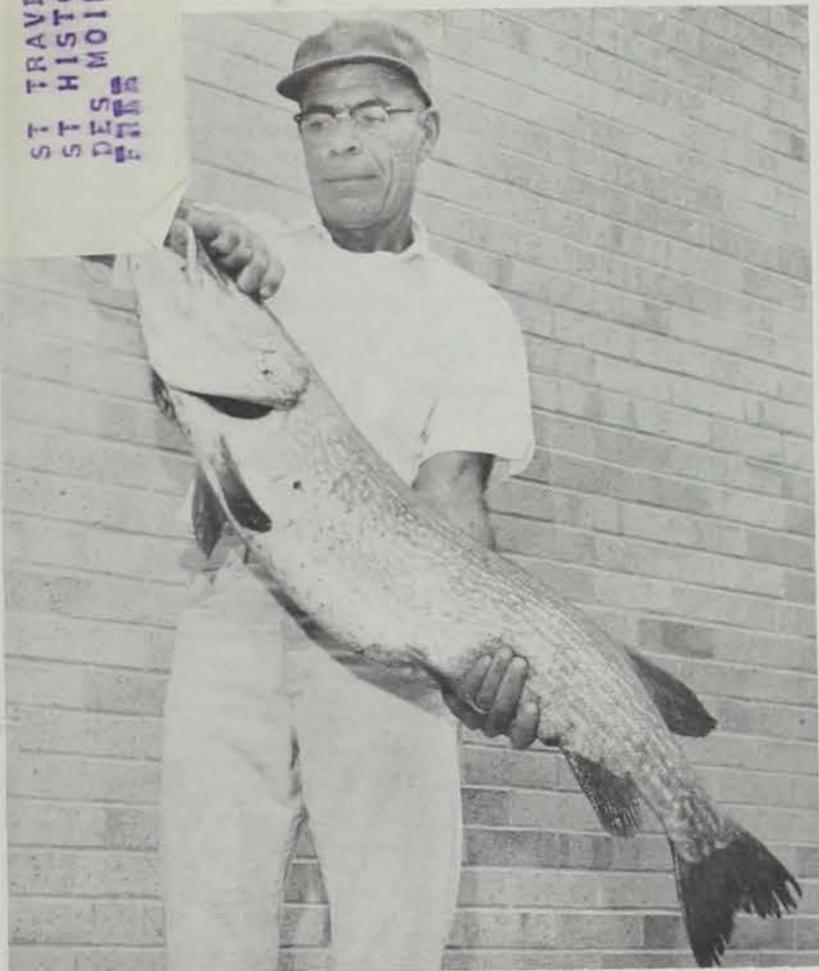




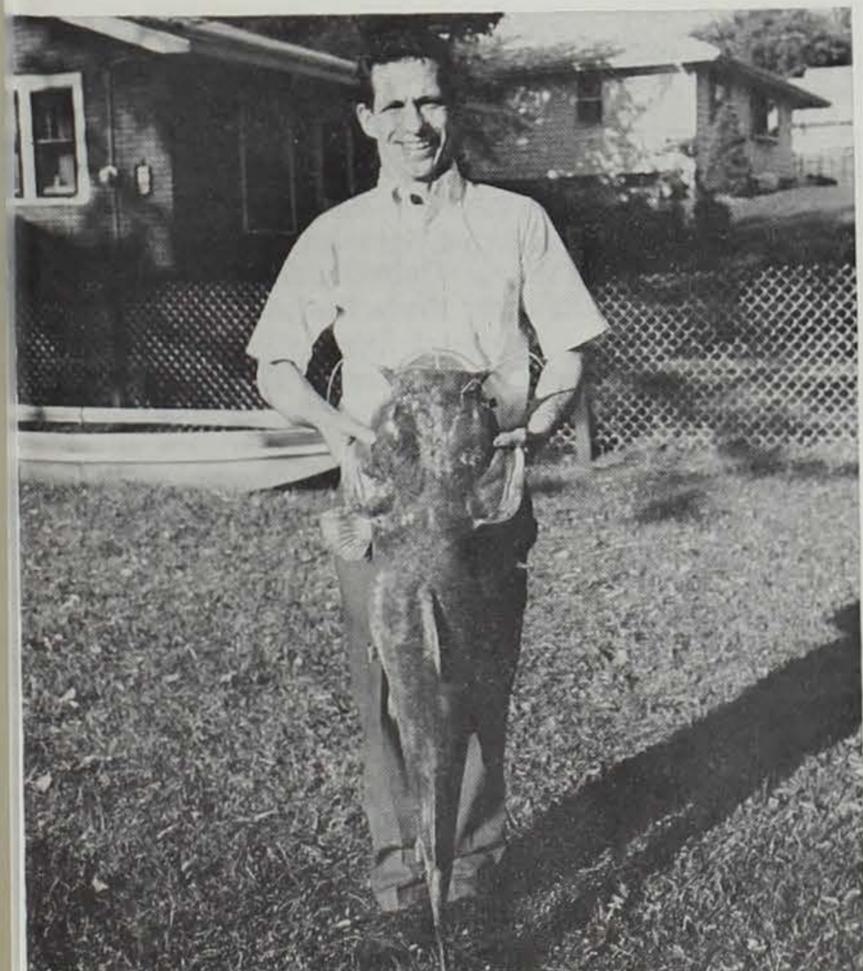
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 January, 1969
 Volume 28
 Number 1
 IOWA TRAVELING LIBRARY
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New Records Set In Big Fish Contest



The standing Iowa record was broken last August when Lyle Hetrick of Laurens caught this big northern—21 lb. 14 oz., 42 inches.



