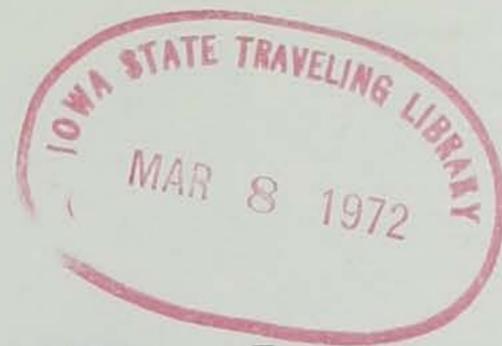


FEBRUARY, 1972



# conservationist



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## Iowa Conservationist

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# Forum

Dear Sir:

On December 4th I served as a guide for one of my Board members and a friend, during the Iowa deer season. The members of the party were very successful and saw many deer moving.

I did note considerable abuse of the use of snowmobiles in the stretch of the Des Moines River between Madrid and Boone as well as receiving some complaints later by land owners in Story County and from friends in Webster County, concerning deer being driven by snowmobiles. Realizing that conditions were right for such snowmobile activity I believe that consideration should be given to restrict operation of such machines during the Iowa shotgun season for deer. This may be an impossible task but it appears that this could be an extreme problem in the future management of the Iowa deer herd.

R. P.  
 Colo, Iowa

I don't questions that some deer are harassed by snowmobiles during the season. We already have a law, Section 109.120, Code of Iowa, which prohibits the use of snowmobiles to hunt, pursue, etc. If they are being used to chase or drive deer they are certainly in violation. It is questionable if we could further restrict the use of these vehicles, and it seems illogical to add additional restrictions when they are already in violation. Hopefully, we can get more cooperation from snowmobiles and hunters in putting a stop to this practice.

Sincerely yours,  
 Bob Barratt,  
 Wildlife Supt.



## Campfire Cookery

By Dick Ranney

The Iowa Conservation Commission has two fat cats — one of which is "Alabama," the pretty little bobcat we carry on our Traveling Wildlife Exhibit. She is a small cat as bobcats go, but she has character. She is always ready to let you know when you put your hand in to clean the cage. A slap with a paw so quick, you will part company with the wash sponge or cleaning rag. Eyes that flash like greenish yellow embers and a growl so deep it gives authority to the command — 'please don't crowd me.' Alabama will, however, respond to gentleness as most wild

(Continued on Page 15)

# SPRING

By Glenn Moravek  
 Iowa State University

Photos by Jerry Leonard



The Iowa Conservationist, as a contribution to the preservation of our natural resources and the protection of the ecology, is printed on 100% reclaimed waste paper.



## INGBROOK STATE PARK

When one drives between the stone gate posts at Springbrook State Park north of Guthrie Center it's obvious this is an area with variety.

Driving up the road toward the campground, campers are rigging fishing gear and coming back from hikes through the woods.

Past the campground and up a steep hill is Springbrook Lake, the park's major recreation area. The paved road heads through a forest of oaks and hickories. Wild flowers grow on the roadside. The bright yellow black-eyed Susans and lavender horsemints add color to the woods.

A picnic area lies off the road on the hilltop. Picnickers are

shaded from the sun by huge oaks and there is a shelter which overlooks the valley below.

The road winds down the hill from the picnic area weaving through the trees and into the parking lot near Springbrook Lake. There are people swimming in the lake and sunbathing on the sandy beach. Refreshments are available at the concession building there.

Across the 30-acre lake, a fisherman is casting from a rowboat toward the tree-lined shore probing the water near the steep banks with his lure. The boat he uses may have been rented from the concession building where bait is also available. Like all

other state-owned artificial lakes under 100 acres, only boats powered by muscle or by electric trolling motors are permitted.

Largemouth bass, crappies, bluegills, catfish and bullheads are taken at Springbrook Lake.

There are about five miles of hiking trails in the park that give visitors a chance to get away from human activities and be close to nature. Most of the trees and wild flowers native to central Iowa are found along the trails. So that everyone may enjoy them, visitors are not allowed to pick the wild flowers.

Hikers on the trails often see the park's abundant wildlife.

(Continued on Page 15)



Glen Harms of Shenandoah landed this 30-lb. channel catfish which rates as best ever in Iowa.

# 1971 another record setting year for Iowa anglers

By Sonny Satre

1971 was another great year for Iowa anglers according to the number of entries in the State Conservation Commission's annual Big Fish Records registry. Sixty-six anglers submitted prize catches and each received Iowa Angling Award certificates from the Commission in recognition of their feat. Four new all-time record fish were recorded and two equaled the present listing.

Iowa fish record statistics have been compiled by the State Conservation Commission since 1962. Since the establishment of these interesting statistics, Iowa anglers have caught new all-time record fish every year. In other words, Iowa waters are producing some very good catches year after year . . . we think it is worth bragging about.

Brian Buehler of Clear Lake was probably almost in a state of shock when he finally managed to land a record sized 45 inch



All time state record muskie — a 23 lb. 2 oz. monster caught by Brian Buehler of Clear Lake.

muskie from Clear Lake. The large fish tipped the scales at 23 pounds 2 ounces topping the old record by more than 8 pounds. A trolling rapala plug proved to be too tempting for Mr. Muskie.

Viking Lake, located in Montgomery County yielded a new state record channel catfish for Glen Harms of Shenandoah. The lunker catfish weighed an even 30 pounds, bettering the old mark by five pounds. "Scented" chicken entrails did the trick of enticing the 39 inch creature for future fried catfish dinners for Mr. Harms.

While using only eight pound test line, Duane Fisher of Blair, Nebraska, shattered the paddlefish record by successfully landing an 81 pounder. The huge primitive "spoonbill" measured 65¼ inches long and was taken from De Soto Bend in Harrison County. The monstrous fish

smashed the old record by a whopping 23 pounds.

A farm pond in Jefferson County produced a new state record bluegill for Bob Adam of Fairfield. The slab-sized fish weighed 2 pounds 3 ounces topping the old mark by 2 ounces.

