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HABITAT — Wildlife's Urgent Need

By Dean Dalziel
 Unit Game Manager

Iowans have witnessed a tremendous change in agricultural practices and farming techniques during the past several decades. Some of the more noticeable changes are the increasing size of the individual farming unit, the trend toward bigger machinery, increased row crops, larger crop fields, a vast decrease in oat acreages and extensive land reclamation projects through tiling and leaching.

All indications point to a widespread intensification of these particular farming practices in future years as the need for food increases with the rise in population.

With this in mind the sportsman might very well ask what will happen to our wildlife populations if these trends continue? This is a good question and one that is not easy to answer. Much will depend on the ability of conservation agencies, sporting groups and other interested organizations to point out what is happening to our wildlife habitat and explain what measures can be taken to remedy the situation.

There are very positive steps that must be implemented if we are to continue to hold our wildlife populations at their present level. It can be done and the key to the problem is **HABITAT**. We are going to have to make up for the habitat that is being lost to drainage and clearing projects by providing shelter belts, windbreaks and nesting areas on marginal ground that, for one reason or another, is unsuitable for farming. It's a big project and one that our State Conservation Commission will not be able to accomplish without your help. However, through the cooperation of interested groups and individuals, both public and private, a start has been made and the work is underway.

Habitat programs are presently being conducted by a number of sportsmen's clubs throughout the state. These habitat areas assist

IOWA CITY IKE HONORED FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



Robert C. "Bob" Russell, Iowa City (second from right), was presented a special commendation by the State Conservation Commission.

Making the presentation on behalf of the Commission are Director E. B. Speaker (left), Chairman Mike Zack, Mason City (right); and Dr. Keith McNurlen, Ames (second from left).

The commendation reads in part . . . "The State Conservation Commission does hereby wish to publicly commend Mr. Robert C. "Bob" Russell, executive secretary of the Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America for the fine effort he has put forth these past years in the interest of conservation and preservation of our natural resources . . . Given in the name of the citizens of Iowa through its Conservation Commission, June 6, 1967."

The commendation was signed by Commissioners Zack, McNurlen; Earl Jarvis, Wilton Junction; Rev. Laurence Nelson, Bellevue; Ed Weinheimer, Greenfield; and Robert Beebe, Sioux City, who was at that time on the Commission.

"We wish to express our deep appreciation to Mr. Russell who has given so fully of his time and effort," said Director Speaker. "He has served the cause of conservation admirably these past years and his contributions have been of great importance to the state of Iowa."

In accepting the commendation, Mr. Russell thanked the Commission for the honor and pledged to continue to work for better conservation.

Mr. Russell has been a member of the Izaak Walton League of America since 1946 when he joined the Johnson County Chapter. He was president of the Johnson County Chapter in 1954 and in 1955, after serving as secretary, vice president and on the board of directors.

Mr. Russell was president of the State Division in 1961 and 1962. He has also served on the state board of directors and as vice president. He is presently a national director.

in providing for the local need, and the clubs should be encouraged to continue in this work. Guidance in this type of program is available through your conservation officer, game manager, district forester, County Conservation Board and others. Trees and shrubs for the project may be obtained from the State Tree Nursery at Ames.

Recently, County Conservation Boards have become more involved

in habitat work—another encouraging note. Some county groups have good habitat programs underway and are willing and able to provide assistance wherever it is needed.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service branch of the Department of Agriculture has a number of programs available to the landowner that are designed to protect existing habitat or establish new plantings. They

are set up on a cost-share basis between the federal government and the individual landowner. Interest and participation in these programs has increased the past years and shows promise. The G-1A practice, for example, will aid the landowner in improving the windbreak around his farm. At the same time it will be providing excellent winter cover for game birds and animals in that vicinity.

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CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE 62,917

COMMISSION MINUTES

State Conservation Commission Meeting Held in Okoboji, Iowa, September 5 and 6, 1967

Walter Barbee, Rear Admiral of the Iowa Navy, welcomed the Commission to Lake Okoboji and commissioned Chairman Zack a Rear Admiral in the Iowa Navy.

The Commission Staff was instructed to cooperate with and work with the State Preserves Advisory Board in preparing the dedication document for the Hayden Prairie Area and that they further cooperate with the Board on the five additional areas to work out the necessary arrangements and plans for their dedication, all documents subject to the approval of the State Conservation Commission.

A motion was made and seconded to purchase land on the Upper Iowa River.

B.O.R. Projects

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Forest City Park Board's Pammel Park development subject to the approval of the Natural Resources Council.

O'Brien County Conservation Board received approval on its Dog Creek Park development.

The town of Wellman was granted permission to acquire land for a future community park.

The Waters Section's request to develop a Water Safety Patrol Headquarters one-half mile west of the community of Fairport was approved.

Land and Waters

The application for license for land on the Mississippi from the Corps of Engineers was approved.

Awarded the contract for the Spillway at Lake of Three Fires in Taylor County to K. S. Kramme, Inc.

The Commission moved to accept a gift of approximately 20 acres of native timber land in Clayton County from Miss Gert-rude M. Merritt of Dubuque.

Fish and Game

The request of the Fish and Game Division to proceed with the construction of the service building at the Red Rock Game Unit Headquarters was authorized.

The Temporary Rule to permit trapping and hunting on Round Lake in Clay County from 12:00 noon, November 30, 1967, to midnight, February 28, 1968, was adopted.

Granted expenditure of \$2,000 for a cooperative Canada goose study.

Permission was granted to purchase options of Skunk River land subject to the approval of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Executive Council.

A motion was made and seconded that the reciprocal fishing agreement between the states of Illinois and Iowa be approved.

County Conservation Board

A request from the Black Hawk County Conservation Board for approval to acquire one acre of land as an addition to their Black Hawk Park was approved.

Buchanan County's Conservation Board received approval to acquire 25.50 acres of land for the purpose of developing a river access area, picnicking, camping and wildlife habitat area on south bank of Wapsipinicon River.

Approval was granted the Delaware County Conservation Board to acquire .50 acres of land by a renewable 10 year lease.

Des Moines County Conservation Board received approval to acquire 18 acres of land as an addition to the Lower Augusta Skunk River Access Area.

A request from the Plymouth County Conservation Board to acquire approximately 60 acres of land for purpose of developing a county park was approved.

Permission was granted the Scott County Conservation Board to acquire 611 acres of land for the purpose of developing a multiple use water oriented outlook recreational area.

