

JUNE
1970

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Tips for Boaters:

Safety Afloat

By Roger Sparks
and
Wayne Lonning

Iowa offers quite a variety of boating opportunities. New federal impoundments offer from five to ten thousand acres of water, unbroken by islands. The natural lakes also offer big water boating

for water skiers, and cruisers and runabout skippers.

Houseboats of the Mississippi and Missouri, canoes and flat bottoms on inland streams, fishing boats on artificial lakes, all are growing in popularity.

When the statistics are totaled, about 87,000 motorboat owners register their

boats and enjoy their favorite sport in this state each year. Considering this number, the boating accident report doesn't seem so bad. Over a five year period less than 150 boating mishaps have been reported. However, in these accidents, 51 people died and many more were injured. The tragedy lies in the fact that most, if not all, could have been avoided.

The following safety guide has been condensed from the U. S. Coast Guard list of safety rules:

1) Know your boat's limitations. This includes weight distribution, motor and passenger capacity, and how it handles in rough water. Respect the weather.

2) Carry proper safety equipment. All boats in Iowa must be equipped with a life preserver for each passenger. Proper lights if used at night, and a sound device if 16 feet or over as well as a fire extinguisher (for motors 10 h.p. or more) are required, as well as other items depending on the type and size of the vessel. Know your boat's requirements.

It is a good idea to include such items as a first aid kit, oars, distress flares, pump or bailer, anchor, extra fuel, rope, and even drinking water, depending on the situation.

3) Watch where you're going! Collisions cause the largest number of boating accidents. There must be a second person aboard to watch the water skier.

4) Operate at safe speeds. Watch your wake. Give swimmers and skiers a wide berth.

5) Know the marine traffic laws. The Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, publishes a Uniform Waterway Marking System pamphlet, and a boating regulation booklet.

6) Be defensive against explosions and fires.

7) Keep your boat and motor in good working condition. Carry spare parts, shear pins, spark plugs, extra prop, etc., depending of course on the situation.

8) Never operate a boat when intoxicated.

Generally, good boaters know and observe these basic safety rules. Other tips for boat owners are pictured on pages four and five.



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CIRCULATION70,000

COMMISSION MINUTES

April 7, 1970

Approved the following project proposals for submission to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation: Story City, Community Park, acquisition 1.3 acres; Sioux County Conservation Board, Big Sioux Park, acquisition 29 acres; West Liberty, Wapsinonoc Creek Park, acquisition 46 acres; Webster City, Riverview Playfield Complex, development; Ringgold County Conservation Board, Poe Hollow Park, development; Lee County Conservation Board, Pollmiller Park, development; Dubuque County Conservation Board, New Wine Park, development; Sioux City Spalding Park, development; Keokuk, Municipal Small Boat Launching Facility, acquisition 1.2 acres and development.

The following requests for amendments to existing projects were approved for submission to the BOR: Van Buren County Conservation Board, Indian Lake Park, development; Audubon County Conservation Board, Nabotna Pond, development.

The following land acquisition options were accepted: Big Creek Lake, Polk County, 120 acres; Nine Eagles State Park, Decatur County, 38 acres; Walters Creek Watershed, Adams County, 46 acres; Rock Creek, Jasper County, 5.5 acres.

Accepted a condemnation award for 104 acres, Swan Lake, Carroll County.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Eldorado offered a quit claim deed to the State of Iowa conveying the old stone church building approximately 400 feet from Fort Atkinson State Park. The local community will restore the outward appearance of the building at no cost if the state will agree to surface the access and maintain the grounds. The Commission accepted the gift in accordance with the donor's offer, subject to approval of the state Executive Council.

Rejected the offer of Keomah Realty, Inc., to sell the disputed property adja-

TREE FARMING FOR PROFIT:*The Hart Tract: an "all*

By William Ritter, District Forester
and
Gene Hertle, State Forester

The familiar sound of a chain saw broke the winter stillness as another harvest was made from a "man-made" pine forest near Harper's Ferry earlier this year.

The majestic white pine, established in 1921 by William S. Hart on 16 acres of non-productive sandy soil, were being thinned for the third time. Mr. Hart, a Waukon attorney and second generation owner, is continuing the stand of trees for final sawtimber production.

In 1944 an improvement cutting yielded 100 cord of pulpwood, which was shipped to a Wisconsin mill. The second thinning, in 1960, yielded sixteen lumber logs and 93 cords of pulpwood.

cent to Lake Keomah and recommends condemnation proceedings on the disputed property riparian to Lake Keomah and the Commission's recommendations be submitted to the State Executive Council for action.

The following County Conservation Board Projects were approved: Des Moines County, Franklin Township Lake Park Addition, 16.40 acres; Grundy County, Wolf Creek Recreation Area, 92.75 acres; Guthrie County, Nation's Bridge Park Addition, 8 acres; Plymouth County, Southeast Wildwood Park, 35.58 acres.

The following County Conservation Board development plans were approved: Lee County, Pollmiller Park; Dubuque County, New Wine Park.

Approved a maintenance and management agreement between the Conservation Commission and the Hancock County Board of Supervisors for 130 acres of land known as the Crystal Lake Recreation Area located on the east and south-

The improvement cut this year was made under the direction of William Ritter, district forester, who worked individual trees for removal. Trees containing 215 cords of pulp were marked and sold to the Celotex Corporation's mill at Dubuque. The trees will be converted into pulp for production of sound-board and insulation material. This is a particularly interesting set up in that it is an "all Iowa" operation involving an Iowa landowner, an Iowa district forester, Iowa loggers, and Iowa industry.

The three intermediate harvests of this plantation are steps in the fulfillment of a plan to grow a "tree crop". Other landowners across the state are planting non-productive sites as Mr. Hart did. Dollar yields from such land can be considerably higher from a timber crop than from agricultural crops on the same site. Christmas trees are the first paying crop considered by most people planting trees.

east shore of Crystal Lake, a state-owned natural lake.