Norman King, of Des Moines, landed his 40-lb. flathead catfish in September, 1968.

Anglers were busy establishing new state records in the 1968 official Big Fish Records registry of the State Conservation Commission. Record fish were taken in four species categories with one other being tied.

Thirty-seven entries meeting minimum weight requirements are listed in this issue of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST along with 17 standing state record catches.

Richard Milner, Sr., of Council Bluffs captured a new state record when he landed a 9-pound 15¼-ounce largemouth bass. Using a spinning outfit and a plastic night crawler on a hook, Milner caught his prize at Cold Springs State Park in Cass County.

Iowa waters produced a 21-pound 14-ounce record breaking Northern for Lyle Hetrick of Laurens. The catch measured 42¼ inches and was caught with a red and white daredevil on a 6-pound test line.

Richmond Springs in Delaware County produced a number of sizable rainbow trout including a winner taken by James Niles of Waterloo. The trout weighed in at 13 pounds 8 ounces and measured 32 inches.

In northwest Iowa another state record was captured at Spirit Lake by Herbert Aldridge of Spirit Lake. He landed a 14-pound 2-ounce walleye measuring 31½ inches.

Bob Stevenson of Washington, with his 4-pound 19-inch catch, tied the state crappie record set in 1964 by Harold Conrad of Keota. Both fish were caught at Lake Darling in Washington County weighing and measuring identically.

Anglers are reminded that although they may have caught larger fish than some of those entered for the records, they must register their fish with the Conservation Commission before it can find its way into the official Iowa big fish records. Information on how to register a fish for the records follows:

(continued on page 4)

Iowa Conservationist

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COMMISSION MINUTES

State Conservation Commission
 Meeting Held in Shenandoah, Iowa
 November 6, 1968

Adopted policy statement which would give the States authority to control, regulate and manage fish and present wild-life within their territorial boundaries.

The following projects were approved for submission to the BOR for federal cost sharing under the Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Program:

Sioux City—Mary Treglia Park—Acquisition—.84 of an acre.

Dubuque County Conservation Board—New Wine Township Park—Acquisition—41 acres.

Hardin County Conservation Board—Iowa River Green Belt (Ferris Wilderness Segment)—Acquisition—42.9 acres.

Town of Clive—Community Park—Development.

Page County Conservation Board—Nodaway Valley Park—Development.

The following requests for project agreement amendments to increase Federal assistance previously approved projects were submitted and approved.

Marion County Conservation Board—Roberts Creek Park—Development.

City of Decorah—Decorah Camping Area—Development.

Approved the exercise of nine land purchase options on the Volga River Project in Fayette County, totaling 938 acres.

Approved the exercise of a 112.5-acre land purchase option on Brush Creek Lake.

The following County Conservation Board Projects were approved:

Grundy County Conservation Board—Land Acquisition—Stoehr Fishing Area Addition—2.30 acres.

Kossuth County Conservation Board—Land Acquisition—Michaelsen Marsh Addition—45 acres.

Marshall County Conservation Board—Land Acquisition—French Grove Park—27.87 acres.

Our Readers Write . . .

Dear Sirs:

I am enclosing a check for \$2.00 for the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST for 48 months. I taught in Iowa schools for 16 years and used the CONSERVATIONIST. I have been teaching in California for 17 years and, on a visit to Iowa in 1966 I ordered the CONSERVATIONIST at the State Fair. My 6th graders enjoy it very much. We make much use of it in our Conservation program.

Please mail to the same address.

Sincerely,
 Eva M. Lee
 Cloverdale, California

Dear Sirs:

I enjoy the CONSERVATIONIST a lot and look forward to receiving it each month. My wife and I are bird watchers. We feed about 20 birds (wild) a week. We have found they like our feeder better than any other we have tried. Two 50-gallon drums with an old card table on top. They also like oleo or margarine better than suet. Gravel mixed with feed helps.

Lowell A. Cap
 Shellsburg, Iowa

Dear Sirs:

This month we received two issues of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST. I am enclosing these two address tags and hope you can extend the original subscription. My husband is an avid hunter and really enjoys the magazine. He's quick to point out any recipes for wild game. I wasn't brought up in a family that hunted but used to accompany him before the children came along.

Keep up the good work.

Mrs. H. H. Zilm
 Duncombe, Iowa

Polk County Conservation Board — Land Acquisition — Saylor Recreation Center Addition—3.15 acres.

Grundy County Conservation Board—Development Plan—Stoehr Fishing Area Revision.

Lee County Conservation Board—Development Plan—Chatfield Park Area.

Plymouth County Conservation Board — Development Plan — Big Sioux Park Area.

Contracts were awarded for the following work:

Lake Anita State Park, Cass County—Construction of Standard Timber Park Shelters.

Bellevue State Park (Dyas Area), Jackson County — Construction of Sewage Stabilization Pond, Sewer and Water Lines and Trailer Sanitary Station.

Springbrook State Park, Guthrie County—Construction of Sewer, Water Lines, and Drinking Fountains.

Spring Lake State Park, Greene County—Construction of Water Well.

East Okoboji (Watershed No. 2) Dickinson County — Construction of Reinforced Concrete Box Inlet on Existing County Road Culvert.

Viking Lake State Park, Montgomery

County—Construction of Standard Concrete Water Storage Tank and Incidentals.

Bellevue State Park (Dyas Area) Jackson County—Construction of Shelters, Showers and Toilet Building.

Entered into an agreement with the Bellevue Golf Club for water supply at Bellevue State Park.

