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# FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND CRIME CONTROL



Recreational use of firearms is decidedly not a criminal category, and Iowa hunters are vitally interested in any legislation that would cause registration of their guns.

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**E. T. Rose**  
Chief, Fish and Game Division

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Possession of wild animals is unlawful whether as pets or for any reason. Special permits must be obtained. See page 64.

A cheap imported rifle kills a President. An expensive high-powered scope-mounted sporting rifle kills students at the university. Shotgun blast kills patrolman. These are commonly used expressions by anti-gun proponents to frighten the people of this country into accepting some stringent and highly restrictive gun legislation. The inference is that if guns are not readily available the criminal can't commit a crime. Guns don't kill people. Guns are inanimate objects. The criminal, the maniac, the inadequate—they kill the people. They activate the gun, they must pull the trigger.

The "Challenge of Crime in a Free Society" is the title of a 340 page report published in February, 1967, by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. Of special significance to the law abiding citizens, hunters, target shooters and gun collectors is Chapter 10 entitled "Control of Firearms." The specific recommendation by the President's Commission is as follows:

"The Commission recommends—each state should require the registration of all handguns, rifles and shotguns. If, after 5 years, some states still have not enacted such laws, Congress should pass a Federal Firearms Registration Act applicable to those states."

Certainly no law abiding sportsman or citizen should object to any legislation which would effectively reduce crime in this country. Every decent citizen should support any measure that would prevent a criminal from obtaining firearms. The anti-gun proponents of the Dodd (S.B. 1 as amended) and Cellar (H.R. 5384) Bills apparently are unaware of the Federal Law enacted in 1938 which prohibits possession or receiving by interstate commerce of firearms or ammunition

(Continued on page 59)



The opossum and her babies should never be taken except by lawful means, and then not kept as pets. See page 64.

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CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE 61,983

## DRAINAGE DITCH MALLARDS

By Richard Bishop, Game Biologist

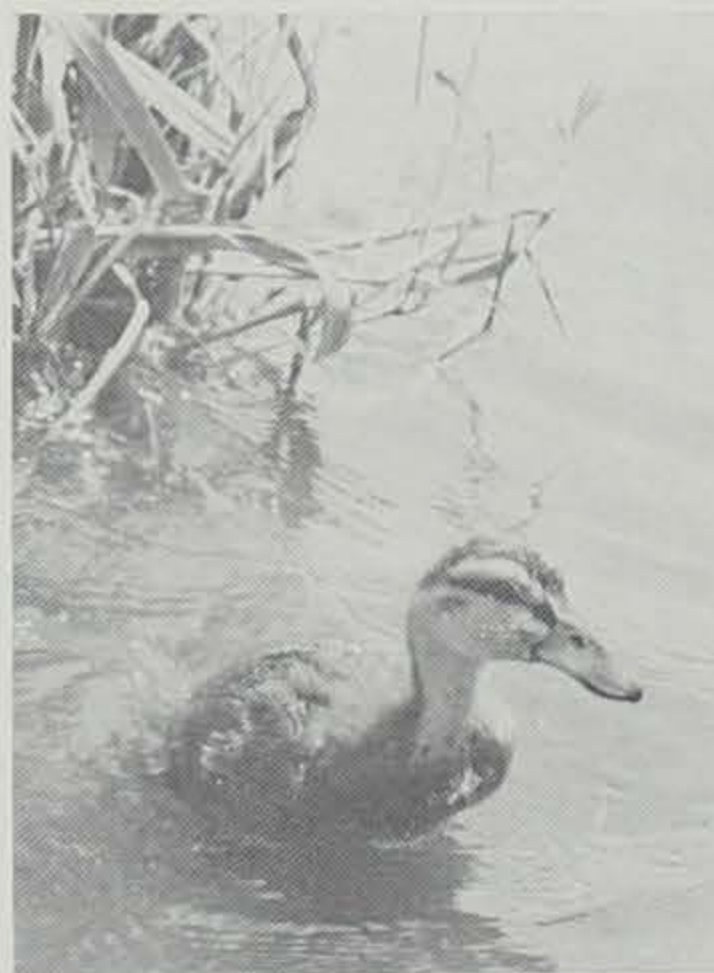
Years ago Iowa's northern prairie country was dotted with small potholes and marshes. This myriad of wetlands made ideal breeding habitat for waterfowl across the northern one-third of Iowa. Thousands of ducks were raised on these potholes providing shooting for waterfowlers. However, as farming became more mechanized and the demand for farm products increased, the wetlands of Iowa were drained. This practice gained momentum during the early nineteen hundreds and has continued until there are just a few water areas left. Countryside once covered with many small marshes and potholes is now farmland crisscrossed by drainage ditches which drain away the water supply so vital to ducks.

The Conservation Commission realized the great need for purchasing the rapidly decreasing wetlands of Iowa. Many marshes were bought before drainage. Several others were restored to a near natural condition by the use of state and federal funds. These state-owned marshes are once again producing many ducks each year, but state-owned marshes are only a fraction of the thousands that once produced ducks. Drainage of potholes and small marshes today still exceeds purchases and restoration of marsh areas. This alarming trend has put added pressure on the remaining marshes to produce the desired numbers of ducks.

Waterfowl and other game birds depend on good habitat conditions for successful reproduction. As breeding and nesting areas are reduced, so are the bird populations using these areas. Waterfowl nesting habitat is at a critical stage because of the devastating drainage programs. The remaining wetlands used by ducks are vitally important. Some marshes, even though they contain water, are not in ecological condition to attract waterfowl and therefore

