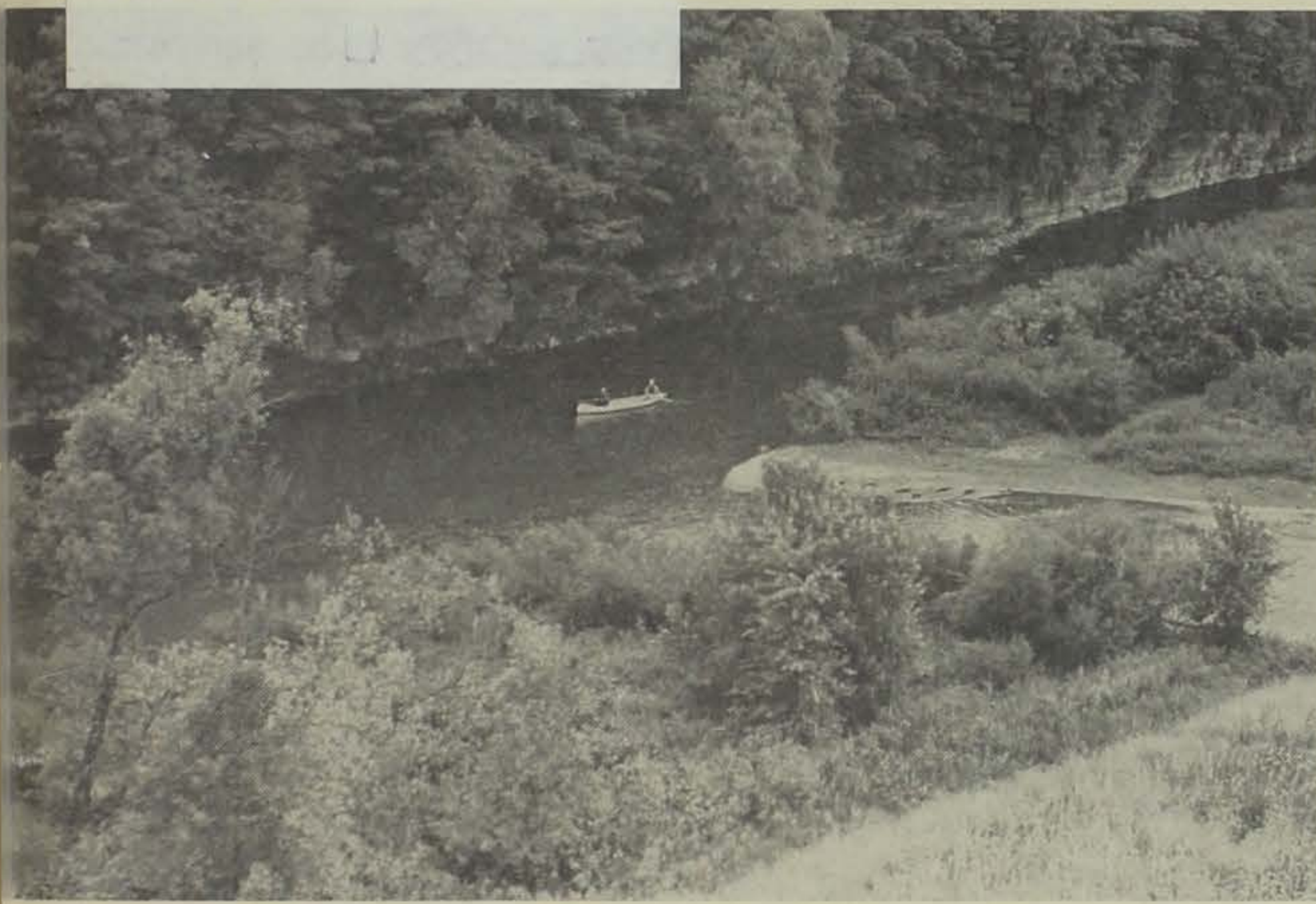




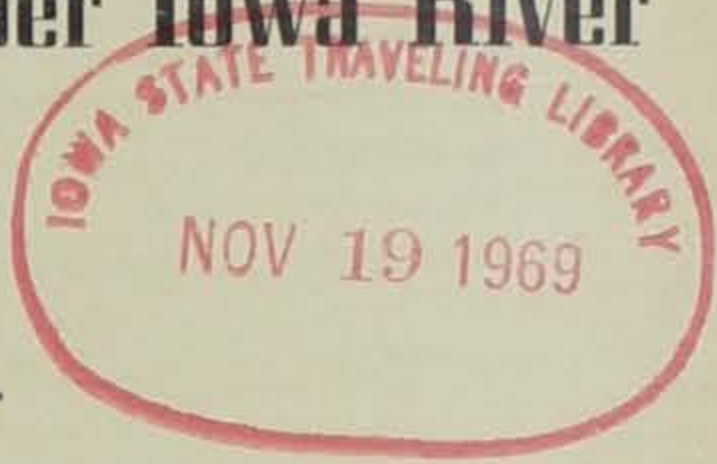
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Upper Iowa River

A Joy Forever



By David Evans

A river can be an outstanding example of nature at her best . . . or man at his worst.