Roger Mahnke of Altoona tied the Iowa smallmouth bass record with a 6 pound 3 ounce beauty. The 22 inch bronze-back was taken from West Okoboji on a leadhead jig-minnow combination. Mahnke's catch equals the record set in 1966 by Marvin Singer of LeMars.

Ralph Cooney of Woodbine caught a 4½ pound bullhead from the Boyer River in Harrison County. The large bullhead equaled the Iowa record set in 1966 by Dennie Karas of Massena.

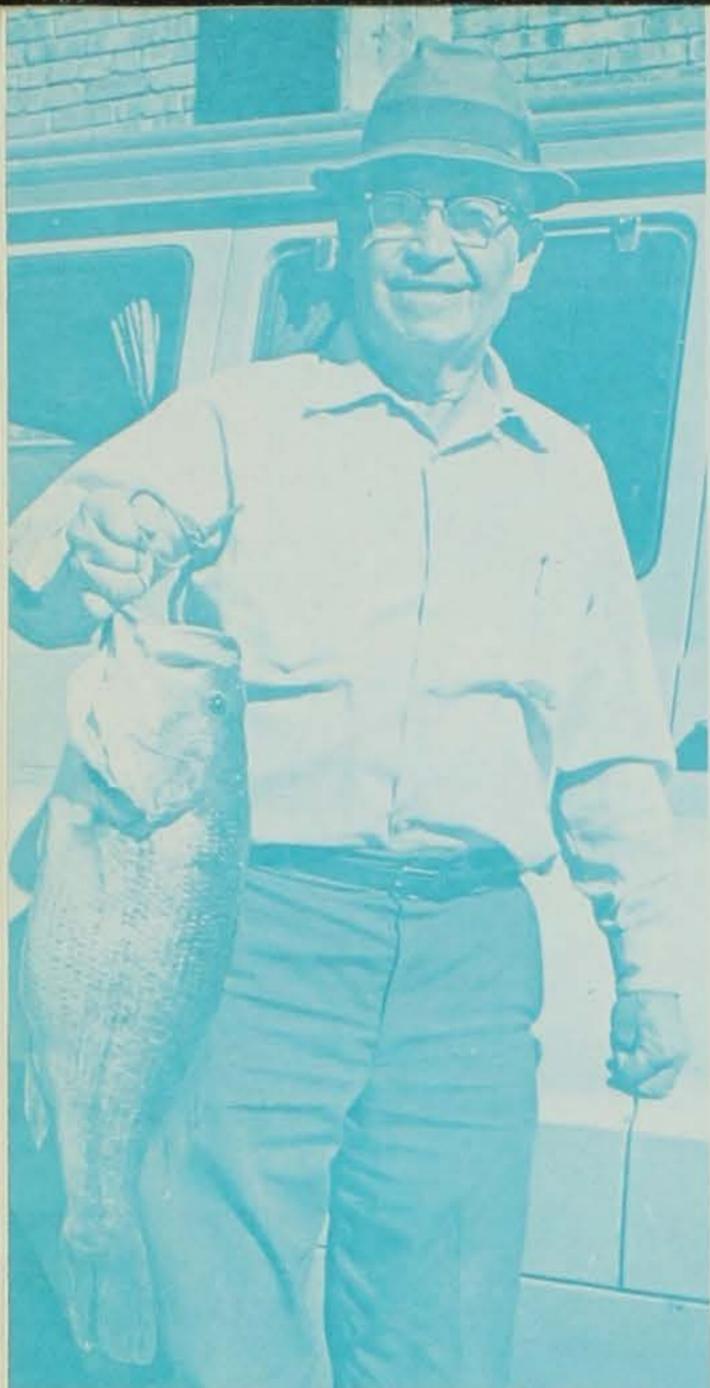
Anglers reported their prize fish successes for every month of the year except February and December. April, May, June and

July proved to be the most successful months with 11, 18, 9 and 10 entries respectively. There were six fish submitted in October, four in January and three in September. August and November produced two entries while March reported one.

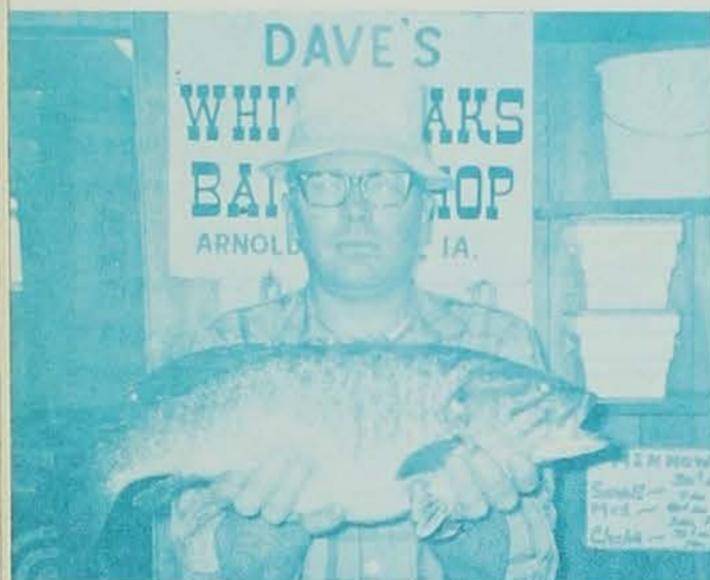
Iowa's man-made bodies of water produced a total of 32 entries, 1971 record species from this category included bluegill, carp, channel catfish, crappies and largemouth bass.

The stream and river category was responsible for 20 angling awards. Among this grouping seven species topped the 1971 statistics—bullhead, flathead catfish, northern pike, sheepshead, brown and rainbow trout.

Iowa's natural lakes offered their share of angling excitement with 14 big lunkers recorded which included the 1971 record muskellunge, paddlefish, smallmouth bass and walleye.



John Marlin's 9 lb. 1 oz. largemouth.



This smallmouth bass tied the all time record of six lb. three oz. Caught by Roger Mahnke of Altoona.



Two lb. three oz. bluegill rates number one on all time Iowa list. Caught by Bob Adam of Fairfield.

