be a second litter in late summer.

Habits Food items include hickory nuts, acorns, berries, corn and other grain, roots, leaves, tubers, and mushrooms. May vary diet occasionally by eating birds or eggs. Tree dens are very important, and in winter several squirrels may dwell together. Failure of the nut crop can cause the mass emigration of gray squirrels from an area.

Status In some areas gray squirrels are very important game species and as such furnish sport and food for sportsmen. The gray squirrel is less important in Iowa than the fox squirrel.

FOX SQUIRREL
Sciurus niger

Identification General tone is rusty brown with lighter underparts and a buffy-brown bushy tail. Lengths vary from 19-23 inches with a 10-12 inch tail. Weights range from 1.5-3 pounds. Melanistic (black) individuals are relatively common in some areas.

Range Throughout Iowa.

Habitat Open hardwood forests seem to be preferred, but the

fox squirrel can be found almost anywhere there are a few trees and a food supply.

Reproduction Females born in spring breed late the following winter, those born in summer breed the following spring or summer. Adults may have two litters annually, one in spring and one in summer. Gestation period of about 45 days with 1-6, usually 2-4 young born. May use den in tree cavity or leaf den. Young are weaned after about 8 weeks.

Habits Fox squirrels eat all types of nuts such as walnuts, acorns, hickory, plum and cherry stones, and butternuts. Seeds are also eaten: basswood, maple, box-elder, elm and ash. Corn is a favorite food where available. Eggs and young birds may be taken if the opportunity to do so presents itself.

Status Iowa's number one forest game species, the fox squirrel, is heavily hunted for sport and meat in some areas. Den trees are very important and some should be left when cutting timber. Fox squirrels can make heavy inroads into corn, both in the field and in the cribs.

FLYING SQUIRREL*Glaucomys volans*

Identification Small brownish to grayish squirrel with comparatively small ears. Underparts are whitish except for hindlegs and gliding membrane. Total length is 8.5-10.25 inches with a 3.4-4.4 inch tail. Weights range from 1.75-4.0 oz.

Range Throughout Iowa: May be rare or absent in northwest Iowa.

Habitat Hardwood timbered areas.

Reproduction Produces two annual litters of 2-6 young with breeding commencing in February and continuing into summer. Young are born in woodpecker holes, natural cavities, or an outside nest of leaves and shredded bark. Gestation period is 40 days.

Habits The "flying squirrel" does not actually fly, but by spreading the membranes between the forelegs and hindlegs, it can make glides up to 125 feet. They are primarily nocturnal creatures and as such rarely observed by most people. Food consists of nuts, berries, seeds, birds, catkins, insects, fungi, nestlings and bird eggs. They like meat and will feed on any carcass they locate.

Status No commercial value, but may be a nuisance in attics and cornfields. It is not a game species and there is no open season.

Though badgers usually live on plains and deserts, they can swim easily and rapidly and have been observed swimming as far as a half mile from any shore.

CONSERVATION UMPIRE

Dan Saults

A Conservation Commission, like a baseball umpire, calls 'em as it sees 'em from the best spot to view the action. Even when the decision is right and the play isn't even close, some of the more rabid fans like to bellow, "Kill the umpire!"

The reason nobody likes cops, umpires and bosses is because they make decisions. And the reason bosses, cops and umpires have to make decisions is because there is a difference of opinion that has to be resolved—this is the "why" of fish and game regulations established by conservation commissions. . . .

A commissioner once said, with a wry grin, that we ought to make regulations with which everyone would agree. The only one we could think of was to permit the unregulated take of man-eating sharks and this seemed a little silly in view of the gross shortage of sharks in these waters. Besides, there's undoubtedly an organization devoted to sharks—piscatorial variety—and our callous attitude would have been the subject of an indignant letter.

A public relations authority once told me that the gravest survival problem of hunting-fishing agencies was the regulations they made or were made for them. "Whatever you fellows permit or forbid," he said, "automatically makes emotional enemies. Every time you move you step on toes."

I protested we were always hearing from people who want new regulations and who get angry if they aren't passed.

"Sure," he said. "People who agree with the umpire feel any fool could have made the decision. Everyone else hates his guts."

Still, we mostly agree that regulations have to be made, even if we never quite agree on details. For when there are more than 4,000,000 people living where once 100,000 lived, you've got to control the traffic. Reprinted from *Missouri Wildlife*.

COMMISSION MINUTES**GENERAL**

One man was authorized to attend the Congress of Correction at Philadelphia, September 16-21.

Authorization for one Commissioner and one staff member was granted to attend the Association of State Foresters meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, September 23-27.

One man was authorized to attend the Advisory Committee of U. S. Coast Guard meeting in Miami in October.

LANDS AND WATERS

A request to riprap the shoreline of private property on West Okobojo Lake was granted.

A request to develop a beach in the Lock Knolls area of East Okobojo Lake was denied.

A request to cut a channel by Gerks' Resort on West Okobojo Lake was approved subject to receipt of an engineering report.

A request by Northern Gas Products Company to route a pipeline across the Missouri and Des Moines rivers was granted.

A request by the Cottage Reserve Corporation to cut a channel at Lake Macbride was postponed for further study.

A report was made and study was continued on proposed improvements at Backbone Lake.

FISH AND GAME

The Poll Vote setting the migratory waterfowl, pheasant, quail, and Hungarian partridge seasons was confirmed.

An amendment to the departmental rule on waterfowl hunting at Lake Odessa was approved.

Condemnation proceedings for a tract of land in the Otter Creek Marsh were approved.

A construction permit for realigning the road at Smith refuge in Pottawattamie County was granted to the Highway Commission.

A contract was approved for unit game manager's residence on Wilson Island.

The director was empowered in his discretion to approve emergency purchase of two-way radios for conservation officers, the cost not to exceed \$50.

Acquisition of 125 acres at \$12,331 in the Otter Creek Marsh was approved.

Acquisition of 63 acres at \$4,500 for a fishing access on the Des Moines River was approved.

A departmental rule was adopted setting a field trial policy in state-owned areas.

A request to release Chuk partridge was approved.