A request from the Humboldt and Wright County Conservation Boards for approval of the proposed development plan and report prepared for their Oakdale Park, a project under a cooperative program by these two County Conservation Boards, was granted.

O'Brien County's Conservation Board received approval of their revised development plan and report prepared for their Dog Creek Park Area.

Approval was granted the Shelby County Conservation Board to revise their development plan and report prepared for their Little George Park Area.

Hunters and shooters pour more than \$1.5 billion a year into the nation's economy.

ROVING PARAKEET RETURNED BY THOUGHTFUL PARK MAN

By David Evans

Public Relations Superintendent
 "A very nice man." That is how a three-year-old California girl describes A. J. Rasmussen of the Iowa State Conservation Commission.

Thanks to Rasmussen, who is maintenance man at Lewis and Clark State Park near Onawa, the little California girl was reunited with her lost parakeet.

It all happened like this. Lt. and Mrs. M. C. Coleman, USN, and their daughter, Kari, were driving through Iowa recently from Washington, D. C., to their new home at Skaggs Island, California. Accompanying them was Kari's pet parakeet, Pete. As do many travelers in Iowa, they stopped to camp at Lewis and Clark State Park.

While they were shifting their luggage in the station wagon the next morning prior to breaking camp, Pete's cage door came open and he flew out. Pete no doubt just wanted to see more of Iowa.

As Lt. Coleman explains it: "Pete is a very talented bird who flies freely in the house and will come to anyone holding a bright shiny penny. However, all efforts to find him in the woods that day were to no avail. We resigned ourselves to the fact that Pete was to remain a citizen of Iowa and tried to convince Kari that Pete would be very happy with his new friends."

Finally, the Coleman's had to leave. They placed Pete's cage along with food and pennies at

the picnic table at their campsite and left their new address with Rasmussen. Then they continued their trip west.

Pete was found later by Janet Miller of Onawa who brought the roving parakeet to Rasmussen's house. While he enjoyed his stay in Iowa, Pete, no doubt longed for Kari. Rasmussen wrote to the Colemans saying that Pete had been found and he was taking care of the bird.

The next problem was how to reunite Pete with Kari who was in California. Since parakeets can't be shipped through the regular mail, Rasmussen had to take Pete to Sioux City and ship the bewildered bird by air express at a cost of \$5.64. Pete's thoughts on flying by means other than his own wings are not known. But Kari's delight at the return of Pete is known.

After thanking Rasmussen and rewarding the young lady who found Pete, Lt. Coleman wrote to Governor Harold Hughes and told him about the incident. Lt. Coleman said he wanted the governor to know the gratitude of a small child for the kindness of Rasmussen in helping to return Pete to her.

Rasmussen has been at Lewis and Clark State Park since 1948. It's one of the most popular state parks and during the heavy tourist season will average some 30,000 visitors per month. Lewis and Clark State Park includes 285 acres, a modern campground, lodge and other facilities.

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QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR TEACHES FIREARM SAFETY SCHOOL



Hunter safety instructor Dave Dunlop with seventh grade class at Osage junior high.

By Jack Kirstein

Photography Superintendent

Not only is Dave Dunlop a modern version of the "hired gun," but he has been hired by the Osage junior high school.

For what is apparently the first time in Iowa, a school has hired an instructor to teach hunting and gun safety to its students.

Teaching gun safety is not new for the Osage school system. For the past 10 to 12 years, gun safety assemblies have been included at least once each year on the schedules. About six years ago gun safety classes became a regular part of the curriculum. During these years the classes were taught by members of the school staff.

A. O. Swenson, high school principal for the Osage system, was responsible for backing the plan which began in the senior high school program. Beginning with the senior classes, each succeeding class was given gun safety instruction until the seventh grade level was reached.

At this point, Keith Duncan, junior high principal, inherited the course, and it is now maintained as a part of the seventh grade curriculum.

At present, gun safety is a part of the social studies course for the seventh grade given by teacher Doug Zylstra. For the past two years, the gun safety class had not been more than a token effort, until this year when Doug, Keith, and Mr. Swenson got together and



Junior high school principal Keith Duncan holds gun chart while high school principal A. O. Swenson discusses breech mechanism features of shotgun with Dunlop.

decided to hire an outsider well qualified in gun handling to spend a full week on the program.

This is where Dave Dunlop of Osage came in. Dave is active in the National Rifle Association programs and a hunter safety instructor certified by the State Conservation Commission. In cooperation with local Conservation Officer Alan Roemig, Dave presents a course of instruction backed with movies, slides, charts, graphs and actual guns used for props and models.

The first day, Officer Roemig is present to give the legal side of the hunting-guns picture. Next, three days of intensive instruction is given followed by the fifth and final day which is concerned with tests.

The tests are sent to Des Moines where Charles Olofson, hunter safety officer for the Conservation Commission, checks all results and issues certificates of competency to the students.

Certificates are awarded in a special classroom ceremony with patches to be worn on the students hunting garments. Boys and girls alike are given the course. Their instructors feel that the little time devoted out of the school year to this vital subject is well received by teachers, students, and parents. It is also building a safety sense about guns and hunting into the community and should evolve into a safer citizenry with less accidental shootings. For this the Osage school system may be justly proud.

HOW ABOUT HUNS

By Richard Bishop and
Richard Nomsen, Game Biologists

An exotic immigrant from central and southeastern Europe provides a real test of shooting skill for scattergunners in Iowa. It's the fast-flying Hungarian partridge, or "Hun" as it is often called.

Huns were introduced into north-central Iowa back in 1910. Although they never built up high populations in Iowa, Huns gradually spread over northwest and north-central parts of the state. Shootable populations are found in an area from U. S. Highway 65 west to the Missouri River and from the Minnesota border south to U. S. Highway 20.

Relatively small, a Hun is about half the size of a hen pheasant. Its plumage is generally a mixture of browns and grays. The male has a chestnut brown patch on a cream colored breast. This patch is usually smaller on the female or sometimes absent. Both sexes display a fanned red tail when they flush. They fly very fast and remain in a covey when flushed, except on occasions when hunters scatter the covey.

This swift little bird thrives in areas of intensive agriculture and this explains in part its recent increases in north-central Iowa. They prefer stubble and hayfields in late summer and early fall. In late fall and winter, they are found most commonly in cornfields and plowed fields. Huns prefer cultivated lands compared to natural cover and appear to favor slightly rolling ground with light soil compared to low ground and heavy soil.