Approved the following request for budget transfer in the Fish and Game Division for the Riverton Area—Swanson Acquisition: From Dingell—Johnson Wildlife Development—\$50,000 was transferred to Pittman-Robertson Land Acquisition.

Tentatively approved the Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, North Shore Island Harbor Development Project, subject to the initiation of an agreement including stipulations of the Commission guidelines covering developments of this type.

Awarded contract, contingent on approval of Natural Resources Council, for construction of a diversion dam in the West Fork of the Cedar River to fill the Big Marsh Area in Butler County.

Permitted the city of Creston to withdraw 1.5 feet of water from Greene Valley Lake to replenish the City Reservoir.

Time To "Face Up"

by
William Boswell
Assistant Director

For any government agency to successfully carry out its duties and responsibilities it must have adequate funds and proper legislation.

Your State Conservation Commission is no exception. The need for funds is obvious. With Iowans having more leisure time the pressures and interest in outdoor recreation have grown at a tremendous rate. And the Conservation Commission is hard pressed to keep up with the demands of the public for recreation areas and facilities.

During 1968 approximately ten million people visited state parks and recreation areas—an increase of nearly one million since 1965. The number of campers using state-owned facilities is increasing at the rate of over 20,000 each year. These two facts emphasize the demand being placed on the Commission.

What are funds needed for? In the first place, the maintenance appropriations received now are not adequate to take care of Iowa's parks, forests, and water areas. Additional personnel are needed to maintain facilities such as campgrounds, parks, picnic areas, roads, trails, parking lots, boat docks and launching ramps.

There must be modern, sanitary facilities on a state-wide basis, and wells, reservoirs, and water systems must be upgraded to meet the needs.

To compound the problem of insufficient maintenance funds, new parks and recreation areas are being established at an increasing rate. These include Red Rock Reservoir north of Knoxville; Rathun Reservoir north of Centerville; Volga Lake Site east of Fayette; the Sayville Reservoir Project north of Polk County, Brushy Creek Recreational Project southeast of Fort Dodge, and the potential Big Creek Lake North of Des Moines.

All of these areas will require maintenance funds within the next two years or more and above the needs of areas now in operation.

Whereas funding in other fields has not pace with the times, Conservation funding has been choked into a subsistence level. I never have been much of a politician, and I am continually amazed at the amount of service the people demand as opposed to the funds made available with which to provide such services.

By and large, Commission personnel are career people and have done yeoman service in maintaining our program with most of them doing so at sub-standard

salary levels. The fact that several of Iowa's parks were nearly closed last year due to a lack of funds serves as a dramatic reminder of what may develop in the future should the people and the Legislature fail to fully recognize our critical need for sufficient development and maintenance funds.

To be perfectly frank, until adequate maintenance appropriations are made available to take care of the present areas, it is questionable whether any new recreation areas should be established in the State of Iowa.

Another problem staring us in the face, is that of siltation in our natural and artificial lakes. Funds and legislation are needed for watershed protection to preserve and enhance these bodies of water.

The State Conservation Commission has acquired and developed many hunting and fishing access areas to lakes and streams. As a result, many people are using these areas for camping, picnics, bird watching, and other forms of recreation not associated with hunting and fishing.

Because of heavy use, the maintenance of these areas has become a problem. In order to adequately meet the public demands for modern facilities, consideration must be given to providing funds to maintain these areas for the general public.

The possibility of an increase in the hunting and fishing license fees will have to be considered. This will become necessary if we are to meet the need for increased maintenance and development of wildlife areas, fishing access areas, and other areas supported by these monies.

It is vital that money received from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses be used for wildlife projects only. In the case of hunting and fishing license revenues, and funds from federal aid wildlife acts, the support for programs comes directly from those who, in their consumptive use of the resources, derive the greatest benefit from it.

Fish and game and federal aid funds should not be subject to legislative appropriations from general funds. In the first place, long range planning and programming which nearly all conservation administration involves would be out of the question. The Commission could not be certain as to how much money would be available to accomplish a particular long-range task two or three or ten years in the future.

Secondly, the administration of fish, wildlife and related natural resources seems to have been relegated to the status of a stepchild of state government. As a result, often by the time the legislature and the budget officers get around to fish, wildlife, and parks, most of the available money in the general funds have been allocated to school, highway and dozens of other projects with political priority and little is left for resources management.

As mentioned, the State Conservation Commission exists to serve the public. But it's difficult to serve the public when the public and field forces can't get to the central office in Des Moines. The present location on the ninth and tenth floors of the State Office Building at 300 4th street, are not easily accessible for the general public.

In considering the complaints and desires of the public, the Conservation Commission has gone on record as unanimously favoring the establishment of a conservation headquarters complex to be located for easy access to and from Interstate Highways 35 and 80. This proposed area would include all central office functions, repair shops, storage facilities, and experimental plots for fisheries, game, forestry, and farm pond management.

With the use of our Federal funds available for such a purpose, this project can be accomplished without being built completely with monies from the Iowa General Fund.

It is of little wonder that a hunter with an application for a deer license will mail it in and risk not getting a license, rather than trying to find a parking place in downtown Des Moines.

Although we have not touched on all of our financial problems, those mentioned here are very important to the State Conservation Commission in carrying out its program as required by citizens interested in conservation and recreation in the great State of Iowa.

Simply, it is time to retire from COMPLACENCY and be aware and realize NOW that we must pay the bills to keep the store on a good level of operation.

In the next issue of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST additional legislative proposals will be presented—proposals and situations that we must "face up" to soon before conservation and outdoor recreation in Iowa become a part of her history and not an aspect of her progressive future.

Angling Success...