COUNTY CONSERVATION

Acquisition by Boone County two tracts of land 116 acres at \$50,143.6 acres at \$50,482 and \$33,500 respectively, was approved. The land is part of the acquisition of an artificial lake.

Palo Alto County was authorized to begin condemnation proceedings on the Huston Area at Lost Lake.

Polk County received approval for the acquisition of 27.6 acres at a cost of \$9,663.50. This is another parcel of land for Yeader Creek Park.

The following development plans were approved: Bremer County North Woods Area and Sevier Bridges Area; Black Hawk County, Elk Run Area; Chickasaw County, Twin Ponds Area; Woll County, Fertile Dam Area; Palo Alto County, Huston Area

WATERFOWL—

(Continued from page 73)

miles apart in areas of dense duck populations, and extend from east to west. In extreme northern Canada where fewer ducks breed, the transects are 60 miles apart.

Each plane, carrying a pilot-biologist and an observer, flies about a hundred feet high. These teams are highly-skilled in estimating duck numbers, and dictate their estimates into tape recorders. Each four miles flown along a transect yields a sample equivalent to one square mile, and this sample is expanded to give an index of the breeding ducks in the general area.

Transects are flown in May and July over the cream of the northern duck country; each spring and summer the seven federal aircraft fly over and obtain information on 2,375,000 square miles of duck breeding habitat.

The first of these surveys in May determines the breeding population from the numbers of paired ducks and single drakes of different species along the transects, and the ratio of single drakes to paired birds observed gives an index to nesting progress. July production surveys examine the number of broods along the transects, paired adults without broods, and single drakes and hens.

From mid-May to late July, four detailed reports are filed to Washington, D. C. from the Canadian field headquarters: information on weather, water conditions, breeding ground conditions, emergence of broods, general habitat conditions, and a final production forecast.

When the final report is received in Washington on July 30, things shift into high gear. There's a huge job to be done before the final regulations can be made, and the deadline is drawn even tighter by the fact that federal law requires regulations to be published in the Federal Register at least a month before the earliest northern duck

(Continued on page 78)

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Fall Color

Denny Rehder

Every year thousands of Iowans and visitors from neighboring states tour the countryside marveling at the beautiful fall colors on display. Maybe you did last year. You probably have your favorite locations for fall color, but instead of getting off the beaten track to a specific area, we'll just review some of our favorites.

Northeast Iowa is justly proud

and have harvested regular crops of wood products over the years may be eligible for certification as a tree farmer now.

If interested they should drop a card to the Iowa Tree Farm Committee, c/o State Forester, East 7th and Court, Des Moines, Iowa. A forester, either private industry or governmental, will be assigned to check your timberland for approval. If not approved at this time the forester will prepare a plan for you to improve your timberland and the periodic income from it. Inspection reports are reviewed by the Tree Farm Committee and given final approval.

Put your trees to work for you in a tree farm. Like any other farm of agriculture, tree farming is a practical business venture. Under normal conditions and with good management your forest property will grow trees at a profit. Existing forest cover and soil conditions will vary from farm to farm, of course.

A tree farm sign proclaims that an Iowa timberland owner is doing his best to make his lands pay off for Iowa and himself in income, taxes, and a continuing forest cover.

of its fall color display. In a land of beautiful timbered bluffs, photographers can have a hey-day. Some of the more outstanding views to be considered in this area are Mt. Hosmer at Lansing, Pikes Peak State Park at McGregor, Goeken Park on Eldorado Hill near Eldorado, the overlook above the sawmill at the Yellow River Forest, and Backbone State Park near Strawberry Point.

Southwest Iowa is probably the next well-known area for color. Some of the overlooks in Waubesa State Park offer breathtaking views. Stone Park near Sioux City has two lovely overlooks in Stony Point and Dakota Point.

In the southeast, probably one of the prettiest sights in the state can be had at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park. There is a shelter and picnic spot on a high point overlooking Keosauqua to the east and the great horseshoe bend of the Des Moines River to the north. You can see a lot from this one point.

Don't discount central Iowa in your quest for fall color. Along most of our inland rivers, the timber presents a beautiful fall picture to those who look. The Des Moines River has some excellent locales most notable being some of our state parks.

It doesn't really matter where you go in Iowa, there are some beautiful sights all along the way. The important thing is to park the car, take the kids, and get out into the timber. Stand on an overlook and drink in the beauty of a hazy, softly muted fall day. It's a wonderful time of year when nature explodes into that last riotous spectacle before the chill pall of winter closes over the land.



George Tovey Photo

This Tree Farm sign is the mark of a private timberland manager.

IOWA'S TREE FARMS INCREASE

John M. Stokes
Assistant State Forester

Iowa tree farms now total 134 and six new tree farmers were added with the responsibility of ownership in the private forestry at a Forestry and Conservation Field Day held recently at Ottumwa. Each new tree farmer was issued a tree farm certificate which will have the familiar diamond-shaped tree farm sign erected on his forest tracts.

Iowa tree farmers are managing their woodlands for continuous production of forest crops proving timber is a renewable natural resource. At present there are over 100,000 acres under the Tree Farm program in Iowa. The first six tree farms were certified in 1955, contained 449 acres. Since then an average of 1,500 acres annually has been added to the tree farm role. The program is sponsored by the American Forest Products Industries in cooperation with the state foresters and includes more than 50 million acres in other states.

What Is a Tree Farm?

A tree farm is an area of privately owned, tax paying land dedicated to continuing the growth of forest crops for man's use. The term "Tree Farm" means that the owner has received public recog-

nition for following a management plan on his woodland acres.

A landowner must have displayed ability to properly handle the forest property so that the management objectives are reached. To fulfill the basic requirements for Tree Farm Certification the owner must (1) have at least three acres of woodland or plantation, (2) eliminate grazing on farm woodlands, (3) protect his woods from fire, insects and disease, (4) harvest his trees when they are ready and take measures necessary to insure a continuous forest stand.

Tree Farm Sponsors

Although the Tree Farm Program is sponsored nationally by the American Forest Products Industries, here in Iowa it is sponsored by several state organizations. These include the Iowa Forest Industries Committee, Iowa Retail Lumbermen's Association, and the Forestry Committee of the Iowa Bankers Association. It also has the cooperation of the Iowa Conservation Commission. The program is designed to increase good forestry practices on nearly three million acres of woodlands and potential forest land in the Hawkeye state.