Dr. Keith A. McNurlen, chairman, presented the Olin Safety Award to Peter Ainsworth, Spirit Lake, in recognition of his volunteer work in Boating and Water Safety Training.

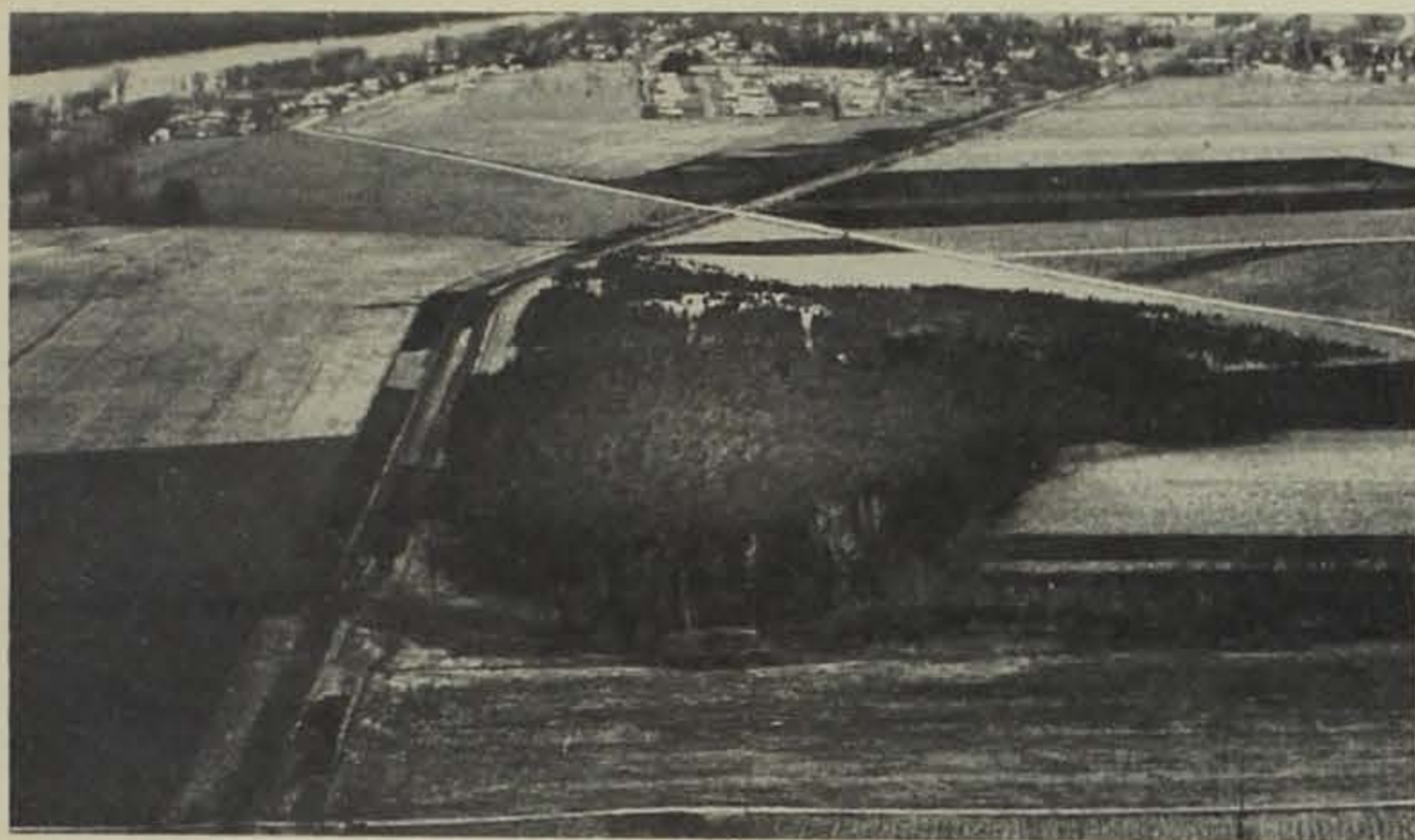
Accepted an option for 40 acres for the Red Cedar Wildlife Area, Muscatine County.

Accepted a land purchase option for a 17-acre tract located between Minnewashta and Lower Gar Lakes.

Authorized a management and maintenance agreement between the Conservation Commission and Clayton County on the state-owned Bixby State Park Area in Clayton County.

Adopted a resolution authorizing the director to file application with the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration for a grant to aid in the construction of outfall sanitary sewers and waste stabilization lagoons for domestic wastes at Red Rock State Park in Marion County.

'all-Iowa" Operation



The return from this type of sale of thinnings may offset entirely the rather high per-acre cost of trees and planting. This harvest thinning can be done between age 6 and 10, with the remaining trees left to grow to posts, poles, pulpwood and sawlogs.

The number of years to final crop in the case of the Hart plantation, and those like it, is likely to be 60 to 80 years. Sawlogs of excellent quality can be produced in such areas under good management.