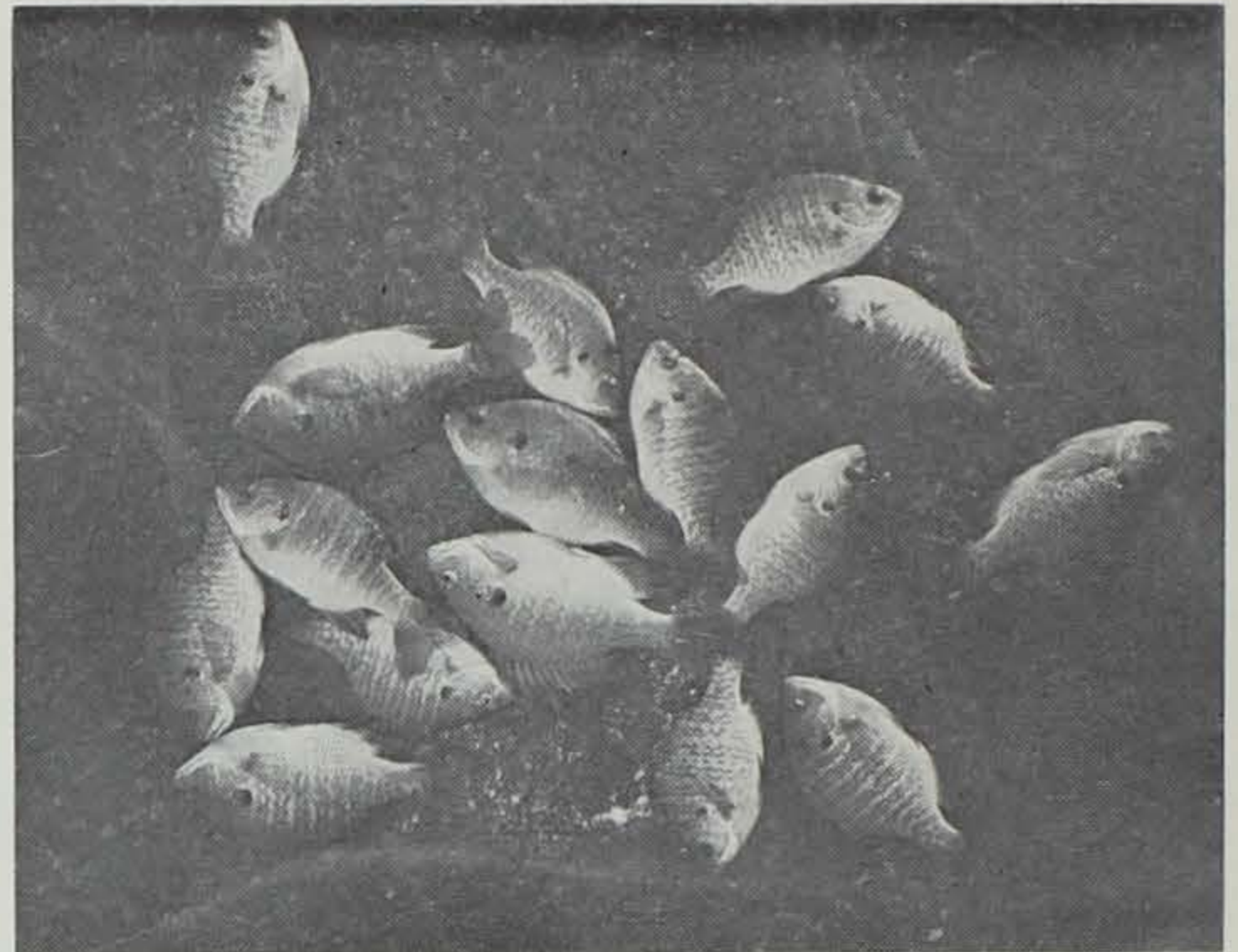
increase the problems of Iowa's limited waterfowl habitat. All of this compounds the value of the remaining useable habitat. If we are to have ducks in the future, we must have desirable water areas for them to breed.

This useable habitat is mainly thought of as the marshes and potholes of northern Iowa. Recently a new type of habitat has been recognized as contributing in some degree to our duck production. The numerous drainage ditches in northern Iowa are being used considerably by mallards and somewhat by blue-winged teal. A waterfowl survey made in May across northern Iowa confirms this use. This survey is made annually to determine the number of nesting ducks in Iowa. The survey is made by an airplane flying at 100 feet with observers who count all waterfowl seen for one-eighth mile on each side of the airplane. The count is made on straight line transects every four miles from the Minnesota border south to include most of the marsh and pothole area of northern Iowa. A large percent of the breeding mallards observed on this survey were observed along drainage ditches. Ground observations have indicated this also. Many mallards previously observed along these waterways were not believed to be nesting there. Our data now shows that these birds were using the ditches as breeding areas. Mallards will nest as far as a mile away from a water source in alfalfa fields, fence lines, diverted areas, fallow fields or grassland. Recently a mallard nest was found along a fence line one-half mile from a drainage ditch, which happened to be the only water around.



An Iowa-born mallard duckling.

The fact that mallards will utilize drainage ditches for nesting is not new, however, the extent to which they are using this habitat is very interesting. The use of this type of habitat could greatly increase Iowa's mallard production. The density of nesting mallards largely depends on the size of the total flyway population. The



## FISH QUIZ

By Lloyd Huff

State Conservation Officer

1. The goldfish belong to the same family as the carp and often resemble them. They often lose the bright orange or variegated colors in the wild. How can it easily be distinguished from the carp at this stage?
2. Which native large fish takes four to five years to reach a weight of one pound?
3. The mooneye family is represented in Iowa by two species, the mooneye and the goldeye. Which species is most abundant in the Missouri River?
4. How can the white crappie readily be distinguished from the black crappie?
5. Which fish in Iowa is sometimes called the mullet?
6. How can the northern pike be distinguished from the grass pickerel and the muskellunge?
7. Are all the species of catfish edible?
8. There are 17 species in the sucker family in Iowa. Which species furnishes the most angling?
9. Which fish is used by hatchery men in their ponds to keep down the growth of objectionable algae?
10. Which species of bass has teeth located on the tongue?

(Answers on page 59)

## QUAIL HUNTING 1966-67 SEASON

M. E. Stempel, Game Biologist  
During the 102-day 1966-67 quail hunting season, longest in recent years, the entire state was open for quail shooting. Of all licensed hunters, 22 percent, or 63,787



hunters, took 1,051,631 quail at the rate of one and one-half hours per quail. Of that number of shooters, 1,577 were non-residents who took 27,344 quail at a rate of two hours per bird. Most of the quail and the best of the quail hunting are in southern Iowa.

goal of waterfowl men all down the Mississippi Flyway is to rebuild reduced waterfowl populations. To increase mallard numbers one must provide ample breeding areas as well as reduce the fall hunting kill. At present there are not enough mallards to fill the limited areas we have, but good management can change this picture. The last two years, restricted shooting of mallards has increased the population of breeding birds. If we do not overshoot our flyway population of mallards, this type of useable habitat could take care of an expanded breeding population. Any additional useable habitat is very important. The end result of more mallards in the fall population is not known but in consideration of the expanded figures of nesting pairs from the aerial survey, it should be of consequence to Iowa. Also, teal production on these ditches has been noted and could be considerable.

