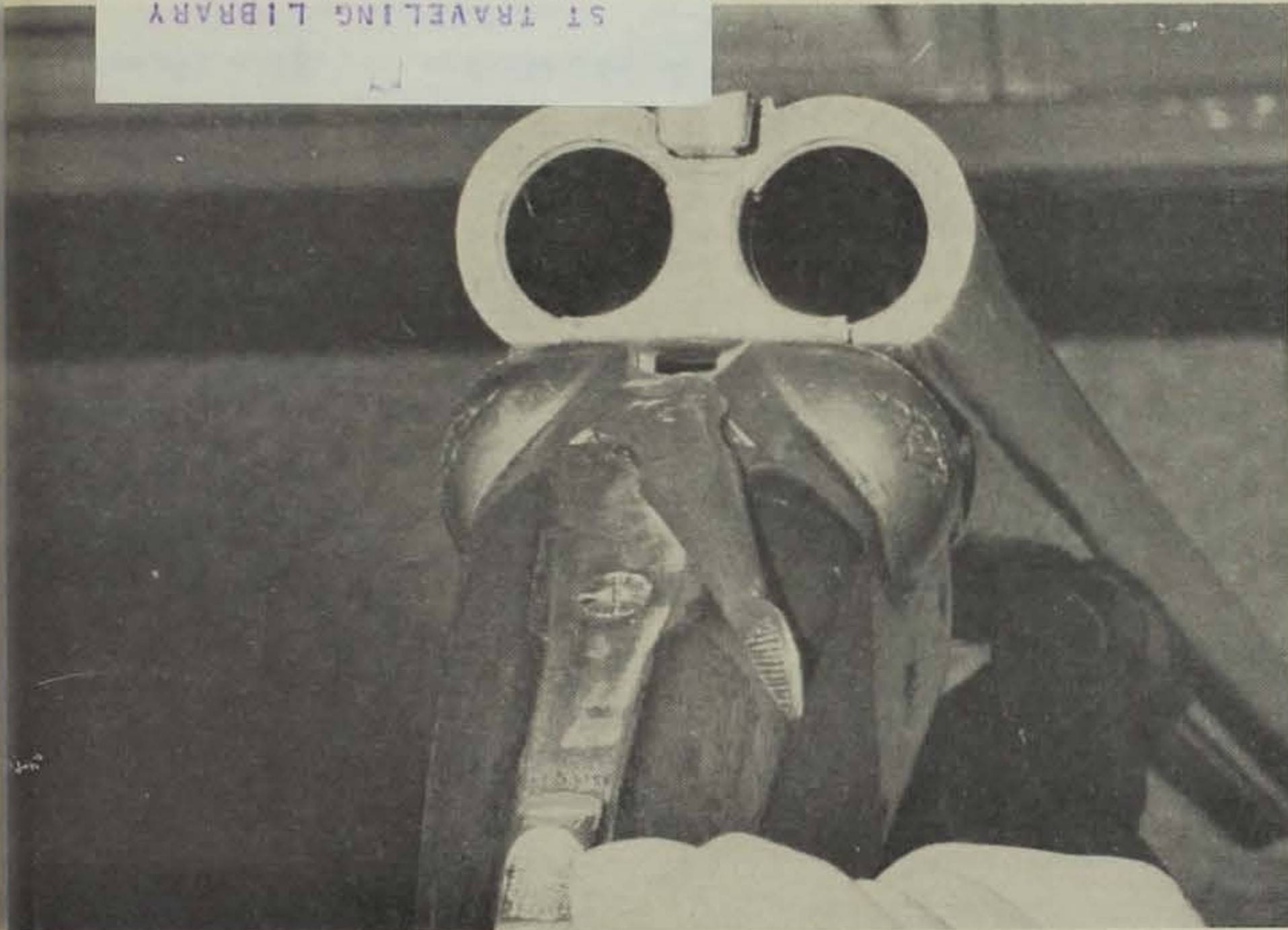




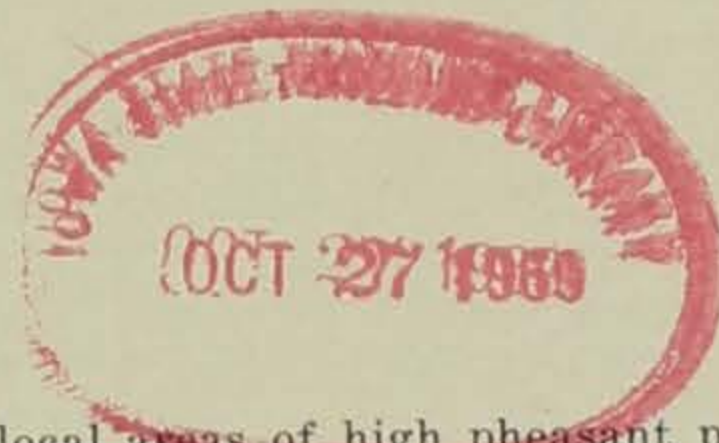
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# 1969 Hunting Outlook



Fall, 1969 promises to be another good year for Iowa hunters. Most game populations have remained as high as the last season's counts with a few changes in areas where high game population can be found.