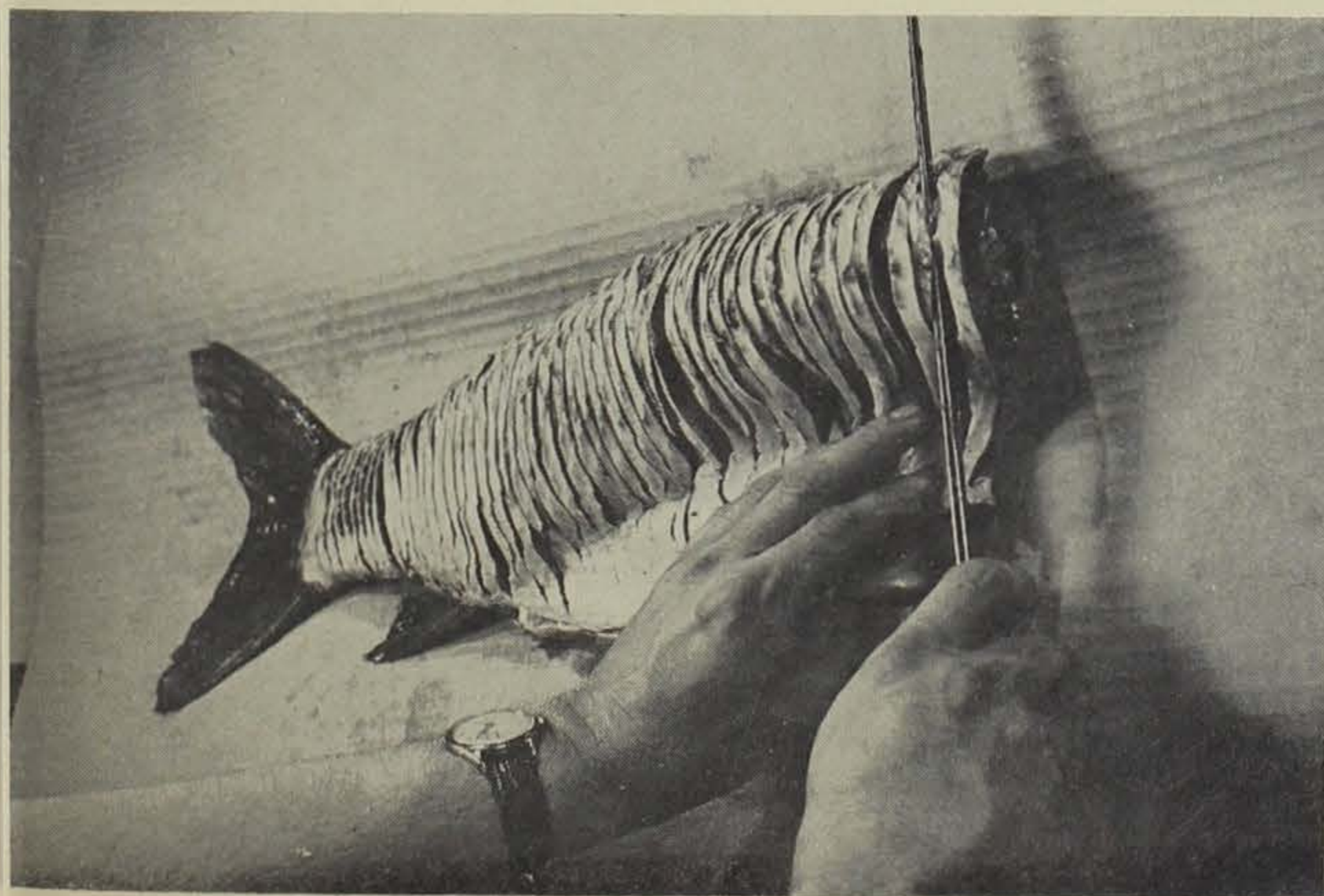
In addition to the benefit from the sale of forest products, pleasure of hunting, use as a picnic area, as a relaxing spot to find solitude and peace of mind, or a combination of these, are additional values not measured in dollars and cents. A well managed woodland can be maintained and built up to the healthy natural community. The value for wildlife, protection from erosion and the pleasure of owning a timberland can be kept by the

owner as long as he wishes.

Practicing forestry and planting of non-productive lands can create these woodland values and can also point the way to a good cash income in the harvest of mature trees.

Many rural landowners in the state of Iowa are considering planting some of their non-productive land to trees. Often, they do not have the knowledge of tree species available, soil types which will support good tree growth and information about the care of a planting.

The Conservation Commission, recognizing the need for this type of advice, has hired professional foresters to give such tree planting and forest management advice, free of charge, to landowners within the state. Anyone who is interested in this type of a crop should contact the Forestry Section, State Conservation Commission, 300-4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.



by Dick Ramsey

The carp has been at one time a hero and now a rogue. Many years ago the carp was imported from Europe and stocked in the United States. Carp was heralded at that time as a game species and was stocked near and far across the country. There was, at one time, a waiting list for carp fry, raised as a cultured fish in some countries and used as a basic food source. But alas, how could anyone have guessed that once released in the rich lakes and streams of this country, the girl carp would spend all of their time putting on lipstick and long eye lashes and the boy carp would take the hint. Carp are overly prolific and the carp family spawn all summer. They are in direct competition for food and space and most efforts to eradicate them have failed. This rogue of the water is the largest member of the minnow family and is a close cousin of the gold fish. The carp has been cursed and discussed more than any other fish in our state. Hero or rogue, the debate goes on.

Most every fisherman has watched a bobber move so slowly a person might think that a frog sneezed on it. Other times it goes down like King Neptune had reached up and grabbed it. In either case the fisherman is in for quite a battle. The carp is a strong fish, a good fighter and worthy of jumping honors. A soft mouth makes him difficult to land and many escape without being seen. If landed, some people when asked say, "Just a carp."

Now this carp is the same fish as the one used in most fish fries across the state. He has been a good friend of those people and clubs who raise money for many worthwhile projects. Properly prepared, the carp is a fine eating fish.

