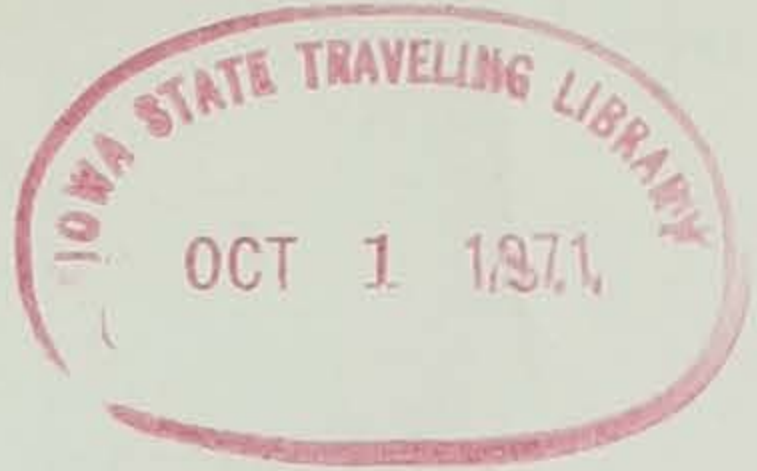




SEPTEMBER, 1971



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SEPTEMBER, 1971



conservationist

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Fred A. Priewert, Director

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- Ed Weinheimer—Greenfield, Vice Chm.
- Jim D. Bixler—Council Bluffs
- Joan Geisler—Dubuque
- Les Licklider—Cherokee
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Forum

Dear Sirs:

I would like all the information you have on bounties on animals of Iowa. I would also like the bounty prices of the animals.

—R. D., Des Moines, Iowa

Bounties are not paid by the State of Iowa. They are paid by the individual counties and at their option.

Dear Sirs:

I live on a farm and each fall, enjoy taking part in hunting with my brothers. A couple of days ago I was driving to town and came upon at least 30 pheasants searching for food in the snow. Now, as a citizen I would like to help feed these (and other) birds. Since there may be certain laws concerning placement of food, I am writing to help find out how to carry out this project.

—G. D., Woden, Iowa

We sincerely appreciate the interest which you have shown in pheasants here in Iowa. I am sure that your concern for the pheasants is very sincere.

We do not ordinarily advocate the feeding of wild game birds. Pheasants or any other game species are able to find food even under adverse conditions. Losses of pheasants which may occur in our state do not occur from starvation, but rather from exposure. Birds caught in the open some-

times suffocate when their head and beak is covered with fine drifting snow. They may also die of exposure when fine snow is blown into the feathers where it melts and freezes into ice. Anyone wishing to help the pheasants or any other game species, can do so much more effectively by increasing good winter cover for the birds. There are many programs available for this purpose. One of the most effective programs is the program called G-1A through your local ASCS office. This program provides that farmers can receive 80% cost assistance up to a maximum of \$200.00 for each planting when they plant rows of shrubs around existing farm windbreaks to provide wildlife cover. There are also Department of Agriculture programs providing cost assistance for the planting of cover on odd areas such as fence corners, ditches, etc. Pheasants in Iowa have plenty of food available. They do not have enough protective winter cover.

There is no law or any basic objection to feeding pheasants. In order to be effective, the feed must be placed adjacent to good existing winter cover. It must also be renewed regularly so that the birds, once they have come to depend upon it, do not find themselves stranded without food. Feeding cannot be carried out however, on a mass scale simply because of the sheer physical impossibility and prohibitive expense. We feel that it is much wiser to provide the necessary protective winter cover which the birds need, rather than the feed which they do not necessarily need.

Commission Minutes

Authorized the director to request State Executive Council approval to proceed with the exchange of 38.62 acres of land for 22.05 acres of state owned land at Stephens State Forest, Lucas County. The parcel is contiguous to the Cedar Creek Unit and the parcel they wish to acquire from the state is surrounded by private land.

The following County Conservation Board projects were approved as presented: Acquisition—Black Hawk County, West Fork River Area, approximately 178 acres; Buchanan County, Girl Scout Area, approximately 40 acres; Des Moines County, Franklin Township Lake Addition, 199.47 acres; Johnson County, Hills Access, 40 acres; Palo Alto County, Eddie's Wildlife Refuge, 40 acres; Wayne County, Corydon Lake County Park, approximately 78 acres; Webster County, Lake Ole Park, approximately 6 acres as a gift; Osceola County,

Ashton Park, approximately 7.75 acres. Management agreement, Jackson County, Lower Sabula Lake Access. Development plan—Buena Vista County, Linn Grove Dam Renovation; Greene County, Spring Lake State Park revision; Linn County, Pinicon Ridge Park revision Plains Campground; Woodbury County, Bigelow Park, Brown's Lake.

Approved an award for foundation for pre-built residence, grading and incidentals at Badger Lake, Monona County.

Approved a contract for delivery and placement of stone riprap on West Dredge Fill Area, Storm Lake, Buena Vista County.

Accepted an option on 93 acres of land bordering the Big Sioux River, Sioux County, subject to approval of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, funds to be taken from Pittman-Robertson Account.

Accepted an option for 75

(Continued on Page 14)



1971 hunting seasons

Squirrel (Fox and Gray) — September 11 to December 31, 1971. Bag limit six; possession limit twelve.

Rabbit (Cottontail and Jack)—September 11 to February 29, 1972. Shooting hours, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bag limit ten; no possession limit.

Deer (Bow) — Split season, October 16 - November 28, December 6 - 12, 1971. Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Deer (Shotgun) — December 4 - 5 in all deer hunting zones. Shooting hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The daily bag, possession and season limits for both bow and arrow and gun hunters will be one deer of either sex.

Waterfowl — See Waterfowl Article.

Pheasant—November 13, 1971 - January 2, 1972. Shooting hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit three cock birds; possession limit six cock birds.

Hungarian Partridge—Novem-

ber 13, 1971 - January 2, 1972. Shooting hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit two; possession limit four.

Quail — October 23, 1971 - January 31, 1972. Shooting hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit eight; possession limit sixteen.

Ruffed Grouse — October 30 to November 28, 1971. Shooting hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit two; possession limit four.

Wilson Snipe — October 2 to December 5, 1971. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Bag limit eight; possession limit sixteen.