## BIG FISH FOR 1971

\* Denotes new all time record

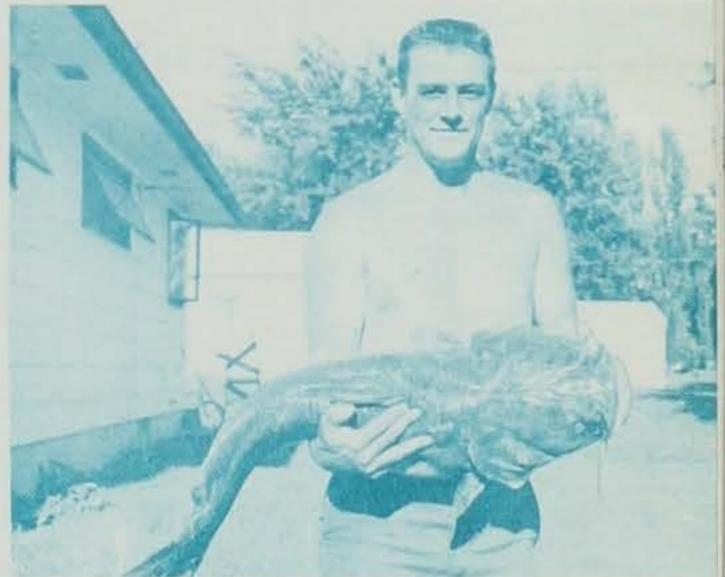
\*\* Equals all time record

Weight	Length	County Where Caught	1971 Date	Angler
<b>BASS (Largemouth)</b>				
9 lb. 1 oz.	24"	Farm Pond Lucas County	October 11	John H. Marlin Albia
8 lb. 12 oz.	21"	Farm Pond Fremont County	June 10	Paul Moody Hamburg
8 lb. 8 oz.	23½"	Farm Pond Lee County	April 4	Paul Burgund Ft. Madison
8 lb. 8 oz.	23½"	Farm Pond Mahaska County	May 4	Wm. Carruthers Oskaloosa
8 lb. 3 oz.	24"	Chariton Reservoir Lucas County	November 25	Dwight L. Oliver Chariton
8 lb.	25"	Lake Ellis Lucas County	April 2	Gerald F. Hibbs Chariton
7 lb. 10 oz.	21"	Farm Pond Wayne County	May 1	Greg Willey Corydon
7 lb. 8 oz.	21"	Lake Macbride Johnson County	May 7	Brett Dishong Solon
7 lb. 8 oz.	24"	Williamson Pond Lucas County	April 18	Chuck Van Houten Des Moines
7 lb. 4 oz.	23½"	Farm Pond Lee County	October 17	Mrs. Paul Burgund Ft. Madison
7 lb. 4 oz.	21"	Lake Wapello Davis County	May 11	James Augspurger Bloomfield
7 lb. 4 oz.	23"	Farm Pond Lee County	March 30	George L. Marzeck West Burlington
7 lb. 4 oz.	22"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	May 18	Connie Pherigo Newton
7 lb. 1 oz.	22"	Lake Geode Henry County	April 30	Leo J. Welch Burlington
7 lb.	22"	Farm Pond Monona County	May 7	Ronald L. Peterson Mapleton
<b>BASS (Smallmouth)</b>				
6 lb. 3 oz. **	22"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May 8	Roger Mahnke Altoona
6 lb.	24"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 14	Don Reason Arnolds Park
5 lb.	21"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	July 17	Mrs. William Pahl Hartley
4 lb. 12 oz.	21½"	Mississippi River Allamakee County	October 15	Robert W. Krueger New Hampton
4 lb.	19½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 20	Lloyd L. Berry Vinton
<b>BASS (White) NO ENTRIES</b>				
<b>BASS (Yellow) NO ENTRIES</b>				
<b>BLUEGILL</b>				
2 lb. 3 oz. *	11½"	Farm Pond Jefferson County	April 25	Bob Adam Fairfield
1 lb. 7 oz.	10½"	Farm Pond Madison County	July 29	Daniel W. Peterson Van Meter
1 lb. 4 oz.	8"	Farm Pond Delaware County	July 2	Robert H. Engelken New Vienna
1 lb. 2 oz.	10¼"	Farm Pond Pottawattamie County	July 20	Rick Diemer Council Bluffs
<b>BULLHEAD</b>				
4 lb. 8 oz. **	22½"	Boyer River Harrison County	August 1	Ralph Cooney Woodbine
2 lb.	12½"	Sweet Marsh Bremer County	July 4	Johnie H. W. Nerge Sumner
<b>BUFFALO NO ENTRIES</b>				
<b>CARP</b>				
31 lb. 5 oz.	37½"	Farm Pond Dallas County	June 6	Reed Haws Perry
<b>CATFISH (Channel)</b>				
30 lb. *	39"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	August 27	Glen Harms Shenandoah
20 lb.	34"	Farm Pond Warren County	September 12	William R. Stephenson Winterset
17 lb.	32"	East Okoboji Dickinson County	January 24	Roland Thomas Greenville
15 lb. 11 oz.	33¼"	Minnewashta Dam Dickinson County	April 21	Rod Janssen Arnolds Park