How to Become a Tree Farmer

Some woodland owners who have practiced good forest management

THE 1962-63 HUNTING SEASON PROSPECTS

Earl Rose

Chief, Fish & Game Division

Iowa's number one game species, the pheasant, has again produced a bumper crop, and an excellent hunting season should be had by the pheasant hunters. There was an excellent carry-over of adult birds through one of the most severe winters on record. The early warm spring and abundance of good nesting cover has contributed to the high population. Survey indications are that north-central, northwest, west-central, and east-central populations are highest. In some areas of extremely heavy rains, populations of young birds are somewhat below average; however, the carry-over of adult pheasants will provide good shooting throughout the entire main pheasant range.

Iowa's pheasant harvest is expected to be next to the highest of any state in the union this year. Historically, we have tied for this second highest harvest with Minnesota and Nebraska.

Hungarian partridge hunting should be better than ever this year. This "cake frosting" game bird is not abundant anywhere, but like the pheasant, is responding to the increasingly good nesting environment provided by the soil bank lands and game management programs on private farms. Two additional counties, Buena Vista and Cherokee, were added to the list of open hunting on the "Hun" this year, indicating the spread and increase in populations.

Quail

Quail hunting should be about the same as in 1961. The conservation officers' census indicates more adults and broods than last year; however, the severe winter may have reduced the brood stock in some areas. Quail censuses are difficult to conduct and interpret; consequently, we cannot predict any fabulous shooting on quail this fall. Biologists and officers feel that the population is good in the southeastern portion of Iowa, but are not optimistic about the south central, major range. Good quail habitat is rapidly disappearing due to the bulldozing of osage-orange hedge rows and other clean farming operations; also, the farm economy of southern Iowa is changing from row crop to grassland pastures. This may produce an environment unsuitable for quail but favorable for partridge or other species more adaptable. Clubs and individuals interested in preserving good quail populations and good hunting should work with the farmers and the Conservation Commission for the establishment of good environment by plantings of game cover.

The severe winter was rough on the cottontail rabbit. July counts by conservation officers indicate the population is down statewide to about the 1954 level. As a consequence, the season has been cur-

tailed somewhat this year.

Squirrels are not as abundant this year as last, although there will still be good populations for hunters. Nineteen sixty-one was a poor year for mast production (nuts, acorns) which has the effect of depressing the squirrel population the following year. Of course, the most severe winter since 1936 had an adverse effect on the breeding population.

Raccoon is still abundant and hunters should take advantage of the peak populations. A lot of hunting recreation is being passed up by not hunting this important game animal.

Deer populations have continued to increase statewide. An additional 2,000 permits will be issued this year over last, making 10,000 licensed gun hunters for this prized big-game animal. An unlimited number of bow-hunting permits will be issued. A great deal of interest has been shown by the muzzle-loading rifle fans in support of allowing the large caliber rifles, using only black powder and patched ball, as a permissible arm for taking deer. They point out that ballistically, these arms are similar to the rifled slug used by the shotguns; however, the rifle is much more accurate than the shotgun. Also, only one shot can be fired and, as a consequence, more skill is required. The commission is studying the proposal carefully.

Ducks

The duck season has been drastically curtailed this year, reflecting the downward trend in the population. Mallards in particular are in jeopardy. For the second consecutive year, breeding conditions in the prairie provinces of Canada and the pothole region of the Dakotas and Minnesota were extremely poor. However, production of teal, bluebills and woodducks was good. Geese have maintained adequate numbers to justify the liberal seasons as before.



Jack Kirstein Photo

King Pheasant will offer a lot of sport and relaxation again this year.

The Conservation Commission desired an early opening date on ducks so that if a season was permitted, a split season could be devised to allow some blue-wing teal shooting, thus taking some of the pressure off the mallard. When split seasons are taken, a 10 per cent penalty is required in the number of days permitted in the open season. Unfortunately, the framework dates from which the 25 day season could be selected starts on October 12. By this time, teal have largely migrated to their wintering grounds. Consequently, the Commission geared its season to coincide with the major migration period, October 27-November 20.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, in establishing the short season and

permitting only one mallard in the bag, has compromised, and we can only wait to see what happens. Favorable nesting conditions return next spring, the mallard may increase rapidly. But with the continued drought, drainage, disease, and pollution, we can't possibly retain continued duck shooting year after year. Until the conditions improve we certainly can't anticipate more liberal seasons.

The January inventory of ducks taken last year, showed only about three million mallards left in the entire Mississippi Flyway as compared to ten million mallards in 1956. At least half of these were females which left only 1 1/2 million females to reproduce this spring and they didn't. With about one-half million mallards killed last fall in the flyway, how can we justify liberal seasons? Until the drainage and drought is stopped (a many old marshes reclaimed splendid soil bank idea), we expect nothing but declining duck populations. We must meet the challenge or hang up the old shotgun in iron and forget it. In order to end this on a note of optimism, duck hunters and waterfowl conservationists know that Congress has appropriated \$130,000,000 for acquisition of wetlands for waterfowl. This, plus removing the federal subsidy for drainage of wetlands, might do much toward perpetuating one of the finest forms of outdoor recreation, wildfowl hunting. All in all, Iowa hunters should have a good hunting season this fall and the Commission urges sportsmanship and gun safety.



Jim Sherman Photo

A change to grassland farming in southern Iowa may hurt our future quail production.

1962 HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS

OPEN COUNTIES AND LIMITS

The Conservation Commission is authorized by law to change, by administrative order, seasons, bag limits, and possession limits.

OPEN HUNTING SEASONS

PHEASANT—Open season: November 10-December 14, 1962, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit three (3) cock possession limit six (6) cock birds. All counties open EXCEPT: Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Van Buren, Wapello.