Coot — October 2 to November 20, 1971. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Bag limit fifteen; possession limit thirty.

Fox (Red and Gray) — 6 a.m. September 11 to midnight February 29, 1972. No bag or possession limit.

Raccoon — (hunting only) 6 a.m. October 30 to midnight February 13, 1972). No bag or possession limit.

Woodchuck (Groundhog) — September 11 to December 1, 1971. No bag or possession limit.

Coyote — Continuous open season.

1971 TRAPPING SEASONS

Mink-Muskrat—6 a.m. November 6 to midnight December 31, 1971.

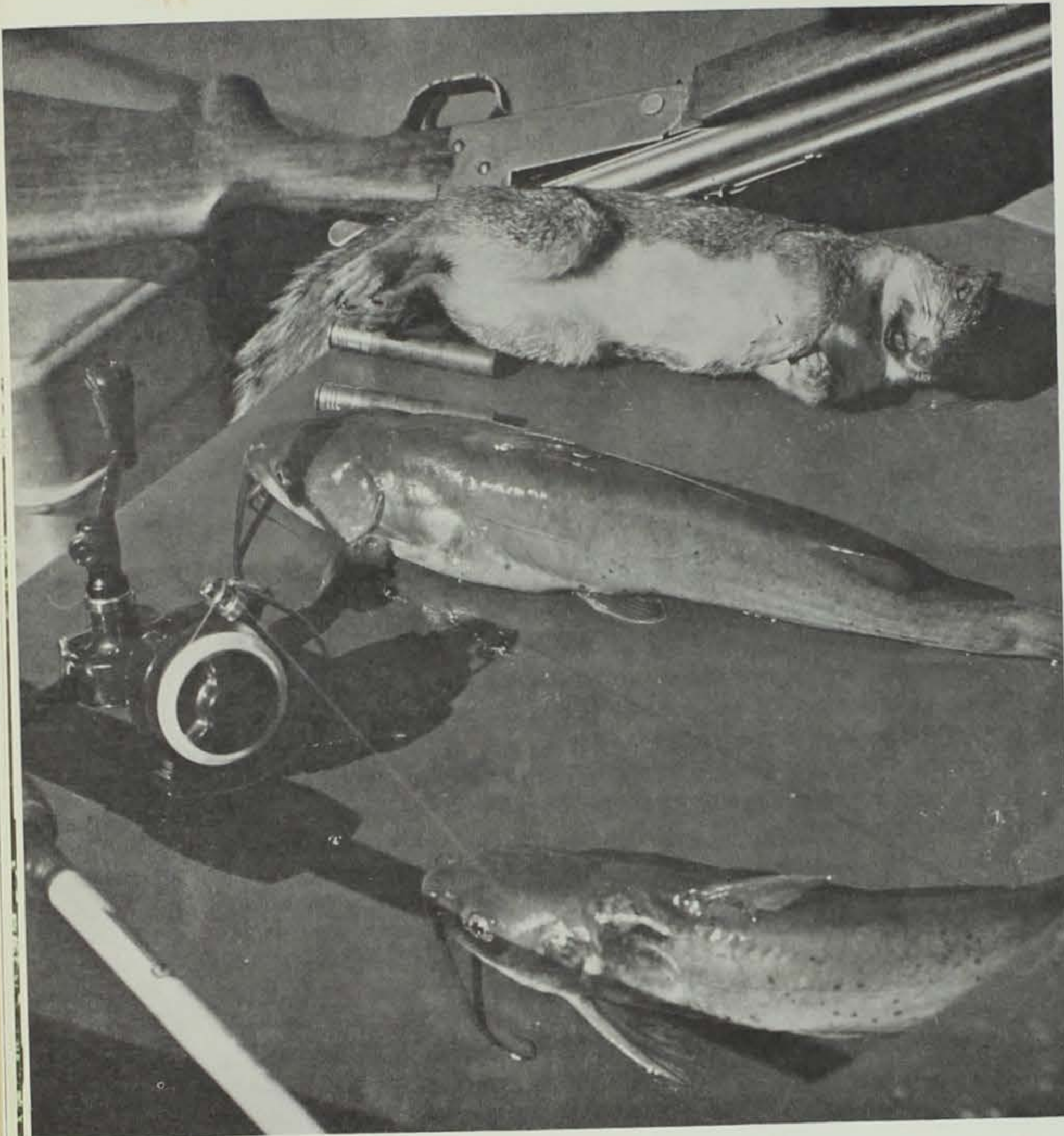
Fox (Red and Gray) — 6 a.m. October 30 to February 29, 1972.

Beaver — Zone I — 6 a.m. November 6 to midnight February 29, 1972. (Zone 1 is bounded on the east by Highway 169 from the Minnesota border to its junction with Highway 20, west on Highway 20 to Highway 59, and south on 59 to the Missouri border.) Zone 2—(remainder of the state) 6 a.m. December 11 to midnight February 29, 1972.

Raccoon, Striped Skunk, Spotted Skunk (Civet Cat), Opposum, Badger and Weasel — 6 a.m. October 30 to February 13, 1972.

Coyote — Continuous open season.

Note: Water sets will not be permitted prior to November 6.



opening day

CATFISH

Jim Layton
Information Specialist

As a gentle breeze pushed its way through the dew soaked timber, a chain reaction of large water drops fell in an advancing sheet toward us. But as the leading edge reached the stream and a break in the canopy, it changed into a damp chill. The last drops splashed in the current next to our boat. I began to wonder why I had left the warmth of my covers to float the Des Moines River on opening day of squirrel season.

A familiar tug on the monofilament line brought those thoughts back to the present just in time to save my fishing pole from being jerked into the river. A hungry catfish had grabbed the dead minnow bait and started for the Mississippi. My natural reactions caused a recoil that set the hook and started a free-for-all battle. As most river cats, this one was heading for the nearest brush pile about 30 yards downstream. The drag on my reel was making beautiful music, but it did its job as the fish weakened a few yards above the downed trees. Several minutes later, the landing of a three-pound channel catfish made me forget about the early morning glum.

After putting the fish on a stringer, I prepared to float another bait into the hole that had produced our first cat. But as suddenly as the cat had taken the bait, the early morning silence was broken by the barking of a fox squirrel. An altogether different sensation struck me. I replaced my fishing gear with a .410 over-an-under that had been laying on the seat.