(continued from page 1)

The 1969 Contest

Entries for the 1969 Official Big Fish Records are now being accepted by the State Conservation Commission. Any species of fish commonly taken by hook and line caught in state or boundary waters is eligible. There are, however, minimum weight limits on certain species; crappies must be over two pounds; channel catfish over 18 pounds; carp over 20 pounds; northerns over 10 pounds; smallmouth bass over four pounds; largemouth bass over seven pounds; walleyes over 10 pounds and flathead catfish over 20 pounds.

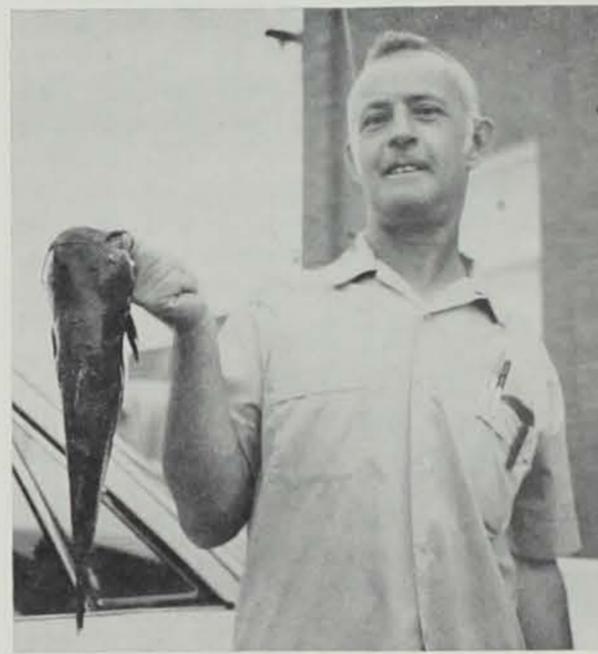
Any potential 1969 or state record fish must be weighed to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade. The weighing must be witnessed by two persons. The fish's total length should also be recorded.

The angler must fill out an official entry blank or a facsimile and send it and a glossy black and white photo of himself and the fish to the State Conservation Commission, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, by January 1, 1970.

The entry blank includes the angler's name and address, the species of fish being entered, date caught, where caught, county, total length, weight, method of catch and the witnesses' signatures and addresses.



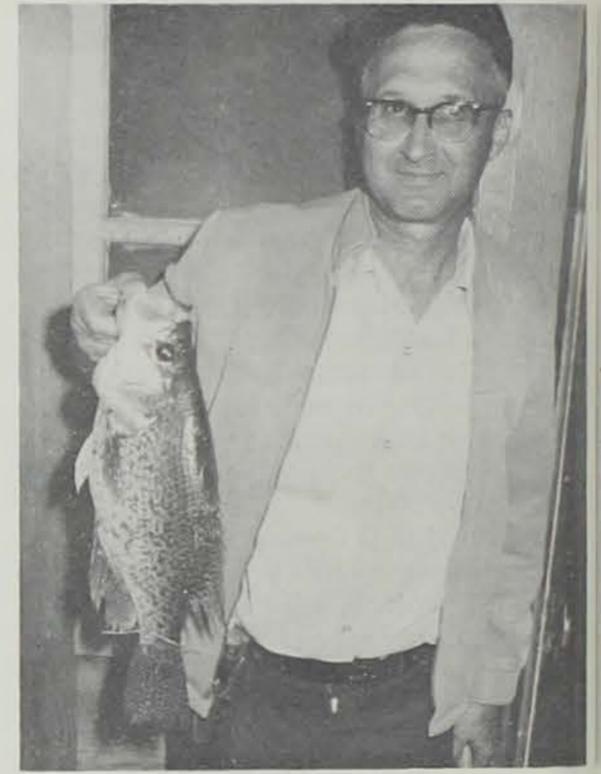
Herbert Aldridge's walleye.



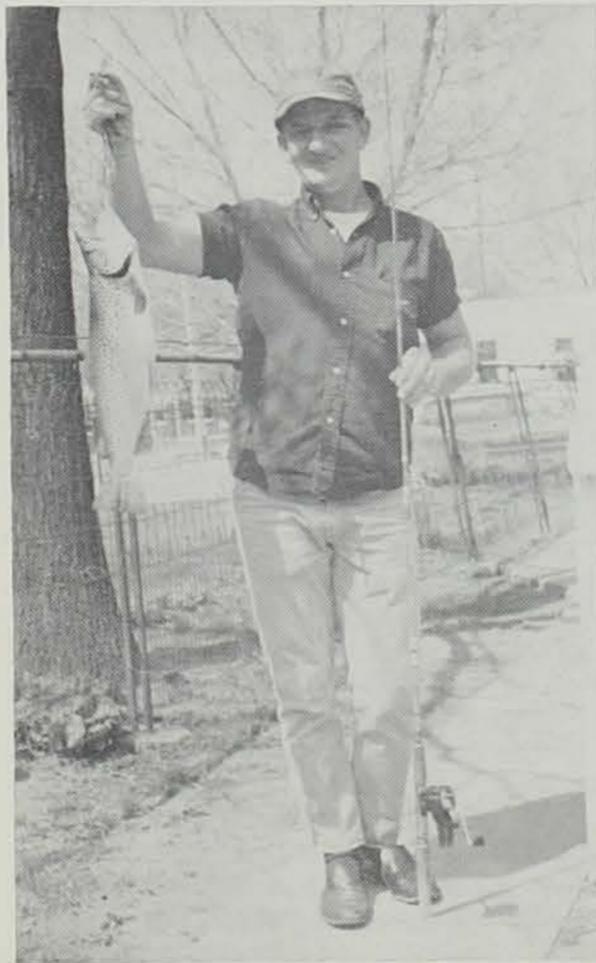
Paul J. Matheny's bullhead.