Huns possess a high reproductive potential. Some females incubate as high as 23 eggs and the average clutch size is around 15. The partridge in northern Iowa seem to be fairly persistent nesters. They will renest if something happens to their first and sometimes even the second nest. If losses due to predators and farming operations could be avoided, the number of Huns could build up quite rapidly. The choice nesting areas for Huns are road ditches and the borders of grass fields and alfalfa fields. Some nesting occurs in farm lots and areas of good grass cover close to farm buildings.

It appears that in most years the partridge has very low mortality from the time of hatching until winter. Hunting seems to have no effect on Hun populations, because post-season covey observations generally show large covey sizes. Most coveys are family groups that have remained together since hatching.

This then is a brief life history of this unique little bird. But how about hunting the Hun. This is a different story and a very difficult

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HOW ABOUT HUNS . . .

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task. Most Huns are shot by hunters pursuing pheasants when they flush Huns by accident. However, it's possible to hunt strictly for Huns, though it is not recommended for any one short on enthusiasm or patience.

As mentioned before, the majority of the birds are killed incidentally by pheasant hunters. Early in the season there are still many fields of corn and stubble that have not been plowed under, and these are the places where most Huns are flushed. Later in the season, when many fields are plowed and the amount of cover is considerably reduced, the number of Huns encountered by hunters is very low. Unlike pheasants, you can not depend on Huns using any certain cover type. They can be found in picked cornfields, disced cornfields, bean fields, stubble, plowed fields or sometimes along brushy fence rows. Therefore, to hunt any particular spot for one or two coveys of Huns you may have to hunt the entire area. Huns generally do not move over a quarter of a mile in any direction from a central spot in their home range. This can help if you know areas where Huns have been seen earlier in the season. If there are several hunters, it is best to spread out about 50 yards apart and start walking the entire area. Late in the season they are quite commonly found in plowed fields near a cornfield or weedy fence rows. Experience shows that plowed fields can be very productive at that time, and often these plowed fields produce some fine pheasant shooting also.

If at first you don't succeed, keep at it! Slowly narrow down the area of their home range. Many times hunters give up too quick. Once the covey is flushed mark the place they settle down. Carefully move in on this location and if you are lucky you may get in shooting range. Sometimes the birds will run considerable distances after they light. We have experienced situations where the covey appears to have "evaporated" and was not seen again. The key to getting a shot is either luck or persistence. While pursuing a covey last winter, it was jumped five times before we got within shooting range. If you are fortunate, you may bust up a covey and, in most cases, if you mark the singles down you will have some very sporting shooting. Usually the singles will sit tight, sometimes to the point of needing a dog. A dog is very useful in hunting Huns, but you must be able to control it or it will flush the Huns out of range.

Hun hunting is, at the very least, frustrating. Hunters may walk many miles just to flush a covey and when flushed the covey may so surprise them that the birds are out of range with nary a shot being fired. They seem to



IOWA FISH QUIZ

By Lloyd Huff

State Conservation Officer

1. How can the black bullhead be distinguished from the other bullheads?
2. Which species ascends the streams and deposits eggs in nests with spawning activities occurring from September through December?
3. This fish is often confused with the large breeding channel catfish males. It is seldom if ever taken from the inland streams or lakes of Iowa. It is largely confined to the lower reaches of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Name this fish.
4. The suckers are similar in many respects to the minnows and are often confused with them. How can the carp and goldfish be readily distinguished from both the suckers and the other minnows?
5. Three species of bullheads are found in Iowa waters — the black, brown and yellow. They are similar in appearance. All have a white or cream colored belly. How can the yellow bullhead easily be distinguished from the other two?
6. How many families of fish in Iowa have scaleless bodies?
7. The smallmouth bass is frequently confused with the largemouth as they are quite similar in appearance. How can the smallmouth bass be distinguished from the largemouth?
8. How can the brook trout be distinguished from the rainbow and brown at a glance?
9. When the young of this fish are hatched, they are herded along the shoreline by the parents in search of food. If an enemy approaches the parents roll the water by agitating their tails and fins on the bottom and the babies immediately settle to the bottom. When the danger is past, they are collected and again go on their way. Name the fish.
10. The sculpin rarely exceeds four inches in length. The body is robust and it is usually dark olive to brown in color. It has little or no value as bait. In which area in Iowa would you find this fish?

explode all together in a midst of wings, chirps, and red tails. Their speed is such that they are quickly out of range. Often the birds will flush out of range or fly over a hill never to be located again. It all adds up to some very interesting, but difficult hunting. So if you are getting conceited about your hunting ability with Mr. Ringneck, try the Hun and be humbled.

County Hunting Areas

by
Doyle Adams
Assistant Director
County Conservation Activities

If you haven't heard of Mallard Marsh, Ox Bow Lake, Wakpicada, Wickiup Hill, Sleeping Duck Marsh, Hogsback Area or Turvold Woods, you should have. Every hunter should know about these areas and the many others managed by the County Conservation Boards for public hunting.

There are over a hundred of these wildlife areas in Iowa, ranging in size from tiny half-acre farm-game habitat areas to the large 1,072-acre Matsell Game Area and the 1,162-acre Chichaqua Wildlife Area. Twenty-two counties throughout the state list hunting areas, totalling over 7,800 acres, in their 1967 Area Directory, with others not restricting hunting on their undeveloped and forest areas. Still other areas, or parts of areas, listed as parks, river accesses and fishing areas are open to hunting for part of the fall, or perhaps only for a certain species. For instance, a park area may be opened only during the month of December for the hunting of rabbits.

Prior to the 1955 enactment of the county conservation board law, Iowans had to hunt on the state-owned game management areas or try to find a place on private land. With human populations and hunting pressures increasing and game habitat and available land on which to hunt decreasing each year, concerned sportsmen required more public lands to hunt on. Many of the newly established County Conservation Boards accepted the chal-

lenge and began to acquire marsh areas, river accesses, forest lands, and in some cases, agricultural ground in part, for public hunting. Some of these areas required no development and were open to hunting immediately. Others, such as marsh areas, needed major development to make them usable. Dikes, control structures, boat ramps, and roads and parking lots were constructed. On suitable ground, wildlife cover and food patches were planted.