In that same motion, I slipped a 3-inch shell into the chamber and started searching the tree lined bank. A large cottonwood that partially hung over the stream seemed to be where the barking had originated. Then out of the corner of my eye, I noticed movement on the trunk of a neighboring tree. I focused on that spot and slowly shouldered the shotgun. Seconds later, I touched off the shot. In that same instant, the squirrel disappeared around the tree. The number 6's

harmlessly bounced off the bark. Before getting another shell, I caught a glimpse of old bushy tail ducking into a hole in that same tree. A disgusted look must of grew upon my face, as Todd a long time fishing and hunting partner who was a pro at this sport tried to comfort me by saying: "You'll get another chance."

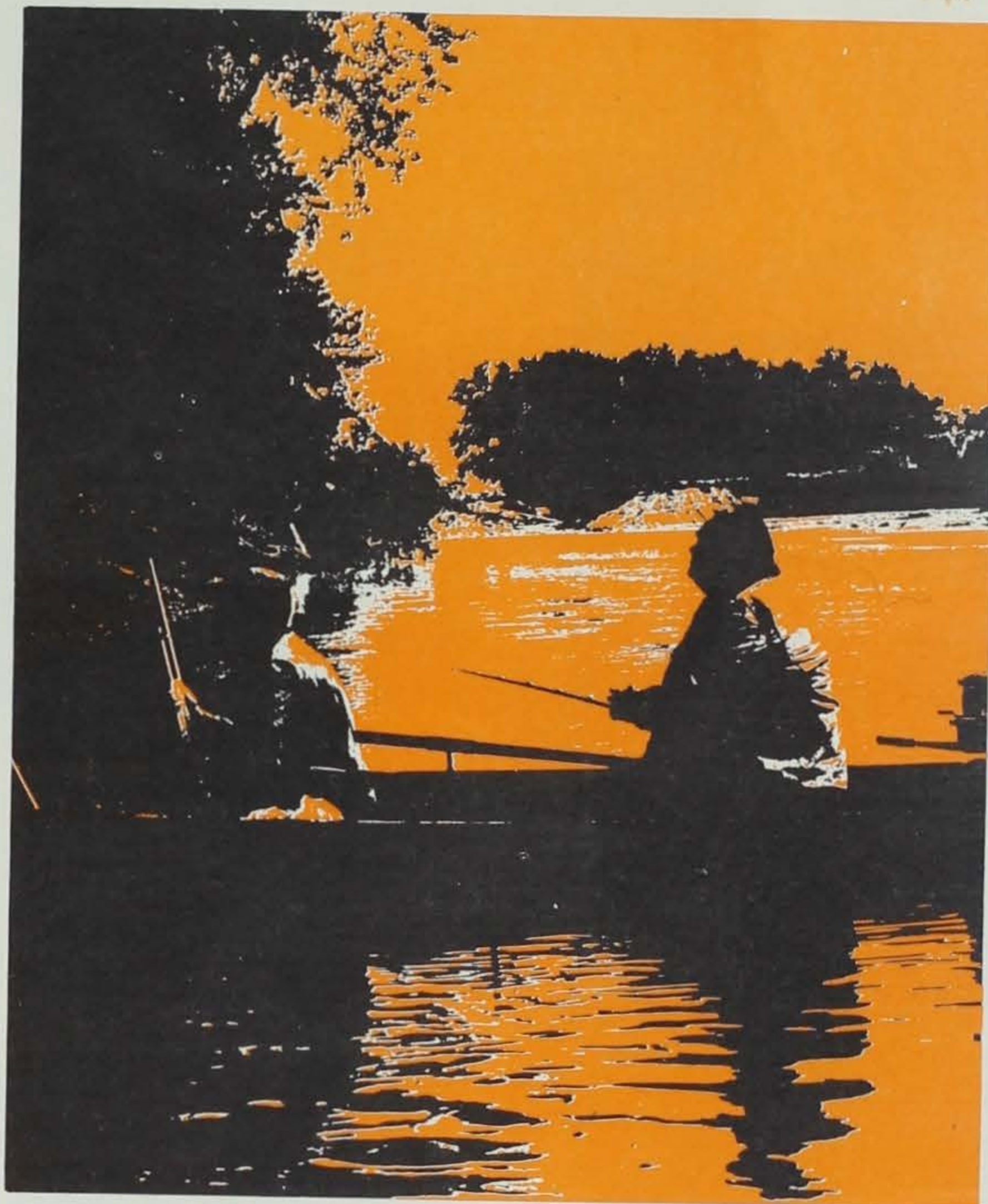
Once again I replaced shotgun for fishing pole, but before I could a sudden jolt went through the boat. Todd had one on. The fish made several good runs in its attempt to escape but the current combined with a good fishing outfit tired him. When added to the stringer, he looked like an identical twin of our first fish.

The sun was peeking over the horizon and the squirrels had started to move, so we decided that it was time to float downstream. The morning hours were all we needed to shoot our limit of squirrels and catch a nice mess of catfish for the table.

This was a new type of fall hunting for me. It's like having your cake and eating it too. Many hunters are not aware that parts of 11 Iowa rivers are listed as state-owned meandered streams. In these watersheds the state owns the streams, stream bed and natural bank. Some of the natural banks provide excellent squirrel hunting and until late October or early November the river produces very good fishing. I found that hunting combined with fall fishing gives many more hours of outdoor sport when Iowa's countryside is at its finest.

There are several things that should be kept in mind when planning a fall float trip for fish and game. The most important is that Iowa game laws prohibit the shooting of any type of rifle on or over waters of the state. Hunters will only be able to use shotguns when shooting from a boat. The state owns only the natural bank area so if you want to venture away from the bank, landowner permission will be required.

Before my first float trip for squirrels and catfish, I had never thought that hunting for old bushy tail with a shotgun could



be difficult or even sporting. It didn't take me long to find out that shooting from a boat bucking a current at a target that is as unpredictable as the river, isn't easy even with a shotgun. Each hunter will want to perfect his own style of hunting. We found it best to tie up close enough to the bank that one could get in and out of the boat easily. We would fish until a curious bushy tail would come to see what we were doing. Other hunters would rather use the element of surprise and continually float downstream only stopping long enough for a shot or to fish a brush pile.