A river can be a polluted sewer carrying waste and filth through our land . . . or it can be a thing of beauty.

Iowa is fortunate that it has rivers like the Upper Iowa . . . rivers that are beautiful. By virtue of its unique quality, the Upper Iowa is one of 27 rivers designated by Congress for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The basic purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is to protect certain rivers in their free-flowing condition. Among other things the rivers must possess outstanding scenic, recreational and geological features, fish and wildlife or similar values.

With this in mind, let's take a closer look at the meandering river called the Upper Iowa. It enters the state near Chester in Howard County and empties into the Mississippi River near New Albin in Allamakee County.

One finds a variety of scenery along its shore—limestone bluffs, wooded hillsides and typical farmland. Above Decorah the river valley is relatively narrow. Below Decorah the valley becomes wider and the hills higher, though less steep.

Relatively wild and unpolluted, the current is generally moderate flowing over a bottom that is mostly sand, gravel

and limestone bedrock. The average depth is about two feet. However, this varies from several inches on some riffles to eight feet in deep holes.

Vegetation along the river is lush. Flood plain trees include elm, hackberry, silver maple, box elder, willow, walnut and butternut. The higher hillsides support oak and hickory. On the damper hills and limestone bluffs one will also see sugar maple, birch, white pine, balsam fir and cedar. Some hills are covered with juniper and others with white pine.

The nature watcher can have a ball while floating the river in a canoe. Signs of beaver and muskrat are numerous. Herons, kingfishers and red tail hawks will provide aerial cover. Those original apartment dwellers, the cliff swallows, have built their nests in colonies on the bluffs. Woodchucks can be seen scampering along the bluffs and the song of cardinals is a melody to paddle a canoe by.

It's in keeping with the image of a relatively unspoiled river that the canoers, fishermen and hunters are the ones who make use of the stream and its borders. The scenic quality of the river attracts many canoers. Although there are rapids, the stream is generally safe except during floods.

There is good smallmouth bass fishing in the river, but most anglers stay close to bridges. The river offers an unforgettable experience in almost com-

plete solitude for the fisherman who wants to get away from the "crowd."

Hunting pressure along the river is light. It's confined primarily to deer and squirrel hunting.

Early explorers named the river after the Ioway Indians who lived in valleys near the mouth. Major archeological sites have been discovered in the area. It also has interesting geological features. As the river cut through layers of sedimentary rock, deep curves known as "entrenched meanders" were formed. Many springs emerge from the sides of the cliffs and bluffs feeding the river.

This then is the Upper Iowa River—a unique and beautiful stream. A valuable asset to Iowa.

A field task force has been organized to conduct the study of the river to determine whether the Upper Iowa should be included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

State participation will be coordinated by the Iowa Conservation Commission and the Minnesota Department of Conservation. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife are federal agencies taking part. Only certain segments of the river meeting the requirements would be recommended for inclusion in the act.

Regardless of the outcome of the study, the Upper Iowa must continue to remain in its natural state.

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COMMISSION MINUTES

September 16, 1969

Meeting held in Omaha, Nebraska

Accepted an option in the Walters Creek Watershed (Adams County) for 244.33 acres.

Accepted for submission to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for qualification only to be activated as options are taken the following: State Conservation Commission, Western Iowa Loess Area, Acquisition 3,165 acres adjacent to Preparation Canyon State Park.

Acquisition will provide land for scenic overlooks, picnicking, camping, walking trails, bridle trails and fishing ponds for the public.

The following project proposals were accepted for submission to the BOR: Buchanan County Conservation Board, Jakway Forest, addition 80 acres; Poweshiek County Conservation Board, Deep River Recreation Area, Development, Fox Forest Area, Acquisition 150 acres;

Decatur County Conservation Board, Slip Bluff Park, Development; City of Missouri Valley, Municipal Tennis Court, Development; Van Buren County Conservation Board, Austin Park, Development; Indian Lake Park, Development.

Adopted the following proposed policy on license depositories: "All bonded license depositories, in order to provide the 'reasonable care' required of an agent, are expected to carry sufficient insurance to cover any loss of commission monies in their care. Upon the event of the loss of such monies, said agent will be required to pay the full amount to the Commission, such payment to be made from insurance proceeds or other resources of the agent. If such payment is not made within a reasonable length of time, the Commission will request payment from the agent's surety."