A typical county marsh would consist of a small natural wet area on which a dam would be constructed in order to make a larger water area, or an artificial marsh impounded by erecting a dam and water control structure in a small creek or watershed drainage. An access road and parking lot would be built with a boat ramp adjacent to it. The outside boundaries would be fenced, interior fences removed, regulation signs placed, and trees and shrubs planted for wildlife cover on the high ground remote from the water. If there is agricultural ground in the area, it could be leased by a nearby farmer with a portion of the crop left in the field for winter wildlife food, or planted to food patches by the County Conservation Board. An area such as this would be managed primarily for waterfowl with some upland game hunting around the marsh. Trapping of muskrats, mink, and other furbearers, and the hunting of furbearers, such as raccoon and fox, could also be permitted.

Another popular type of area available to the hunter are lands purchased primarily as a river access for fishermen and boaters or a river "green belt" through a county. This would be basically river bottom and flood plain timber with perhaps some hardwood trees on the slopes and cropland on the higher ground. Little development is needed on these areas other than access roads, boundary fences, and maybe some wildlife cover plantings and good patches. Hunting would be mainly for squirrels, deer and raccoon in the timbered parts with some pheasants, quail and rabbits available in the grass and brush sections.

Since each County Conservation Board and the areas developed by these boards are separate from those in other counties, the rules and regulations on the use of individual areas may vary considerably. Although a county may adopt the same laws as the State Conservation Commission, there are no state-wide regulations and each county sets its own policies. Information on the county regulations and the public areas open to hunting can be obtained from the county court house or from local board members or employees.

With 91 of Iowa's 99 counties having Conservation Boards now, and more recreation areas being

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HABITAT . . .

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In response to the growing need for wildlife habitat, the State Conservation Commission has conducted its Farm Game Habitat program on a state-wide basis for a number of years. The program is designed to establish shelter belts, field windbreaks, travel lanes and nesting areas where they are urgently needed. Special emphasis has been placed on the program in northern Iowa, due to the widespread drainage and clearing work that has been done there. The urgent need was brought forcefully to our attention by the March blizzards of 1965. The storms produced disastrous results in what had formerly been among the top pheasant producing areas of the state. The birds that survived were the ones that were able to find adequate winter cover in which to ride out the blizzard. Where cover conditions were inadequate the birds died. It may take years to build this pheasant population back to where it was before the storm. In fact, we may never again see the large concentrations of birds in that area. The reason why can be pretty well summed up—a shortage of undisturbed nesting area and the lack of good winter cover.

We must ask ourselves the following question. "With existing conditions as they are, what is to stop another blizzard from taking a further toll this winter or in some future winter? Again, the key answer is **HABITAT**. We are going to have to try and put back at least a part of the habitat that is being lost.

The State Conservation Commission's Farm Game Habitat program consists of a cooperative agreement between the landowner and the State of Iowa. It provides for the establishing of a wildlife habitat planting on a particular piece of real estate that is owned or operated by an interested individual. The tract of ground could be anywhere from one acre to 10 acres in size. It might be a piece of marginal ground that is not profitable to farm, or it could be a waste area, abandoned lane or field corner. The tract is leased to the State Conservation Commission for a period of 10 years for the purpose of establishing a wildlife habitat area. The Conservation Commission will furnish the necessary trees and shrubs from the State Nursery, plant them and provide labor and materials to fence the area, if this is deemed advisable. In return, the landowner is obligated to maintain the area for its intended purpose by preventing damage from fire, spraying and grazing by domestic stock. The owner must also permit a reasonable amount of hunting on his farm. At the end of the 10 year period the lease may either be extended or terminated.



HABITAT . . . Important

The Farm Game Habitat work in Iowa is authorized and financed under the Pittman-Robertson program. This is a cooperative agreement whereby the federal government furnishes 75 percent of the necessary operating funds and state government provides the remaining 25 percent. The federal funds are obtained from the 11 percent manufacturers excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. The state's money comes from the sale of hunting licenses. In this type of program the hunter is paying his way in providing for his future recreational activities and insuring that there will continue to be an adequate supply of wildlife in the area.

While the Farm Game Habitat program plays an important part in facing up to the problem at hand, it is not designed to handle the job alone. The job is too enormous for one agency to handle. We need to take advantage of every available form of help that we can muster. Providing adequate habitat for our wildlife populations is going to be a tremendous task for all of us. Don't plan on leaving it up to a few individuals. There is room for everyone to take part in a project of this magnitude. Our wildlife populations will certainly benefit from it, and in the long run, so will we.

COUNTY . . .

(Continued from page 84)

purchased each year, it is up to everyone to make known to their board the type of areas they want and need. If you feel that your county should have more wildlife and hunting areas, or that some of the existing areas should be opened instead of closed to hunting the year around, contact the board or your closest board member and let him know your ideas. He was appointed, you know, to spend your money to provide the type of recreation you want.

Don't mark the trail around your campsite with food remnants and used cartons. You can take it with you! Carry a litterbag for convenience—and courtesy.

The Odds Favor the Hunter Who Hunts

There's an old saying among fishermen that makes a lot of sense where success is concerned. It reads, "You can't catch fish unless your line is in the water." The man with a line in the water, tyro though he may be, has a chance to catch more fish than the man who sits on the shore with his rod propped against a tree.

And so it is with hunting, be it small game or big game. There isn't anything magical about the hunter who consistently gets his deer, who shoots most of the grouse, or who regularly fills his daily quota on pheasant and other game. He hasn't been born under a lucky star, as his less successful hunting partners seem to think. Chances are he just works harder.