Weight	Length	County Where Caught	1971 Date	Angler
<b>CATFISH (Flathead)</b>				
43 lb.	39"	Yellow River Allamakee County	July 14	Earl W. Medearis Waterloo
40 lb. 1 oz.	43"	Iowa River Johnson County	May 22	Richard Buchmayer Solon
31 lb. 12 oz.	43"	Iowa River Marshall County	October 18	W. F. Huber Marshalltown
29 lb.	42"	Des Moines River Webster County	May 14	Richard Chalstrom Ft. Dodge
23 lb.	44"	Farm Pond Lee County	June 13	Sherrie Lea Brown West Burlington
<b>CRAPPIE</b>				
4 lb.	19½"	Miami Lake Monroe County	May 30	William J. Sanders Carlisle
3 lb. 4 oz.	18½"	Lake Darling Washington County	May 17	Mrs. Harold S. Johnson Cedar Rapids
3 lb. 2 oz.	20"	Farm Pond Story County	May 27	Timothy Mark Nelson Sioux City
3 lb.	17¼"	Cedar River Benton County	July 13	Tom Close Waterloo
2 lb. 7 oz.	16½"	Farm Pond Warren County	October 31	Ted K. Laird Des Moines
2 lb. 4 oz.	15½"	Hickory Grove Lake Story County	June 8	Earl Christensen Colo
2 lb.	15¾"	Farm Pond Lee County	April 15	Dale Eugene Dietsch Donnellson
<b>MUSKELLUNGE</b>				
23 lb. 2 oz.*	45"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo County	June 6	Brian Buehler Clear Lake
18 lb. 1 oz.	41¾"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	June 30	George L. Pirie Rolfe
<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>				
17 lb. 3 oz.	40½"	Shell Rock River Butler County	April 24	Dennis Hagen Cedar Falls
16 lb. 6 oz.	37½"	Coralville Reservoir Johnson County	May 10	Darold A. Smith Cedar Rapids
12 lb. 8 oz.	39"	Spring Lake Greene County	May 3	Francis D. Moran Grand Junction
12 lb.	35"	Wapsipinicon River Black Hawk County	June 3	John Mohlis Fairbank
11 lb. 11 oz.	36"	Wapsipinicon River Buchanan County	September 6	Donald C. Young Washburn
11 lb. 2 oz.	35"	Pike Run Creek Muscatine County	May 22	George Sutton Nichols
10 lb. 8 oz.	38"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo County	May 12	Davis R. Harrington Newton
10 lb. 4 oz.	36¾"	Des Moines River Humboldt County	April 14	Carlen Rodewald Somers
10 lb.	34"	Cedar River Bremer County	May 1	Mrs. Dennis R. Buhr Tripoli
10 lb.	39½"	Coralville Dam Johnson County	June 30	Pat Tierney Cedar Rapids
<b>PADDLEFISH</b>				
81 lb.*	65¼"	De Soto Bend Harrison County	April 15	Duane Fisher Blair, Nebraska
<b>PERCH (Yellow) NO ENTRIES</b>				
<b>SAUGER — NO ENTRIES</b>				
<b>SHEEPSHEAD</b>				
7 lb. 13½ oz.	27½"	Cedar River Cedar County	July 21	Richard Hubler West Branch
<b>TROUT (Brown)</b>				
8 lb. 8 oz.	26"	North Bear Creek Winneshiek County	August 17	James W. Johnson Fredericksburg
4 lb. 7 oz.	24"	Waterloo Creek Allamakee County	November 14	Fred Daugs Minneapolis, Minnesota
<b>TROUT (Rainbow)</b>				
5 lb. 5 oz.	25"	Yellow River Allamakee County	July 11	Fred Daugs Minneapolis, Minnesota
<b>WALLEYE</b>				
12 lb. 4 oz.	30"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	January 24	Harry M. Wilson Okoboji
12 lb.	30"	Lake Macbride Johnson County	April 7	Clarence S. Arthur Solon



Eight and one-half pound brown trout caught by James Johnson.



Earl Medearis has his hands full — a 43 lb. flathead Allan Johnson's 12-lb. walleye.