The idea of drainage ditch mallards may not appeal to the Iowa hunter, but somewhere down the flyway when the northern winds are nipping the faces of the expectant duck hunters, a flock of Iowa's drainage ditch mallards will thrill the heart of the duck hunter just as much as a flock of remote Canadian mallards.

## FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND CRIME CONTROL (Continued from page 57)



by criminals (Section 902, Federal Firearms Act). The act also provides a stiff penalty for violation; therefore, we must ask the question—how effective has this law been in preventing the criminal from obtaining and using firearms? Of course it can be readily answered—absolutely no effect. Also, ask this question of those who beat the drums for more and more restrictive gun legislation—why compound the problem with another law that will be equally ineffective in curtailing crime involving firearms? And another—why not enforce the good legislation now on the books, the National Firearms Act of 1934, the Federal Firearms Act of 1938 and the Mutual Security Act of 1954.

The criminal could care less about a gun registration law. He would just as soon steal a registered gun from you and maybe a little bit sooner. Perhaps some statistics are indicated to emphasize the futility of gun registration in curbing crimes involving firearms. Congressman Dingle (Congressional Record, March 7, 1967) quoted some of interest as follows: "The anti-gun forces have never informed the public that out of 183 standard metropolitan statistical areas surveyed by the FBI, there were 131 with overall homicide rates lower than New York's. None of these areas has firearms laws as severe as the Sullivan Law (New York). They include such cities as Phoenix, Des Moines, Denver, Milwaukee, Portland—both Maine and Oregon—Oklahoma City, Omaha, Spokane, Tulsa and Wichita." He further states, "The estimated number of robberies, aggravated assaults, and murders with firearms amounted to less than 4 percent of the 2,780,000 serious crimes committed in the United States during 1965." So, if all the firearms in this country had been gathered up in 1964 and dumped in the deepest abyss of the Atlantic Ocean, we still would have had 2,668,800 robberies, aggravated assaults and murders committed in 1965. So we ask another question which must naturally follow, does Mr. James Vorenberg (Executive Director of the President's Crime Commission) also propose that every butcher knife, ball bat, bludgeon, billy club, bow and arrow or other potentially lethal weapon be registered right along with your favorite sporting arms? The answer obviously is no. Then, if not, by what unfathomable logic can registration of our sporting arms accomplish control of crime?

Just what would registration accomplish? As I see it, just this:

1. It will not in any significant way diminish crime. There is no documentary evidence available that will refute this statement.

2. Registration will promote the unavailability of firearms to sportsmen rather than selectively limit the acquisition by felons, juveniles and incompetents.

3. Registration procedures are complex and expensive and will thus make owning firearms more difficult. Fish and game programs in every state are dependent upon hunting license fees and we can see a decline in hunting if registration is required.

4. The criminally inclined won't register his guns (undoubtedly stolen in the first place anyway).

5. Registration of firearms will restrict and infringe upon the precious basic freedom of the right of law abiding citizens to own and use guns.

6. Registration will encourage illicit commerce (bootlegging) in firearms and seriously curtail legitimate dealers.

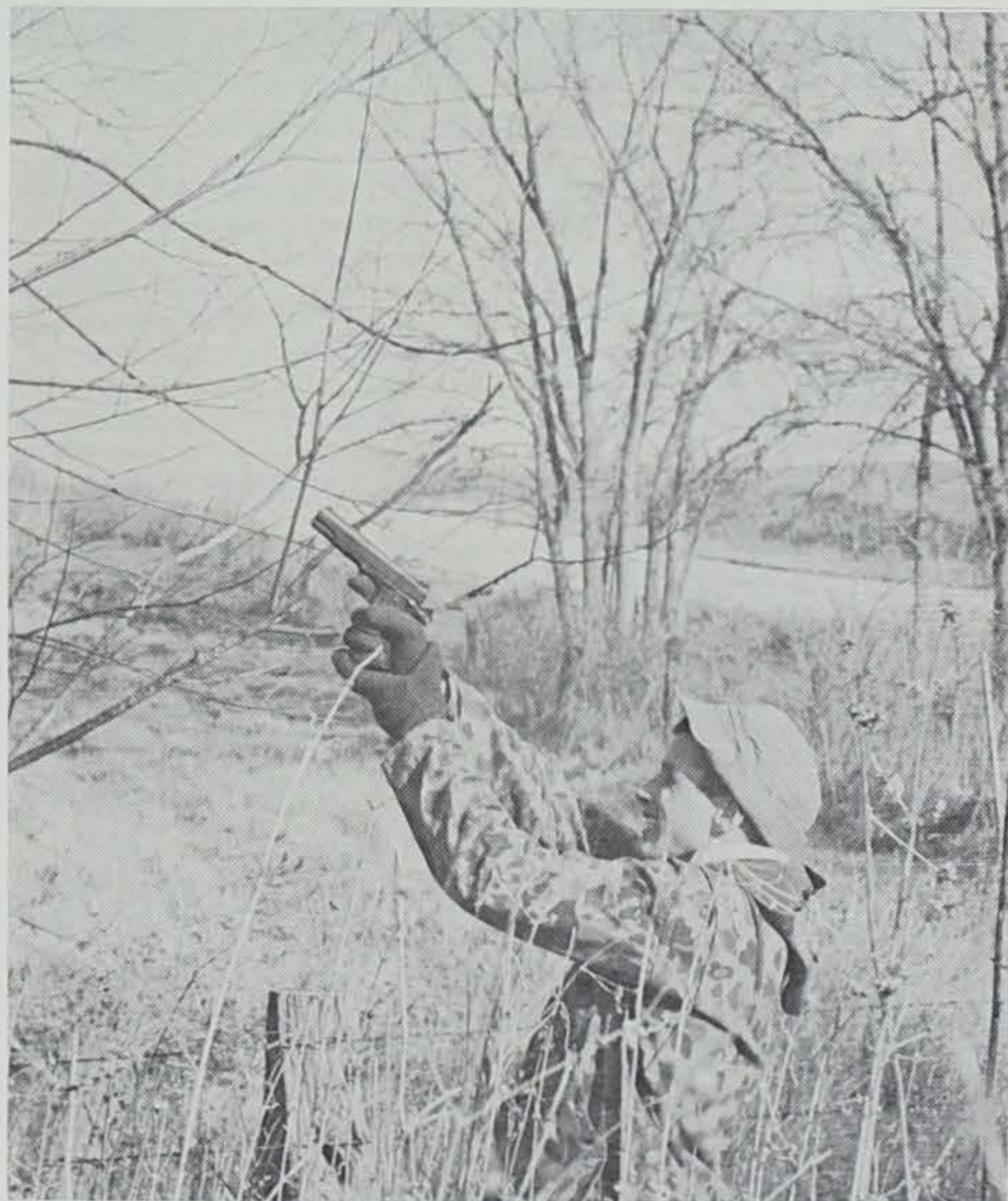
7. The stolen registered firearm found at a crime scene could place the onus of proving innocence directly on the registered owner.