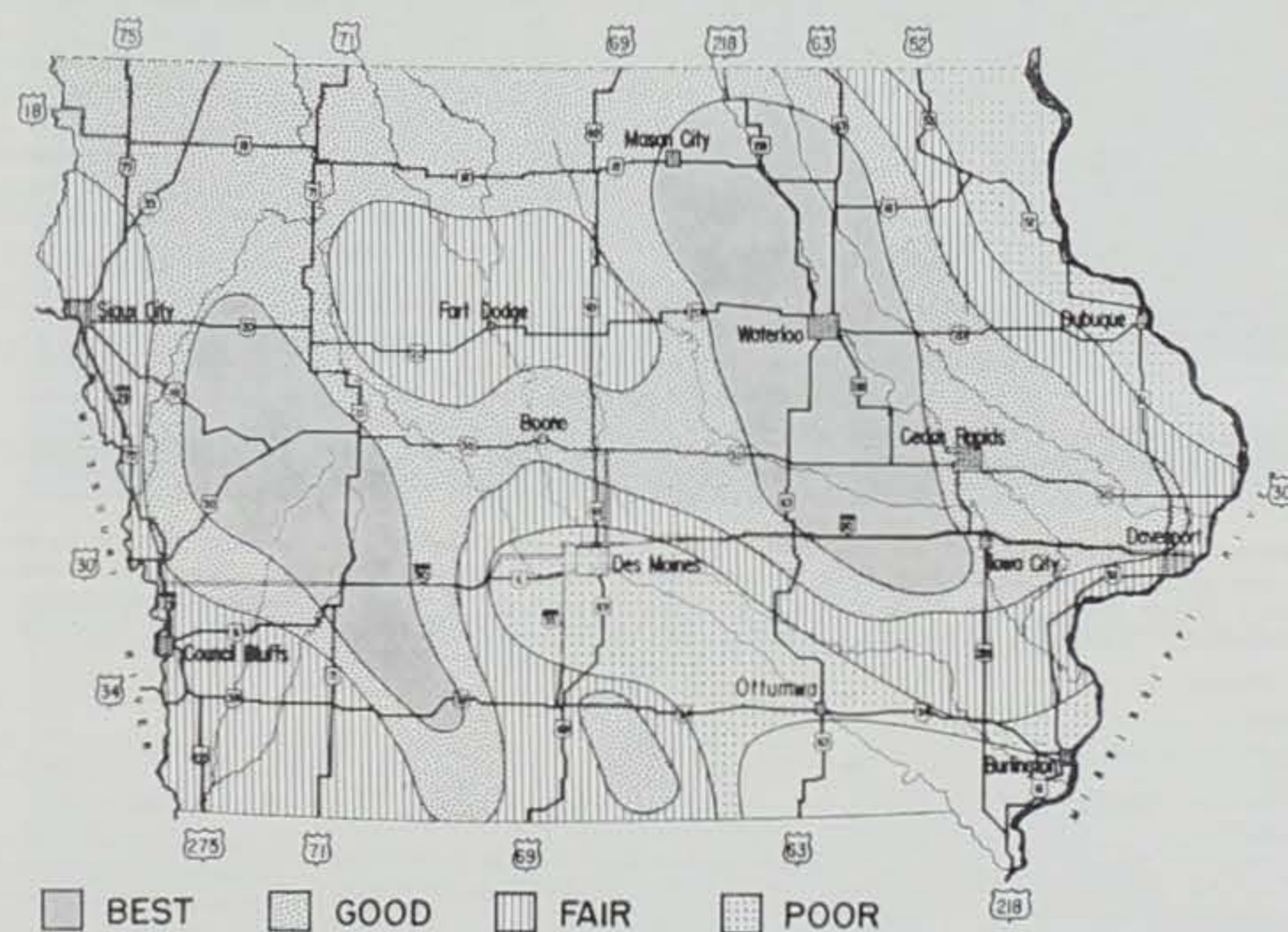
Take a close look at him this fall. In order to do it you'll have to rise early, as he does. He's in

the woods before the crack of dawn. If you plan to stay with him, you'll have to pack a lunch. He doesn't come in for a noontime snack or a midmorning cup of coffee. He'll be out there until nightfall, working every minute of every hour.

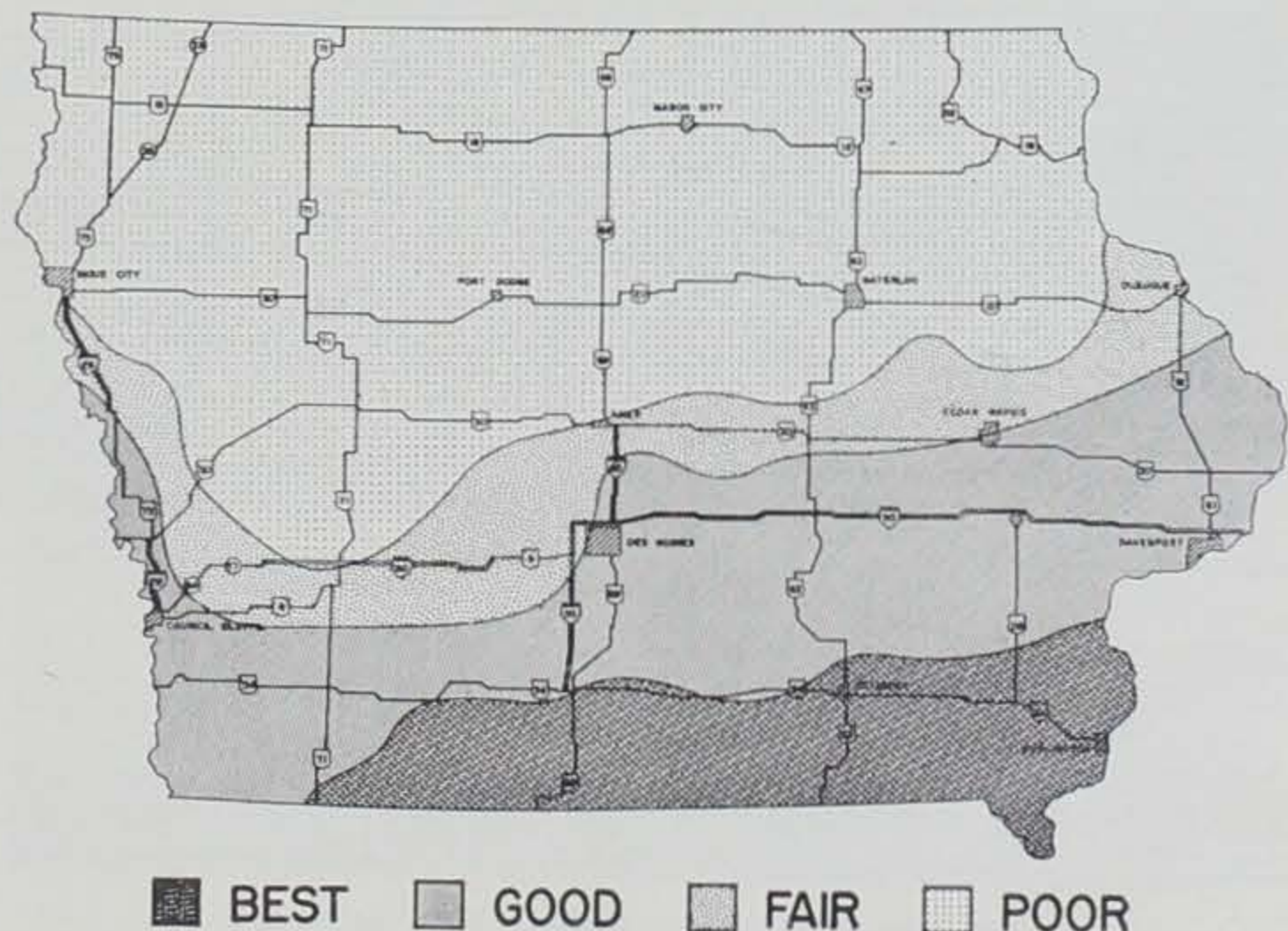
If he takes a moment to relax, it will be in the woods where the game is, not in camp where his chances of getting a shot are practically nil. Should the weather get nasty, be it rain or snow, he'll stay out there if possible because experience has taught him that bad weather, although uncomfortable, can sometimes give him an advantage.