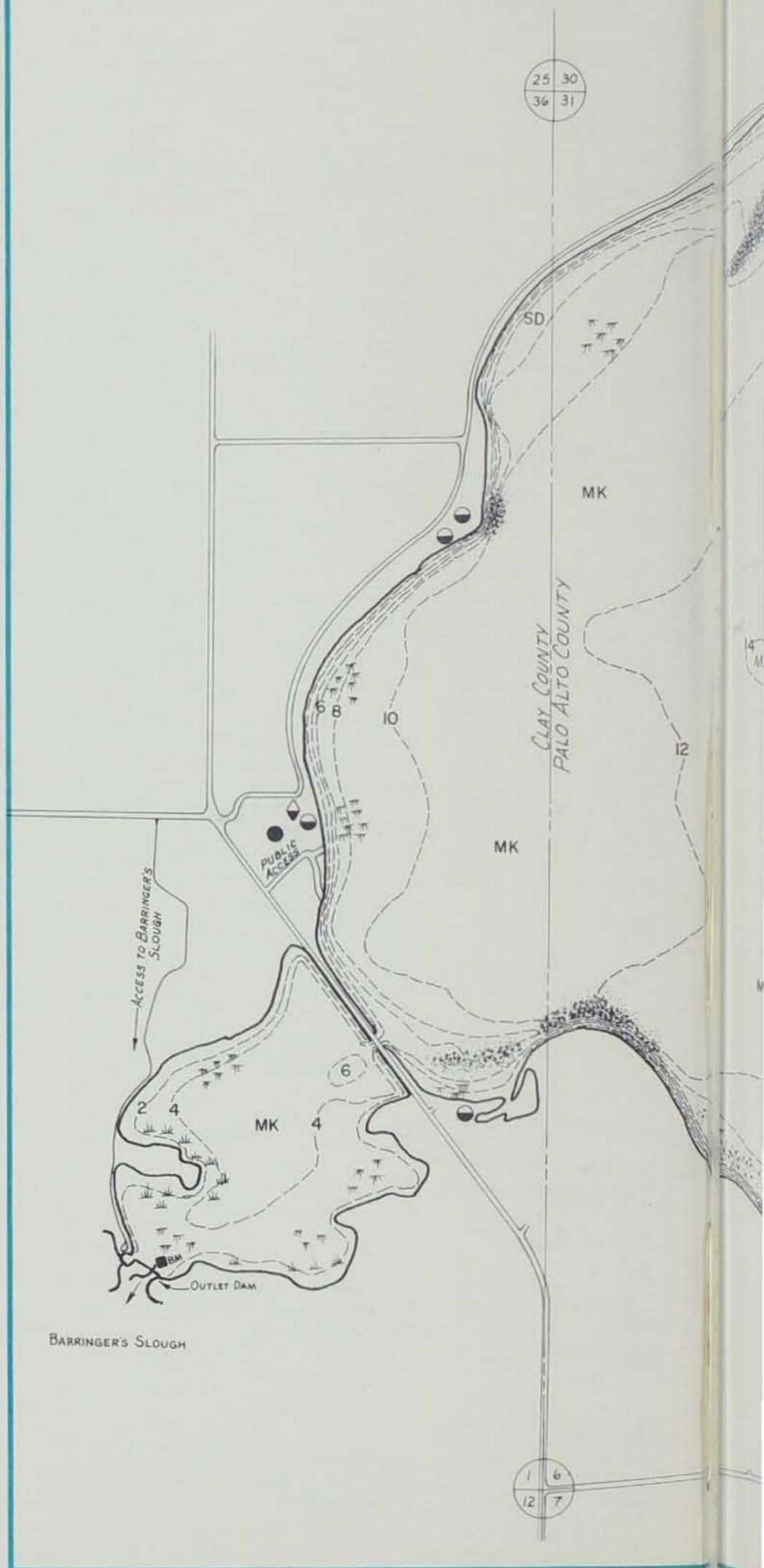


(Continued on Page 10)

# Iowa lakes charted



Lost Island Lake's 1,260 acres lie in both Palo Alto and Clay counties in northwest Iowa. This is the second in a series of maps of charted natural lakes to appear in the IOWA CONSERVATION-IST. For information on the charting program and a map of Spirit Lake, see the January, 1972 issue.



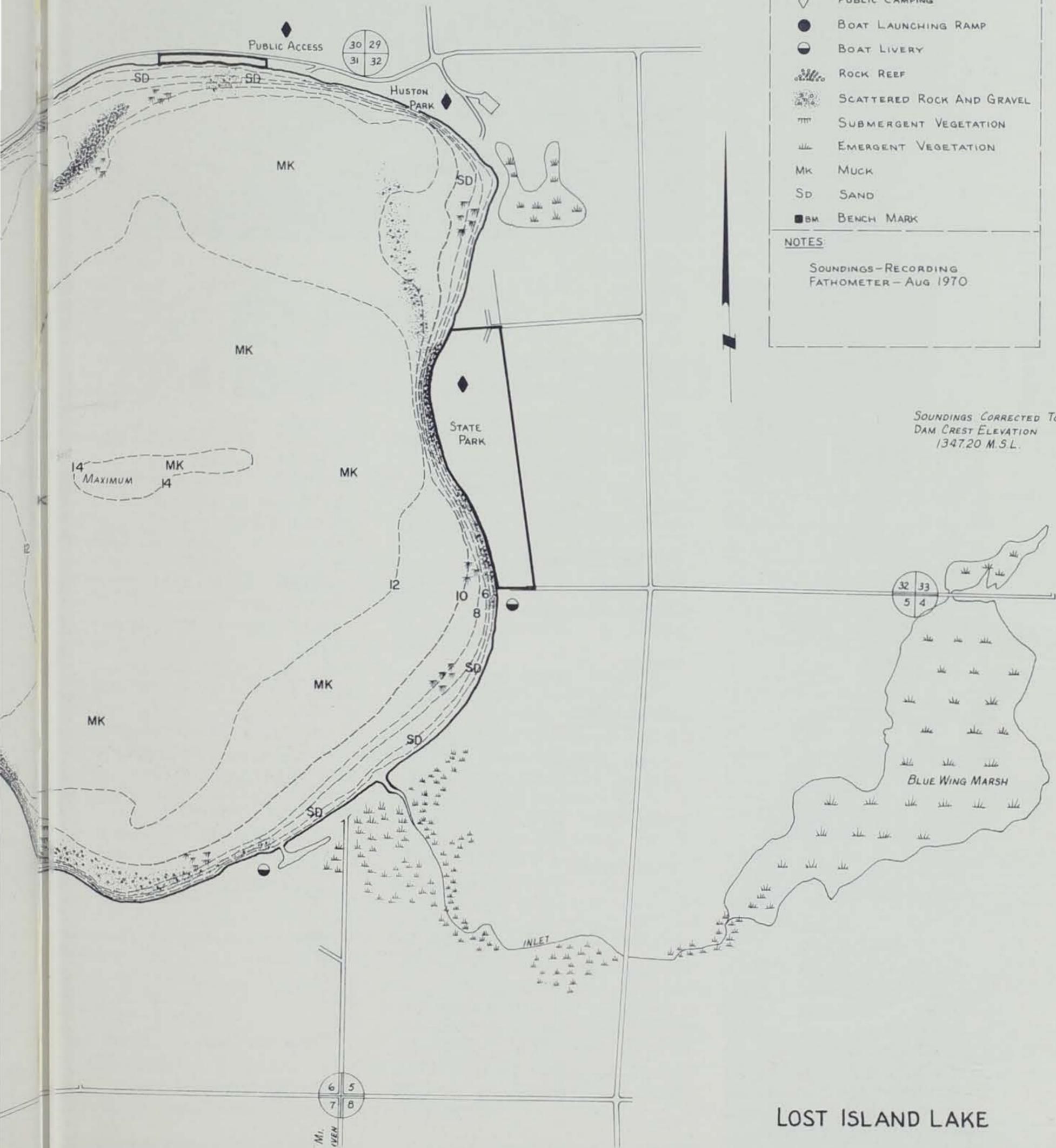
LEGEND

- STATE OWNED LAND
- ⊕ SECTION CORNER
- ◆ PUBLIC PARK
- ◊ PUBLIC ACCESS
- ◇ PUBLIC CAMPING
- BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP
- ◐ BOAT LIVERY
- ⊞ ROCK REEF
- ⊞ SCATTERED ROCK AND GRAVEL
- ▄ SUBMERGENT VEGETATION
- ▄ EMERGENT VEGETATION
- MK MUCK
- SD SAND
- BM BENCH MARK

NOTES:

SOUNDINGS—RECORDING  
FATHOMETER—AUG 1970

SOUNDINGS CORRECTED TO  
DAM CREST ELEVATION  
1347.20 M.S.L.