Good weather conditions and habitat have contributed greatly to game numbers. The relatively mild summer and early fall have really set the scene for the October, November, and December hunts.

Let's take a look at individual species and see what's in store for Iowa's hunters and visitors.

## PHEASANTS

Pheasant hunting prospects are excellent, with Iowa remaining one of the top—if not the top—pheasant hunting state in the country. The pheasants survived the winter quite well, and the 1969 spring saw a very good breeding population.

The best areas for pheasant hunting this fall will be about the same as last year. High ringneck concentrations are found in the southwest-central to west-central portions of the state.

Other areas which biologists and game managers predict will be excellent, are scattered around the east-central section of Iowa.

For the past few years the ringneck has lacked adequate winter cover in the northern section of the state, and this

area will not have the best hunting that it did years ago.

Superintendent of the game section, Bob Barratt, pointed out that birds can be found in all parts of the state, and some hunters will have good luck in the areas that game managers feel are lower than others.

"Our estimates are based on roadside surveys, and just because we don't predict 'excellent' hunting for a certain area, does not mean there is no hunting whatsoever."

He cited an example from a letter he received: A hunter in northwest Iowa wrote of successful hunting in an area that was known to be sparsely populated with pheasants. This undaunted hunter chose to hunt the section anyway and wound up with his limit for both days of the hunt. The hunter plans to return to the same area this year, which again shows few ringnecks.

Barratt noted that, "the pheasants are out there . . . it just depends on the degree of challenge that the hunter wants to tackle."

Iowa is rapidly gaining a reputation as a top pheasant hunting state with its annual harvest one of the best in the nation.

It should be noted that the hunting has not been detrimental to the state-wide pheasant population. While sportsmen take an average of 65 to 70 percent of the roosters, and sometimes higher

in local areas of high pheasant population, it does not harm the brood stock. Game managers know that up to 90 percent of the cocks may be harvested without endangering the stock.

## QUAIL

Iowa's best quail hunting will be found in the southern areas of the state again this year. Visual counts showed a slight increase over last year's numbers with the 1968 harvest being excellent.

This year, therefore, hunters may expect excellent quail hunting just like the predictions for the ringneck.

Sportsmen have been successful hunting the low grade soil areas and valleys of southern Iowa where patches of brush and weeds adjoin grain fields. As with pheasants, the quail populations have not been harmed by a reasonable harvest.

## RABBITS

Reproductive habits of rabbits are well-known and in Iowa high populations mean good rabbit hunting. The highest cottontail populations will be found in the southern one-third of the state.

Of course, other areas will have good numbers too, with the hunting outlook good for the entire state. Data from spring and summer surveys show populations similar to that of previous years,

(continued on page 79)



**Iowa Conservationist**

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CIRCULATION .....70,000

**Meeting held in Clear Lake  
August 1, 1969**

The following projects were approved for submission to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for immediate funding: Scott County Conservation Board—Buena Vista Public Use Area—Acquisition, 165 acres; Franklin County Conservation Board—Mallory Park—Acquisition, 70 acres.

The following amendment request for submission to the BOR for action were approved: O'Brien County Conservation Board—Dog Creek Park—Development; Marion County Conservation Board—Roberts Creek Park—Development.

Approved for submission to the BOR for action a project to develop approximately 17.31 acres located on the Mississippi River near Fairport in Muscatine County to provide public access to the river. The proposed development will include roads and parking, well and pump, a concrete boat ramp, two latrines, camping spurs, picnic tables and fireplaces.

Exercised the following land purchase options: Walters Creek Watershed, Adams County, 57.4 acres; Volga River Lake, Fayette County, 50 acres.

The following County Conservation Board Land Acquisition Projects were approved: Delaware County Conservation Board—Highway 20 Safety Rest Area, one acre; Hardin County Conservation Board—Boddy-Hunt Recreation Area, 46 acres; Reece Memorial Park Addition, 5 acres; Van Buren County Conservation Board—Indian Lake Park, 122 acres.

The following County Conservation Board Development Plans were approved: Hardin County Conservation Board—Bigelow Park, Lepley Memorial Park, and Utech Wildlife Area; Marion

*Our Readers Write . . .*

Dear Sirs:

My subscription to the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST expires in November of 1969 and I would like to renew that subscription for two more years.

I want to also take this opportunity to again compliment the Conservation Commission for the fine job you are doing in game management, state parks, and camping areas. The family and I did a great deal of camping this summer in other states and we never found any facilities any better than those of Iowa's. Thank you again for a great job.