8. Registration can lead to confiscation. According to the National Rifle Association it has happened in New York and New Jersey. (Registered guns were confiscated in Germany and Italy and Nazi occupied Europe, recently in Greece.) It could happen here!

9. Fifty million privately owned guns in America will be subject to a complicated registration procedure that won't reduce crime.

10. Tighter laws restricting availability of firearms by felons, incompetents and drunkards could be effective in reducing crime. Registration will only adversely affect the law abiding citizens, the criminal won't comply and it won't prevent crime.

So it seems to me, an answer to mitigation of crime lies not in registration, but in controlling the criminal by strict law enforcement, implemented by some sensible additional commerce regulations. The privilege of obtaining, owning and using firearms is a precious privilege for the law abiding citizen. Let's not jeopardize it by forced registration.



Many Iowans hunt with handguns. This use is entirely legal and in most instances gives the game more than a sporting chance.

### FISH QUIZ ANSWERS

1. By the lack of fleshy barbels on the upper jaw.
2. The lake sturgeon.
3. The goldeye.
4. The white crappie has seven to nine vertical bars on the sides. There are no distinct vertical bars on the black crappie.
5. The redhorse.
6. The northern pike has light yellow or gold blotches. The grass pickerel and the muskellunge have dark blotches.
7. Yes, but the small size of the madtoms and stonecats preclude them from the angler's catch.
8. The white or common sucker. It is one of the most widely distributed fish in the state.
9. The lake sturgeon.
10. The white bass.

# CONSERVATION AND THE HUNTER



Duck wings provided by hunters aid game management field men in studies to assure future generations that there will be no extinction of the species.

### Reprinted from Ammunition for Sportsmen

The nearly eighteen million hunters in America do more for conservation than the rest of the population combined. The following are some of the many positive contributions sportsmen make to preserve and protect our wildlife and outdoor recreation areas.

Hunters and fishermen pay for the support of all 50 state fish and game departments through license purchases. The money does not come from general revenue as most people believe.

These fish and game departments are charged by law with the protection of all wildlife. Hunters' money pays for law enforcement personnel to protect hundreds of non-hunted species such as shore birds, song birds, certain hawks and owls and mammals which everyone enjoys.

Refuges bought and paid for by hunters' money support more species of non-hunted wildlife than game. In most cases, the refuges are open to the general public which pays nothing. The nature lover is seldom aware that the preservation and increase of wildlife he enjoys is made possible only through funds supplied by hunters.

All states have programs of land acquisition with hunters' money. The non-hunting public usually has free access to these lands for picnics, hiking and camping. The hunter is glad that his money pays for outdoor recreation enjoyed by the non-paying public. However, the hunter seldom gets any thanks or credit from the public.

Hunters spend millions of dollars developing private lands in wildlife habitat. Although exact figures are not available, a conservative estimate is that hunters spend over \$100 million a year improving private lands. Thousands of sportsmen devote countless hours planning and working on habitat development. This habitat supports more non-hunted species, such as song birds, than game species. As 80 percent of the land in America is privately owned, it is obvious that much of the future of wildlife depends on private development of habitat.



License fees from hunters provide money to build control structures for marshes. Watershed control fringe benefits occur for every citizen without added taxes.



Game managers release ducks for study, provided by hunting license fees.

No game species in America is in danger of being over-harvested by hunters. The public, and too often the hunter, does not understand the careful surveys made by state and federal agencies before hunting seasons and bag limits are set. Many species of game, such as white-tailed deer and mourning doves, are more abundant than when the white man first came to this country. (Continued on next page)

When a game species is in short supply, the hunter not only yells for action but puts up the money to employ biologists and make sure this species is protected and increased.

Wildlife cannot be stockpiled. One of the most difficult biological facts to explain to the public is that hunting has very little to do with the population of most species. For instance, the bobwhite quail and mourning dove have an annual mortality of about 75 percent whether they are hunted or not.

The public does not understand that too many deer may destroy a range or winter starvation kills off thousands of deer which might otherwise have been taken by hunters. The changing patterns of agriculture and forestry affect the increase or decline of many species more than hunting.

Hunters and fishermen have been the leaders in every conservation movement the past 75 years. The hunter is the first to notice a shortage of game and do something about it. The fisherman is the first to see fish dying from pollution and yell for action. Hunters and fishermen were the first to decry the ravages of soil erosion, forest fires, and all the despoliation that came with our expanding civilization and increasing population.



A Conservation Commission airplane and personnel for aerial surveys are made available through use of funds provided by hunters.

For decades, the hunter has been a voice in the wilderness calling for programs that are only just now being popularized in Washington by the current administration. But while the outdoorsman got little help or sympathy from the general public, he paid for the organization and support of state fish and game agencies. The hunter has been a strong force for all conservation for over half a century but has received almost no credit from the public.

Hunters, along with other outdoorsmen, support such excellent organizations as the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League of America, Wildlife Management Institute and hundreds of regional and local organizations.

The hunter has never received recognition by the general public for his countless hours of work and generous dollars in supporting the programs of these outstanding organizations. The public, which is an increasingly traveling public, enjoys the fruit of the hunters' work but has no inkling who planted the seed.

Hunters and the shooting industry asked to be taxed on the sale of sporting arms and ammunition in 1937 with the money to be used for wildlife development. Hunters and the shooting industry are unique in all of America in asking that this excise tax not be removed during the 1965 reductions made by Congress at the request of the administration.