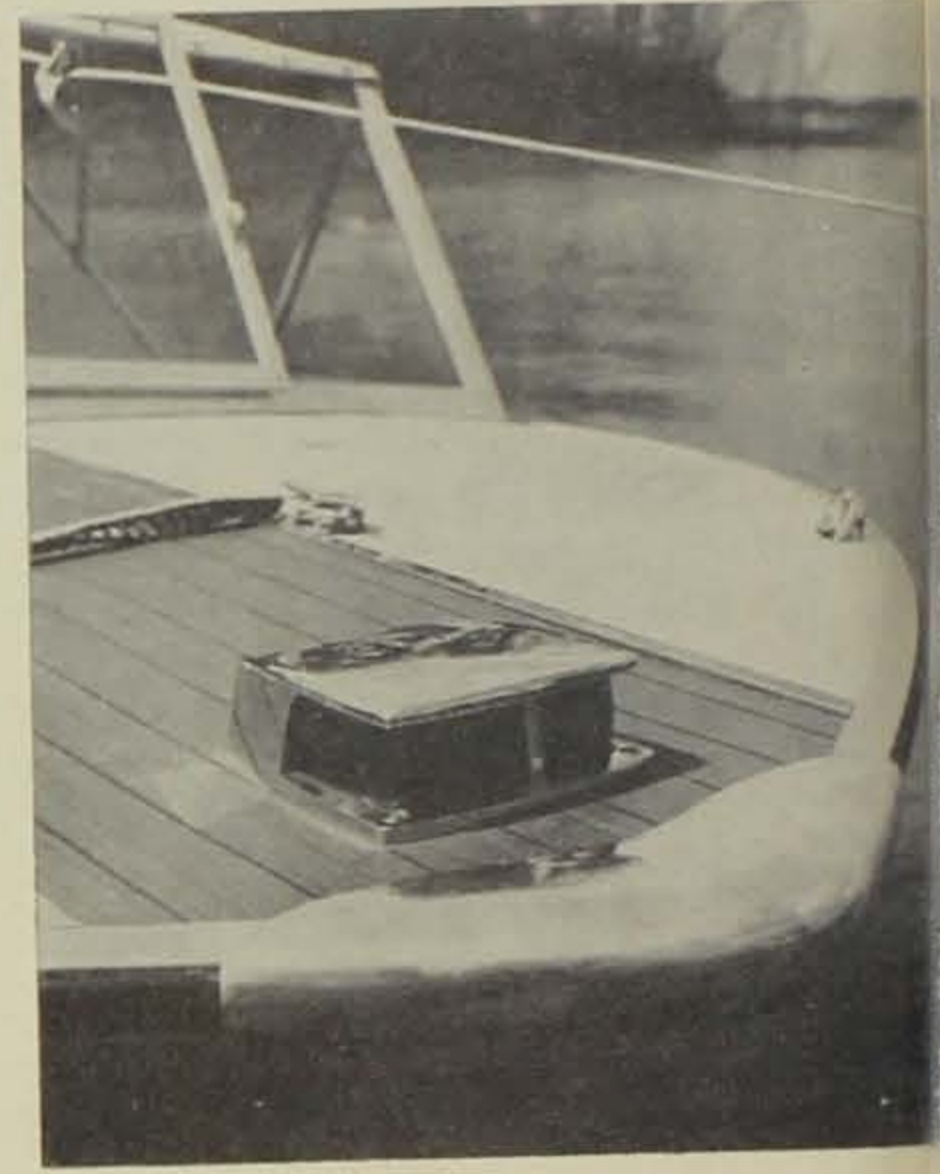
Carp should be scaled or skinned, and scored as shown in the pictures. Upon completion of the cleaning and scoring, cut the fish into 1½" pieces. In a paper sack mix two cups of yellow corn meal, ½ cup of rolled corn flakes or toasties. Add one half teaspoon of poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Dip the fish in a batter of 6 eggs and 2 cups milk and shake in a paper sack. Deep fat fry in peanut oil. Cook the pieces very much like you would donuts. If the oil burns and discolors we would suggest that you dump the burned oil and start with fresh. Serve with cole slaw, baked beans, dill pickles, bread, butter and coffee.

By the way, if in your travels around Iowa this summer you happen upon a catfish that has been treed by a dogfish, you might do him a favor and call the "carps."

Tips for Boaters . . .



EVERYONE Should Wear Life Preservers . . . (U. S. Coast Guard Approved)



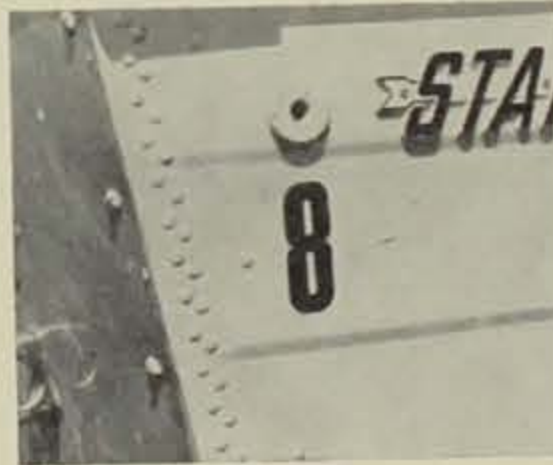
Motorboats of less than 26 feet are required to have the lights. Check regulations for other