QUAIL—Open season: November 3-December 14, 1962, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit five (5) birds, possession limit ten (10) birds. Open counties: Adair, Adams, Allamakee, Boone, Boone, Buchanan, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Boone, Cass, Cedar, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clayton, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fayette, Fremont, Greene, Harrison, Henry, Howard, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Shelby, Story, Tama, Taylor, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Winneshiek, Woodbury.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE—Open season: November 10-December 14, 1962, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit four (4) birds, possession limit four (4) birds. Open counties: Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Hancock, Kossuth, Lyon, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Sioux, Winnebago.

SKUNK—Open season for gray and fox squirrels: September 15-December 14, 1962, both dates inclusive. Bag limit six (6) per day, possession limit twelve (12).

RABBIT—Open season for cottontail and jack: September 15, 1962-February 3, 1963, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bag limit ten (10) per day, no possession limit.

COON—Open season (hunting only): 12:00 noon, October 13, 1962 to midnight February 28, 1963. No daily bag limit or possession limit.

WEASEL, RED FOX, GRAY FOX, GROUNDHOG, WOLF-COYOTE—Continuous open season, entire state.

DEER HUNTING

DEER—Open season for bow and arrow only from October 13-December 2, 1962, both dates inclusive. Entire state open.

Open season for shotgun only from December 15-December 17, 1962, both dates inclusive. Entire state open.

Daily bag limit one (1) deer, possession limit one (1) deer, season limit one (1) deer.

Shooting hours each open day for bow and arrow, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Shooting hours for shotgun season, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Open season open only to Iowa residents holding special deer licenses. Licensees of any age or sex may be taken.

WEAPONS—10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge shotguns (with rifled slugs only), bows of 40-pound pull or more with broad head arrows only will be permitted in taking deer. Crossbows or any mechanically operated bows prohibited.

TRAPS, ETC.—The use of dogs, domestic animals, automobiles, aircraft, or mechanical conveyance, electrical devices, salt or bait is prohibited.

LOCKING SEAL—A metal locking seal bearing license number of licensee and ear of issuance must be affixed to the carcass of each deer, between shoulder and bone of hind leg before carcass can be transported.

LICENSE NUMBER AND INSIGNIA—All hunters other than those exempt by law must possess a 1962 deer license and wear red license number and insignia provided when hunting deer.

LICENSE NOT REQUIRED—Owners or tenants of land and their children may hunt, kill and possess one deer without a deer license—provided deer is not removed from said land, whole or in part unless tagged with seal of animal.

HUNTING SUCCESS REPORT—A hunt report postal card provided with license must be mailed to State Conservation Commission, Des Moines, Iowa, within three days after the close of the season, stating whether a deer was killed or not. Licensees failing to return this card may be refused licenses for subsequent seasons.

LICENSE APPLICATIONS—All applications for deer hunting licenses for the 1962 deer hunting season must be made on forms provided by the State Conservation Commission and returned to the State Conservation Commission office in Des Moines, Iowa, accompanied by check or money in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00). Applications for shotgun deer hunting licenses will be accepted from August 30, 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., September 14, 1962. There is no deadline for bow and arrow hunting applications. No more than 10,004 shotgun deer hunting licenses will be issued. There is no limit on the number of bow and arrow deer licenses that will be issued.

WATERFOWL

DUCKS, COOT OR MUDHEN—Open season: October 27-November 20, 1962, both dates inclusive. Entire state open. Shooting is allowed each day from sunrise to sunset except opening day when the shooting hours will be 12:00 noon to sunset. All times Central Standard Time.

DUCKS—Bag limit two (2) in the aggregate of all kinds except not more than one (1) mallard or one (1) black duck and not more than one (1) merganser shall be included in such limit.

Session limit four (4) after first day except not more than two (2) ducks or two (2) black ducks in aggregate, and not more than two (2) ducks and not more than one (1) hooded merganser may be included in limit.

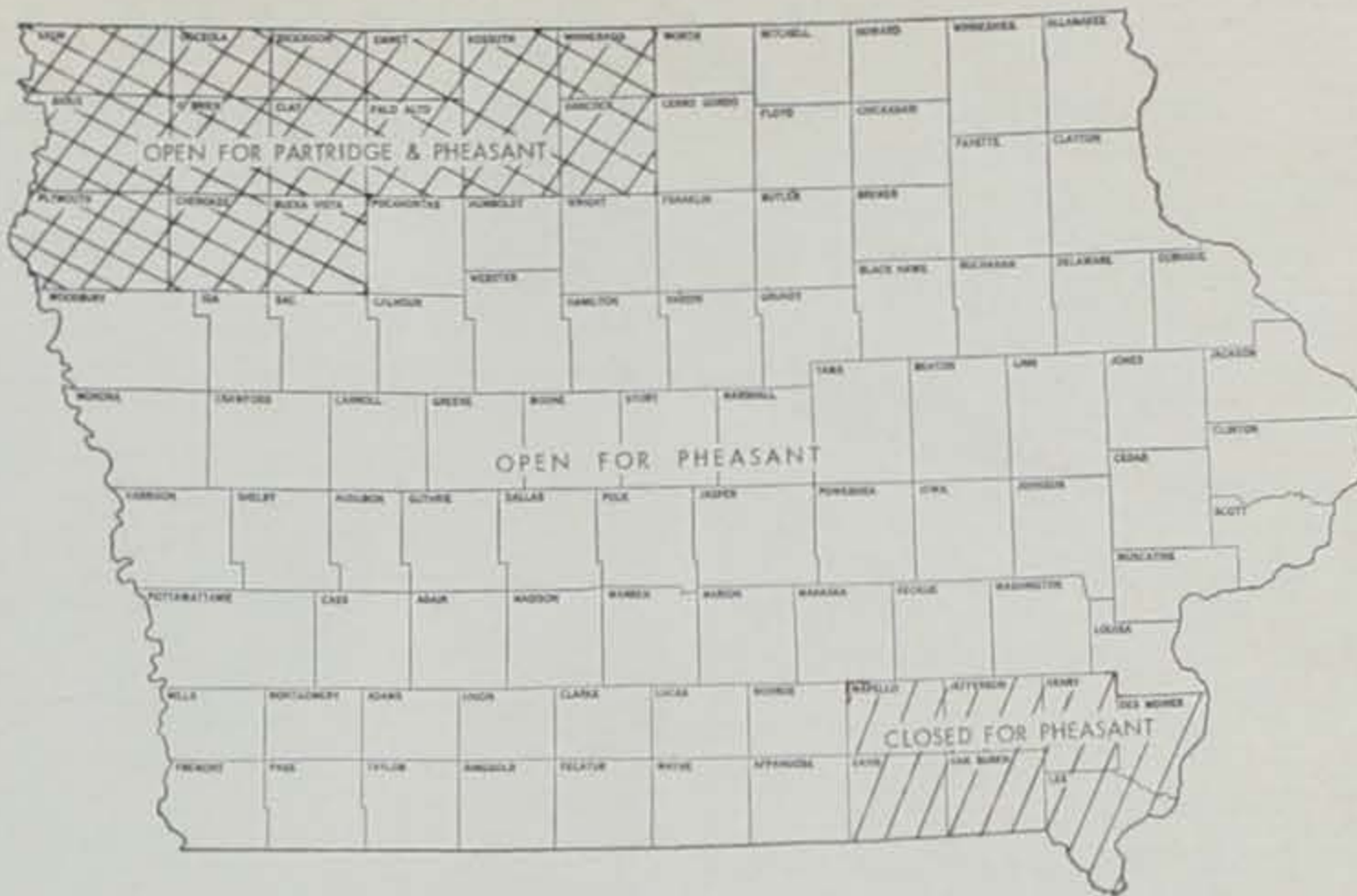
In addition, the daily bag limit may include two (2) bonus scaup and the session limit may include four (4) bonus scaup.