Over \$300 million has been collected through the tax on sporting arms and ammunition and prorated back to the states for wildlife work under the Pittman-Robertson Act. The general public, which enjoys wildlife but pays nothing, benefits as much as the hunter who picks up the tab.

Hunters pour about \$1.5 billion a year into the general economy, much of the amount being for conservation projects. The other is spent for hunter travel, food, guides, hunting clothes, boats, camping equip-

ment and related expenses. Many rural states and areas greatly depend on hunter expenditures to maintain and improve their economy. In some areas, hunter money is the number one income.

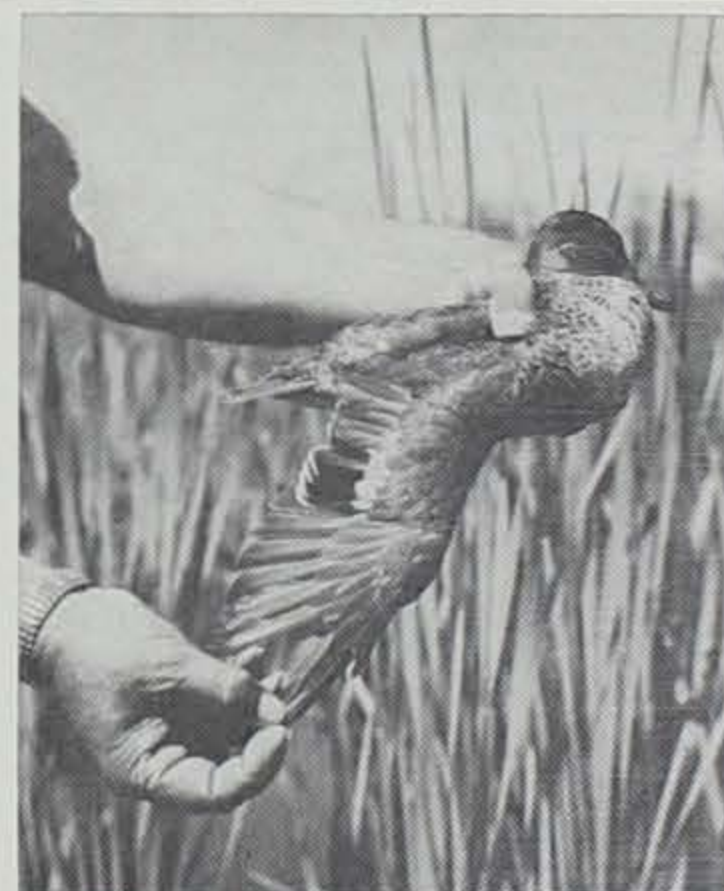


Federal taxes on guns and ammunition provide funds to purchase land such as this at Riverton for wildlife habitat and refuges.

### PHEASANT HUNTER SURVEY

By Richard Nomsen  
Game Biologist

A random sample consisting of 5,000 names was drawn from the duplicate files of license sales following the 1966 season. Results were used to determine the number of pheasant hunters, the total number of birds killed and distribution of hunting pressure. The survey indicated that 82 percent (231,800) of the 281,000 resident licensees hunted pheasants during



### 1966 EXPERIMENTAL TEAL SEASON

By Richard Bishop, Game Biologist

Iowa held an experimental teal season, for the second year, in September of 1966. A nine-day season was held from September 17th to the 25th. A total of 16,408 permits were issued, 610 less than were issued in 1965, of which 67 percent hunted at least once. Iowa hunters killed 39,530 blue-winged teal and 9,510 green-winged teal, with an average kill of four teal per active hunter. We had the second largest kill in the Mississippi Flyway. Approximately 65 percent of the Iowa teal kill occurred on opening weekend. Expanded data of the entire flyway indicates that the teal season afforded much recreation without harm to the flyway population of any species.



the 52 day season. They bagged a total of 1,370,000 pheasants in 1966. There were 79,400 birds bagged by 8,600 non-resident hunters. The overall total of pheasants harvested in the state in 1966 was 1,449,400. Hunters in northwest

and north central Iowa shot an estimated 12,000 Hungarian partridge during the past season.

## CANNON-NETTING THE PRAIRIE POTHOLES

Text and Photos By Dean Daziell, Unit Game Manager

As a true, dyed-in-the-wool waterfowler, did you ever wonder just where a particular duck was raised? Was it hatched in this locality? Did it come in from one of the other states? Did it migrate from one of the Canadian provinces, or from as far away, perhaps, as Alaska? It may very well have come from any of these locations since a duck or goose will sometimes fly hundreds, or even thousands, of miles out of its way to use a particular flyway.

In the course of your hunting experiences you can provide valuable assistance to the scientists and technicians who are responsible for the management of our waterfowl resource, by reporting any banded birds that you bag. They, in turn, will provide you with information relative to the species, age, sex, date of banding, and band site. As you can readily see there is a host of valuable information that can be gained from this data, and it is very important that you follow through and report each banded bird that you retrieve.

Since Iowa Conservation Commission personnel band several thousand ducks annually, the banded duck that you've just shot may very well have come from a marsh or slough that is only a short distance from your home. On the other hand, it could just as easily have come from the prairie pothole country of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, or one of the Canadian provinces, since the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands tens of thousands of waterfowl there each year.

For the past several years the Iowa Conservation Commission has cooperated with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service by sending a man to Canada to assist in their banding projects. Last year it was my privilege to work on a cannon-net crew in the Last Mountain Lake area, about 100 miles north of Regina. The cannon-net method of capturing ducks had been tried in Canada the previous year, but the lack of sufficient water and good trap sites made it difficult to catch birds. In 1966 the situation was much different. There was an abundance of water, several good trap sites were available, and there was a good population of ducks in the immediate area. After scouting the terrain by air, and then getting ourselves coordinated on the ground, it was time to catch ducks.



A prairie pothole area in Saskatchewan.

The cannon-net is a piece of equipment specifically designed for waterfowl work. It consists of a large net that is placed in a folded position near a baited strip of ground along the edge of a marsh or slough. Projectiles attached to the net by heavy cord are placed in a series of cannon-like devices wired to go off simultaneously, thereby throwing the net over the ducks or geese that are feeding on the baited site. The men can then get the birds out of the net and are ready to start banding.