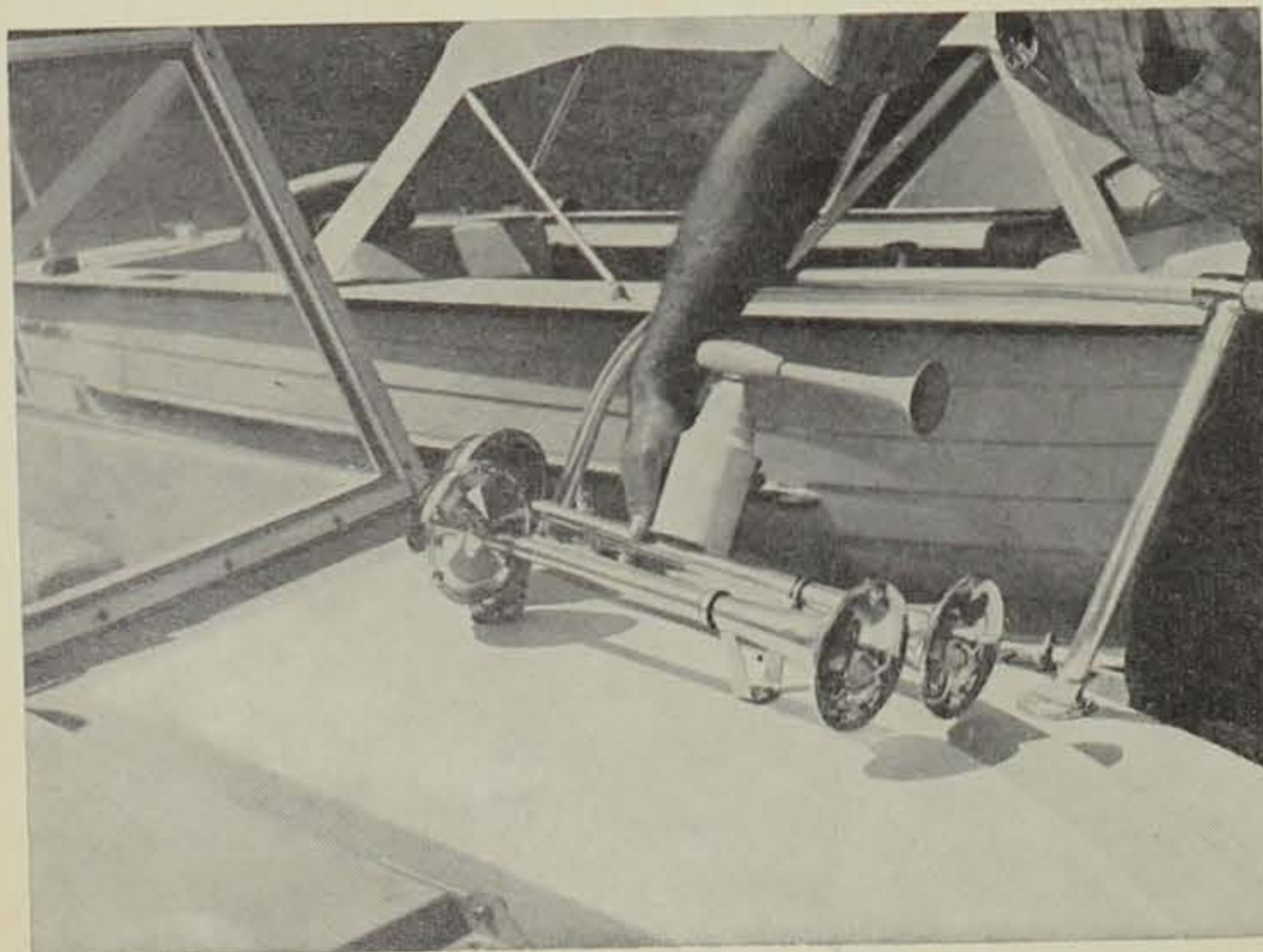
Required in Motorboats of over 10 HP



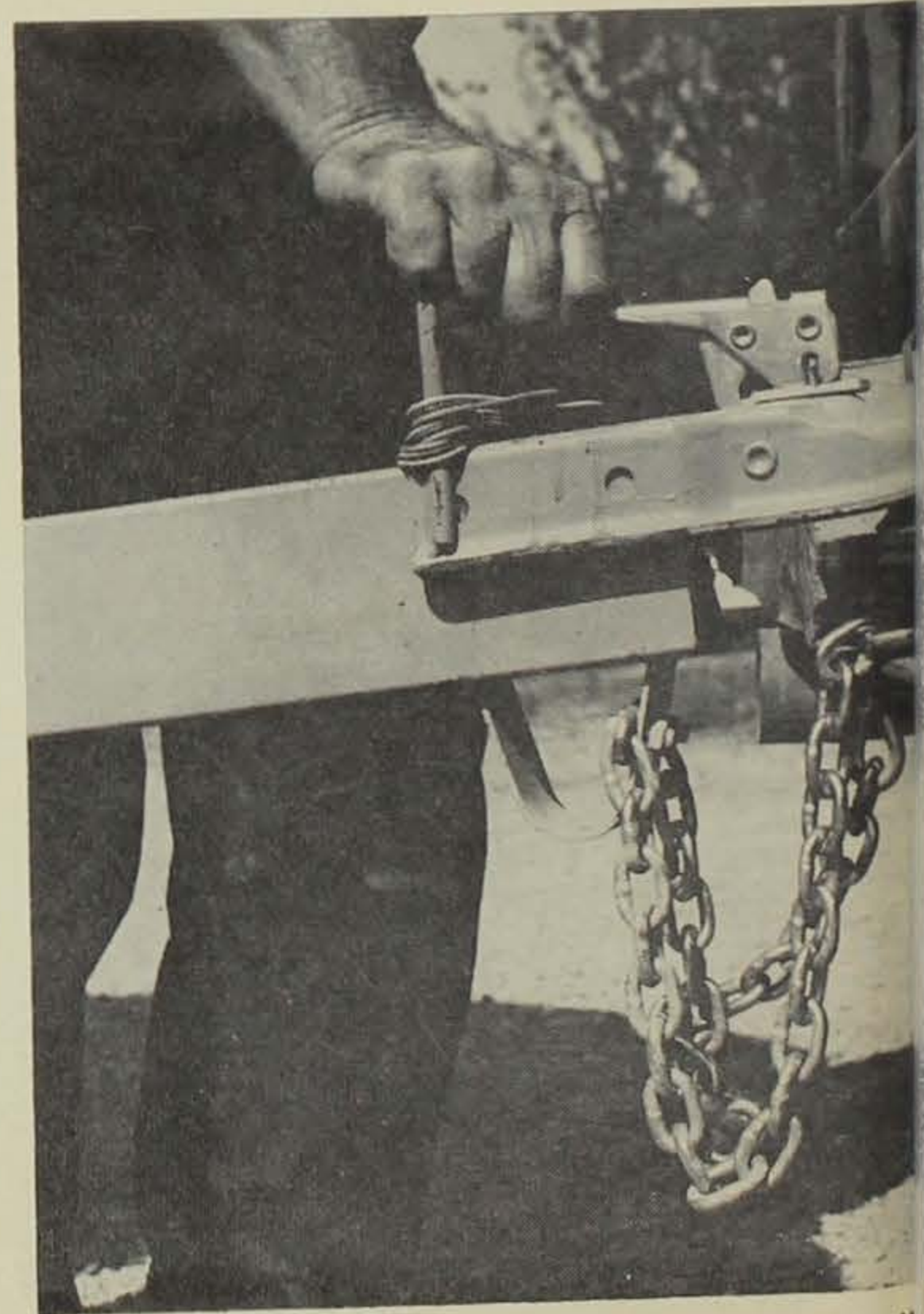
Trailer Must Have License



Heed Passenger Capacity



Two Types of Sound Device (required for boats 16' or more)



Safety Chain Must Secure Trailer

On and Off the Water



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r other vessels.