James Broich's bigmouth buffalo.



Bob Stevenson's crappie.



Albert "Sonny" Heimer's brown trout.

IOWA RECORD FISH

Species	Weight	Length	County	Date	Angler
Bass (Largemouth)	9 lb. 15 1/4 oz.	24"	Cold Springs Cass Co.	May 1, 1968	Richard A. Milner, Sr. Council Bluffs
Bass (Smallmouth)	6 lb. 3 oz.	21 5/8"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	June, 1966	Marvin Singer Le Mars
Bass (White)	3 lb. 0 oz.	19"	Black Hawk Lake Sac. Co.	September, 1967	Donald Cole Lake View
Bluegill	2 lb. 1 oz.	11 1/2"	Farm Pond Wayne Co.	June, 1966	Chet Ryan Seymour
Bullhead	4 lb. 8 oz.	17 3/4"	Farm Pond Taylor Co.	April, 1966	Dennie Karas Massena
Carp	47 lb. 0 oz.	38"	Gravel Pit Muscatine County	March, 1967	Raynard James Muscatine
Catfish (Channel)	25 lb. 3 oz.	35"	Rock Creek Jasper Co.	June, 1964	Lawrance Carpe Des Moines
Catfish (Flathead)	62 lb. 0 oz.	46"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	July, 1965	Roger Fairchild Coralville
Crappie	4 lb. 0 oz.	19"	Lake Darling Washington Co.	May, 1964	Harold Conrad Keota
	4 lb. 0 oz.	19"	Lake Darling Washington Co.	May 12, 1968	Bob Stevenson Washington
Northern	21 lb. 14 oz.	42 1/4"	Gravel Pit Buena Vista Co.	August 11, 1968	Lyle Hetrick Laurens
Paddlefish	58 lb. 13 oz.		Missouri River Pottawattamie Co.	October, 1965	Grace Holtzmann Ann Racobs Council Bluffs
Perch (Yellow)	1 lb. 13 oz.	14 3/4"	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	September, 1963	Neal Palmer Maynard
Sauger	5 lb. 2 oz.	22 1/2"	Mississippi River Dubuque Co.	November, 1963	Art Hurlburt Dubuque
Sheepshead	46 lb. 0 oz.	38 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	October, 1962	R. L. Farran Clarion
Trout (Brown)	12 lb. 14 1/2 oz.	28"	Elk Creek Delaware Co.	November, 1966	Billy Lee Marion
Trout (Rainbow)	13 lb. 8 oz.	32"	Richmond Springs Delaware Co.	November, 13, 1968	C. Melvin Vaughn Waterloo
Walleye	14 lb. 2 oz.	31 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	October 7, 1968	Herbert Aldridge Spirit Lake

1968 RECORD FISH

Species	Weight	Length	County Where Caught	Date	Angler
Bass (Largemouth)	*9 lb. 15¼ oz.	24"	Cold Springs Cass Co.	May 1, 1968	Richard A. Milner, Sr. Council Bluffs
Bass (Smallmouth)	4 lb. 3 oz.	19½"	Turkey River Fayette Co.	September 2, 1968	George Mueller West Union
Bass (Smallmouth)	3 lb. 10 oz.	21½"	Upper Iowa River Allamakee Co.	August 24, 1968	Roger Bublitz Waukon
White Bass	No entries				
Bluegill	1 lb. 4 oz.		Farm Pond Jefferson Co.	May 17, 1968	John Hewitt Fairfield
Bullhead	3 lb. 2 oz.	17"	Farm Pond Taylor Co.	September 8, 1968	Paul J. Matheny Clearfield
Bullhead	2 lb. 2 oz.	15"	Osceola Reservoir Clarke Co.	June 14, 1968	Rick Aldridge Des Moines
Carp	No entries				
Catfish (Flathead)	40 lb.	47"	Des Moines River Polk Co.	September 11, 1968	Norman D. King Des Moines
Catfish (Flathead)	35 lb. 4 oz.	40"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	January 20, 1968	George E. Scalf Ottumwa
Catfish (Flathead)	20 lb. 1 oz.	33½"	Upper Iowa River Allamakee Co.	May 31, 1968	Edgar Kiesaw Waukon
Crappie	**4 lb.	19"	Lake Darling Washington Co.	May 12, 1968	Bob Stevenson Washington
Crappie	3 lb. 12 oz.	18"	Lake Darling Washington Co.	July 28, 1968	Jack Snook Colona, Illinois
Crappie	3 lb.	18"	Viking Lake Montgomery Co.	May 3, 1968	Bob D. Push Omaha, Nebraska
Crappie	2 lb. 4 oz.	17¼"	Farm Pond Pottawattamie Co.	April 28, 1968	Michael D. Graham Council Bluffs
Crappie	2 lb. 4 oz.	16"	Browns Lake Woodbury Co.	July 7, 1968	Orvil Stone Bronson
Northern	*21 lb. 14 oz.	42¼"	Gravel Pit Buena Vista Co.	August 11, 1968	Lyle Hetrick Laurens
Northern	16 lb. 5 oz.	39"	Gravel Pit Pocahontas Co.	April 28, 1968	William Sandvig Rolfe
Northern	16 lb. 2 oz.	42½"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May 26, 1968	Daniel D. Boster Sheldon
Northern	15 lb. 9 oz.	37½"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo	May 2, 1968	John Lansing Mason City
Northern	15 lb. 4 oz.	38"	West Okoboji Dickinson	February 10, 1968	John Kruse Marathon
Northern	12 lb. 8 oz.	37"	Lake MacBride Johnson Co.	April 28, 1968	William J. Powers Iowa City
Paddlefish	58 lbs.	55"	DeSoto Bend Lake Harrison Co.	May, 1968	Howard A. Morris Des Moines
Perch	No entries				
Sauger	No entries				
Sheepshead	23¾ lb.	33¾"	Mississippi River Allamakee	May 5, 1968	Bill Mitchell Harpers Ferry
Trout (Brown)	6 lb. 15 oz.	25"	French Creek Allamakee Co.	June 21, 1968	Thomas G. Caulkins Waukon
Trout (Brown)	4 lb. 5 oz.	22"	Big Cedar River Mitchell Co.	April 28, 1968	Albert Heiner St. Ansgar
Trout (Brown)	4 lb. 4 oz.	21"	French Creek Allamakee Co.	April 20, 1968	R. J. Seybert Waukon
Trout (Rainbow)	*13 lb. 8 oz.	32"	Richmond Springs Delaware	November 13, 1968	C. Melvin Vaughn Waterloo
Trout (Rainbow)	9 lb. 10½ oz.	25"	Richmond Springs Delaware	October 27, 1968	James H. Niles Waterloo
Trout (Rainbow)	9 lb. 4 oz.	27"	Richmond Springs Delaware	November 27, 1968	James A. Niles Waterloo
Trout (Rainbow)	9 lb. 4 oz.	26"	Richmond Springs Delaware	October 27, 1968	K. C. Johnson Winthrop
Trout (Rainbow)	5 lb. 13 oz.	23"	Bloody Run Clayton	November 30, 1968	Fred Daus Robbinsdale, Minn.
Trout (Rainbow)	3 lb. 12 oz.	23"	Bloody Run Clayton	July 10, 1968	Tim Quinlan Minneapolis, Minn.
Walleye	*14 lb. 2 oz.	31½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson	October 7, 1968	Herbert Aldridge Spirit Lake
Walleye	13 lbs.	33"	Missouri River Woodbury	September 6, 1968	Cynthia Pospisil Sioux City
Walleye	12 lb. 2 oz.	30½"	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	February 13, 1968	John Eslinger Guttenburg
Walleye	11 lb. 4 oz.	31"	East Okoboji Dickinson	May 1, 1968	H. R. Goetsch Arnolds Park
Walleye	10 lb. ½ oz.	29½"	Blackhawk Lake Sac Co.	May 20, 1968	Ray Sapp Carroll
Buffalo (Big Mouth)	19 lb. 8 oz.	34"	Blackhawk Lake Sac Co.	June 2, 1968	James Broich Lakeview