(5) American and Red-Breasted Mergansers may be taken daily when (10) in possession singly or in aggregate of both kinds. This is in addition to the bag limit and possession limits of other ducks. Season is closed on Canvasback and Red Head ducks.

COOT OR MUDHEN—Bag limit six (6), possession limit six (6).

GOOSE—Open season: October 6-December 4, 1962, both dates inclusive. Shooting allowed from sunrise to sunset. Bag limit and possession limit (5). Not more than two (2) of the limit may be Canada geese or subspecies, or White-fronted Geese. Only two (2) of the above may be included in the limit. The entire bag may be made up of either Blue or Snow or any combination of them.

SON'S SNIPE OR JACK SNIPE—Bag and possession limit eight (8). Open season: October 27-November 25, 1962, both dates inclusive. Shooting



allowed from sunrise to sunset except opening day when the shooting hours will be from 12:00 noon to sunset.

ROSS' GEESE, GREBES, RAILS (Except Coot) AND GALLINULES, MOURNING DOVES, WOODCOCK, SWAN—No open season.

OPEN TRAPPING SEASONS

Special regulations shall be enforced on all State Game Management Areas and the closed areas of the Federal Wildlife Refuges. The trapping on all State Game Management Areas and closed areas of the Federal Wildlife Refuges will be by "Permit Only" including a harvest quota on fur species to be determined by the Commission and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Permits for the State Game Management Areas are available from the State Conservation Commission, Des Moines, Iowa. The permits for the closed areas of the Federal Wildlife Refuges are available from the various Refuge Offices. On State Game Management Areas and the closed areas of the Federal Wildlife Refuges, the seasons will open at noon the day following the close of the duck season, or noon November 10, 1962, whichever is the latter, and extend to midnight February 28, 1963.

MINK—Entire state open from noon November 10, 1962, to midnight December 9, 1962.

MUSKRAT-BEAVER—Open entire state from noon November 10, 1962 until midnight February 28, 1963.

BADGER, SKUNK, OPOSSUM, CIVET CAT—Open entire state from noon November 10, 1962 until midnight February 28, 1963.

RACCOON—Open entire state from noon November 10, 1962 until midnight February 28, 1963. Water sets permitted only during the open season on mink and muskrat.

WEASEL, RED FOX, GRAY FOX, GROUNDHOG, WOLF-COYOTE—Continuous open season, entire state.

OTTER—Continuous closed season, entire state.

TRANSLATIONS

Duck hunters have their own rich language. If you're new at the game, here are some rough translations that may help clear things up.

- Sprig: A pintail.
- Bull Sprig: A drake pintail.
- Cobheads: Blue geese.
- Specklebellies: White-fronted geese.
- Real Geese: Canada geese.
- Trash Ducks: Just about any duck but the mallard.
- Greenhead: The mallard himself.
- Gray Duck: Any female duck you can't identify.
- Moonshooters: Out-of-range gunners in the next blind.
- Sportsmen: The guys in your blind, including you.

- Roman Candles: Three-inch magnum shotshells.
- Bluebills: Greater or lesser scaup ducks.
- Blackjacks: Bluebills.
- Slough Pump: American bittern.
- Stovepipes: Black "industrial" hip boots.
- Cornsheller: A pump-action shotgun.
- Blocks: Decoys.
- Suzy: A female duck.
- Two-holer: A double-barrelled shotgun.
- Twice-Barrel Carabine: Cajun talk for above.

The novice hunter should carefully commit such lingo to memory. Not to do so could prove embarrassing.

"BIRD IN THERE!"

An Unusual Method
Jack Kirstein

With an urgent but hushed, "bird in there!" the trainer sends his dogs into the tall grass of the field. Their noses low to the ground, they range out ahead. The pointer bitch gets the scent first. She breaks into a run, first to the right and then back to the left. A sharp blast on the trainer's whistle brings the male setter back from a far-ranging pass ahead of the bird.

The female sniffs the air while on a dead run, and then freezes quivering on point as the setter wheels in behind her and honors the point with one of his own.

This is a scene that is not uncommon in Iowa. What is different, however, is a technique used by trainers in other states, training hunting and field trial dogs from horseback.

Where the idea originated is not known, but it is a kind of training used in the deep south, Louisiana, Mississippi, etc., and by professional trainers on the prairies of Canada each summer. In the south, where the actual hunting is done on horses, much of the time it is only natural to train in the same manner. In Canada, because of the tremendous size of the area to cover, and because of the fast and far-ranging dogs used it is a necessity.