Always secure everything in the boat when on the road



NOW ENJOY YOURSELF



Tr
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Remember the stories of the big geese your grandfather shot and the stories that were told about 20 pound honkers. The minds of many hunters wander to dream for a chance at one of those geese of yesteryear. Some hunters do not believe in the large geese that we have often heard about from our elders but they are a reality and maybe someday in the not too distant future some of us will be able to fulfill our dreams by bagging a monster goose.

When the first settlers arrived in the area of tall prairie grasses and sloughs of the northwest one-fourth of Iowa the

large Canada goose was a common summer resident. It nested commonly from north central Iowa westward to the Missouri River. Reports from early explorers and ornithologists document the presence of these birds in northern and northwest Iowa. The exceptional size of this bird was noticed by many hunters and bird enthusiasts but it was not until 1951 and after considerable work by several individuals that the maxima Canada goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) was recognized as a separate race. Some men had been working on establishing this goose as a separate race of Canada goose

since 1922. By the time it was finally recognized in 1951, it was believed to be extinct. In 1962 the giant Canada goose, as he is now commonly called, was re-discovered at Rochester, Minnesota by Harold Hanson, a noted research biologist. Since that time a couple of farm raised flocks of the giant Canada goose have been discovered in Iowa.

The maxima is a noticeably large goose ranging from the 9 pound class of young of the year birds to 22 pounds for some adult males. Many of these birds range in the size from 12 to 18 pounds. The common large race of Canada geese range in weight from 7 pounds for immature birds up to about 11 pounds for adults. Other features that distinguish this bird are a very long neck, large wing span and body length, massiveness of the bill, and large size of the foot.

The Iowa Conservation Commission set up a project to try and re-establish the giant Canada goose as a nesting bird in Iowa and it is anticipated that Iowa hunters will one day be shooting a fair number of these giant geese. The original stock of our birds came from private flocks from Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. A captive flock of these birds was established at Ingham Lake in Emmett County in northwest Iowa in the early 50's. Adult birds were wing clipped so they never fly but their young were allowed to mature and return to the wild. Until recently the size of the Ingham Lake flock was less than 400 birds of which some were young of the year and yearlings. They do not begin nesting until they are 2 years old and many do not nest until 3 years of age. This limited the reproductive ability of the flock. In addition to the small number of adult birds, a large percent of the young raised each year was shot in the immediate vicinity of Ingham Lake. Thus the flock increased very little from one year to the next.

The Ingham goose flock was not increasing and the project was about at a

Fabled 20-lb HONKERS —

RETURN of the GIANTS

By Richard Bishop, Waterfowl Biologist
Ron Howing, Unit Game Manager

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standstill so it was decided in 1966 that a small refuge would be set up to protect the young birds and allow for an increase of the flock. Thus a small refuge surrounding Ingham Lake was set up for the giant goose. The refuge entails an area of Emmet and Palo Alto counties beginning at the junction of highways 9 and 17 in Estherville and running south along highway 17 to Graettinger, then 9 miles east on a county road, then north along county roads to highway 9 at a point 5 miles west of Armstrong and then west along highway 9 to Estherville.

Since the refuge was set aside the flock has steadily increased to approximately 700 birds at present. Over 200 young goslings have been produced in the vicinity of Ingham Lake during the past 2 years, but the spring of 1970 is the first time that the flock has had enough adult breeding pairs to make a major increase in the flock. We feel this is the kick off year for the expansion of these birds in the wild.

Geese begin nesting in northwest Iowa by middle April and the eggs usually hatch about mid to late May. They nest in a variety of locations. Some use artificial structures like barrels and old tires on elevated platforms and some have adapted to wire nest baskets of the type commonly used by mallards. Other geese nest on small islands, muskrat houses, or on land near the marshes.

Some of the goslings are banded each year to keep track of their movements. The young geese plus the yearlings and adult fliers group up in the vicinity of Ingham Lake during late summer and fall. The flock of flying geese now migrate in the winter to points unknown. During the past two years the birds have migrated but they did not leave Iowa until December after our season was closed.

Only 2 bands have been sent in so we do not know where the birds are going during the winter. This low band return rate indicates there is very little hunting mortality on these birds at this time. As the flock builds and more birds migrate from the area some banded birds should be killed which will let us know where the birds are going.

After their winter stay they returned to Iowa to nest and raise their young where they themselves were hatched. The future of this bird looks very good and we anticipate a rapid increase of the flock. The key to the success of this project is adequate protection for a large portion of the flock. Without protection they will be wiped out.

As the flock increases they will spread out across northwest Iowa and hunters will no doubt bag a number of Iowa brown honkers. As long as the hunting bill is not too large the flock should continue to increase until they are once again common nesting birds across northern Iowa.

Highlights of New Laws —

Legislative Review

By Roger Sparks

In the recent legislative session, several bills were passed which will affect and be of interest to Iowa sportsmen and naturalists. These acts will be generalized here and will by no means include the details of the laws. It also should be noted that these laws will not go into effect until July 1, 1970.

The big one this year pertains to snowmobiles. Every snowmobile must be registered this year with local county recorders. The registration fee will be six dollars plus 50 cents writing fee. Each owner in return will receive a decal containing identification numbers, to be placed as directed on the machine. Yearly registration will be valid until the first of May, the following year.

A snowmobile pamphlet (now being printed) including laws governing snowmobile use can be obtained, along with registration, at the county recorder's office after Aug. 1.

One amendment referring to snowmobiles should be mentioned here. It was previously, and still is illegal to kill or wound, or attempt to kill or wound wild animals from a snowmobile (or aircraft). In addition it is now illegal to pursue wild animals from these machines.