*Indicates new Iowa record

**Indicates tied state record



With the deer season's arrival and departure, many household chefs will find themselves in a turmoil over the preparation of venison.

Here are some interesting points to consider when the time comes for your post-hunting culinary "masterpieces."

Deer meat can be prepared various ways. You must keep in mind that you can prepare many cuts of venison the same way you prepare domestic meats.

For instance, ground meat from a deer can be used extensively in the preparation of meat patties, goulash, and different types of casseroles.

A deer roast can be one of the best experiences your taste buds have ever encountered. Unless the deer was an old buck, the meat will be tender enough to fall away from the fork.

If deer isn't your "game," perhaps the '68 hunting season provided other sources which can be used to show your kitchen "genius."

If you happen to have a full or partial duck stuck away in your freezer, get him out for some special occasion and serve roast duck with gravy.

After being dressed and prepared for cooking, a duck will usually run from four to four and a half pounds. Whether roasted whole or split in half the duck should be rubbed, inside and out, with salt. Arrange on a rack in an open roasting pan and roast in a slow oven (325°) for about 2½ hours, or until tender, crisp, and brown. Drain fat from the meat about every half hour and baste each time with whatever glaze is being used.

This can be done by rubbing the bird with half an orange, squeezing the juice over the bird and rubbing the skin with the softened half and each time discarding the used peeling in the bottom of the pan for added flavor. If this method is used, about three whole oranges will be needed.

For preparation of gravy, simply drain the juices from the pan and all but one tablespoon of fat. Add 1 cup of water to the drippings and scrape all the brown stickings from the pan. Add one cup of concentrated orange juice to which two tablespoons of cornstarch have been added. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens.

Whether your hunter brings home a duck, deer, pheasant, or any other wild game, use the basic facts of "wildlife" cooking and let your imagination and taste buds complete the recipe.



George Mueller's smallmouth bass.



Thomas G. Caulkin's brown trout.

Fuel Consumption Shows Growth In Boating Sports

Over 17,500,000 gallons of gasoline were used in motorboats in Iowa this year—another indication of the growing popularity of water sports in the state.

According to figures compiled by the State Conservation Commission there are over 70,000 registered motorboats in Iowa now. The average motorboat use was 100 hours per season and the fuel consumption was over 2½ gallons per hour—or 250 gallons per boat, per season.

It's interesting to note that the state tax collected on gasoline used in motorboats (7 cents per gallon) amounted to \$1,225,000. It all goes to the Iowa Road Use Fund.

There is also a federal tax on marine fuel and the money received from this tax is set aside for use in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The federal marine fuel tax is only 4 cents per gallon compared to the Iowa fuel tax of 7 cents per gallon. However, the federal marine tax brings to the Land and Water Conservation Fund some \$700,000 from Iowa boaters.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is for acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas. It is significant that an average of over \$30 million each year of the revenue in the fund came from the federal tax on fuel used in boats.