Used to train pointers, setters, or any other hunting dogs, this method's main advantage is in enabling the trainer to quickly reach the dog when it is doing something wrong. By catching any mistakes early and correcting them, the time needed to train the dog is shortened. It helps the dog also, as the trainer is always in sight, even in hilly terrain, and eliminates the need for the dog to



A field trial dog of average intelligence takes 90 days to train from horseback.

"check-back" or return to his master so often. The dog can spend his full time on the hunt, and this also speeds the physical conditioning of the dog.

In Warren County, on the more than 300 acres where this method of training is in use, dogs from all over Iowa are trained year-round. Coming from as far away as Davenport, Battle Creek, Hampton, Dow City, and Jesup, the dogs are given preliminary training on the private farm and then taken out to such state-owned areas as Rock Creek, and Murray where public hunting ground is available and trained on strange areas and with wild birds during the time allowed by the

Conservation Commission. No training is allowed during the time the birds are nesting, the period from March 15 until July 15.

Training time varies with the individual dog, but 90 days are considered minimum and it is possible to break a field trial dog in this time if the animal is of average intelligence. Some young dogs would need a little extra training to accustom them to the horses, but this is an added advantage in the training of a field trial dog as the judges use horses in the actual trials and dogs trained this way are less distracted by the horses when in competition.

The horses adapt quickly to this type of training and soon are ac-

quainted with the habits of dogs as well as accustomed to the sound of the trainers whistle blank cartridge pistol being used near them or from the saddle.

The cold-blooded horses such as the quarter horses are ideal for this work, due to their capacity for hard, short runs and without the trait of remaining excited afterwards. Other horses may be used and one now in use is an American Saddle horse.

No special equipment is needed. The regular check cords and training collars are sufficient.

The bald eagle was adopted as our national emblem by Congress on June 20, 1782.



On horseback, the trainer can quickly reach the dog when he makes a mistake.

WATERFOWL—

(Continued from page 75)

season opens.

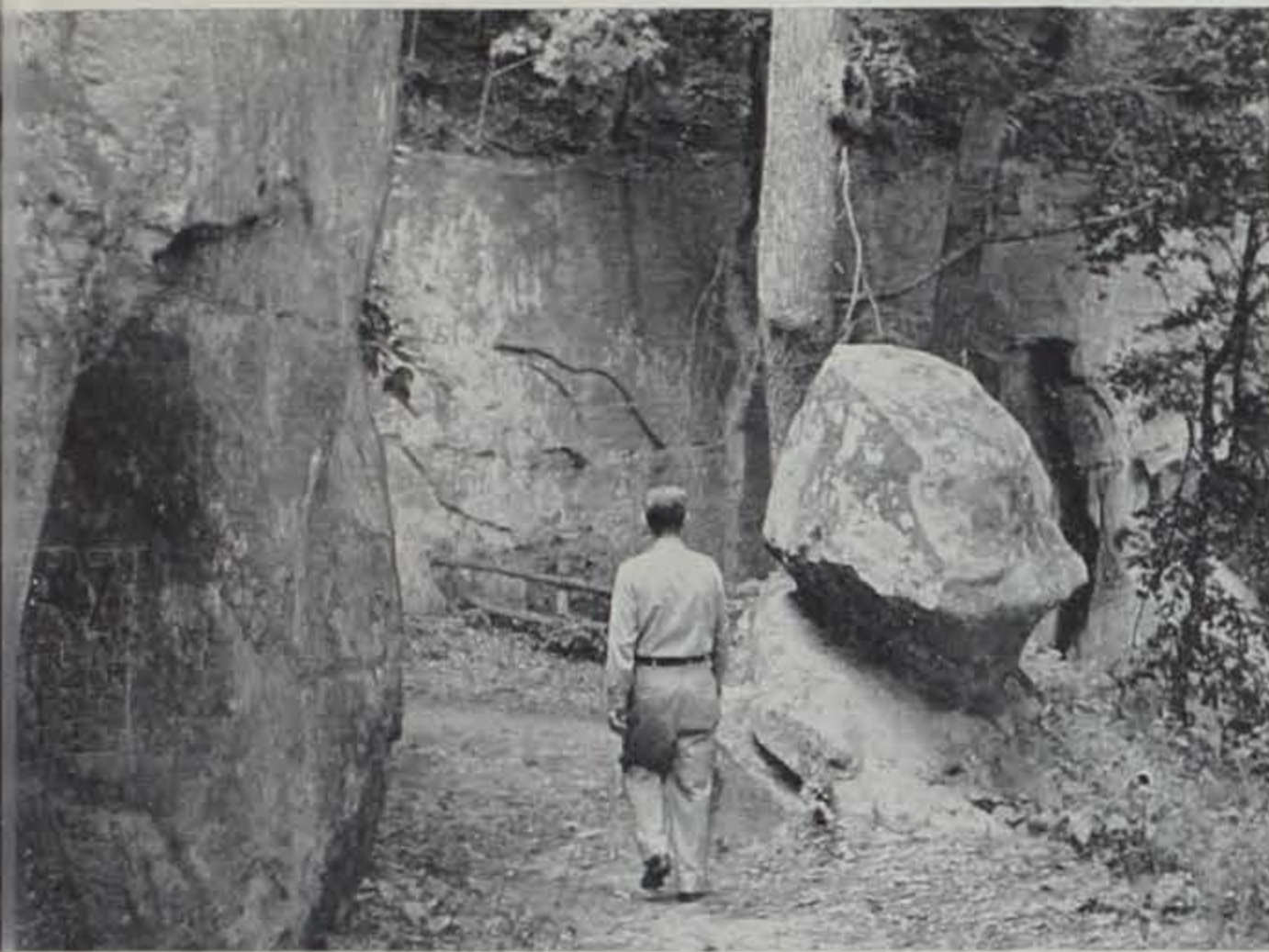
While a federal waterfowl regulations committee is still digesting the final production reports in Washington, all available survey information is submitted to the four Flyway Councils—groups comprised of state wildlife administrators and biologists. The state experts report on their local waterfowl, and federal and state technicians review and discuss a tentative draft of waterfowl regulations.