LOST ISLAND LAKE



Ralph Cooney's 4½ lb. bullhead tied record.

Dennis Hagen's 1971 record northern.



### BIG FISH FOR 1971 (Continued)

Weight	Length	County Where Caught	1971 Date	Angler
12 lb.	31"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	January 2	Allan Johnson Estherville
11 lb. 9½ oz.	29¾"	Mississippi River Clayton County	January 2	Charles J. Klima Cedar Rapids
9 lb. 10 oz.	29¾"	Mississippi River Allamakee County	July 4	Robert G. Hansen Cedar Falls
9 lb. 6 oz.	29"	Maquoketa River Jones County	May 5	Don Lewis Monticello

### IOWA ALL-TIME RECORD FISH

Weight	Length	County Where Caught	Date	Angler
<b>WALLEYE (Continued)</b>				
10 lb. 5 oz.	24¼"	Farm Pond Lee County	August, 1970	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
<b>BASS (Smallmouth)</b>				
6 lb. 3 oz.	21⅝"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	June, 1966	Marvin Singer LeMars
6 lb. 3 oz.	22"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May, 1971	Roger Mahnke Altoona
<b>BASS (White)</b>				
3 lb. 7 oz.	20½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September, 1970	Tom Hamilton Hartley
<b>BLUEGILL</b>				
2 lb. 3 oz.	11½"	Farm Pond Jefferson County	April, 1971	Bob Adam Fairfield
<b>BULLHEAD</b>				
4 lb. 8 oz.	17¾"	Farm Pond Taylor County	April, 1966	Dennie Karas Massena
4 lb. 8 oz.	22½"	Boyer River Harrison County	August, 1971	Ralph Cooney Woodbine
<b>BUFFALO</b>				
31 lb.	38"	Wapsipinicon River Buchanan County	August, 1970	Charles Buchholz Waterloo
<b>CARP</b>				
50 lb.	44"	Glenwood Lake Mills County	May, 1969	Fred Hougland Glenwood
<b>CATFISH (Channel)</b>				
30 lb.	39"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	August, 1971	Glen Harms Shenandoah
<b>CATFISH (Flathead)</b>				
62 lb.	46"	Iowa River Johnson County	July, 1965	Roger Fairchild Coralville
<b>CRAPPIE</b>				
4 lb. 1 oz.	19¼"	Farm Pond Tama County	May, 1969	John Lenhart Tama
<b>MUSKELLUNGE</b>				
23 lb. 2 oz.	45"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo County	June, 1971	Brian Buehler Clear Lake
<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b>				
23 lb. 8 oz.	44"	Cedar River Bremer County	August, 1970	Fred Stifter Waverly
<b>PADDLEFISH</b>				
81 lb.	65¼"	De Soto Bend Harrison County	April, 1971	Duane Fisher Blair, Nebraska
<b>PERCH (Yellow)</b>				
1 lb. 13 oz.	14¾"	Mississippi River Allamakee County	September, 1963	Neal Palmer Maynard
<b>SAUGER</b>				
5 lb. 2 oz.	22½"	Mississippi River Dubuque County	November, 1963	Art Hurlburt Dubuque
<b>SHEEPSHEAD</b>				
46 lb.	38½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	October, 1962	R. F. Farran Clarion
<b>TROUT (Brown)</b>				
12 lb. 14¼ oz.	28"	Elk Creek Delaware County	November, 1966	Billy Lee Marion
<b>TROUT (Rainbow)</b>				
13 lb. 8 oz.	32"	Richmond Springs Delaware County	November, 1968	C. Melvin Vaughn Waterloo
<b>WALLEYE</b>				
14 lb. 2 oz.	31½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	October, 1968	Herbert Aldridge Spirit Lake



Harry Wilson caught this 12 lb. 4 oz. 1971 record walleye.

# 1972 ENTRIES NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Entries for the 1972 Official Big Fish Records are now being accepted by the Iowa Conservation Commission. Any species of fish taken by hook and line and caught in state or boundary waters is eligible. There are, however, minimum weight or length limitations on certain species as listed below.

- Bass, largemouth ----- 7 lbs.
- Bass, smallmouth ----- 4 lbs.
- Bass, white ----- 2½ lbs.
- Bass, yellow ----- 1 lb.
- Bluegill - Sunfish ----- 1 lb.
- Buffalo ----- 20 lbs.
- Bullhead ----- 2½ lbs.
- Carp ----- 25 lbs.
- Catfish, channel ----- 15 lbs.
- Catfish, flathead ----- 20 lbs.
- Crappie ----- 2 lbs.
- Muskellunge ----- 30 inches
- Northern pike ----- 10 lbs.
- Paddlefish ----- 25 lbs.
- Perch, yellow ----- 1½ lbs.
- Sauger ----- 2½ lbs.
- Sheepshead ----- 15 lbs.
- Trout, brown ----- 5 lbs.
- Trout, rainbow ----- 5 lbs.
- Walleye ----- 8 lbs.

Any potential 1972 state record fish must be weighed to the nearest ounce on scales legal for

trade. The weighing must be witnessed by two persons.

The angler must fill out an official entry blank or facsimile and send it and a glossy black and white photo of himself and the fish to Official Big Fish Records, Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by January 1, 1973.

The entry blank includes the angler's name and address, the species of fish, date caught, where, county, total length, method of catch and the witnesses' signatures and addresses. Official entry blanks will be included in the 1972 Fishing Laws Synopsis brochure which will be available to the public wherever fishing licenses are sold.

Any fish that surpasses the state official record will be publicized through the Conservation Commission's weekly news letter. All state records and the 1972 record fish will be published in the February 1973 issue of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST. Iowa Angling Award certificates will also be sent for each qualifying entry. ☆



All time record 81 lb. whopper paddlefish was caught by Duane Fisher.

ENTRY BLANK FOR IOWA RECORD FISH

Name _____	City _____	Date _____	Where caught _____	Weight _____	Witnesses _____
Street/RFD _____	County _____	Total length _____	Method of catch _____	Name _____	
Species _____	Address _____	Name _____	Address _____	(Entries of fish caught during the year must be sent to the Iowa Conservation Commission before December 31.)	