The following County Conservation Board land acquisition projects were approved: Calhoun County Conservation



Governor Robert Ray signed the "Iowa Conservation Week" proclamation declaring October 12-18 as the special week when Iowans were reminded that continued enjoyment of outdoor recreation facilities depends on the wise use of all natural resources. All Iowans were urged to support conservation efforts and participate in natural resources projects.



In conjunction with the "Conservation Week" proclamation, Governor Ray was presented a Theodore Roosevelt Commemorative Model 94 30-30 rifle by Dr. Edward Kozicky, director of Conservation of the Winchester-Western Division of Olin at East Alton, Illinois. The rifle was presented to the governor in recognition of his contributions to conservation and natural resource management.

Board, Calhoun County Museum; Floyd County Conservation Board, Ackley Creek County Park; Van Buren County Conservation Board, Morris Memorial Park.

The following items relating to the Lake Manawa area were acted on as follows: Approved a three-way temporary agreement with the City of Council Bluffs, Highway Commission and Conservation Commission.

Included Lake Manawa in the State Park and Institutional Road System. Reimbursed the City of Council Bluffs in the amount of \$969.51 from the State Park and Institutional Road Fund covering road maintenance work.

Approved a request from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for a legal "Right of Entry" covering the Winnebago-Snyder Recreation Complex. This authorizes the U. S. Government, its contractors, agents and assigns to enter upon and use lands owned and/or claimed to be owned by the State of Iowa, together with right of ingress and egress, for the purpose of constructing said recreational development.

The following game options were accepted subject to approval of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife: Snake Creek Marsh, Greene County, 240 acres; Otter Creek Marsh, Tama County, 80 acres.

EDITORIAL

With some of Iowa's major hunting seasons upon us or fast approaching, its time to take some preparatory steps that will contribute to successful days in the field.

One of the most important factors to consider is locating a place to hunt. We strongly urge that hunters always ask for permission to hunt on private property. This is just common courtesy.

Actually, its a good idea for sportsmen to visit a farmer or landowner several days before the season opens. This will give one a chance to get acquainted and make plans for hunting. It will be appreciated and it's far better than barging in on a farmer the first morning or the night before the season opens. If his land is committed for opening day, a courteous approach may bring permission for a subsequent occasion.

A few disrespectful hunters can be the cause of much posted land. For this reason, every sportsman can protect his heritage to hunt by respecting the farmer's rights and property—and by seeing to it that his fellow sportsmen do the same.

Some pre-season exercise will do wonders for both man and dog. Sportsmen with hunting dogs are indeed fortunate. Hunting with a well trained dog is great experience. Not only does the hunter see more game, but the dog helps find wounded birds insuring that they will not be wasted.

Pre-season conditioning is a very good idea for the hunter. Getting legs in shape and building up stamina will prove valuable when in the field.

The Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared" certainly applies to sportsmen. Now is the time to check and clean equipment. Nothing can spoil a hunt faster than to have a malfunction in a gun or other piece of valuable equipment.

It's a good idea to sight-in a rifle or pattern the shotgun prior to the hunt.

Actually, hunting is a safe and sane sport compared to some hazards we face today. However, injuries and fatalities do occur. These can and must be avoided. To prevent these accidents, hunters must follow the principles of safe hunting.

As the National Rifle Association points out: "A hunter should handle the gun properly—always treat it as though it is loaded, always point the muzzle in a safe direction, be sure of your target and practice self-control."

Two final items that are vital to take along on the hunt—your license and plenty of good old common sense. With these essentials in mind, Iowans can continue to enjoy their sport. *de*



Campfire Cookery

With most hunting seasons underway or beginning soon, sportsmen will be getting their tastebuds all set for any and all the game they've bagged.

Here are some seasonal delights sure to please the entire family.

PHEASANT CASSEROLE

Disjoint pheasant, dredge in seasoned flour and brown quickly in $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. butter in skillet. Place meat and butter in casserole, add $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. sour cream, 1 T. minced onion, $\frac{1}{4}$ c. chopped celery and $\frac{1}{4}$ c. diced carrot. Bake $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours in moderate oven.

INDIVIDUAL PHEASANT PIES

This is an excellent recipe for utilizing birds so badly shot up that considerable portions must be discarded.

Place pheasant in kettle with water to cover, 1 small onion, 1 carrot split, 1 stalk of celery and 1 bay leaf. Simmer $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, then cut meat from bone and chunk.

Mix with 1 No. 1 can of peas, 2 boiled potatoes (cut in eighths), 1 four-oz. can of mushrooms. Cover with gravy and spoon into individual pie plates. Cover with prepared pie crust and bake 20 minutes in hot oven.

Gravy: Brown 3 T. flour in 3T. butter, add $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. of the stock in which the pheasant was cooked, and $\frac{1}{2}$ t. salt and $\frac{1}{4}$ t. pepper.