Boating has become one of the biggest and most popular forms of outdoor recreation in Iowa and is certainly one of the fastest growing. It's also a big business in Iowa stimulating employment, retail sales and tourism.

Iowa's one of the top states in the nation in the number of boats per capita. The creation of new reservoirs and better access to existing waters is leading to a larger number of motorboats. Boats are used in a variety of water sports including the traditional role for the angler to comparatively modern activities as water skiing and skin diving. Many 100 horsepower motors will consume approximately ten gallons of gasoline per hour while pulling a water skier.

As the number of motorboats increases so does the demand for water oriented facilities such as access areas, ramps and docks. There is also a necessity for safety and educational programs and increased administrative operations to keep pace. To cope with the demand for water oriented facilities and areas will require a well planned program, funds and personnel.



Cooperative Programs Promote 'Winter Cover' Development

With vast technological changes occurring in agricultural methods and farming practices the sportsman may very well ask what will happen to our wildlife populations if these trends continue?

There are very positive steps that must be implemented if our wildlife populations are to remain constant. It can be done and the key to the problem is HABITAT.

Programs are being organized to assist in providing for the local need and sportsman's clubs should be encouraged to support continuance of this work. Guidance in this type of program is available through your local conservation officer, game manager, district forester and the County Conservation Board. Trees may be obtained from the State Tree Nursery at Ames.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service branch of the Department of Agriculture has a number of programs which will assist the landowner in protecting existing habitats or establishing new plantings. They are set up on a cost-share basis between the federal government and the individual landowner.

The G-1A practice, for example, is designed to aid the landowner in improving windbreaks around his farm while providing excellent winter cover for game birds and animals in that vicinity.

The State Conservation Commission's Farm Game Habitat program consists of a cooperative agreement between the landowner and the State of Iowa. Authorized and financed under the Pittman-Robertson program, the federal government provides 75 percent of the

necessary operating funds and the state government supplements the remaining 25 percent.

It provides for the establishing of a wildlife habitat planting on a particular piece of land owned or operated by an interested individual. 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 state will furnish all necessary trees, shrubs, and labor in return for the obligation of the landowner to maintain the area for its intended purpose by preventing damage. The owner must also permit a reasonable amount of hunting on his property because in this program the hunter is paying his way through license fees in providing for future recreational activities and insuring that there will be an adequate supply of wild game in the area. At the end of the ten-year period the lease could be terminated or extended.

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.

It's a big project and one that your State Conservation Commission will not be able to accomplish without your help. We need to take advantage of every available form of help that we can muster. Providing adequate habitat for our wildlife population 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 this extensive project. Our wildlife populations will certainly benefit from it, and in the long run, so will we.

SCC Provides Tools For Fire Fighting Units

By David Evans
Superintendent Information and Education

When it comes to fighting fires, it's not always how much equipment you have, but where you have it and how it's used.

The State Conservation Commission's Forestry Section, in a cooperative program with the U. S. Forest Service, has supplied 139 rural fire departments in 9 counties with a kit of hand tools for fighting blazes. In addition 20 rural fire wardens also received boxes of tools.

In return for the tools, the fire departments and wardens cooperate in suppressing forest and grass fires.

The tool kit includes a double bitted axe, two back pack pumps, two sickle bar rakes, two fire swatters, one long handle shovel and four broom rakes. The tools are presented to the wardens in large wooden boxes constructed at Forestry Section shops at the Yellow River State Forest, and Nursery at Ames. The tools and box are called a six-man "fire tool cache."

Each cache costs \$150. The state is reimbursed for 50 percent of the cost by the federal government through the U. S. Forest Service under the Clarke-McNary Act.

Fire warden caches are usually located in an area that is more than ten miles from a fire department. Neighbors assist the fire warden when help is needed.

The box and tools may not look very impressive, but when they are needed

they can be the most valuable items in the world. The six individual tools in the cache are the survivors of many years of use and have proven their effectiveness to make this a complete cache for use in all types of wild fires in Iowa.

All fires are exactly the same size when they start. So the quicker tools and water are brought into use, the quicker the fire is extinguished.

These fire caches have been used very effectively since the program was initiated in 1945. Prompt utilization of the equipment has saved many acres and thousands of dollars.

There has been a great amount of interest in this program. Areas that have caches have had a decrease in the amount of fires and damage by blazes. The Forestry Section receives from 40 to 50 requests each year for fire tool caches. However, the section is only able to supply about ten a year because of the necessity to maintain existing caches. There are maintenance costs of from \$50 to \$60 a year on caches now being used.

Another advantage of hand tools is that they can be brought into action promptly. Fires don't always start out in the open. Very often the blaze springs up in an almost inaccessible area that a vehicle can't reach. However, men on foot can bring in tools and put out a fire while it is still small.

Providing tools for fire suppression is a continuing part of the State Conservation Commission's program to protect Iowa's valuable natural resources.

Accepting Orders Through March 15 For Nursery Stock

The State Conservation Commission began accepting orders for trees and shrubs October 15, 1968. If the supply of trees and shrubs lasts, ordering of species may continue until March 15, 1969.

The purpose of this project is to provide a means to return to production those areas of idle submarginal farmland, isolated land, hillsides that erode easily, and other lands where trees would provide the most desirable type of vegetative cover.

The trees will provide many benefits to the land owners who take part in this project including financial return, erosion control, wildlife cover and aesthetic value.

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

A practice under the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), G-1A, allows landowners to plant game shrubs to provide low cover plants in existing windbreaks. However, the shrubs used under this Federal Cost-Sharing Practice, must be purchased from a commercial nursery, because existing laws prohibit this particular use of shrubs grown by the State and shipped from the State Forest Nursery.