STOP WISHING, GO FISHING!

A big man dressed in a red plaid shirt and blue dungarees stepped out of the darkness into the lantern light and said: "You men are under arrest for shooting a deer." They called this man a "game warden." For many years the only duties this warden had was enforcing the fish and game laws.

With the coming of our state park system and the demand for camping and picnic facilities, and the increase in the number of boats on our lakes and rivers, and the increased number of people in the field fishing and hunting, the job has become specialized. He is now dressed in a uniform and called a state conservation officer.

In Iowa there are three divisions of conservation officers. One division is in charge of our state parks. They are specialists in the field of outdoor recreation, park development, camping, picnicking, etc. One group of conservation officers are specialists in boating, water safety and water recreation. The third division are the fish and game conservation officers, and they are the ones this story is about.

Today's fish and game officer is better educated and better equipped than the wardens of the "good old days." He has many more tasks to perform in his assigned territory. One of his more pleasant duties is public relations. This includes talking to young people at schools and on field trips, showing films to civic groups. You might hear a conservation officer speaking on your radio, see him on television, or you might see him on the street or in a coffee shop talking to one or more persons about something related to the conservation of our natural resources. He might be holding a hunter safety class, or a water safety class in your community. You might see this uniformed officer at a conservation exhibit booth at a county fair, or with the traveling wildlife exhibit, or at the big state fair wild-

# GAME WARDEN



By Rex Emerson  
Conservation Enforcement  
Supervisor

life exhibit. A fish and game officer may have sold you a subscription to the magazine you are now reading.

This same officer also assists in the area of fish and wildlife management. He might be out at sunrise making counts of pheasants, quail, rabbits, deer, or other wildlife for the purpose of helping to determine seasons and limits. He contacts farmers who are interested in putting out wildlife cover from plants that are available from the state nursery. Car-killed deer must be picked up and disposed. Nuisance animal complaints must be answered. He also assists with the stocking of fish in farm ponds or lakes. He takes water samples to check for oxygen depletion, or for pollution that might be detrimental to fish.

The fish and game conservation officer is still charged with enforcing laws. Fish and game laws are a tool that he uses to protect

fish and wildlife so they can reproduce and maintain a population that can be harvested without endangering the species. There are only 62 fish and game conservation officers in Iowa. He must depend on public concern and their information concerning violations as well as his own encounters. He may be seen in town during the day, but few people except the violator will see him sitting on top of a lonely hill at midnight watching for a spotlight or in a boat on the river at 2 a.m. looking for someone running a fish trap. This man has no set working hours, and much of the enforcement work comes when other people have time off from their jobs. It takes a very special and understanding wife and family to accept the long and irregular hours the conservation officer works.

Fish and Game law enforcement can take a lot of time, and

sometimes is very wearing on the nerves, but he is always polite and a gentleman. This is sometimes difficult when the officer receives a great deal of verbal abuse from a violator. At times like this the officer must keep his cool, and just smile all the way to court.

An important part of an officer's job is working with children. Officers visit classrooms, hold hunter safety courses and generally go to great lengths to interest young people in hunting and fishing. When found in violation of a law, kids sometimes come up with the darndest answers. One conservation officer found a ten year old boy that had caught a young squirrel alive and was about to put it in a cage. The officer explained to the young lad that the season was closed on squirrels in the spring of the year, and it was a violation of the law for him to have this squirrel. The officer told the boy that he could decide what the punishment was going to be for breaking the law. He said "Son, I am going to do the same thing to you that you do to that squirrel." The young boy looked at the squirrel for a moment and said, "I'm going to kiss his little behind and turn him loose!"

Fishing and hunting license money pays for fish and game conservation officers services in your community. Not everyone likes to fish or hunt. He works for those who like to take pictures, enjoy the outdoors, listen to song birds and observe wildlife. His job includes protecting all species. The conservation officer knows that most of the hunting in Iowa is on private land, so he works to foster good farmer-sportsman relationships.

Conservation officer or "game warden," he will answer to either one. If some day you have the family out on the river bank fishing and a conservation officer steps up to you and says "Sir, may I check your license," give him an understanding smile . . . he deserves it.

321261



## Officer (Artist) Jim Baldwin

Most readers of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST should be familiar with Jim Baldwin, fish and game conservation officer from Spencer. Although his warden duties lie mainly in Clay County, his hobby is appreciated statewide.

For years Jim's art work has appeared in a variety of Iowa Conservation Commission publications. Detailed ink drawings, like the pheasant in the photo,

and numerous cartoons have been enjoyed in this magazine. Baldwin drawings also appear annually on Laws Synopsis and other publications.

Jim finds time between work and family life to provide valuable art work to the commission free of charge. "It's just a hobby with me — I enjoy it when I have time."

Baldwin has been an officer for more than 22 years.



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During the past years there has been a steady beat of words on the conscience of American sportsmen and conservationists concerning waterfowl losses attributed to lead poisoning from ingested shot. Respected national organizations have raised questions about progress being made to eliminate or at least reduce those losses. Often their questions are in terms of a timetable: When will toxic lead be replaced by non-toxic iron or some other substitute?

Systemic poisoning due to ingested lead is a recognized waterfowl fatality factor. Spent shot on certain marsh bottoms is ingested by dabbling ducks sifting for seeds. The amount and availability of "accessible" shot varies from marsh to marsh. Shot settles in soft bottoms beyond the birds' reach. Shot that has fallen in marshes where there is a high rate of siltation, or into tidal waters, poses little or no threat. There is no precise data where waterfowl find the shot they ingest. The sources generally are believed to be relatively shallow waters with what might be characterized as thin, hard bottoms. Not all marshes are sources of shot to feeding ducks.

Members of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute initiated studies in 1966 leading toward development of a research project to find a modification of or substitute for lead in shot. The respected Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute (IITRI) was selected in 1967 to conduct the industry-sponsored project. When IITRI studies were completed in 1969, the results were made freely available to the industry, the government, and to all who made inquiry.