Like the persistent fisherman, he's working all the time. He's quiet. His eyes are always searching. He sees more game, gets more action and learns more about the quarry he seeks because he spends more time in the woods than he does in camp.

IOWA PHEASANT DISTRIBUTION



IOWA QUAIL DISTRIBUTION



MUZZLELOADING MAKES FOR MIGHTY FINE SHOOTING



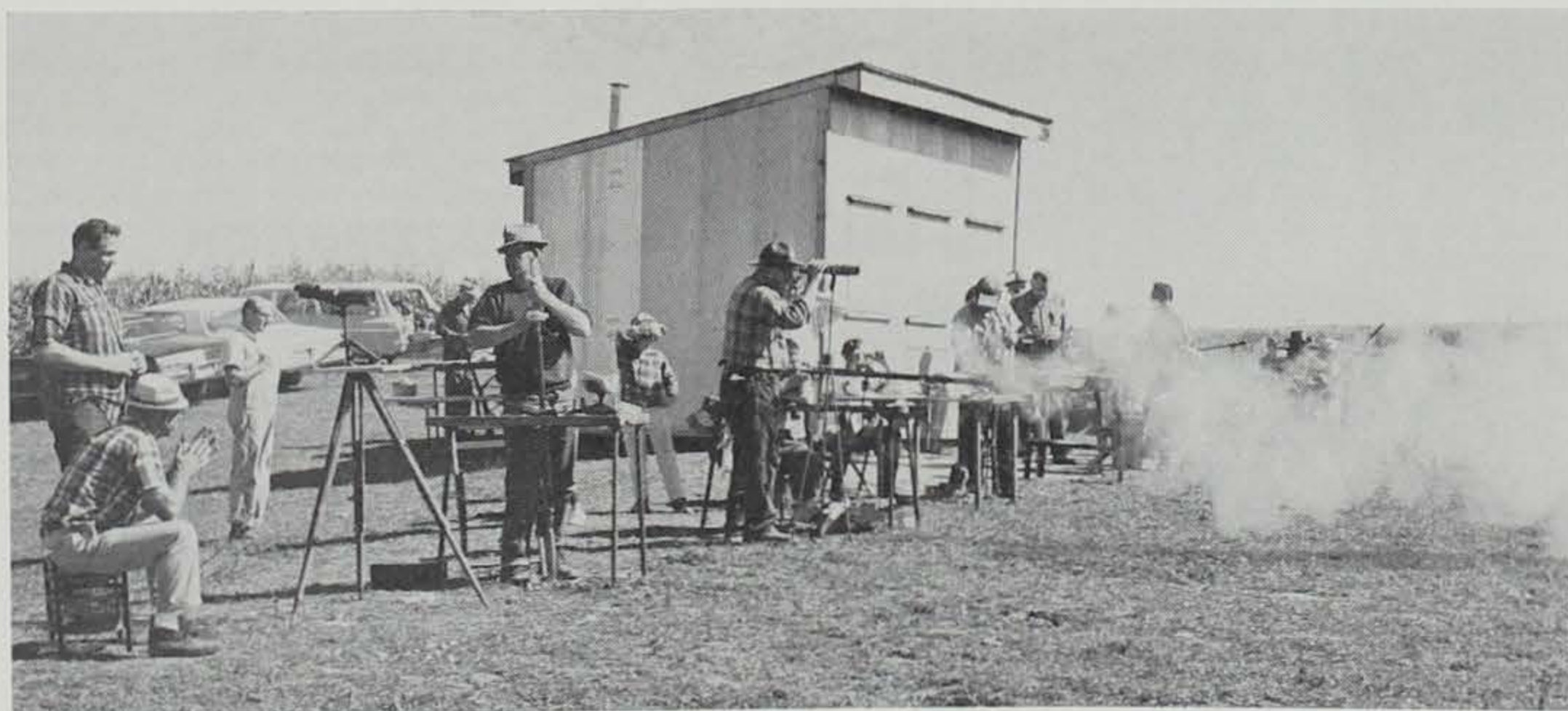
Colorful costumes highlighted the 14th Iowa Rifle and Pistol Muzzle-loading Match held at the Pioneer Muzzleloader Rifle Club Range northwest of Runnells. The contestant shown above rams home a 45 caliber round ball on top of a 35 grain charge of black powder to ready his Kentucky flintlock. Patterned after a late 1700 piece, this rifle has a 43 1/4 inch barrel.



This .445 caliber Kentucky style flintlock, sporting a 10-inch barrel and loaded with 25 grains of 3FG black powder is enough for any man to handle.



At 50 yards such a group speaks for itself. The accuracy of these flintlocks commands respect from all marksmen.



Smoke billows from the firing line at the two-day shoot held last September. The event attracted 41 entrants from Iowa and neighboring states.

FISH QUIZ ANSWERS

1. By the light colored band at the base of the tail fin.
2. The brook and brown trout.
3. The blue catfish.
4. By the stiff sharply serrated spines in the dorsal and anal fins.
5. The yellow bullhead has white or cream colored barbels or whiskers on the chin. The barbels on the brown and black bullhead are dusky or black.
6. The catfish, lamprey and paddlefish.
7. In the smallmouth the upper jaw extends about to the center of the pupil of the eye. The upper jaw of the largemouth extends beyond the eye.
8. The brook trout has vivid white markings on the front edge of the lower fins.
9. Bullhead.
10. It is found largely in the cold streams of northeast Iowa and a few spring-fed creeks in eastern Iowa.

WATERFOWL ON THE INLAND RIVERS

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Have you ever wondered what happened to the big flock of ducks on your favorite marsh or pothole shortly after the shooting begins? Or have you ever watched a tired flock of geese using a river valley for a road map and tried to figure out where they would decide to rest or perhaps spend the night? Many of these birds can be found on Iowa's inland rivers and the size of the river has little bearing on waterfowl use. Hunting these winding waterways can be both exciting and productive with methods of hunting them varying with each individual river.