Floating for squirrels is a different twist to an old sport. As in all shooting sports, gun safety is very important. Always keep that muzzle pointed in a safe direction whether the gun is loaded or not.

To be on the safe side always keep your gun unloaded when it is not being used. This practice makes for a more sporting hunt and brings the hunter home safely.

State-owned meandered streams include parts of the Des Moines River, Iowa River, Cedar River, Raccoon River, Wapsipinicon River, Maquoketa River, Skunk River, Turkey River, Nishnabotna River, Upper Iowa River and Little Maquoketa River. The exact boundaries may be obtained from the Iowa Conservation Commission.

In Iowa there is a continuous open season on channel catfish with a daily catch limit of eight and possession limit of 16. Squirrel hunting begins September 11. There is a daily bag limit of six squirrels with 12 in possession.



otter creek marsh

Arthur Roseland Unit Game Manager

To increasing numbers of central Iowa residents, waterfowl hunting means Otter Creek Marsh. Located in Tama County between Chelsea and Tama, the area comprises 3,300 acres within the flood plains of Otter Creek and the Iowa River. Extensive wet-land development, completed in 1966, has provided high-quality waterfowling which appears to get better each year.

Sophisticated water management development is not the entire story. The marsh areas on the Iowa River floodplain in Tama County have long been a haven for waterfowl and other wildlife species. Many oldtimers recall the days when waterfowl "darkened the skies" above the oxbows, ponds and marshes.

Such areas, however, are subject to biotic changes from natural succession and human interference. Agricultural activities such as drainage, cultivation and pasturage adversely affected the habitat quality of the area for waterfowl. Siltation and the continuing succession of wetland attrition, reduced the quality of soil structure and fertility necessary for wetland areas to produce maximum numbers of waterfowl and to hold them on an area during the fall migration.

Construction of seven marsh

segments and relocation of Otter Creek has given man the advantage in producing quality waterfowl habitat. Luxuriant growth of waterfowl food and cover plants result from periodic flooding and drainage on fields where corn once grew. Biological conditions, such as germination of the food and cover plants, indicate when water should be diverted into the segments. By alternating the water elevations, game managers "duplicate" natural processes which maintain soil structure and fertility. Quantity and quality of waterfowl habitat is thereby vastly improved over pre-existing conditions.

The end result of marsh development and management can be seen in early fall. Vast "beds" of smartweed, sedges, duckweed, cattail, arrowhead and other plants emerge from the marsh surface, interspersed with deeper areas of open water. The emergents, with submergents such as coontail and pondweeds, are combined with 900 acres of water to produce a waterfowl haven.

It is at this time of year that many waterfowl hunters, in anticipation of the fall seasons, come to the marsh. Water conditions and favored hunting sites are checked with precision. Game managers, assaulted with ques-

PUBLIC
HUNTING
OTTER CREEK MARSH
IOWA
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



tions concerning food conditions, flight patterns and marsh management, try to be helpful. Often however, they encourage hunters to seek out their own answers, thus involving them more deeply with their sport. Other hunters come armed with binoculars and spotting scopes, good equipment for brushing-up on identification.

Financially, hunters are totally responsible for the development and management of Otter Creek Marsh. Federal aid money, from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, and state hunting license fees provide the only funding. The payoff comes with the waterfowl seasons and hunters consider it a bargain. The combination of a protective refuge, an abundant food supply and a large acreage of excellent marsh habitat produces a high-quality hunting experience. Known especially for excellent mallard and pintail shooting, Otter Creek hunters also bag good numbers of other dabbling ducks, geese and smaller numbers of divers.

Although waterfowl habitat development has been the major concern at Otter Creek, other resources considerations also benefit the sportsman. The marsh lies within a top-quality pheasant production area and excellent

populations of these birds are found in years when flooding of the Iowa River does not adversely affect local habitat conditions. Interspersion of agricultural fields and permanently seeded areas, adjacent to the heavy winter cover available in the marsh, produces the diversity necessary for optimum game production.

Iowa river floodplain timber provides a haven for deer, raccoon and squirrel. Small crop fields, located in the timber or adjacent to it, are planted to corn to provide food for these species and improve habitat quality. Timber management plans, which seek to improve wildlife habitat by selectively harvesting mature trees in specific patterns, are being developed.

Trapping is permitted on the area by a permit obtainable from the unit game manager. Over 1,000 muskrats were harvested in 1970.

Outdoor enthusiasts of varied interests share in the fruits of the hunter's dollar at Otter Creek Marsh. Each spring, hundreds of local residents enjoy the spectacle of spring migration. Thousands of ducks, geese and shorebirds congregate on the marsh before proceeding north. More serious bird watchers visit the marsh

each month of the year to observe and study the great variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and birds of prey. Sightings of cormorants, turkey vultures and bald eagles are a few of the special treats enjoyed by the "birders" of central Iowa.

Anglers are afforded public land access to approximately 3½ miles of the Iowa river. The Iowa is known as an excellent catfish stream and this spring, good catches of walleye and northern pike were taken. Bullhead fishing on the marsh ponds is good although water level fluctuations are frequent.

Hikers and serious nature buffs can find Otter Creek an exciting place to visit. A twilight stroll on a dike to the marsh interior in spring or late summer will allow one to experience the intense, vibrant life of a marsh. The memory of that visit will not soon be forgotten.

Such experiences are the rarely spoken reason why hunters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts flock to Iowa's wildlife areas. The by-product reward of a full bag or creel is often secondary. Game management areas, like Otter Creek Marsh, seek to provide this type of experience, while protecting and enhancing our important wildlife resources.



By Richard A. Bishop

The 1971 Iowa waterfowl season was finalized by the State Conservation Commission at their August 18 Commission meeting. The 1971 migratory bird hunting seasons are as follows:

Ducks — the open season for hunting ducks shall be October 2, 1971 to November 20, 1971, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset each day. Bag limits will be based on the point system. The point values for species and sexes are as follows: Canvasbacks and redheads count 100 points; hen mallards, black ducks, wood ducks and hooded mergansers count 90 points each; drake mallards, hen pintails, and ring-necked ducks, count 20 points each; all other species and sexes of ducks and mergansers count 10 points each. The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken added to the sum of the point values of the other birds already taken during that day reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit shall be the maximum number of birds of species and sex which could have legally been taken in two days.