Sincerely,  
Larry W. Reed.  
Forest City, Iowa

Dear Sirs:

Thanks for the subscription reminder.

I don't think your publication is anywhere as good as it was a few years ago, but it is interesting. In my opinion I think it was better when you published a column, entitled "Warden's Tales." Now, it seems that the paper has two or three long subjects or articles. I've always enjoyed shorter articles, as well as more numerous departments.

I think that the most important item to be talked up is the subject of water pollution and sincerely hope that all of us never become too lackadaisical about it. I'd just as soon see the industries set up shop in other states and let Iowa remain rural.

Sincerely,  
Leo P. Lastuvka  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Sirs:

Would you have another copy of the August issue of the CONSERVATIONIST that you could send us? Ours arrived while we were on vacation and somehow we received only the outside pages—the center part was missing.

We enjoy this little publication so much that we do not want to miss out on any part of it.

The part of the article on snakes is missing and of course I am very interested in this since I am a "cemetery hound." That is, I, along with friends, spend much time copying inscriptions from tombstones in old abandoned cemeteries and it would seem to me that sometime we might meet up with something in the snake family which could be very harmful and not recognize it.

Thanks so much for your fine publication. My son-in-law read it when he was here a year ago and immediately sent in his subscription. He lives in Maryland.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. William K. Wagner  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**County Conservation Board — Marion County Park Revision.**

Approved the proposed agreement between the Department of Social Services and State Conservation Commission for the establishment of a youth work Project Williamson Pond Area in Lucas County or any other suitable site mutually agreeable to both departments.

Approved a Fish and Game Division land purchase option for 120 acres on the Upper Wapsipinicon River in Mitchell County.

Granted authority to advertise for bids to construct a biology office and laboratory building in Red Haw State Park. There is an immediate need for this facility because the present building (forestry shop at Chariton) is too small and will soon be required for the prison labor program.

Approved a continuation of the original contract for additional removal of 166,560 cubic yards of silt at North Twin Lake, Calhoun County.

**Christmas Gifts ? ?**

Solve your Christmas gift problems the easy way. Purchase a gift subscription to the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST for your friends or relatives. One dollar will bring them 24 months of your thoughtfulness. We will send the recipient a gift card signed in your name before Christmas.



## EDITORIAL

Setting aside seven days for a "special week" usually means simple promotion for public awareness of a particular interest. Certainly the seven days in October set aside as "Iowa Conservation Week" were intended to do that — promote public awareness of conservation in general.

But the Iowa Conservation Commission had a great deal more in mind than just a brief consideration or simple promotion of conservation. Conservation — the wise use of all our natural resources — deserves not only consideration but also action, and a great deal of it.

The Commission had many ideas in mind but focused "Conservation Week" efforts on six basic purposes.

The first, of course, was "to promote public awareness of conservation in general."

The second reason was "to introduce the Conservation Commission's work to those citizens of Iowa not already aware of state conservation efforts." Many activities are publicized extensively, but without a general news media coverage, these efforts are recognized by a limited and specific portion of society. All Iowans, regardless of age, socio-economic level or educational background, should know about the Commission's work in securing their future through resource management.

The third basic purpose was "to stimulate public support of conservation." This is the beginning of ACTION. Awareness is the fertile ground; support is the germinating seed; and participation is the growing thing. Public support can take many forms — verbal expression of interest, written opinions to the legislature, and time donations for special projects. Each citizen can help themselves by helping conservation and conservation-oriented organizations and agencies.

The fourth purpose must coincide with the third. "To create a greater desire to learn about the needs of conservation" goes hand-in-hand with support of conservation work. The desire must be a continuing force just as learning must be continued for intelligent action and reaction on contemporary resource problems.

The fifth purpose was "to help promote conservation education in schools and through youth organizations by stimulating both youth and adult leaders to active participation in local conservation projects." Without the support of young people, who will be the vital force of the future, conservation may indeed become a part of history. Getting youth interested NOW and seeing that the interest grows, will insure continued progress and, in fact, insure a future.

The last purpose becomes the Commission's focal point not only for "Iowa Conservation Week" but for every week, every year — "to stimulate a long lasting desire in every citizen to show sincere interest in the future of their state by a continuing support of conservation endeavors." If there is hope for the success of conservation programs and projects, interest-building efforts cannot be limited to seven days in October.

The future of Iowa depends on the future of her resources. And the future of Iowa's resources depends on a conservation-minded citizenry — an active, interested, and genuinely concerned population. A population whose concern is both Today and Tomorrow.

Conservation, in the past, has tended to concern only a relatively small segment of our population. It has represented a narrow range of interests.

Now we have entered a new era. Conservation, as we would define it today is, "the wise use of the natural resources." Conservation is reaching forth to encompass a much larger concept of thought and action.