These meetings can be fiery. But the state men have their say, the federals have theirs, and when the sessions end, Washington has even fuller picture of the situation. The proposed waterfowl regulations—which may have been altered as a result of the Flyway Council meetings—are then given to the National Waterfowl Advisory Committee.

This is made up of delegates from the International Association Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, Wildlife Management Institute, National Wildlife Federation, Izaak Walton League, National Audubon Society, Friends of the Land, Wildlife Society, and Outdoor Writers' Association of America. After considering the advice of the group, the regulations are sent to the Secretary of the Interior for signature. And when the regulations are published in the Federal Register, they become the law of the year.

All these consultants pack a lot of power in American wildlife affairs, and can influence federal thinking. Yet, the basic responsibility for waterfowl lies with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And if the Service is convinced it's right, it will even override

(Continued on page 80)



Jim Sherman Photo

two miles of trails carry the hiker to the many attractions at Wild Cat Den.

WILDCAT DEN STATE PARK

A What To Do And
Where To Go Feature

Stan Widney

down by the old mill stream" have been written here. . . . The mill still stands, just a stone's throw from the campgrounds from which many trails run by rocks and hills and over hills.

Wild Cat Den is one of Iowa's intriguing state parks. Just a short drive to the park is a thrill for the hiker who has not lived on the banks of the Mississippi River. The twelve miles from Muscatine on Highway 22 are a scenic view of the Father of Waters. The route from Davenport is 18 miles north on the same highway. There's always a worthwhile scene on the river—boats, bridges, timbered islands, shanties and ultra-modern houses intermingled, the towns of Fairport, Pelier and Buffalo, so ancient in their setting, so modern in the way that line the streets and the docks anchored at the docks.

When you've come to camp in Wild Cat Den State Park you will be reminded of a grist mill that was built in 1850 on Pine Creek. The mill area is just above it, surrounded by walnut, oak, elm and other trees. All facilities are nearby and you will sleep to the music of water noises in the mill race.

The mill is open for visitors on weekdays, or for groups when accompanied by the resident park ranger. It is in good condition and the machinery is still in operation. The reason it is not always open to the public can be readily understood when you see the danger of fire and realize what a loss it would be if this part of America's history were so important to our ancestors, that it should be destroyed.

Benjamin Nye, one of the first rangers in Muscatine County, built the mill. His body lies in a tiny crypt a little way south of the entrance, one of the ancient burial places in the state.

The mill, and the miles of timbered and cliffside trails you'll hike to the delightful mystery of

Wild Cat Den.

The trails in the park are well defined through use because many of the rock formations and flora cannot be reached except on foot. Over two miles of trails lead to "Steamboat Rock," "Devil's Punch Bowl," "Fat Man's Squeeze," and "Horseshoe Bend."

The heavily timbered terrain filled with undergrowth warns visitors not to stray from the trails. Drop-offs from cliffs as high as 100 feet are apt to be completely obscured right to their precipitous edges. It is not uncommon to find pines and other trees growing out of the seemingly bare faces of rocks high on a bluff.

As many as 25 varieties of ferns have been found in Wild Cat Den. Juniper moss, moccasin flowers, trillium, asters and many other wild flowers are here in abundance, as is every species of blossoming shrub native to the area. As for the ferns, a few of the varieties not often found elsewhere in the state include walking leaf, polyfern, small aspidium, spleen wort and brake.

A Gift To You

The original area was donated to the state by the Brandt sisters who lived in the park at one time. A bronze tablet dedicated to their memory has been placed in sandstone in a lovely dell where century old pine trees lift their boughs to the tops of 75 foot cliffs.

The first store and postoffice in Muscatine County were at the site of the mill on Pine Creek, built by Mr. Nye in 1838.

Few, if any, wildcats have been seen in the park in recent years but the rock caves and crannies that once housed them are still in evidence—and now and then on a still, moonless night, their cries may be echoing through the trees and valleys.

A visit to Wildcat Den in the fall when the leaves have felt the brush of frost and the ferns and shrubs don their autumn finery will be a delight to anyone.

TASTY TREAT—TURTLE MEAT

Carol Buckmann

"Beautiful soup! Who cares for fish,

Game or any other dish?

Who would not give all else for two pennyworth only of beautiful soup?

Pennyworth only of beautiful soup."

This is what the mock turtle sang in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. But sizzling turtle meat served fresh off the fire isn't a figment of the imagination such as Alice's dream about mock turtle soup. And just to prove it, here are some ways to fix the armored, ancient reptile.

Although most turtles go into soup, they can also be roasted, broiled or stewed. They can be made into soups (snapper or soft-shelled), soup a la creole, chowder, stew, creamed, curry of turtle, steaks, sauce poivrade, sauteed, simmered and many other methods.

A snapper or soft-shell dresses from one- to two-thirds its weight. There are six portions of good, edible meat—the four legs and surrounding muscles and the tail and neck. Also, there are two tenderloins under the back between the ribs and shell that are especially appealing to the taste buds.

For turtle soup, try this method: Cook just long enough so the meat leaves the bones. Overcooking results in stringy flesh. A favorite is snapper soup made like old-fashioned beef soup with an assortment of vegetables and turtle meat cut into small pieces.

Or, for soft-shelled turtles, make soup stock without vegetables and add an egg. Treat the meat the same as for snappers and add a slice of bacon and onion or add noodles to this type of soup.

Turtle Soup

Three pounds of turtle meat, cut small and parboil 10 minutes. Water can be used as stock. Fry the meat in four tablespoons fat—ham or bacon drippings are best.

- 2 onions minced
- 4 quarts stock and water, add to the flour mixture
- 2 bay leaves

- 2 sprigs parsley
- 6 cloves
- 2 blades mace (or 1/2 teaspoon mace)
- 4 tablespoons flour, browned in fat, add 1 cup canned tomatoes, 1 tablespoon salt and 1/4 clove, garlic minced fine
- 1 lump of sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Bring to a boil and add turtle meat. Cook three hours, strain if desired. Garnish with sliced hard-cooked eggs and slices of lemon, cut thin and minced. Sherry jelly may be added for flavor.

Fried turtle is also favored by many. In this case, clean the meat, dip it in egg and bread crumbs and fry like you would chicken. You could also dip the meat in flour, brown under a hot fire and cover. Reduce heat and add 1/2 cup of water, cook slowly until tender.