Coots — the open season and shooting hours on coots shall be the same as for ducks. The daily bag limit is 15 coots and possession limit of 30.

Geese — the open season for hunting Canada geese shall be

from October 9, 1971 through October 31, 1971. Open season for all other geese shall be from October 2, 1971 through December 10, 1971. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day. The daily bag is five including no more than one Canada, or two white-fronted geese, or one Canada and one white front. The possession limit shall not exceed one day's bag limit.

Snipe — open season for hunting Wilson Snipe shall be from October 2, 1971 through December 5, 1971, both dates inclusive. Hunting hours are the same as for ducks and geese and the bag and possession limit shall be eight and 16 respectively.

These regulations culminated a year of data collection and analysis by many state and federal biologists. They are by first appearance, seeming simple but actually involve the most intricately complex mechanics of modern day game management.

In brief, waterfowl regulations are set by the following procedure. Data are collected in a cooperative effort by state fish and game departments, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and Canadian agencies. This involves winter population surveys, breeding population surveys in the northern states and Canada during May, production surveys in late July to document the success of the nesting season,

numerous research projects aimed at collecting data on specific populations or aspects of waterfowl management, duck wing collections to gain information on age ratios and species composition in the kill and post card mail surveys to determine the number of each species killed. All this data is worked up and analyzed for use in establishing proper waterfowl seasons and to gain more knowledge to better understand and manage the nation's waterfowl resource.

An annual meeting is held the first week of August for the 14 Mississippi Flyway states in order to present the findings from the various surveys and research projects to the combined group of federal and state personnel. Biologists from the 14 states review all the data and give their recommendations for the coming season based on biological data. These recommendations are submitted during the same meeting to the Mississippi Flyway Council which is made up of state fish and game administrators. They accept or modify the biological recommendations as they see fit and come up with a council recommendation that is presented to the Bureau Waterfowl Regulations Committee in Washington, D.C. They critically review a summarized version of all the waterfowl data and the recommendations of the Flyway Council; then their decisions are passed

on to the Waterfowl Advisory Committee composed of representatives from the National Waterfowl Council, each of the four Flyway Councils, National Audubon Society, Wildlife Management Institute, Outdoor Writers Association, Izaak Walton League, National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Society, and International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners. The Advisory committee reviews all the information and the Bureau's Waterfowl Regulations Committee recommendations and offer their concurrence, modification, or other recommendations. The Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife then submits specific recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior who makes the final decision.

Once these framework regulations are approved by the Secretary of Interior, the individual states make their selection of shooting dates, season length, and bag limits. Each state in the Mississippi Flyway has the same opportunity for selection of waterfowl seasons from this framework. Individual states are allowed to adopt more restrictive regulations but may not have seasons or bag limits that are more liberal than offered by the Secretary.

With the season now set we will take a look at the 1971 hunting season forecast. May aerial flights showed a small decrease in ponds in southern Canada over 1970 but water is still much improved over the average for the past 15 years. Breeding populations for ducks were almost the same as 1970. The 1971 duck breeding population index is the second highest since 1955.

Production was slightly better in some areas of Canada but lower in others. Overall production is good and the fall flight of ducks down the Mississippi Flyway is anticipated to be about the same as in 1970.

Hunters should look forward to a good season this year under the point system. The season opening on October 2 should



catch all the peak flights of ducks, except blue-winged teal (Iowa was not offered an early teal season this year). Early migrants such as teal, wood ducks, widgeon, pintail and gadwall should provide excellent shooting for Iowa hunters wanting to test their skill of identification under the point system. The mallard flight, which usually peaks the first part of November, will give the old mallard hunter the real test to see if he can bag five big greenheads.

At this point I would like to congratulate the vast majority of Iowa duck hunters for abiding by the 1970 waterfowl point system regulations. Results of hunter behavior data collected in the field by game biologists indicated that the point season was highly successful and that violations on bag limits were at a minimum. When sportsmen give game management people a hand, much headway can be made. The future of the point system in the Mississippi Flyway may be in the hands of Iowa duck hunters. The Iowa Conservation Commission surely hopes that hunters will continue to set a fine example of sportsmanship and true waterfowling.

The whys and wherefores of the goose season is a horse of a different color. The blue and snow goose population is supplying record kills to the Mississippi and Central Flyways and at the same time breeding populations

remain high. All available data indicate that the blues and snows are quite prosperous, but we are rapidly approaching the time when we will be taking a full harvest of these birds. Presently the outlook for these geese is very good.

Production indexes point to a poor hatch of blue and snow geese on parts of the northern nesting grounds. This should provide a fairly rapid fall flight across all of Iowa except the Missouri river area. Fewer young will be available to the hunter and consequently a reduced kill is expected.

The story on the Eastern Prairie Population of Canada geese that migrate from Hudson Bay, Manitoba southward through Minnesota, Iowa and winter at Swan Lake Missouri is slightly different. Gunning pressure in Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri has increased in recent years to the point that the additional birds harvested began to decrease the winter population. A goal was established to increase the wintering flock from 130,000 birds to 200,000 which would result in more breeding birds and consequently a larger fall flight. This in turn would allow for an increased harvest in these three states and the province of Manitoba.

Restrictions in 1969 and 1970 in Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota were not drastic enough to reduce the total kill. Then in 1971 the hunting season was curtailed further in all three states in order to protect a larger segment of this population. It is hoped that these reductions will increase the post season wintering flock of geese and in three or four years this flock will reach the 200,000 mark. When this point is reached more lenient regulations will be forthcoming. This management aspect of curtailed kill will provide for a bigger harvest in future years. The wise management of the Eastern Prairie flock by sportsmen and game department officials will provide sound management for the hunter and resource alike.



boat insurance

There was a time when the pleasure boat owner either paid exorbitant rates to insure his craft or trusted in his luck. No more.

The insurance industry is actively competing for the boatman's premiums with attractive, tailored policies to fit a variety of needs. Only in the past decade have insurance companies cared about boatmen other than the large yacht owner. It was a slow start. No actuarial data was available on the subject of smaller boats. Premiums were higher than they should have been and were not uniform across the country, regardless of location or

length of season. Some policies contained so many restrictions that they amounted to practically no protection at all.

In time, companies discovered that most boatmen wanted coverage and that losses, on average, were considerably less than had been thought.