No longer can one suggest that conservation in some hazy way involves only caring for the fish, game animals and forests. Not at all.

It's now a matter of total involvement of all citizens. The conservation bell tolls for everyone because everyone is involved. Continued poisoning and destruction of our environment can actually be the death of us all. Our very existence depends upon the wise use of resources.

The success of efforts to properly manage the resources and environment will depend on an aroused public. An understanding of environmental problems and the means for their solutions is vital.

Greater knowledge about the earth's resources, including wildlife waters and soil is needed. Ecology or the study of the relationship between living creatures and their environment is of great importance. In the future, ecology must share a major role in decisions concerning the use of the environment.

Faced with growing problems, conservation has itself grown in concept. Conservation is today a very positive and very necessary program for mankind.



Cooks rarely agree on the best way to prepare and cook game. But everyone knows it is delicious and mild-flavored when a few basic rules are followed. Meat of deer, moose and elk (designated venison) is cooked in the same way as beef.

Tender cuts (loin or rib) from young animals can be broiled or roasted. Round steak, meat from leg, and other less tender cuts are best when cooked by moist heat—braised, pot roasted or stewed.

Avoid over-cooking. Deer meat has short fibers that toughen quickly when cooked too long or at too high temperature. Serve venison medium to well done, never rare or over-done.

Game birds have little meat, but the choice bites provided by the succulent meat is well worth the effort of preparation.

Good to round out a game menu are rice dishes flavored with herbs, and fruit poached in spicy syrup. Be generous and creative with the spices—try cinnamon, curry, chili, and sweet-sour combinations. Enhance your hunter's game with interesting accessories, and try different methods of preparing the game.

### Baked Quail

- 12 quail, split
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder and paprika to taste
- 12 strips bacon
- 2 tblsp. Worcestershire
- 1 cup chicken stock

Rub Quail with seasonings. Wrap strip of bacon around each bird. Place in shallow baking dish and sprinkle with Worcestershire sauce and chicken stock or bouillon. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 1 to 2 hours, depending on size and age of birds. Remove cover during last 20 to 30 minutes, to brown meat. Makes 6 servings.

### Poached Peaches

- 1 large can peach halves
- 1½ tblsp. cornstarch
- 1 tblsp. sugar
- 1 cup cranberry juice
- 2 tsp. instant minced onion
- 1 tsp. whole cloves
- 1 ⅛ tsp. garlic powder
- Dash of salt

Drain peaches. Combine cornstarch and sugar in sauce pan. Gradually add cranberry juice. Stir in onion, cloves, garlic powder and salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until thickened. Add peach halves. Heat for about 10 minutes. Serve hot with venison roast. Makes 6 servings.





Above: The correct way to carry loaded guns—if either gun fired, no one would be hurt.

# The Picture Story of Hunter Safety



Left: Here's a quick, but painful cure for ingrown toenails or corns. Never, never, never use a gun for a rest.

Lower left: When crossing fences, one hunter should cross first and then take the guns from the other hunter.

Below: Placing hands over a gun barrel is absolutely taboo. The hunter on the left reminds friend of the danger involved.