Curry of turtle is a delicacy you'll long remember. With about a pound of meat, brown in fat with a large onion. Put into a kettle with a medium-sized potato, one carrot, the onion, a small piece of parsley, 1/2 teaspoon of pepper, one teaspoon of salt and 1/2 teaspoon of curry powder. Add the browned turtle meat and let it simmer until tender. Serve in molds of hollowed out cups of boiled rice.

Here is a turtle stew recipe which appeared in Ashbrook and Saters book "Cooking Wild Game."

- 2 pounds of turtle meat
- 1 onion
- 1 tablespoon butter or shortening
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1 sprig of thyme
- 1 cup of water
- 1 wineglass sherry or madiera wine

Cut the meat about an inch in size. Chop an onion and put all into a saucepan with a tablespoon of shortening to brown. As it begins to brown, add one tablespoon of flour, 1 bay leaf, 1 clove of garlic and a sprig of thyme, then add a wineglass of sherry or madiera wine and a cup of water; cook for one-half hour.



This snapper can offer a tasty meal when properly prepared.

HERE COMES FALL FISHING

Here's Your Chance!

Denny Rehder

At the close of a hectic summer you'll find the kids back in school, the grass growing shorter, and the nights getting longer. You may also find as most of us do, that you just didn't get as much fishing in as you had planned last spring.

Now everyone is cleaning Ol' Betsy, stocking up on shells, and complaining about the duck season—fishing seem to be out for the rest of the year.

Did you ever think that all this talk might be the work of a group of ardent fishermen who want everyone to forget angling until next spring? Might be so, because fall happens to be one of the best times for fishing. Activity on our lakes and rivers slows up, the water skiers hang it up for the rest of the year, and the water cools and clears.

Walleyes and other sight-feeders such as bass, crappie, and perch find that there isn't as much food as there was during the "summer doldrums," and they're getting hungry. Catfish are probably stocking up on a little fat for the coming winter, and they feel like eating. Other panfish and game fish find that the cooler water makes them just plain hungry.

Why do we have good fall fishing? Well, some of the ideas expressed above are important, but let's go into it a little further. We all know that this year we had a lot of water. The rivers were up much of the summer and our lake levels were high. This means that the expanded water area caused the growth of more food, more cover, and provided more space to live.

Consequently, our fish grew faster than normal and the mortality wasn't as high as normal. Playing around with this, we can then deduce that if the fish grew faster there were more "keepers" available than normally would be the case. You will be keeping fish that usually aren't big enough to keep until next spring.

Another factor is this matter of cover. In the fall the heavy vegetation that has been sheltering small fish from their hungry cousins drops and these small fish are exposed. At the same time the cooler weather has a tendency to cool the shallow water areas first. So you have two factors here—the shallow water has the sheltering heavy vegetation and it cools first. This means that the small fish lose their cover and at the same time are forced by cooling water into the deep water areas.

Now it so happens that Ol' Grandad is sitting there in that warmer deep water just waiting for a meal. And when these small fish move in with him, it's just like ringing the dinner bell!

This phenomenon applies to both our lakes and rivers. On the river the fish move from the shallow backwaters as they cool and head



Fall walleye fishing is a favorite of Mississippi River anglers.

Jim Sherman

for the channel where the forage fish are waiting.

What this all adds up to is a brief reminder—the fish are in the deeper water, they're hungry, and they're bigger and more numerous than before. This year the situation forecasts some fine fall fishing all over the state. Try the deeper water and maybe you can come up with a fish tale to counter all those you've had to listen to during the summer.

One Man's Feeling

Ed. Note: We quote portions of the following letter written to Secretary Udall by Vance Bourjaily in protest of the coming duck season. Mr. Bourjaily is a nationally known writer from North Liberty who enjoys the enviable task of writing outdoor articles for the New Yorker Magazine.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is my 1962 Waterfowl stamp signed but obviously not to be used, since the duck season will not open here in Iowa until October 27.

I am turning it in . . . to register a \$3 protest against there being any open season on ducks at all on the Mississippi Flyway. At the same time, I mean it to demonstrate my support for the wetlands purchase program, waterfowl season or no, into which I understand the duck stamp revenues go.

Whether it is true or not, there is strong popular conviction, based on the knowledge that Flyway Council representatives from the northern states favored a closed season, that the influence of commercial shooting centers to the south is reflected in the present arrangement. . . .

. . . only a fully closed season is enforceable, and as long as any species as important as the mallard is threatened, it is my conviction that a fully closed season was urgently called for. . . .

. . . My overall intention . . . is not to criticize the conservation policies of the Department, except in this one area, but to commend them. . . .



These fine catfish came from the Little Sioux River near Cherokee. In northeast Iowa, smallmouth bass prime fall target.

WATERFOWL—

(Continued from page 78)

opposition of the Flyway Councils and risk alienation of broad areas of states. This was the case this year in the Mississippi Flyway. James Kimball, director of the Minnesota fish and game department summed it up even before the final regulations were announced.

"For the past seven years, I have watched the Mississippi Flyway Council slowly but surely grow in stature, holding back selfish interests and political desires, and recognize its responsibility to the resource. This year pressures and demands reached the breaking point—and things really broke!

"Art Hawkins, our very competent flyway biologist with the Bismarck (North Dakota) committee (biologist members of the Flyway Council) recommended either a closed season or a shorter season and we have learned that Manitoba and Saskatchewan have reduced their limits.

"In spite of all this, the council, by a vote of 8 to 6, recommended doubling the bag limit and lengthening the season. The eight carrying votes came from the solid South and the six losing conservation votes from the North.

"I feel sure the Federal Government will recognize its responsibility to the resource and disregard the recommendation of the council. When it does, officials from the southern states will be obliged to protest vehemently. But inwardly they will be glad there is a federal agency with the strength and integrity to take necessary action."

Bravo, Jim!

Maybe the Service was right this year in cutting our waterfowl season to the bone. Maybe the Service was wrong. But until some better and more complete information about the northern breeding grounds, we'll float our stic the federal boys!