Cannon-netters get out to the trap site before daylight arrives. Arising at 3:00 a.m., after a short drive to the area we would creep up to our blind and wait for the ducks to get concentrated on the bait. By the daylight hour the site was literally alive with feeding ducks. New-comers would continually fly in to see what the commotion was all about. At times there were as many as 1,500 ducks feeding less than 100 feet in front of our blind. Then, seemingly, on a signal this horde of ducks would flare away from the site. We would have to wait for them to build up again. We tried to time our shots for the peak of the buildup, just before the birds were ready to flare.

Twenty-two net firings were made during the banding assignment, with success varying considerably. The smallest number of ducks caught in a shot was 26, while the largest number was 650. Windy days tended to give us trouble as the ducks would fly out from under the net before it had time to settle over them.

Once the shot was made, there were usually several hundred ducks

to identify, age, sex, and band. Data had to be carefully and efficiently recorded since an error could mean a loss of several hours work, or perhaps information that was unuseable. After the last duck was banded and released, the nets were set again, and baited for the next shot. Teamwork is essential.

Sites were usually shot on alternate days since this would give the ducks a chance to get over their previous scare, and get back to feeding on the bait. As opposed to some of the other methods of trapping ducks we got very few retraps, or ducks that we had previously caught and banded. It seemed that once they were caught, they learned just where they should feed, and where they should not, to avoid the trap.



Four cannons ready to fire the folded net in front of them.

In six weeks in Canada we banded a total of 6,810 ducks. The following figures represent the species and numbers banded.

Mallards .....	189
Gadwall .....	1
Widgeon .....	110
Green-winged Teal .....	2,458
Blue-winged Teal .....	793
Shoveler .....	1
Pintail .....	3,255
Black Duck .....	3
Total .....	6,810

Some species of ducks prove easier to catch by one method than another. We were quite successful at capturing green-winged teal where other methods had failed completely. We were unable to catch any diving ducks, and had only limited success on mallards.

Around the first of September we began to pack for the return trip and clean the trap sites. It had been an eventful and exciting six weeks working in the prairie pothole country of Saskatchewan.



Part of a day's catch of green-winged teal and pintails under net on a baited area.

The area is abundantly supplied with natural marshes capable of harboring thousands of ducks and geese.

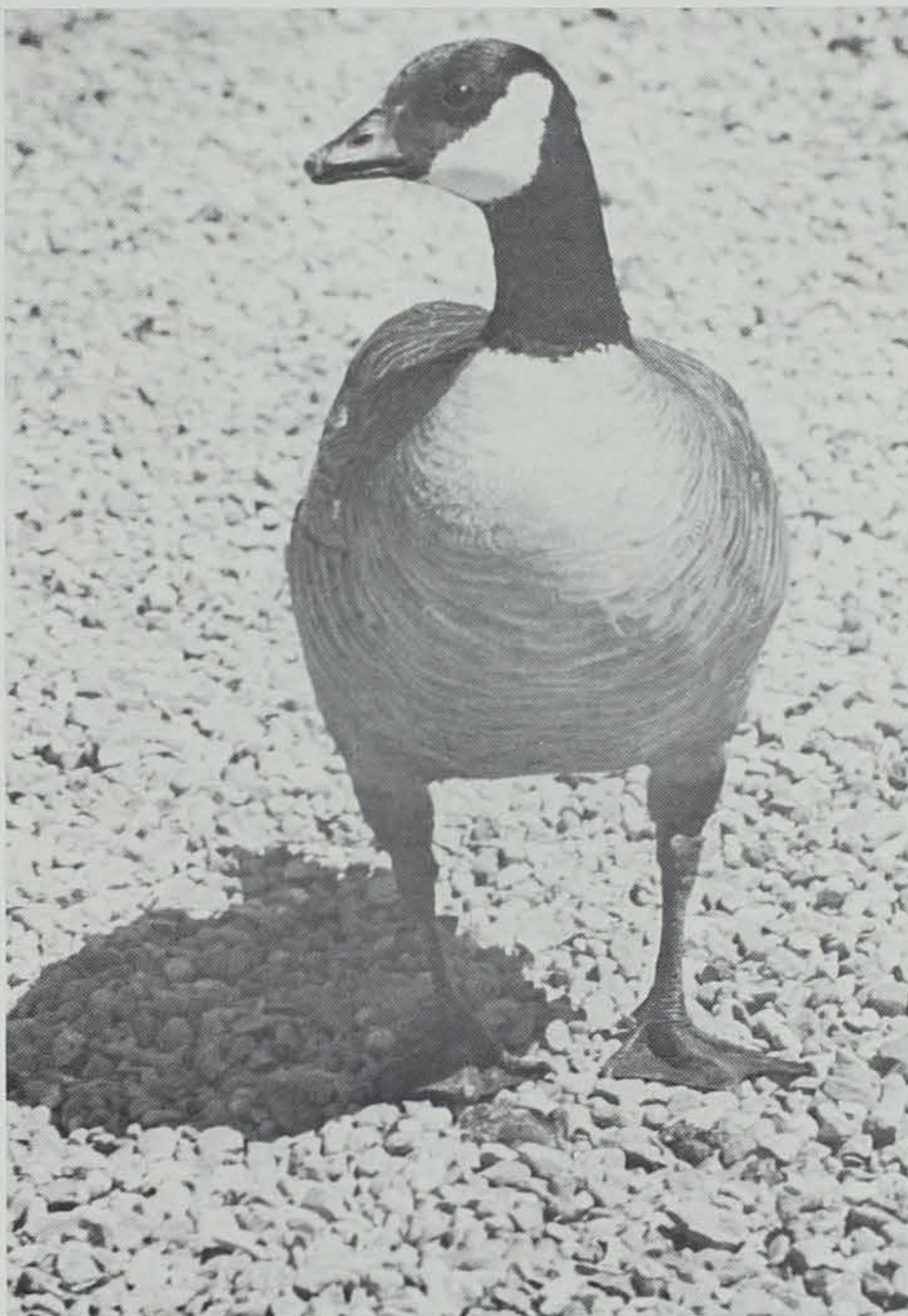
Each of us can help supply researchers with the information they are seeking. The next time you bag a banded bird, make a special point of reporting it to either the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or your State Conservation Commission. Your report could be the key that would open the door to some vitally needed information concerning our waterfowl resource.