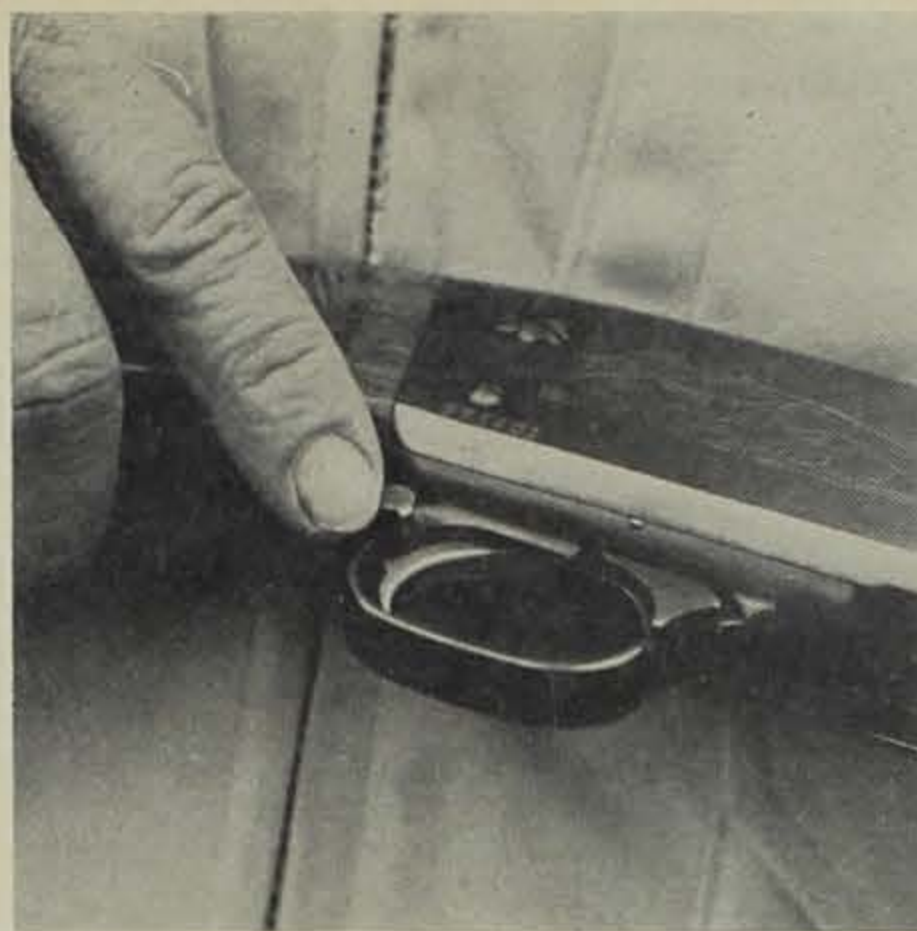


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Far right: When carrying a loaded gun in the field, the trigger finger should be outside the trigger guard until just before you're ready to shoot.

Right: While hunting, the gun safety should be "ON" until you're ready to shoot.



Above: Guns must be cased to be carried in a car. When removing the gun from the case be careful where it is pointed.



Above: Guns should never be pointed at another hunter. One mis-step or a fall could easily kill either man.

## Establish Iowa Big Game Records

By David Evans

Have you ever killed a big deer with antlers that are in the trophy class? Well, if you have there is a chance to get them registered in the Iowa Big Game Records.

Because of the increasing interest in Iowa deer hunting, a record system will be established. Separate classes will be set up for archery and gun hunters. To be eligible for a listing in Iowa Big Game Records, the rack or antlers must meet certain minimum specifications according to measurements.

The antlers would be measured or scored on the Pope and Young and Boone and Crockett Clubs scoring systems. The Pope and Young Club is the official national big game records keeper for archers and the Boone and Crockett Clubs keep similar records for gun hunters. The scoring system is essentially the same for both clubs.

Naturally, minimum scores are lower in Pope and Young because bow hunters can not be as selective as hunters armed with shotguns. In the case of

whitetail deer, the score is based on antler length, inside spread, circumference of the main beams and length of points. Both typical and non-typical racks can be submitted.

If you shoot an unusually large buck and want to measure and enter it for record competition, you may obtain the necessary scoring chart and measuring instructions from the Iowa Bow Hunters Association, Inc., Box 872, Waterloo, Iowa 50704.

Shrinkage in varying degrees takes place when antlers dry out. For that reason hunters must wait 60 days or more before having a rack officially measured. It's not necessary that deer be taken in the present season. Antlers from other hunts can also be submitted.

Hunters are cautioned not to split antlers loose from each other, or the rack is disqualified for record purposes.

To be eligible for the Iowa Big Game Records a deer taken with a gun must score a minimum of 140 points and a deer taken with a bow and arrow must score a minimum of 115 points. If pre-