ROAST WILD GOOSE

Bake wild geese 25 minutes per pound, the first 30 minutes at 425 degrees (hot oven) and remainder of the time at 350 degrees (moderate oven). Baste often.

WILD GOOSE APPLE STUFFING

Melt $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. butter in kettle and in it saute until transparent $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped onions, $\frac{3}{4}$ c. chopped celery and 3 T. parsley. Pare, core and dice 12 tart apples, add to kettle with $\frac{1}{4}$ c. white sugar and $\frac{1}{4}$ c. brown sugar, cover and simmer until apples are tender. Stir in 1 c. fine bread crumbs, 1 c. cracker crumbs, 8 slices bacon fried crisp and broken, 1 t. salt and $\frac{1}{2}$ t. pepper.

SPIT BARBECUED QUAIL

Place quail on rotisserie spit and broil for 35 to 40 minutes, basting every seven minutes with barbecue sauce. Set heat on high until birds brown, then reduce to medium.

Barbecue sauce: $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chili sauce, $\frac{1}{2}$ c. catsup, $\frac{1}{2}$ c. water, 1 T. Worcestershire sauce, 1 T. lemon juice, 2 T. butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ t. salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ t. dry mustard, $\frac{1}{2}$ t. cayenne and 2 t. brown sugar. Simmer several minutes before using.

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Above: Forestry activities at Yellow River forest are a major portion of the Prison Labor Program. Diseased trees are removed from areas and treated with substances to curb their sprout growth.

A variety of activities is available for the variety of skills provided by the inmates participating in the prison labor program.

The program, operative since 1960, is co-sponsored by the Iowa Conservation Commission and the Department of Social Services. The joint effort is a rehabilitation program for the inmates and a needed labor force for state projects.

The Luster Heights camp, built on part of the Yellow River Forest Area in 1962, houses from 20 to 40 inmates from the Men's Reformatory at Anamosa.

The men are assigned to work forces scattered around northeast Iowa state-owned lands where they provide labor in return for room, board, and wages.

"We try to balance the cost of the program in return for the work these men do. Previously trained laborers—carpenters, equipment operators, etc.—do us the most good. We draw from their experience and use the skills to best advantage," explained Jack McSweeney, area forester in charge of the Yellow River Forest.

The roles and responsibilities of each

Below: Area improvement, such as painting picnic tables and buildings, is an activity geared to the Parks Section. Dennis Phillips, left, park officer at Pikes Peak State Park works with one of the inmates on the tables for that area.



State Departments' Cooperation Shown In Labor Program

state agency are very well defined.

The Department of Social Services includes in their duties the maintenance of the Luster Heights camp, furnishing some transportation, seeing to discipline and taking care of basic assignments of the inmates.

The Conservation Commission pays inmates through their controlling institution, pays for transportation, sees to safety measures on the job, and accounts for the whereabouts of the inmates.

Don Light, supervisor of the Luster Heights camp for the Department of Social Services, pointed out that this program is one that is geared to total rehabilitation and socialization. Not only are the men given jobs suited to their skills before confinement, but, if they wish, they can be taught new skills to better equip them for society.

Recreation areas at the camp provide various outdoor and indoor activities. Inmates may attend certain community functions and church services in small chaperoned groups.

All facets of re-socialization are considered and looked after in the prison labor project.

While on the job, inmates are given a variety of jobs working with many sections and departments within the Conservation Commission.

General forestry work includes erosion control, tree planting and harvest, tree stand improvement, fire prevention and control, lumber mill work, and general maintenance on state forest areas.

In the fisheries section the inmates help with pond and stream improvement, and fish management duties.

The parks section is assisted in their improvement and maintenance of roads and parking areas, picnic and camping sites, walking and riding trails, sign construction, and general area work.

Game management, building and area maintenance, fencing, and basic construction work are also job possibilities for the inmates.