An average boat policy today is an "all-risk" policy which provides protection from almost every conceivable hazard, including fire, theft, lightning, explosion, windstorm, sinking and stranding, collision and loss overboard. Coverage extends to all year, afloat, ashore or in tow. Policies can include liability and bodily injury, including medical payments. Many homeowners policies can be extended to cover a boat, and automobile insurance can cover a trailer.

Some years ago, the cost for an average policy averaged four to five percent of the market value of the insured boat. On a \$1,500 boat, for example, all-risk coverage could run in the neighborhood of \$75.

Today, though, after some years experience and fewer losses than anticipated rates have been cut in half, or about two and one-half per cent of boat value, according to the Outboard Boating Club of America. It would seem that as the years go by and as the insurance industry discovers that boating is not only big business but good business, too, premiums should continue to decline.

Now for the boatman, insurance is a must.

—Evinrude News Service





son insurance

Butch Olofson

Hunter Safety Officer

The morning is cool and damp as the early sun burns through the mist over the Skunk River Valley. A father and son are just parting company in the oak and hickory timber. The father sets himself down under a big hickory. He leans back with a contented sigh, as he watches his 14-year old son disappear into the leafy undergrowth.

Thoughts start to formulate in his mind.

With all those hickory nuts on the ground — this should make a good hunting stand for squirrels. Jim, my boy killed his first squirrel last year sitting right here next to me. I'm a lucky man to have a "hunting pal" like my son. It's such a pleasure to see his eyes light up at the mention of a hunting trip. I also remember how attentive he was when I was explaining some of the basic fundamentals of gun safety.

Oh! Oh! I hear a squirrel chattering — the sound seems to come from that old white oak tree across the creek . . . yes, I think I see him. It's so darn hard to see squirrels with all the leaves on trees during the first part of the squirrel season. Yes, that's a squirrel all right — let me check with my binoculars to make sure, this would make a pretty flat shot which could be dangerous with a 22 cal. rifle.

Oh my god! . . . that's my red haired boy sitting on that heavy timbered side hill — I could have shot my own boy for a squirrel, if I hadn't checked to make sure. I didn't ask him what direction he was going — matter of fact there were a lot of things I didn't dis-

cuss with him. Such as, always shoot up into a tree when squirrel hunting, never horizontally. What direction is his fellow hunter from him? Did I tell him to be sure of his target before he shoots? He could have shot me for a squirrel, I'm wearing that old rusty colored hunting hat I've had for years. Did I tell him that 22 cal. ammunition is dangerous up to one mile? Have I warned him about stray and ricocheting bullets? Will Jim think to check what is beyond the target before he pulls the trigger? To all of these thoughts I have to say NO. Sure, I taught him how to load his rifle, sight in his gun, and point the muzzle in a safe direction at all times. But I can see now that I have just scratched the surface of gun safety.

I guess we both have a lot to learn. If I put a gun in his hands and permit him to hunt, I have the responsibility of seeing to it that my boy is properly trained in hunter safety. Jim's responsibility is to take seriously what he is taught in the safe use of firearms, and to be a courteous sportsman at all times.

By gosh, I know how to get him properly trained. Last weekend I met our local conservation officer and in our conversation he advised me that the Izaak Walton Club was sponsoring a hunter safety class in October. I'll check on the class date and see to it that Jim enrolls.

Well here comes Jim now. I see he's carrying a squirrel, and look at that proud smile. I guess we were lucky this day, next time we'll be sure!



It is fitting that the 50th anniversary of the National Conference on State Parks is being held in Des Moines this month.

It was in 1921 that Des Moines hosted the first conference — and a lot of things have happened since then. In 1921 Iowa had only six state parks compared to 93 state parks and preserves today. The National Conference on State Parks has grown tremendously during the past 50 years and now provides leadership on the national level for programs and developments.

But what first prompted a meeting of this type back in 1921? Who at that time could envision the great surge of interest in outdoor recreation and park use?

Even in 1921 there was pressure on the federal government to obtain small areas of scenic and scientific value. Some people wanted areas set aside as preserves and developed for public use.

However, Stephen T. Mather, director of the National Park Service, had some definite thoughts

on the subject. He held that the conception of national parks should deal with larger areas of scenic and national attractions—areas distinctly national in interest.

There still remained the pressure to make national parks out of small areas that could not command nation-wide interest. As a result of the growing belief in the need for state parks and relief from pressure of local groups to create (local) national parks, Mather raised the possibility of a conference. John Barton Payne, secretary of the Interior, was approached about the meeting and gave enthusiastic approval.

Iowa governor W. L. Harding invited the group to hold its first conference in Des Moines. According to reports, just under 200 delegates from 25 states and 84 towns attended the historic event January 10-12, 1921.

Among other things, the name — National Conference on State Parks — was chosen and officers

elected. Payne was elected chairman and Mather, vice chairman of the conference. The executive committee included Miss Beatrice M. Ward, secretary; Dr. H. C. Cowles, Herbert Evison, Dr. L. H. Pammel (Iowa Board of Conservation), W. H. Stinchcomb, Major William A. Welch, Theodore Wirth, Albert M. Turner, Payne and Mather.

The main function of the National Conference on State Parks has been educational and inspirational. It informs the public on the value of parks, historic sights, forests and preserves suitable for recreation, study and conservation. The conference also serves as a clearing house for information, publications, meetings and training courses.

The State of Iowa can be proud of its contributions to the National Conference on State Parks.

At this time it might be well to examine where the state park systems stand today. Iowa's parks, like those in other states, face serious problems such as overcrowding, lack of funds and

STATE PARKS

By David Evans



Photo by Jerry Leonard

personnel and the need for upgrading of facilities.

Last year over 11,415,900 visited state parks and recreation areas in Iowa — an increase of 6.5 percent over 1969.

However, this was not unexpected because the number of people using the parks has been growing at a phenomenal rate. And with this tremendous increase come the problems mentioned above. In 1964 there were 2,292,311 visitors to the state parks and recreation areas.

This task of providing outdoor recreation in state parks is one of nation-wide importance. All levels of government must realize that meeting this problem is an absolute necessity. With an estimated population increase from 190,000,000 to 300,000,000 in the United States in the next 25 years and the unprecedented shorter work week, leisure time is a national issue.