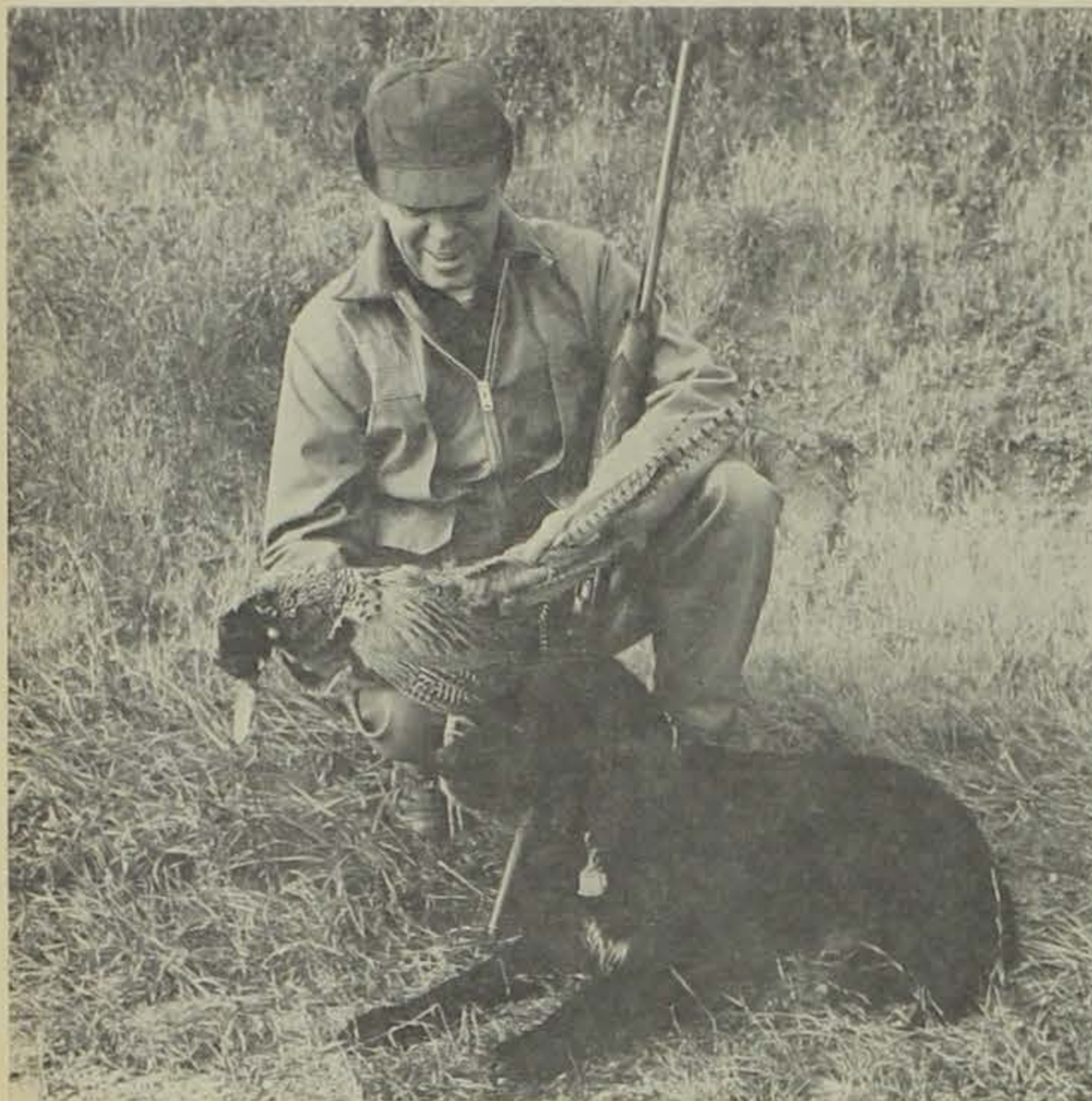
liminary measurements indicate the rack of antlers score the minimum or above the hunter will be informed where to get them officially measured.

The Iowa Bow Hunters Association and the Conservation Commission's Information and Education Section will keep a listing of official Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young Club measurers. The official scorers will fill in the necessary forms for a perspective record with a duplicate form for the Iowa Conservation Commission. The Information and Education Section will keep the Big Game Hunter Records.

Each year the racks entered in competition that meet or exceed the minimum requirements will be listed in the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST, a monthly publication of the Conservation Commission. A list of official scorers will be carried in the CONSERVATIONIST when available.

Interest in Iowa deer has been growing. Five of the top 10 in the Pope and Young records are Iowa deer. Many in the Boone and Crockett Club records are also from Iowa.





# How to Hunt Pheasants

By Don Cumming

Asst. Game Supt.

and

David Evans

If a youngster sat with a group of experienced pheasant hunters and listened to their tales of gunning the gaudy roosters he would more than likely begin to think that shooting ringnecks wasn't much more than driving out into the country, stepping out of the car and blasting away.

However, there is a lot more to pheasant hunting than that. As a matter of fact, after the first few days of the season, when the young ignorant roosters are well thinned out, there is quite a bit more to it than that.

Let's take a look at the major methods used today to hunt pheasants in Iowa.

Probably the most popular pheasant hunting technique is the "drive and block" method. With this tactic, several hunters (six to 10 are spaced out to comb as much of a field as possible.

The spacing depends on the amount and type of cover present, but usually a distance of eight to 10 corn rows apart is plenty. Blockers are stationed at the other end of the field to shoot the birds as they flush ahead of the drivers.

During the first few days of the season, only one or two blockers are needed. The drivers get most of the shooting because the birds are not so wild and will hold in the cover, flushing only when men come near.

However, after a ringneck has been shot at once or twice he becomes crafty as a fox and swift on foot. He seems to know instinctively that his greatest safety lies in running, rather than flying, away from danger. This is the time to increase the number of blockers—to sandwich the pheasants between the hunters.

When the pheasants are wary, the blockers should not get in position un-

til the drivers are ready to move because the birds may shift out at the sides or flush before the hunt starts.

The drivers should not walk too fast, but move slowly and stop frequently. The blockers must remain quiet, walking up and down the field until it's covered.

The last drive in a cornfield is usually the most productive, for the birds shift to the side not already covered. This drive should be made into the wind to cut down on noise which may spook the birds.

If the cornfield has small grassy cover areas in or near it, hunters should work the birds into this cover. Pheasants will hold better in the grass and this will allow the gunners to get ready before they flush.