Decoy Hunting

Probably the easiest and many times the most successful way to hunt a river is to make the birds come to you. This can be accomplished best by using decoys.

A sand bar on the bend of a river is the ideal setting for your spread. Pick a place with no tall trees close by so there is plenty of room for the birds to circle regardless of the direction of the wind. Your blind can be made by digging a shallow pit in the sand and surrounding it with driftwood, or if the river or the sand bar is small enough, merely build it out of willows on the river bank. Many times the latter type of blind is preferable if you intend to hunt the same area all season since a rise in the river can flood a pit, necessitating a new blind to be built.

Decoys should be set close to the water's edge, or even on the sand itself. Goose decoys can be placed on the bar to give the impression geese are resting or picking up gravel. However, your duck decoys should be in the water or very close to it.

Ducks and geese both like to fly shortly after daylight and decoys are especially valuable at that time. Even birds that do not intend to land will usually dip down over the "blocks" for a look and give you a passing shot. This is much more apparent on a small river than on a marsh or larger river, possibly due to the birds not seeing as many other waterfowl and therefore being more attracted to those they do see. Teal, wood ducks and bluebills are very susceptible to a good spread of decoys on a river, but many mallards and geese can be taken too.

Jump Shooting

For the more energetic or impatient hunters another productive method of hunting small rivers is for you to go to the birds. River walking requires almost as much preparation as decoy hunting, but of a different kind.

If you are hunting alone, it means that you must have someone meet you at a pickup point or that you retrace your steps back to the car. Usually it is best to have a meeting place where a road crosses the stream a few miles from where you start.

If there are two of you who want to walk the river and you have two cars, you can leave one at the pickup point and both go to the starting point or you can use an alternate walking plan. This tactic is accomplished by one man starting while the second man takes the car to the next bridge or access point and starts walking on from there. When the first man reaches the car he "leap frogs" the stretch being walked by his partner, leaves the car at the next access point and starts walking on to the succeeding point.

Dress light, even on a cool day, since you will work up a sweat once you start walking. A pair of hip boots, while not absolutely necessary, are a big help in retrieving birds and crossing streams. One important thing to remember is to be sure and leave the car keys at a predetermined place on the car or you may end up waiting several miles from the car while your partner sits beside the car awaiting your return.

Floating

One of the most enjoyable methods of hunting the inland rivers is by boat or canoe. Provided the river is not too shallow, long distances can be covered with very little effort in this manner. All that is needed is a shallow running boat or canoe, with some brush, willows, oak leaves or grass in front to form a type of blind and a set of oars or a paddle to hold the boat straight. A stern paddle such as used in a scull boat works very well while hunters that use oars prefer to sit facing the front pushing on the oars.

One innovation an acquaintance of mine used early in the season was an inner tube on which a harness was fixed so that it fit around

his waders. A bit of grass completed his walking and floating blind so that he could go down the river floating in the deep areas and walking in the shallow ones. Many times he could get right next to unsuspecting ducks and geese before they knew he was there.

With any type of float hunting it is usually best to stay as close to the bank as possible and watch far ahead. When you come to a bend in the river stay close to the inside edge and ease around slowly. Also watch the slack water areas behind brush piles as this is a favorite loafing place for ducks. A pair of binoculars is invaluable in checking the sand bars and quiet water areas. It is also well to keep an eye open for birds flying along the river since you can get some excellent pass shooting at times while you are floating. Never try to float in a bright shiny or light colored boat or canoe. No camouflage can completely shut out the flashes of color or glare of the sun from bright colors.

Approaching Birds

Once you see some ducks or geese ahead you have to figure out the best strategy for getting within shooting range. Mallards and geese are difficult to float close to since they may be scared by the unusual clump of brush advancing toward them. Other ducks, however, can be easily approached by floating if they can detect no movements from your boat. However, usually it is best to try a land approach. By marking the birds' location with a special tree or other landmark and staying back from the river until you are straight across from them, you can quietly slip through the willows until you are in good shotgun range. Even wary Canada geese can be taken by this method.

If the river is wide and it is difficult to get close enough, a good plan, for two hunters, is for them to approach from both sides and on opposite sides of the river. Then if one hunter inadvertently flushes the birds, or even if one hunter gets a shot, the survivors will usually flair close to his partner.

A good retrieving dog is a great asset for the river hunter since many of even the small rivers are difficult to wade. But this type of hunting is no place for the dog that won't mind. A good water dog that will stay at "heel" until you shoot is the kind you need.

Waterfowl like and use the quiet little rivers throughout the state and even prefer them at times. If you are not afraid to work a little for your birds and want a little more elbowroom than you have on our crowded marshes, try hunting our inland rivers.



Well placed decoys on the river will bring ducks to you.

HUNTERS SHOULD SEE AND BE SEEN

By Charles "Butch" Olofson
Hunter Safety Officer

Fall is here again. That time of year when every man and boy wants to grab their "shootin iron" and head for the woods, marshes and fields in pursuit of their favorite game bird or animal.

Hunters should be very careful to see and positively identify what they are shooting at. They should also be seen by other hunters in the field. That is, he should wear some type of clothing that is consistently visible under all weather and light conditions.

This year, for the first time in Iowa's history, a law was passed by the 62nd General Assembly requiring gun deer hunters to wear color protective clothing. The new law went into effect July 1, 1967, and reads as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer with firearm unless the person is, at the time, wearing one or more of the following articles of visible apparel: vest, coat, jacket, hat or cap, the color of which shall be orange and shall provide an iridescent effect."