The two-fold purpose of the program—economic labor and inmate reform and



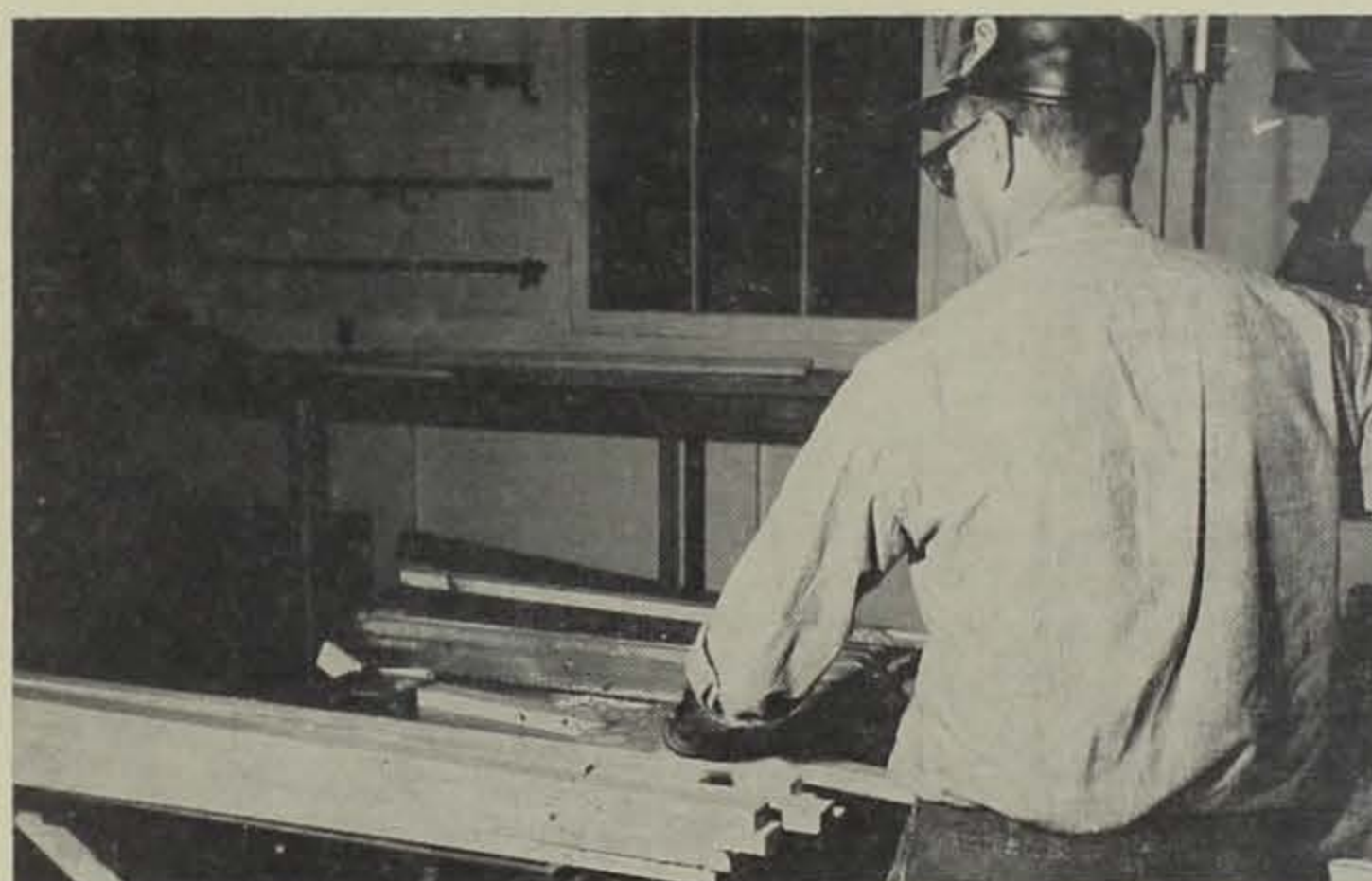
Above: Stream improvement activities are still another segment of the Prison Labor Program.



Tree clearing and logging practices are carried out by the inmates of the Luster Heights Camp.

rehabilitation—accomplishes and fulfills a definite need in society.

The overall effects of the program were summed up by Glen Wendel, Conservation Commission employee working with the inmates, "You get a real feeling of accomplishment when one of the men makes it after leaving camp . . . you realize what you've been working for all along."



A carpentry shop in the Yellow River Forest area provides tools and equipment for maintenance and new construction work assigned to the inmates.

Lose People to Find Hunting

By John Madson
Conservation Consultant
Olin-Matthieson Corp.

There's a lot of competition for good hunting, and there's going to be more. One of our biggest hunting problems today isn't the absence of game, but the presence of people, and a good way to find hunting is by getting away from people. There are several ways to do this:

1. *Hunt in places that are inaccessible to other hunters.*

One way to find elbow room is to head for the Antarctic and have yourself a penguin shoot. If you can't work that out, just try some game cover that's over the hill and a twenty-minute walk from the road. It doesn't take much distance or many contour lines to discourage most hunters.

On a county plat map we once noticed a freak stretch of river that ran nearly four miles through farm country without crossing a road. This was a guarantee of light hunting pressure. Sure enough,

we found that a small flock of Canada geese had been using the middle part of this un hunted river for several weeks.

Try to wear out your hunting pants. Bust brush; get back into rough pockets of game cover on broken land, especially late in the season. If there's a tough place to hunt, hunt it.

2. *Hunt game that most other hunters ignore.*

How many men hunt jacksnipe in the fall? How many New Englanders hunt gray squirrels? Have you ever floated small streams for wood ducks? Or listened to a good hound run raccoons at night? Or tried predator calling?