The "drive and block" technique works well on small cover areas where two to four are hunting. Weedy or grassy waterways, fence rows, sloughs, small bushy or weedy patches and roadsides are good areas to work. Remember, the smaller the group the smaller the cover to be hunted.

Hunters using the "locate and approach" technique are at a disadvantage without a dog. However, success is generally good during the early part of the season.

When using this method, whether hunting alone or with a partner, the hunter proceeds from heavy to thin cover to no cover at all. He moves slowly so the bird is not spooked too far ahead by any undue commotion. Many times the birds will move away but will not flush until the last few feet of cover.

The best places to hunt are the edges of any type of cover. Small waterways, fence rows, ditch-banks, brush and weed

patches and field margins are cover that the hunter can work to good advantage.

Pheasants that have been flushed and missed should be marked where they land. They can be hunted later.

If the birds are feeding or loafing in grainfields or other fields with little or no cover it would be a good practice to reverse the procedure. In other words, push the birds into the heavier cover instead of the thin cover.

Later in the season when the birds are wild one or two hunters can usually spook pheasants by the dozen out of an area with light cover. By pushing birds into a heavy covered grassy area, they may hold and allow the hunters to get within shotgun range.

Remember, in the latter part of the season, Mr. Ringneck has been hunted a few times and has learned to match wits with the best of nimrods. To determine what he'll do under any given condition is quite a trick.

Many roosters have learned that they can escape by sitting tight and letting you walk by. Often the hunter has to kick the birds out from beneath his feet before they will fly.

At other times, Mr. Ringneck is more apt to duck immediately into cover, then appear again on the opposite side and fly or race away. The slam of a car door next to a slough may trigger an eruption of ringnecks out of the covering like hornets out of a nest.

As a rule, during the opening days the pheasant population is evenly spread over cornfields, stubble fields, grasslands, hayfields and marsh edges.

Ringnecks feed in early morning and in late afternoon. However, on mornings with heavy dew, the birds may prefer to sun in the open areas or, in the case of rain, stay undercover rather



than go out to feed. Like hunters, pheasants do not enjoy getting wet.

Usually during the day they loaf near croplands where they feed or in the field itself. In late afternoon when the birds have finished feeding, they move to roosting sites such as hay stubble (alfalfa or clover) or grassy areas.

With the first hint of winter, pheasants begin to drift toward heavier cover and concentrate in willow thickets, brush patches, slough, marshes, railroad right-of-ways and farm windbreaks.

The birds will huddle during a snow-storm, and with sunup and clear weather, move out to feed. Their tracks in the fresh snow will give them away.

In the late season pheasants may loaf in the open areas such as plowed fields or grazed meadows.

After analyzing the methods of hunting these challenging and durable birds, it stands to reason that there are numerous "winter league" arguments over which is best.

Mr. Ringneck is a mighty tough bird. In the fall he takes on man, who is loaded with the best hunting equipment available, and who is also responsible for the type of pheasant cover that exists.

Then the pheasant faces a variety of rugged weather during the winter months. Yet he still manages to come up with a sound reproduction potential each spring.

And as a result, Iowa offers some of the best hunting in the world. Iowa's pheasant harvest has been among the tops in the nation in recent years.

Sheer determination seems to be one of the pheasant's main assets. This, plus adequate living conditions, should assure old John Ringneck of a place in Iowa's outdoors for many years to come.

**Below: Man's best friend can really help man in the field during those fall hunting trips. Careful training and pre-hunt conditioning for both man and dog can mean the difference in success or failure on opening day.**



1969 IOWA HUNTING SEASONS AND LIMITS

GAME	SEASON	SHOOTING HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Pheasant	Nov. 8-Dec. 31	8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	3	6
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 25-Jan. 31, 1970	8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	8	16
Hungarian Partridge	Nov. 8-Dec. 31	8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	2	4
Ruffed Grouse	Nov. 1-Nov. 16	8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	2	4
Duck	Oct. 25-Nov. 23	½ hr. Before Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Geese	Oct. 4-Dec. 12	½ hr. Before Sunrise to Sunset	Check Species Laws	5
Coot	Oct. 25-Nov. 23	½ hr. Before Sunrise to Sunset	Check Species Laws	20
Wilson Snipe	Oct. 4- Nov. 22	½ hr. Before Sunrise to Sunset	10	16
Rabbit (cottontail and jack)	Sept. 13-Feb. 15, 1970	6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	8	None
Fox and Gray Squirrel	Sept. 13-Dec. 31	None	10	12
Raccoon (hunting only)	Nov. 1-Feb. 28, 1970	12 noon Nov. 1 to 12 midnight Feb. 28	6	None
Deer (gun)	Dec. 6-7-8, check zones and restrictions	8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	None	None
Deer (bow)	Sept. 27-Nov. 27	½ hr. Before Sunrise to ½ hr. after Sunset	None	None

Possession and Bag Limit—One Per Year

(continued from page 73)

Jack rabbit population distribution shows the highest concentrations in central, west central, and northwest Iowa. Hunting for both species should be good, especially after the first snow-fall when tracking becomes much easier.