BOATING FUEL TAX FUND

Here is a good piece of legislation for boaters. The excise tax boaters pay on motor fuel used in boats will now be channeled into a new "marine fuel tax fund." This money will now be used in the recreational boating program of the Iowa Conservation Commission. Previously this money (an estimated \$35,000 annually) was used principally for highway improvement. Boaters, with the exception of licensed, bona fide commercial fishermen, will not be eligible for a tax refund on boat motor fuel under this law.

ELECTRIC TROLLING MOTORS

This bill probably interests fishermen most. It's common knowledge among anglers that the smaller artificial lakes in Iowa produce excellent fishing. Previously, on artificial lakes of 100 acres or less, only rowboats were allowed. But it will now be legal (as of July 1) to use electric

trolling motors of not more than one and a half horsepower. Electric trolling motors are quiet, lightweight, and inexpensive. They're great for fishing and they can save a lot of soreness in the skipper's back the day after.

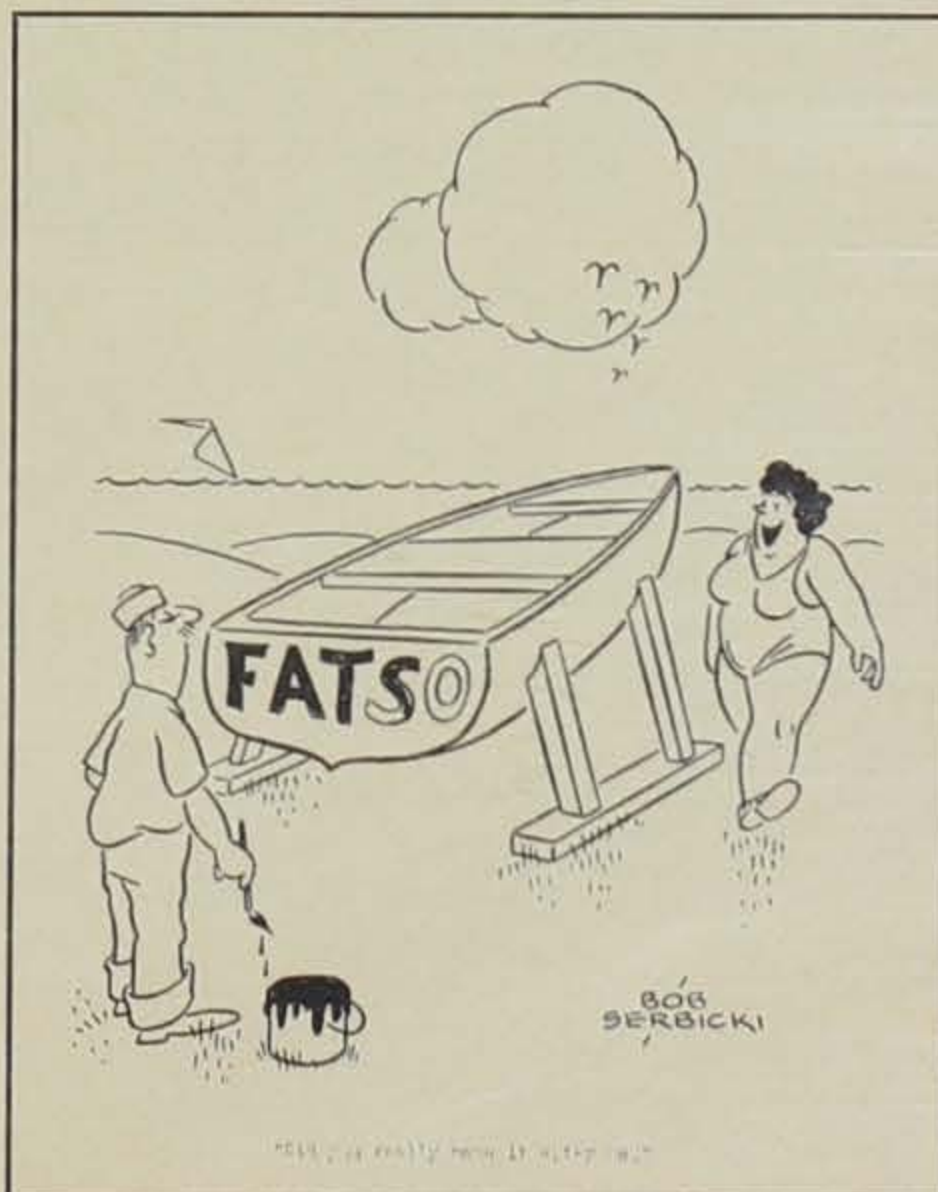
PROTECTION OF BIRDS OF PREY

All hawks and owls are now protected by a continuous closed season in Iowa. These birds, as a whole, do more good than harm, killing more harmful rats and mice than game or poultry. Previously, only certain species were protected.

SCENIC RIVERS

Basically this sets up a cooperative system between state and federal governments for the administration of rivers designated as "natural" or scenic. This will provide for needed cooperation between the state of Iowa and the Federal government to insure the preservation of the beauty and wildness of certain Iowa streams.