3. *Hunt popular game when and where most other hunters don't.*

We have had excellent late-season pheasant hunting in the exact centers of land sections. As the bird season wears on, many hunters wear out—and begin roadhunting. The center of a section is far from the road, usually out of sight and farmers aren't inclined to

be as fussy about clean-farming there. If there's cover in the remote center of a section, there'll usually be a few birds. Sometimes many.

Cornfielding mallards and geese is an art that takes a lot of doing, but it can be done. Not many hunters really work at hunting waterfowl in cornfields. But that's where many waterfowl are, and a few specialists know how to connect with them. You have to hunt game where it is, when it is.

Don't ignore the last few days of the season. We're thinking of the northern midwest at the tail end of the pheasant season—usually snowy and cold, with birds bunched up in heavy cover and most hunters bunched up around television.

There is a lot of competition for good hunting—that's half the fun. But competing with nature, not people, is the sport. Following these "get-away" tips helps solve over-people-population in the fields, and puts you where a lot of action and good hunting will be.



A Pheasant's Eye - View Of Hunters

Hey, dum dum. Wake up. No sense sleeping through the whole pheasant hunting season. No, don't go for your shotgun. You'll just get excited and ventilate the air. Let's have a little pow wow.

What's so surprising about a pheasant talking? Believe me, there's a lot you don't know about us birds. I saw you sleeping under this tree at the edge of the field and figured it was a good time to have a summit meeting.

Nothing so inspires editorial eloquence as us pheasants. I'll bet there is more written about pheasants and hunting us than any other outdoor subject. And why not?

In all due modesty, I'm the most colorful and exciting bird you will ever pursue. Well, anyhow these stories are all written by hunters, would-be hunters or even worse—people who don't know much about us or care less about conservation.

Now, in all fairness, I would like equal time to air my views. After all, I've had a good chance to observe you two-legged creatures. Yup, one might say my hobby is "hunter-watching"—hazardous avocation, I'll admit, but nevertheless interesting.

My name? It's "Rowdy Ringneck." That's what all the hens call me. During the course of two hunting seasons I've come upon all types of people in the field. Now give a listen while I discuss a few of these.

Red Crowned Road Runner—This guy you don't really find in a field. His idea of pheasant hunting is making like an Indianapolis "500" driver over the back roads in hopes of spotting a ringneck parading along the turnpike.

He doesn't score too well. By the time he is out of the car and has his scattergun ready for action, I'm well on my way. One day last fall a carload of Road Runners was barreling down the lane when the driver saw me watching from the weeds (my hobby you know).

Anyhow, the driver slammed on the brakes and his companion in the front seat was thrown into the windshield. As

the two men in the back seat tried to get out they got tangled up in their shotguns and dropped their shells in the grass. I just strolled away unharmed. Oh yes, the car went into the ditch.

Quick Shot Snapper—He is a squirrel's idea of Utopia. Nothing is safe around "Old Machine Gun Kelly." Every little movement in the bush has but one meaning for him—pheasants. And he fires away, spraying pellets in every direction.

He thinks anything that moves is fair game—whether he can see the whole target or not—roosters, hens, quail, cows, horses and fellow hunters. His companions call him "button" because he is always popping off at the wrong time. Actually, you don't find this guy hunting with a group more than once.

Red Nose Swigger—Now here is a real gem to have along on a hunt. He takes more shots out of a bottle than a shotgun. He is actually a greater menace to his companions than to us pheasants.

He says he drinks to soothe and steady his nerves. The trouble is that sometimes he gets so steady he can't even move. When a Quick Shot Snapper and Red Nose Swigger get together, it's rough on the human race.

It's certainly stretching the imagination a heck of a lot to picture these types as the end product of a million years of evolution.

Hearty Brush Buster—I'll be the first to admit that this species can be tricky. Sure, you can hear him coming through the corn field. He sounds like a buffalo heading for water on a hot day. If he is hunting alone it's O.K.

But sometimes the Brush Buster is just part of a big plot—or "drive" as you fellows call it. I have to be mighty careful before flushing when I hear or see him. Like as not a bunch of other fellows are waiting in ambush at the end of the corn field.

At times I just crouch down and let this guy go past. I love to see his expression when I explode into the air behind him.

Hunter-Sportsman—This type is what it's all about. Alert, a good hunter and well versed in gun handling, he will usually get his limit.

But even if he doesn't, he actually seems to enjoy the hunt. I honestly believe this species just likes being out in the field. It matters not whether he hunts alone or with a group. He is efficient and a good shot. The Hunter-Sportsman often comes out before the season opens to look over the area and visit with the farmers.

This is smart on his part. My knowledge of the fields has saved me many times from becoming the piece de résistance at an Iowa dinner party. Most Iowa hunters resemble this guy.