**SQUIRREL**

For the past few years, high squirrel populations—thus, successful hunting—have remained fairly stable. Iowa's excellent habitat for squirrels continues to help produce bumper crops of the bushy-tails.

One of Iowa's two hunted species, the fox squirrel, is found throughout the state in adequate quantities for some top-notch hunting. The gray squirrel, the other hunttable species, is found

mainly in the southern and eastern portions of the state.

Squirrels rank as the number three game species in Iowa following right behind cottontails and pheasants.

**DUCKS**

The outlook for the duck hunter is not as bright, although the forecast is better than last season.

Last year the dry conditions limited and nearly eliminated good habitat and breeding grounds.

This year habitat is excellent, though breeding stock was still far from the good years of the mid-fifties.

One notable change in waterfowl regulations is the "two-mallard" limit. Relaxed from the one mallard limit of last year, this change should result in fair to good success on Iowa's marshlands.

**GEESE**

Basically, Iowa has no shortage of geese, but by nature, goose hunting is not highly predictable. "Catch as catch can" is usually the forecast for geese.

During the peak migration period, successful hunting is expected, since the best opportunity comes at that time. Many geese in widely scattered groups are usually found at the beginning of a season. Toward the end of the season, geese will usually be concentrated mainly at refuges and other gathering points.

As in past years, the best goose hunt in Iowa will be at the western borders of the state along the Missouri River bottoms.

So there it is—the 1969 hunting outlook. Almost every hunter, no matter what his bag is, can look forward to a good hunt.





By Julius "Sonny" Satre

With the fall season upon us, many outdoor sportsmen have visions about that 8-point buck that outsmarted him last year. Other nimrods are getting itchy trigger fingers for the pheasant opening.

Still others are anxiously awaiting the mystic migration of the waterfowl through Hawkeye land, with expectations of bagging a Canada honker. Some are content in roaming the woodlands in pursuit of squirrels and rabbits while enjoying the fresh autumn aroma of the outdoors.

Fall is a beautiful time of year. The weather has cooled and become more comfortable. Air conditioners are put in moth balls. The football games are back on TV.

Jack Frost has painted a masterpiece from the Mississippi to the Missouri. Hunting seasons are here again.

But one important season isn't over yet and that is fall angling. Many Iowa fishermen store their fishing equipment away too early. These guys are really missing an opportunity for some excellent angling.

While many waterfowl hunters are sitting in a duck blind the walleyes are on a hunger rampage in Iowa's natural lakes and border rivers. The smallmouth bass are filling their gullets in northeast Iowa streams such as the Volga, Turkey, Upper Iowa, Yellow and Maquoketa Rivers.

In this same area, trout are available

in 45 spring fed streams. Jumbo yellow perch are easily enticed in the north-west Iowa great lakes region.

At this time of year, crappies are probably the most cooperative species for the stringer than any other fish. As soon as the water begins to cool, they seem to have an unlimited appetite and they can be found in almost all waters throughout the state.

Largemouth bass and bluegills are taking advantage of the last few insects that happen to light on the water before old man winter puts a lid on their domain.

The Iowa Conservation Commission's big fish records prove that many of the lunker type fish are taken during the September through November period. This has been the case with the brown and rainbow trout, yellow perch, sauger, walleye, northern pike and white bass, which were all caught during autumn angling, and became new record size specimens.

By the way, entries for the 1969 fish records are still being accepted by the State Conservation Commission. Any species of fish 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 10 pounds; carp over 20 pounds; northerns over 10 pounds; smallmouth bass over four pounds; largemouth bass over seven pounds; walleyes over 10

# Fall Fishing . . .

## The Forgotten Season

pounds and flathead catfish over 20 pounds.

All fish must be weighed to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade. The weighing must be witnessed by two persons. The total length of the fish must be recorded also.

The angler must fill out an official entry blank or a facsimile and send it and a black and white photo of himself and the fish to the State Conservation Commission, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by December 31, 1969.

Entry blanks may be obtained from local conservation officers or at the above address. Record breaking fish and proud anglers will be featured in the February issue of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST.

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

Fall is traditionally known for its hunting and football. But autumn angling should not take a back seat to any of these activities.

Being outdoors on an Indian Summer day, enjoying the beautifully colored landscape, watching waterfowl winging their way south are a few of the experiences you can have during this breathtaking time of the year.

But most important, fishing is at its best!

We know the fish are there and it's up to you to make the most of it. Who knows, you might catch that lunker you have long dreamed about.