There has been a very noticeable increase in campers with 451,273 individuals camping in parks last year. As a result the

camping season has been extended. There was a time a few years back when park use was generally over by Labor Day. Now people are camping well into October and in many parks winter camping is becoming popular.

Iowa parks are especially crowded during summer weekends when there is a mass exodus from the cities. Actually, the facilities needed at parks, such as water, sewage, electricity and even law enforcement exceed that of many small towns.

The state park system has more than physical and aesthetic value to the people of Iowa. It also has an economic value. Tourism contributes to the welfare of the state. It has been estimated that 35 percent of the 11 million visitors to Iowa parks were non-residents, many of them passing through to or from other states. This has a tremendous impact on Iowa's economy. All travelers from other states spent an estimated \$285 million in Iowa in 1968 and this figure has grown

since then. The development of state parks and recreation areas certainly offers the possibility to increase tourism and the economic return to the state.

Iowa's 93 state parks and preserves have much more to offer. They are rich in history and geographic variety — from the rugged beauty of Stone Park in northwest Iowa near the intersection of the Wild Missouri and Big Sioux River to Lake Geode in southeast Iowa where one can find top bass fishing. From Pikes Peak where a 500-foot bluff offers a fascinating view of the confluence of the Wisconsin River and the mighty Mississippi to Waubonsie State Park in the southwest where one can see four states — Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa.

Parks like these are an important part of Iowa's future. With proper legislation, adequate funds and development programs, Iowa's recreation areas will become the state's proudest possessions. They can and will continue to provide millions of people with opportunities for outdoor fun.



Commission Minutes

(Continued from Page 2)

acres. This tract is part of the North Bear Creek acquisition project in Winneshiek County. Subject to approval of Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, funds to be taken from Dingell-Johnson Account.

Representatives of the Mar-Mac Community Schools met with the Commission to re-submit a request to obtain title to a portion of Munn lands as a site for a new school building. Commission agreed to notify Congress, through the office of Congressman Culver that the Commission endorses the proposal of the Mar-Mac Community Schools to trade 5.5 acres of school-owned land to the Commission in return for an equal amount of Munn lands, subject to approval of the State Executive Council and the State Attorney General's Office if necessary.

A proposal of the John Deere Tractor Works of Dubuque was made for a land trade to facilitate the straightening of the Little Maquoketa River in Dubuque County, a portion of which involves the meandered part of the river, the beds and banks which are state-owned. The Commission agreed to cooperate in the project in that the staff work with John Deere on the land trade, access and environmental corridor in the abandoned river channel subject to approval of the State Executive Council.

A request was made for the transfer of a contract entered into in February, 1966, between the State Conservation Commission and Building Industries for a connecting lagoon to Lake West Okoboji to service a condominium type development. Commission approved the transfer of the original contract as written with the addition of the following stipulation: (1) a one-year starting date and five-year completion date and (2) that no more than four docks be constructed on the lakefront, to be removed every year in accordance with Commission guidelines.

The preliminary certificates of

Iowa's partial apportionment of Federal Aid Funds are as follows: Wildlife Restoration, \$389,899.22; Fish Restoration, \$90,106.48. The Commission directed the director to notify the Secretary of the Interior that Iowa desires to participate in the benefits of Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972.

The Division of Fish and Game received two gifts — \$10 from N. C. Koel, Caledonia, Minn., to be credited to the trout program and \$10 from W. Sibley Towner, Dubuque, to be credited to the fisheries program. The Commission accepted the gifts.

The State Highway Commission was requested to include the following existing park roads in the Park and Institutional Road Program:

1. Upper Pine Lake — Concession and boat ramp road (1593 feet).
2. Bellevue State Park — All roads in Dyas Area.
3. Lake Macbride — Fishing access road on south side of south arm of lake (2) One way road leading from beach parking lot to entrance road (3) Road on north side of south wing to camping area and second park officer's residence.
4. Elk Rock State Park (Red Rock Reservoir) — All roads (2.75 miles).
5. Ledges — Camp area roads (.27 miles).
6. Clear Lake — Camp area roads (.74 miles).
7. Gull Point — Camp area road (.80 miles).
8. Beeds Lake — Camp area roads (1.07 miles) and west picnic area road (.63 miles).
9. Pilot Knob — Camp area road (.32 miles).
10. Lewis and Clark — Camp area road (.57 miles).
11. Waubonsie — Picnic area and bridle trail camp area roads (.72 miles).
12. Swan Lake — Perimeter road (2.72 miles).
13. Honey Creek State Park (Rathbun Reservoir) — all roads (3.12 miles).



John G. Link

John G. Link, Burlington lawyer, was appointed to the Iowa Conservation Commission by Governor Robert D. Ray for a six-year term. He succeeds Earl Jarvis of Wilton Junction.

Mr. Link is a member of the law firm of Hirsch, Wright, Link and Adams. He has practiced law in Burlington since July 1, 1957.

Active in conservation, Mr. Link was on the Des Moines County Conservation Board for five years. He belongs to St. Paul's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Eagles, Long Creek Conservation Club, Black Hawk Hunting and Fishing Club and the Burlington Golf Club.

Mr. Link was born in Dubuque and graduated from Loras Academy in 1948. He received a BA degree from Loras College in 1952. He was in the United States Army from 1952 to 1954 serving in Korea. He entered the University of Iowa College of Law in 1954 and received a JD degree in 1957. He was married in 1961 to the former Suzanne Grothe. They have three children, Cindy, 9; John, 7; and Mathew, 1.



Campfire Cookery

By Dick Ranney

Thirty days has September as the saying goes. Thirty days of gentle change from the hot sunny days that are August until Indian summer of October. Summer ends and fall begins at the autumn



Dr. Keith A. McNurlen

Dr. Keith A. McNurlen, Ames dentist, was re-appointed to the Iowa Conservation Commission for a six-year term by Governor Robert D. Ray.

He was first appointed to the Commission in 1965 by former Governor Harold Hughes.

Long active in conservation, Dr. McNurlen was president of the Ames Chapter of the Izaak Walton League in 1955 and state president in 1965 and on the National Board for seven years. He was serving as a member of the Story County Conservation Board when appointed to the State Conservation Commission. He is a former commission chairman.

Dr. McNurlen has also been active in Cub and Boy Scouts where he served as committee chairman and scoutmaster. He belongs to the Ames Scuba Club.