## INGHAM LAKE CANADA GOOSE PROJECT

By Ron Howing

Before the turn of the century the Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) was a common species of the original fauna in Iowa. It bred in considerable numbers in the prairie pothole region of Iowa. The taking of eggs from the nest, the stealing of young, year-round hunting and the destruction of habitat had virtually eliminated the Canada goose as an Iowa nester by about 1900. A few flocks of Canada geese have been maintained in captivity by private individuals in Iowa to the present time. The majority of the captive flocks are probably progeny of the original wild Canada goose in Iowa.

The Iowa Conservation Commission is attempting to re-establish the Canada goose as an Iowa nester with a captive flock at Ingham Lake Game Management Area in Emmet County in northwest Iowa. This flock was obtained from various private individuals in northwest Iowa, southwest Minnesota and southeast South Dakota. All geese are believed to be the giant race of the Canada goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*). The adult breeders start nesting annually about the middle of April (the first nest hatched on May 12 this year). All young geese will be banded during July to determine mortality and migration patterns. The young geese will be allowed free flight as normal wild birds. It is believed the young will return to the vicinity of Ingham Lake to nest and will develop a breeding tradition in this area if



given the opportunity.

Local hunting is considered to be an important limiting factor for the establishment of a nesting colony of Canada geese. Canada goose hunting will be closed for the next five years in an area of Emmet and Palo Alto counties beginning at the junction of Highways 9 and 17 in Estherville and running south along Highway 17 to Graettinger, then 9 miles east on a county road, then north along county roads to Highway 9 at a point five miles west of Armstrong and then west along Highway 9 to Estherville. With the protection of the free flying Canada geese raised at Ingham Lake Game Management Area, they will be given the opportunity to increase in numbers and return to nest.

Elevated tubs, barrels, or platforms will be erected on Game Management Areas in the vicinity of Ingham Lake to provide relatively predator proof nesting sites for Canada geese. Twenty elevated platforms were put up in the pen where the captive flock is held this year. Eight of the platforms were used for nesting sites by Canada geese. It is believed the geese will develop a tradition of using elevated nesting structures. Elevated nesting structures will insure availability of nest sites each year and enhance nesting success. If this project is successful we will have succeeded in re-establishing one of the grandest of Iowa's nesting birds.

Photo, left—Game management men hope to induce Canada geese to nest in Iowa. This Hutchins goose should not be confused with the much larger Canada goose of the same family.

## SOME SIMPLE STATISTICS CONCERNING QUAIL IN IOWA



By M. E. Stempel, Quail Biologist

At a peak population there are likely over 10,000,000 quail in Iowa. Where do they come from?

They do not come far. Most quail remain within a mile of where they hatch. This bird weighs six to seven ounces, and hens and cocks share nesting, brooding and chick care. Some even adopt other quail.

Those all important 15 or so eggs which may be in the nest under that bower of grass weigh a total of six or eight ounces, and all these from that six ounce hen. Then hen and the cock spend three weeks preparing for brooding, another three weeks is spent laying the clutch of eggs, and three more weeks are invested in brooding the eggs. For the entire quail population of Iowa, production begins in May, peaks in late June and concludes some time in October.

Now, in addition, a quail has 20 primary flight feathers, eats one ounce or more food at a time and walks rather than fly most of the time.

## Results of the Survey of Squirrel, Fox, Raccoon, And Woodchuck Hunters in the 1966-67 Season

By Robert L. Phillips  
Game Biologist

The results of a 1966-67 hunter survey are presented in this report. Of the hunters responding to

this survey, 45 percent hunted squirrels, 15 percent hunted foxes and coyotes, eight percent hunted raccoons and one percent hunted woodchuck. The expanded data revealed a harvest of 1,370,250 squirrels, 113,100 foxes and coyotes, 301,600 raccoons and 15,370 woodchucks.



Fox hunter in winter garb scans fields.

## Catfish Facts

By Bill Welker

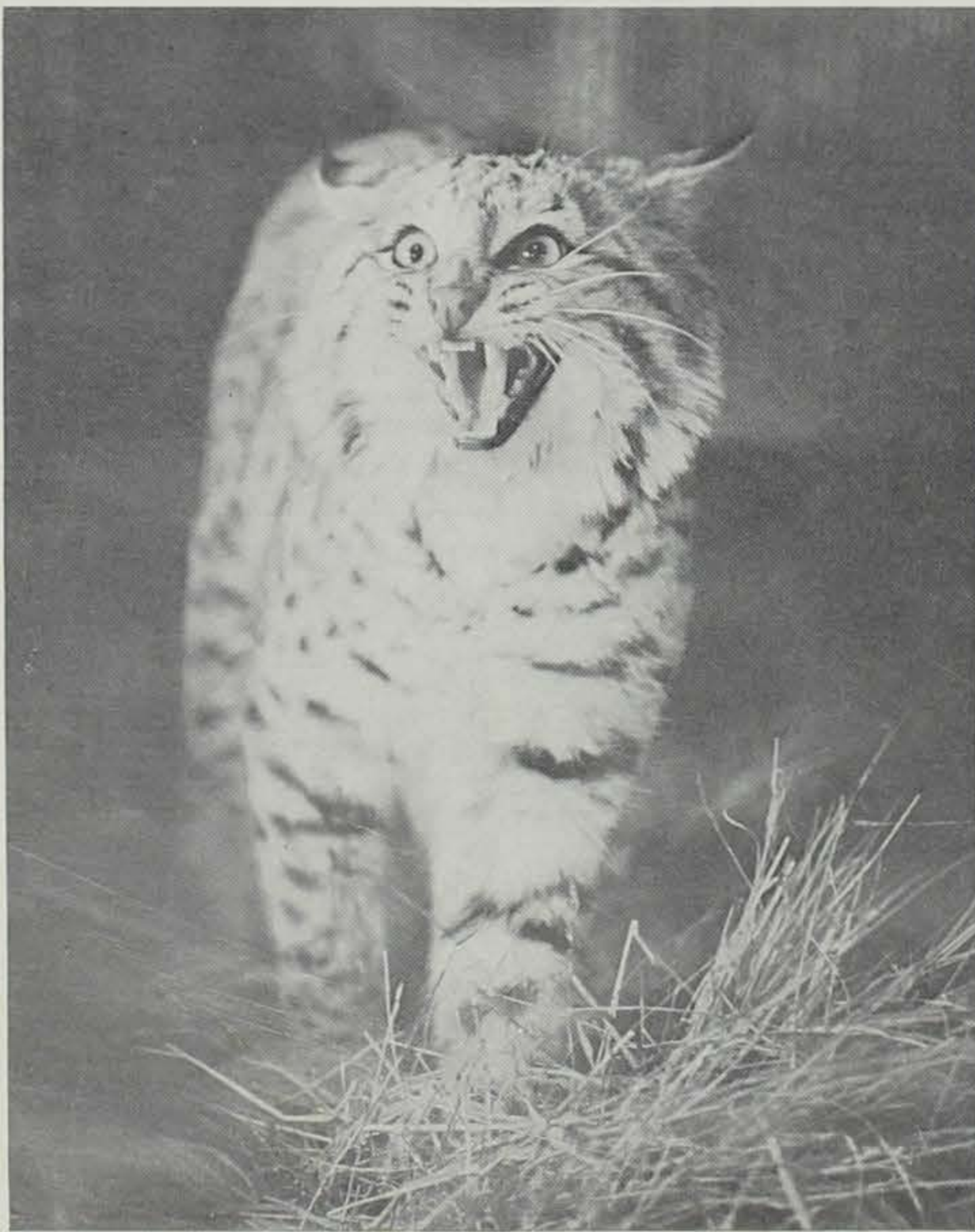
Comparisons of abundance, movement, and growth of channel catfish are made for channeled and unchanneled sections of the Little Sioux River. Catfish were generally more abundant in the unchanneled area during biweekly fishing periods between May and October. Movement was predominantly downstream in both areas. In the unchanneled area 24 percent of the movement was upstream, 70 percent moved downstream, and 7 percent were recaptured at release sites. In the channeled area 26 percent of the tagged moved upstream, 40 percent moved downstream, and 34 percent remained at the point of tagging. Growth rates were similar in both areas.