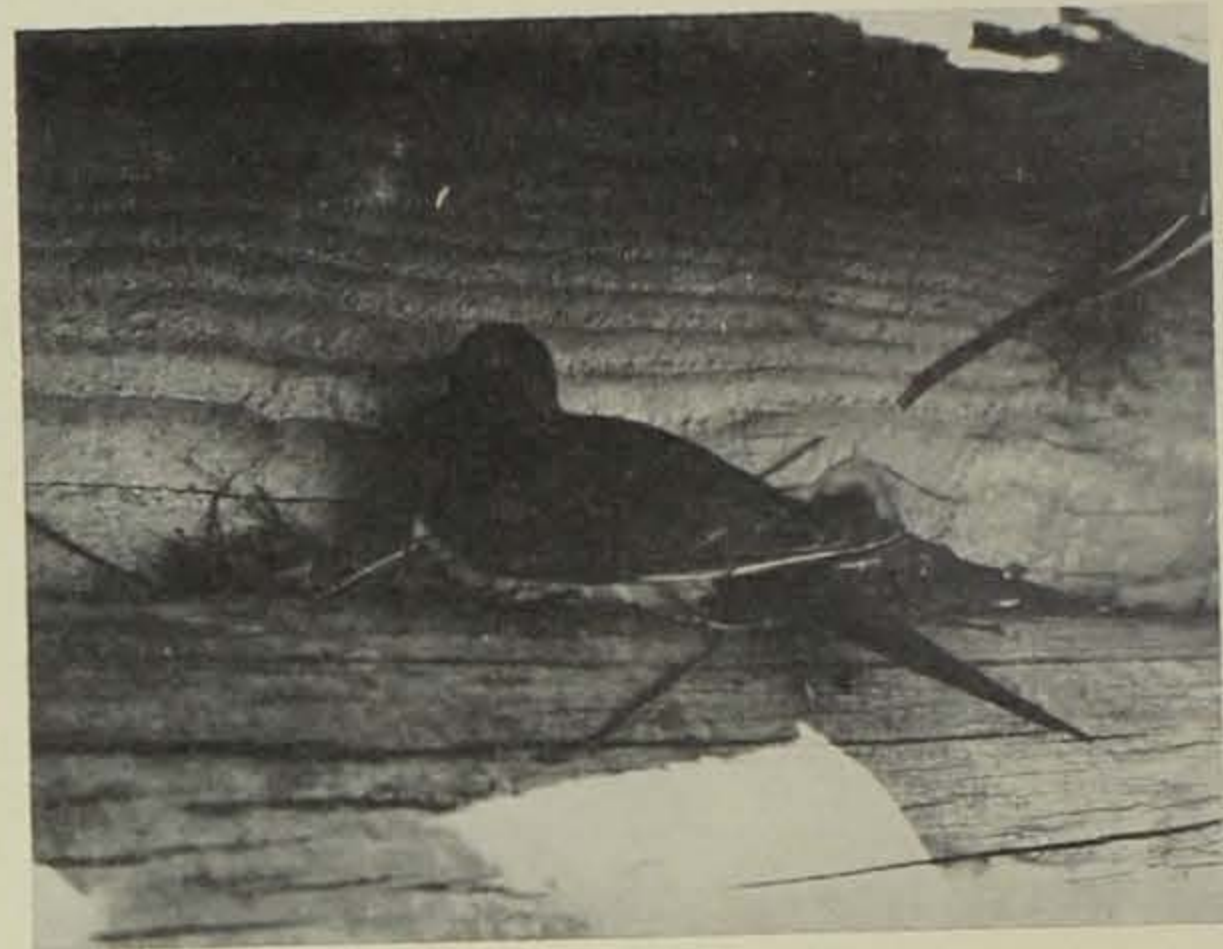
Again, this is just a brief note on the more important sections of these bills. Questions should be addressed to the Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.



Did you really name it after me?

Keep Iowa Clean!

Iowa NESTING BIRD



The Dove

By Kenneth Formanek
Information Specialist

Nesting activity for much of Iowa's birdlife is well underway. Secluded sites have been chosen with the utmost of care—away from prying eyes and the curious.

Perhaps one of the most common nesters incubating eggs these days is the mourning dove. Somewhat unfearful of man this bird can be found nesting in groves of farmsteads or in backyard trees of the suburbs. Doves usually nest from three to four times a summer. Nests are flimsy platform affairs of small twigs located in trees or shrubs, frequently not too high off the ground. Two white eggs are usually laid each time with incubation taking about 14 days. Often the male will keep the eggs warm during the day and his mate at night. Occasionally when the adult is flushed from the nest by an intruder, it may drop to the ground and imitate a bird with a broken wing to lead the trespasser away. Mortality often takes its toll when high winds or heavy rains strike while the eggs or young are still in these fragile homes.

Nestling doves are fed at first on "pigeon milk" secreted by the adults. Later they are fed worms, insects and seeds. The young grow rapidly and usually leave the nest 14 days after hatching to fend for themselves. Even by this time, the female may have already laid two more white eggs in preparation for the next family. This characteristic of raising several broods a year gives the dove a high reproductive potential.

Primarily a ground feeder, the mourning dove dines on waste grains and oth-

er seeds. It also depends upon gravel and sand and grit to help grind its food. Unlike most birds, which lift the head to swallow, the thirsty dove drinks with its head down.

Studies indicate the bird has a rather short life. Many are believed not to even reach the age of one year due to the high mortality rate brought about by predation, disease and natural causes.

These ashy, slender necked birds fly with vigorous wingbeats. Their voice is a mournful cooing call. Referred to as the turtle dove in some communities, this bird is a common summer resident in the state with a few hardy specimens

remaining in sheltered areas during the winter. Protected in the northern states, the mourning dove is prized as a game bird in the south and west. Fast, erratic and tricky flyers they are a real challenge for sportsmen.

Characteristics: Length 11 to 13 inches; spread 17 to 19 inches. Small head, slim neck; slaty-brownish upperparts with blackish spots on neck and wings, golden and reddish-brown sheen on neck; pale underparts, grayish wing linings, black-and-white edge on long pointed tail. Young lack black neck spots. The voice or call is a mournful ooah-cooo-cooo-coo.

PLEASE ! Don't Mow Until July

The nesting period is the most important time of the year for pheasants. The conditions during this time of year will normally determine what fall hunting will be like.

Iowa has over one million acres of road side ditches, waterways and government ground that a large percentage of the pheasants use for nesting.

If Iowans could delay mowing these areas until after July 1, as the Highway Commission has done in the past, pheasants will be able to improve their hatch.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is doing their part by allowing farmers to let their government ground go until after July 1 before the first mowing. All the farmer has to do is to have the ground checked by the local A.S.C.S. agent.

With total involvement in a mowing program, Iowa could have one of the best pheasant seasons ever.