Dr. McNurlen has practiced in Ames since 1950 when he graduated from the University of Iowa. He is a graduate of Perry High School and holds degrees from the University of Iowa in Pharmacy and Dentistry. He served as an infantry officer in the Pacific during World War II.

Governor Robert D. Ray signed a proclamation officially designating August 22-28 as State Park Week in Iowa.

With Governor Ray at the signing were the State Conservation Commission chairman and staff members. They are, left to right: Joe Brill, Des Moines, state parks superintendent; John Stokes, Des Moines, state lands and waters administrator; William Noble, Oelwein, chairman of the State Conservation Commission; and Fred A. Priewert, Des Moines, Commission director.

In signing the proclamation Governor Ray emphasized the significant contributions made by the state parks in providing a broad range of outdoor recreation services for the public. He also noted that the National Conference on State Parks officially celebrates its Golden Anniversary in 1971 and commented on its distinguished record of furthering a bold national movement of state park programs. He said the administration of the state park program in Iowa is dedicated to the principle of serving the people in their quest for relaxation and healthful enjoyment of the outdoors.



nal equinox. September in Iowa will have hot dry days; however, the nights are likely to be cool, and there is a touch of golden haze in the air. September is the beginning of the harvest season and is celebrated the world over with fall festivals, fairs, harvest fests, feasts and prayers.

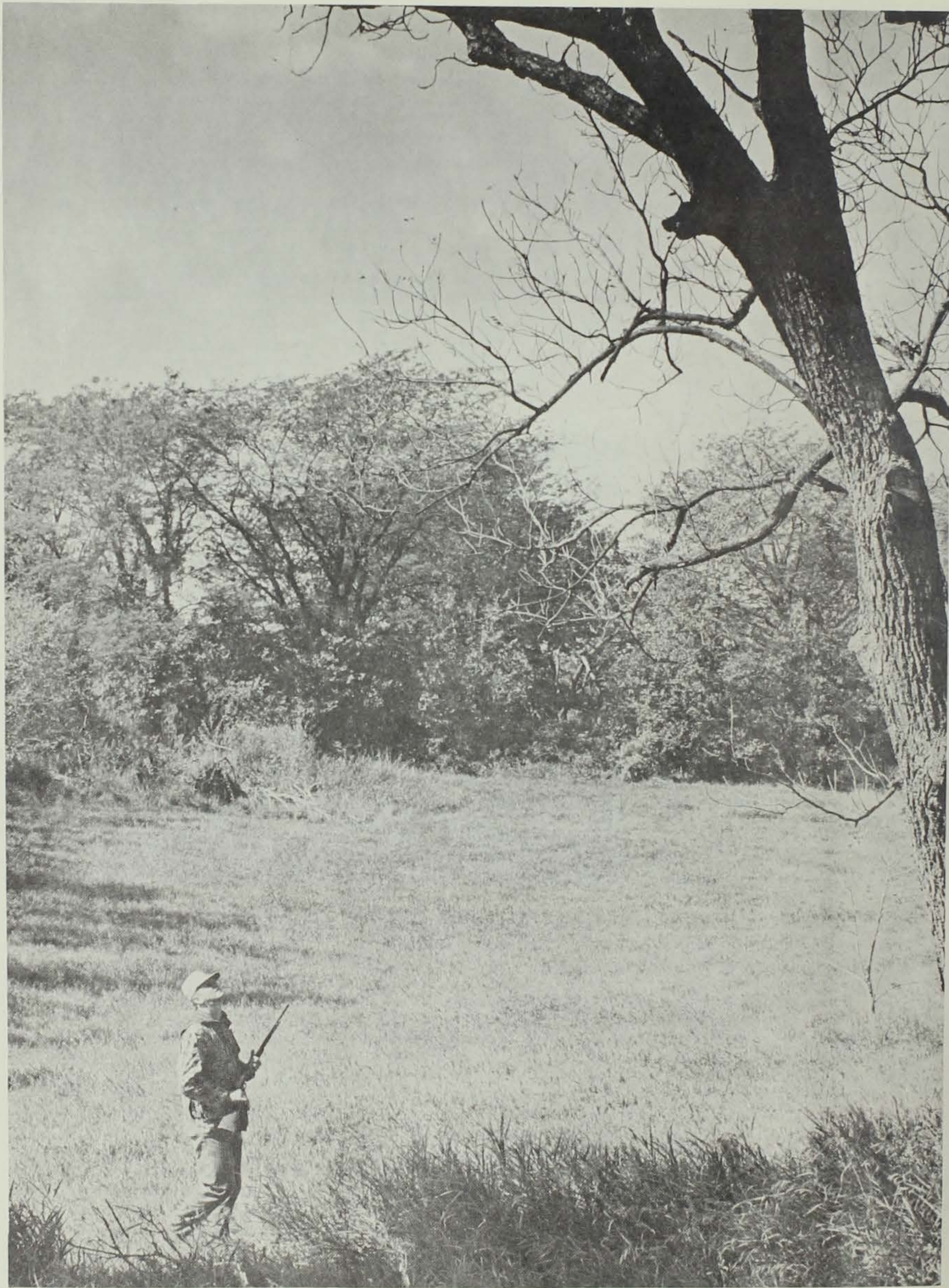
There are several special days in September — the most noted of which is Labor Day. Labor Day is the only national holiday in September and comes on the first Monday of the month. It is the day when all people who can swing it do not work. It would seem the day is misnamed. Maybe

it should be called, "the don't work day," or just plain "nuts, its over" day. Labor Day is the day when all who do nothing hurry to get it done. We find ourselves hurrying to get in the full number of hours that are needed to make it an official Labor Day.

The peace and quiet of the long restful weekend comes to a close Monday night with thoughts of school starting the next day. As you sit there thinking about the hunting trips your men will plan, the football games, fall cleaning, friends you will meet and things you will do you realize you have a meal to fix. Don't panic —

here is a very simple dish that is easy to fix. Brown ground beef in a large skillet. Spoon off the excess grease as the ground beef cooks. Peel as many potatoes as you need to feed your family and thin slice them into the ground beef. Add one cup of water, cover and cook over slow heat until the potatoes are done. Build a big crisp salad and perk a pot of coffee.

Just think . . . the dishes you will have to do after the long restful weekend will get you back into shape for the hard day Tuesday which really is a labor day, but is just called Tuesday.



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