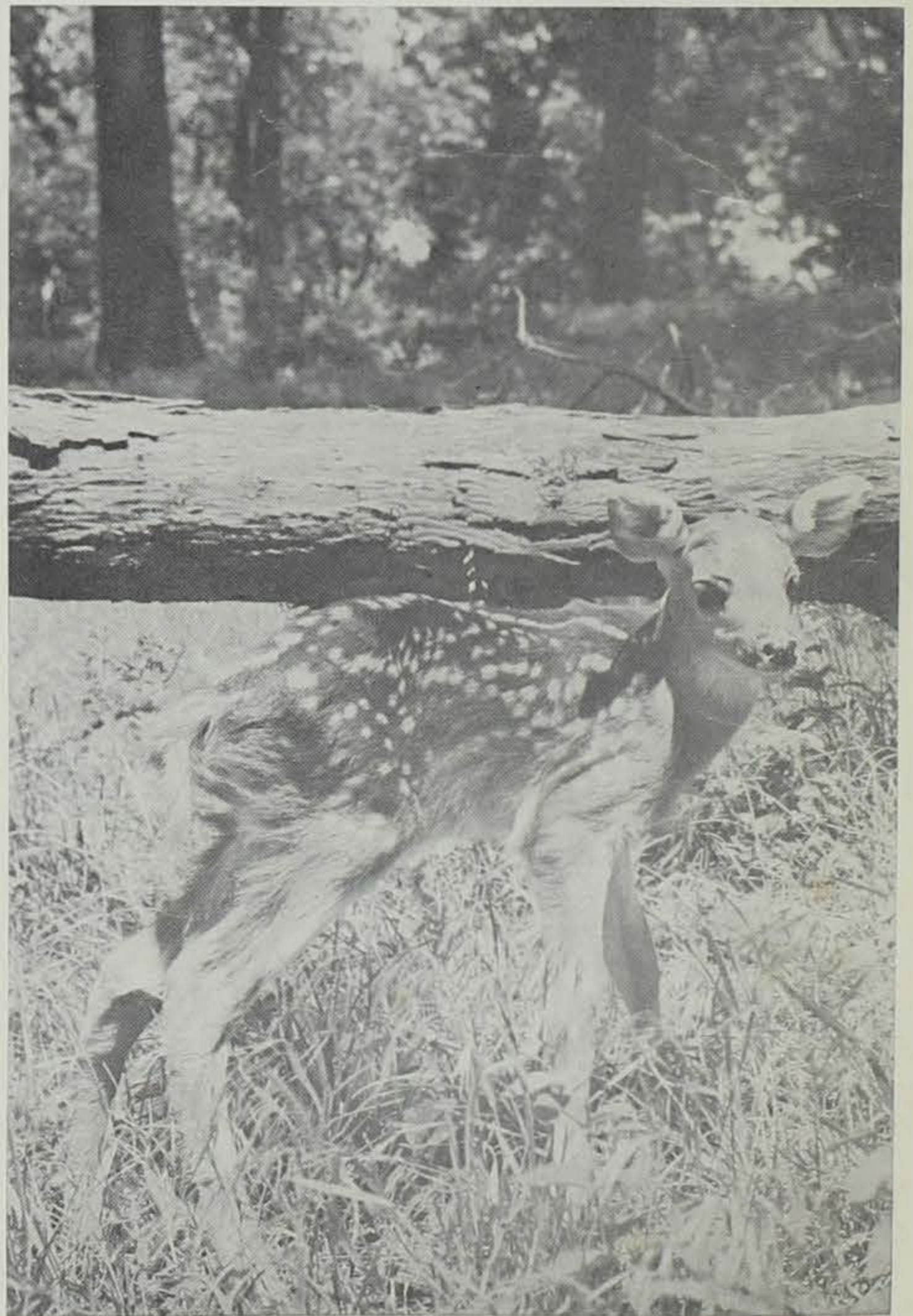
This cute and cuddly young badger will soon grow into one of nature's toughest battlers and be respected by even the largest animals and man.

## NEVER MAKE PETS OF WILD ANIMALS

Aside from being illegal to keep wild animals as pets, the fact that any taming of the animal assures its death later when released as an adult should prevent anyone from taking these creatures from their natural homes. Animals without fear of humans make easy targets in the field. At any age, the wild animal stands a better chance in its natural setting than if taken into a home by well-meaning but ill-informed humans.



This bobcat's attitude should remind anyone to leave wild animals alone.



To keep this fawn as a pet could assure its death when released later as an adult.