The Conservation Commission has Ten District Foresters located at Adel, Anamosa, Fairfield, Chariton, Le Mars, Marshalltown, Muscatine, Charles City, Elkader and Red Oak. The forester assists land owners in signing up under the County ACP. He is aware of various timber management problems which enables him to help the landowner select the proper species.

The tree planting practice, A-7, assists land owners by paying part of the cost involved in clearing land for tree planting, land preparation, the actual planting and cost of trees and fencing where needed.

Landowners within a county can pick up their trees in one lot to insure fresh trees to plant. If landowners do not wish to pick up the trees at the nursery, they will be shipped to the purchaser. No exact shipping date can be set due to weather and nursery operating delays. Each person placing an order will be notified prior to shipment of the trees by the nursery.



Gangs and Gaggles, Mobs and Mutes

By David Evans
Superintendent, Information and
Education

If a fellow tells you that he spotted a gang in Canada and after a difficult stalk he killed one with a single shot from his trusty 30-36, it would not necessarily mean he was a lawman doing the Matt Dillon bit.

Chances are he would be an elk hunter telling you about his experiences. You see, a bunch of elk are properly known as a GANG, one of the unusual words that are used to describe groups of animals.

Most people have heard of a HERD of cattle, a FLOCK of sheep and a COVEY of quail. But, could you identify the species indicated by the plural terms CETE, SLEUTH or SEIGE?

Here are group names of some common (and not-so-common) birds, mammals and fish.

Several badgers make up a CETE and

a group of bears constitute a SLEUTH. If you visit South Dakota, don't get run over by a TROOP of buffalo. Early Americans were not the only ones who lived in colonies. Did you know that beavers live in COLONIES? And bloodhounds run in SUTES?

Some group names are very descriptive. For instance, there is a MUTE of hounds, MOB of kangaroos, ARMY of bullfrogs, and what else, but a LEAP of leopards.

Obviously a CLOUD of foxes would make short work of a HUSK of jackrabbits or a DRAY of squirrels. A group of rhinoceros are referred to as a CRASH—probably with good reason. We should steer clear of a KNOT of snakes.

A common expression brings to mind how much fun a barrel of monkeys would have. But, the proper term is CARTLOAD. When one thinks about it, that makes as much sense as the fact that two or more apes make up a

SHREWDNESS. Several crows are called a MURDER, while a group of bald eagles make up a CONVOCATION.

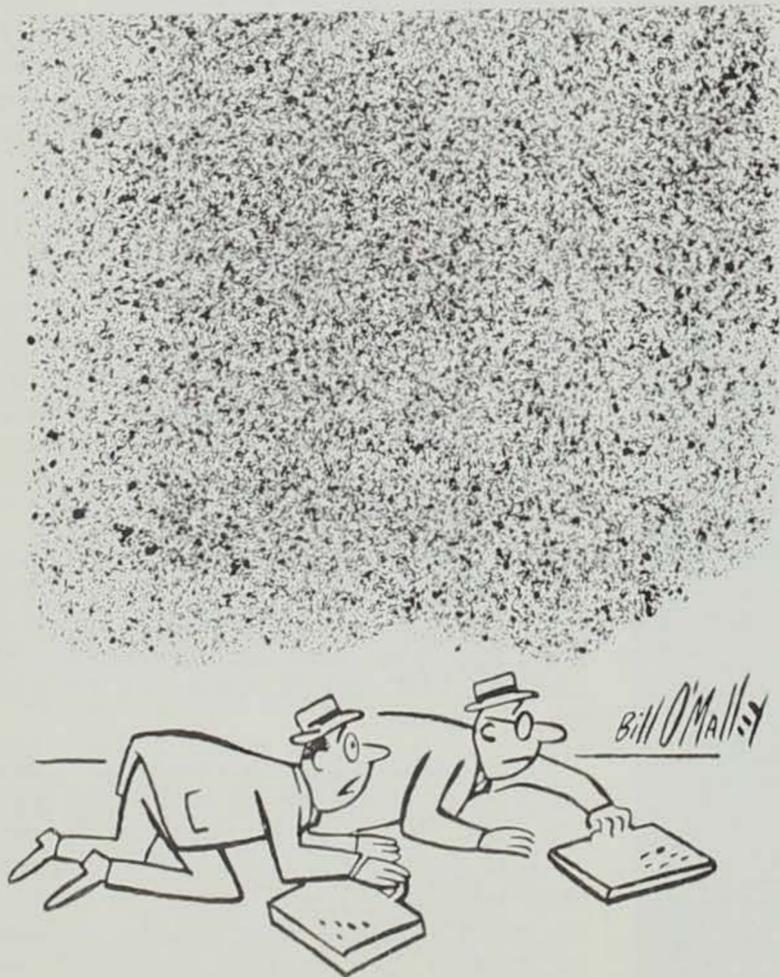
It gets a little more confusing when discussing waterfowl. For instance, ducks come in a PADDLING, BED, BRACE, FLOCK, FLIGHT or RAFT. A group of geese on the water are a GAGGLE, but in flight they can be a SKEIN or COVERT and on land, a FLOCK.

Several tabby (domestic) cats make up a CLUSTER or CLOWDER, but wildcats make a DOUT or a DESTRUCTION as a HUSK would no doubt agree.

In darkest Africa one might run into a PRIDE of lions.

And there is something for the angler. Perch come in PACKS and trout in HOVERS.

However, for most of us there is yet another group name that is very descriptive of anything else that comes in bunches. It's a MESS OF this or that.



"Perhaps we should've done something about air pollution before now."

Whooo

. . . could ever forget to renew a subscription to the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST?
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