Well, that gives you an idea of what I have to contend with—not that I mind it at all.

How come I haven't been shot yet? Well, it's simple. I'm smarter than the average hunter, that's why. Any more dumb questions?

Heck, when it comes to survival, hunters are the least of a pheasant's worries. Look at it this way . . . on the average about two-thirds of the present pheasant population will be gone next year whether we are hunted or not. Hunting seasons really don't have that much effect on us.

It's bad weather, both summer and winter, and lack of a good home or habitat as you call it. I'm a mighty tough bird and resourceful too, but blizzards, prolonged snow cover and droughts really cut us down.

If the hens don't have good nesting cover or we haven't any place to go in the winter, we're hurting. Compared to these hazards, you hunters are easy, if not fun, to contend with.

Oh sure, Iowa hunters take a lot of pheasants each year. I understand Iowa is one of the best pheasant hunting states in the union.

And I'm kind of proud I had a hand (or wing) in that. Look at it this way

(Continued on page 88)

Partridge and Pear Trees



By Richard Bishop
Game Biologist

I'm sure that most of you have heard of partridge in a pear tree. Well there aren't many pear trees in northern Iowa but there are a lot of partridge.

This little bird, twice the size of a quail, was introduced into Iowa back in 1910. They originally came from southeastern Europe. Huns, as they are most often referred to, have expanded their range to include most of north central and northwestern Iowa.

Partridge are quite plentiful in the portion of Iowa bounded by Highway 65 on the east and west to the Big Sioux River and from the Minnesota border south to Highway 20.

Since the pheasant population in northwestern Iowa declined during the severe blizzard in 1965 the Hun has become more important to the northern Iowa hunter. In 1964, 7,000 Huns were reported shot and in 1968 hunters harvested about 21,000.

Most of these birds were taken by hunters hunting pheasants but some hunters are taking up the sport of hunting strictly for Huns and shooting pheasants incidentally.

Research studies indicate that partridge populations could withstand a much greater harvest without hurting the next year's population. Data show that these birds have high survival rates from the time they hatch until the following spring.

In 1968 coveys, which are usually made up of family groups, averaged about 10 birds prior to the hunting season and coveys observed after the hunting season averaged 7.9 birds. We could expect a loss of this magnitude during this period from natural mortality.

In other words, hunting at the present time does not play any significant role in regulating partridge populations. Some farmers have a covey of partridge on their farm every year but they never seem to have more than just one covey whether hunting is allowed or not.

The limiting factor or factors appear to

be tied in with the time span from covey break-up in February until the end of nesting in August. Huns prefer grass cover like that which is found in road ditches, ungrazed farm lots, and ungrazed pastures for nesting.

A few birds nest in oats and alfalfa but this is not the rule. High nest losses occur from farming operations, grazing and predators.

It is believed that the lack of safe nesting cover is one important factor for populations not increasing beyond a certain point. If more nesting cover was available, nest losses could be reduced and partridge populations could probably be increased.

They are not subject to winter losses as pheasants are to bad weather. During severe weather they get into farm groves or out of the wind in cornfields or plowed fields.

They are quite well adapted to living under extreme winter conditions as is exhibited by their numbers in the prairies of Canada where hard winters are common.

Huns are birds of agriculture and can usually be found around corn or bean fields. Our studies show their home range to be about one-half mile. This means

from a central point, they will not tend to wander over one-fourth mile in any direction. This is very helpful in locating Huns that you have flushed previously.

Now that we know a little bit about the Hun or partridge let's get down to the business of hunting them. To say the least this is a most difficult task.

Early in the season Huns are most frequently flushed out of cornfields by pheasant hunters. Often times they flush out of range or if they do flush within range they so unnerve the hunter that they are out of range by the time he collects his wits.

To sum up the Hun he will tend to flush wide, fly fast and fly far. Most times the pheasant hunter will not give up his routine walking of corn rows to chase the little gray ghosts half way across the section to have them flush out of range or disappear completely.

Also the number of coveys flushed by a given party is usually few which tends to exasperate and discourage most hunters.

No, the prospects for hunting Huns are not hopeless. The key to the game is to hunt specifically for Huns.

They generally will flush if approached

(Continued on page 88)



Key to Successful Hunt— Field Dressing Game

By Julius "Sonny" Satre

One of my greatest pet peeves is game that is bagged successfully but half wasted because of hunters not taking the time to field dress their quarry.

All game, whether it is deer, squirrel, rabbit or fowl should be field dressed immediately. If this is not done, the meat has a tendency of becoming sour and partially spoiled.

It is also easier to skin or pluck feathers off freshly downed game rather than waiting a period of time.

Eating properly prepared game is half the fun of hunting and it even sometimes builds the hunters ego in the eyes of his spouse who may not always appreciate those weekend jaunts.