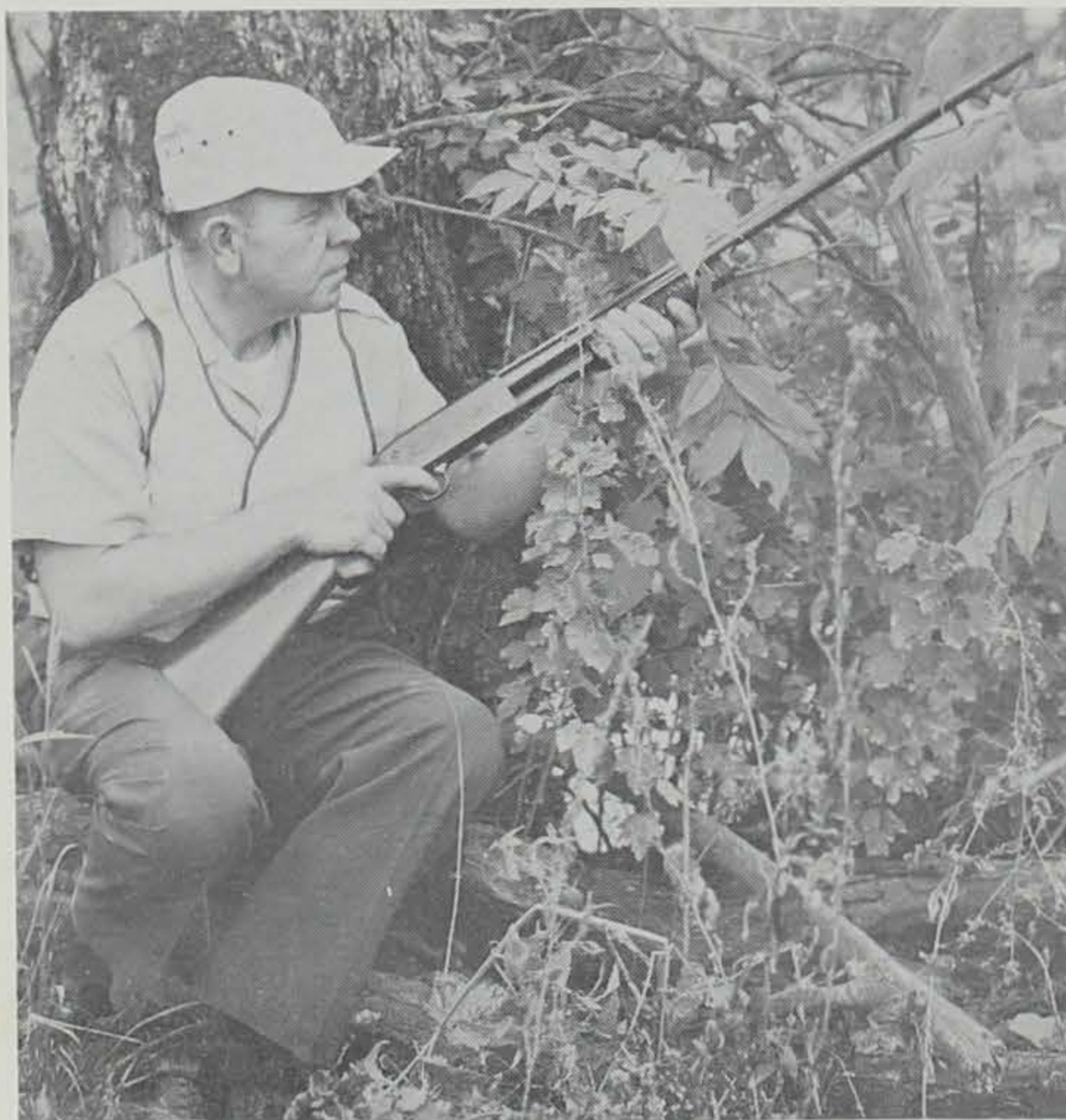
This simply means when any person is hunting deer in Iowa with a gun he must wear one of the articles of clothing listed in the above law that is iridescent orange (sometimes called "blaze orange" or "fluorescent orange") in color. Deer hunters who hunt with a bow and arrow do not have to comply with this law.

This law will not cause any particular hardship on the hunter as far as having to purchase expensive hunting clothing. A blaze orange cap may be bought for 79 cents on up. He would be complying with the law if he wore only a blaze orange cap or hat while hunting deer. Or, if he wishes to obtain a blaze orange vest, this may be purchased for 77 cents and up. The deer hunter needs to wear only one of the articles mentioned in the law.

There has been some concern that this color is too bright and conspicuous. According to the experts, deer are color blind. Everything appears gray to them. Deer are more frightened of movement. Actually the hunter should be more concerned as to how he moves in the woods and how much noise he makes.

Blaze or fluorescent orange is a very wise choice of color for gun hunters to wear. This was proven by Army tests at Fort Devens, Mass. in 1959. Color tests were conducted at Fort Devens to determine which color affords a hunter the most protection. Blaze orange should not be mistaken for a game animal.

After 30,154 observations by unbiased military personnel, eight percent of whom were known to have defective color perception, fluorescent "blaze-orange" was found to be the most consistently visible under all conditions of the colors tested. It was closely followed by fluorescent "neon-red." Other colors ranged downward in detectability with ordinary red and yellow at the bottom of the list.



Olofson models "blaze orange" vest and hunting cap that appear white in photo.

Present Massachusetts law requires that deer hunters wear either red or yellow. With the Massachusetts deer season opening December 7 the committee in charge of the tests recommended that hunters choose either fluorescent "blaze-orange" or fluorescent "neon-red" if available. Lacking this, hunters should choose the brightest shades of red or orange they can find. If yellow is used, avoid the light shades. The more orange it looks, the better.

Ordinary yellow showed tendency to be dangerous if worn while deer hunting. In one part of the test, 78 riflemen were taken on a range using disappearing targets of various colors and instructed to fire only at white targets. Nine of them also fired at yellow targets, indicating that they mistook yellow for white.

Tests by the Navy also have indicated that yellow objects could be mistaken for white. The dangers of wearing white or anything that could be mistaken for white while hunting white-tailed deer are apparent.

So remember when you head for the field this fall. It's mighty important to see other hunters and also be seen. Wearing the "blaze" or "fluorescent orange" may save you from getting shot.

CONSERVATION AWARDS TO BROADCASTERS

Two Iowa broadcasters received awards of merit from the American Association for Conservation Information.

Tate Cummins of Cedar Rapids was presented the award "for over 20 years of promoting better understanding of the outdoors as sportscaster for WMT Radio."

Dick Johnson of Fort Dodge was presented the award "for unusually effective contributions to conservation information through his programs over Station KQTV."

In presenting the awards, David Evans, superintendent of public re-

lations for the State Conservation Commission, praised the two men for their efforts and contributions.

"You have provided a valuable service to conservation through your radio and television programs," he said.

The State Conservation Commission is a member of the American Association for Conservation Information which is made up of 44 states and six Canadian Provinces plus information specialists from a number of federal government agencies and associated conservation groups.



Johnson receives AACI award from Evans.



Presentation made to Cummins.