The Iowa Conservation Commission doesn't set hunting seasons just for the sake of killing, but to harvest surplus game. So let's not waste this precious commodity.

Field dressing is simple and takes little time. A few of the "I forgot to bring items" you will need are a sharp knife, plastic bags and dry cloth.

On fowl, such as grouse or pheasant, make an incision below the breast to the vent for the removal of the entrails. Another incision is needed above the breast to the neck for removing the windpipe, crop and lungs.

The most important thing to remember is to relieve the bird of its body temperature as rapidly as possible. Even if the temperature is 10 below zero, if the innards are not drawn soon after bagged, it will effect the taste of the meat.

After the entrails are removed, drain the fluids from the body cavity. Then use the cloth to absorb the remaining secretions. If snow is available, place a quantity in the cavity for speedier cooling.

The game is now ready to be placed in the plastic bag. For warm weather hunting, take an ice chest along to place the game in.

Squirrel and rabbit should be handled similarly. Removing the innards is the most important item. You can skin them later and that's the thing to do if you don't have plastic bags, otherwise the meat will dry out too fast. Of course, it is easier to skin the critters while they're still warm.

Years ago when I was still wet behind the ears, I learned why it is important to field dress game. I was guilty of shooting some pheasants and rabbits on a day-long hunt and placing them in the trunk of the automobile.

After returning home late in the eve-

ning, I proceeded in the task of dressing the game. If you wait this long you almost need a gas mask because of the horrible smell. It probably would have been a good idea to have a state or federal meat inspector test whether the meat was edible or not, too.

Numerous hunters prefer skinning their game birds rather than picking feathers. This is perfectly o.k. and up to the individual. But the gourmet who knows best will leave the skin intact. The skin has a thin layer of fat which adds flavor to the meat and also seals the juices in the meat and prevents the meat from becoming too dry.

One tip to remember to make picking feathers much easier, is to dry pick the bird right after it's in the bag. You'll be surprised how easy the feathers are removed.

Like all game, deer should be field dressed immediately after it's downed. The animal should be bled properly by making an incision through the jugular vein or for that matter removing the entrails usually is sufficient bleeding.

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within 40 yards so when hunting Huns you should not hunt one area intensively. If there are several hunters, spread out and hunt a large area until you flush a covey.

These birds are not predictable. They may be found in cornfields, bean fields, plowed fields, fence rows, along ditches or by farm groves.

That's right, I didn't leave much out and if you are going to find a particular covey you may have to hunt an entire half section. The one thing to remember is that partridge are present in almost every section; all you have to do is find them.

Late in the season picked cornfields and plowings are the best bets. Plowed fields are favorite hide outs for these birds and hunters sometimes encounter good pheasant shooting there also.

Once a covey has been flushed mark the spot where they light and proceed again. Sometimes you may flush the covey three or four times before they hold until you are in range.

The second key to being a successful Hun hunter is to be persistent. If you ever scatter a covey mark the birds down because they will hold like quail and provide some excellent single shooting.

A dog can be a great help in flushing coveys and singles but after a covey has been flushed and marked down you must be able to keep the dog in close so that

Remove the viscera, drain the blood and other fluids from the body cavity and absorb the remaining fluids with dry cloth.

Many experts insist on removing the musk glands, located on the back of the lower hind legs. Other experts say this is not necessary because you can contaminate the meat easier by removing them.

Another reason given for not removing them is that the musk glands are ductless glands, and therefore, there is no way it can taint the meat if left intact. After you decide what to do with the musk glands, your deer is ready to take to the locker plant for proper cooling and processing.

You can kill two birds with one stone if you field dress your game. You will be happier and will not dread the job after a long tiring hunt and your wife will appreciate not having the MESS in the basement. Last but certainly not least, the whole family will enjoy the eating quality of the rich Iowa game.

it does not flush the birds wild.

If you will remember these few points you can consistently bag Huns. Hunt areas where you have seen Huns before hunt the entire vicinity, mark the birds down once they flush and keep after them until you get shooting.

This fall Hungarian partridge will provide a number of Iowa hunters with some of the most thrilling wing shooting they have ever experienced. Once you have had a successful hunt you may not be able to rest until you go again. Success may come hard but the rewards are well worth it.

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... we pheasants are a natural resource, a mighty important resource. And hunting us is just making wise use of the resource.

Heck, as long as you shoot only roosters you won't hurt our population with scatterguns.

There are no hard feelings. That's the way the pellets pattern. All us birds will eventually go to that big stubble field in the sky. That's why we have so much fun while we're around.

Well, it's been enjoyable chatting and there is a lot more I could tell you about the lives and loves of a pheasant. But we have about a half hour of hunting left today. Just give me a ten-yard flying start and I'll be on my way.