IITRI tested bio-chemical modifications of lead. What seemed a good theory failed. Metal and plastic coatings for lead were tried along with lead "composites" and alloys. The strong grinding action of a duck's gizzard abrades protective coatings and exposes the bird's digestive system to metallic lead which reacts chemically with digestive



Status Report on

# soft iron shot

fluids. Typically, paralysis of the duck's digestive system follows with resultant starvation and subsequent death from physical debilitation of predation.

IITRI's research efforts turned next to non-toxic substitutes for lead. Glass and ceramics and certain metals failed for lack of density with resulting poor ballistic performance. Various heavy metals such as silver and nickel would serve, but their rarity and cost excluded them from serious consideration. The avenues of exploration all returned to iron.

## What Sort of Iron?

Ordinary iron shot might shoot well. It also tears up shotgun tubes. Its ravages in a shotgun barrel creates genuine concern for gun and shooters safety. Such iron quickly erodes chokes and renders them useless. A shotgun's ability to produce an effective pattern is diminished after firing relatively few rounds of ordinary iron shot loads.

In 1968 the SAAMI/IITRI research project uncovered a soft iron wire. Its production was irregular, because it had few if any commercial applications. Its ballistic and performance characteristics were unknown.

One ammunition company produced a batch of shot from this soft iron wire. A second ammunition loading company took the soft iron shot and produced loads similar to lead shotshells commonly used for waterfowling.

The Patuxent (Maryland) Wildlife Research Center, operated by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, ran tests with live ducks to learn the "mortality efficiency" of the soft iron shot. This had nothing to do with the shot's performances as related to its effect on gun barrels. Those tests in 1969, and comparisons with data on lead shot, indicated soft iron loads were suitable when fired within reasonable ranges up to 50 yards. The two shotgun barrels fired showed no discernible barrel scoring from the soft iron shot. So far as that one test showed there was no apparent deformation nor discernible movement of metal in the forcing cone of those particular guns.

Then why not get on with soft iron shot? Until late 1970, there was no reliable source of soft iron wire. Today there still is no proven practicable soft iron shot production process for bulk man-

ufacture. Shooting tests of soft iron loads in various makes and models of shotguns also have shown some of the same problems caused by ordinary iron shot: barrel scoring, choke deformation, and forcing cone changes. This raises questions of safety along with doubts of satisfactory performance as related to patterning ability.

These facts have been discussed with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. At a session of the National Waterfowl Council in March 1970, during the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Chicago, a spokesman for the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute reviewed most of this. He expressed confidence that soft iron loads could be universally available by the mid-1970's, perhaps earlier.

Next it's a question of solving shot production problems to assure economic feasibility. Concurrently the essential and extensive firing tests are being conducted to determine soft iron shot's performance capabilities and characteristics in a variety of shotguns and barrels of different makes and models, both foreign and American.

The public must recognize that lead poisoning in waterfowl will not cease miraculously the day a non-toxic substitute for lead in shotshells is introduced. There is no way to remove from marsh bottoms the lead shot that has fallen upon them over the past century and more. There will never be an assurance that all lead shot in those marsh bottoms will settle out of range of feeding ducks, although shot sizes No. 4 and larger will sink beyond reach of dabbling ducks in most soft-bottomed ponds and marshes. Natural siltation also will help cover spent shot. Soft iron shot can only be expected to relieve, not eliminate, the problem.

There has been notable progress by the several companies working and testing independently to solve lead poisoning in waterfowl. They are determined to help resolve this pressing problem. ☆

## CAMPFIRE COOKERY

(Continued from Page 2)

animals will. She, like other animals on the truck, started as someone's pet.

Alabama was purchased in a pet shop and was raised as a cub. When she outgrew the cub stage and began to show the normal responses and instincts of her wild heritage, it became difficult for the family to care for her. As a result, she was given to us and we will take care of her until she passes away. We do not mind taking care of Alabama and all of her friends, but it would be much better if they had not been captured in the first place. Once they are exposed to man they lose part of the fear of man and if they are released back into the wild, their chances for survival are dim.

Imagine what you would do and think if you are walking in the timber and a tamed coyote has been released in the area. As you go whistling along the coyote hears you and starts running toward you wagging its tail. You

would immediately interpret it as a charge by a rabid, savage, vicious wild animal and do your utmost to exit the area, or put the brute to death. Regardless of the outcome, the story of the attack would grow. True, there are some wild animals who will attack, but in most cases they have been hurt, crowded or in defense of food or young. Wild animals by nature are simply afraid of man. The wild animals of Iowa are for all to enjoy. Let's leave the babies with their mothers and let them live in the timbers, hills, and fields which to them is home.

The other fat cat the commission has is me. I have been eating too many chunks of homemade bread, ice cream, candy and fried coot. But alas! I have found a sure recipe to lose weight. Cut up one head of lettuce in a large bowl and add one tablespoon of vinegar, salt and pepper. Eat as much as you like. It won't make you a fat cat but it will make you ready to smooch at a minutes notice. ☆



## SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK (Continued from Page 3)

White-tailed deer are common in the park and are usually seen at dawn and dusk. There is also a wide variety of small mammals and birds.

The area has an interesting past, according to Park Officer Wayne Partridge. "A lot of coal mining was done here," he said. "There is an old mine right across the road from my house. There were shaft mines which have since filled, leaving little evidence of their existence."

The area which is now Springbrook Park was originally owned by a man named King. After it

was purchased by the state in 1929, it was called King Park. "In the early thirties, the Civilian Conservation Corps came in and started to build the park." Partridge noted.

When the Corps' job was completed, they had constructed accommodations for park visitors. "There are three facilities — the campground, family cabins and the organized youth group cabins," said Partridge.

The campground is located in a valley along Spring Brook, a small tributary of the Middle Raccoon River, which gave the

park its name. Tent and trailer camping are permitted here, with water and sanitary facilities provided. Fire wood is available at 25 cents a bundle. Overnight camping costs \$2.50 for a unit of up to six people. For parties over six, each additional person is charged 25 cents. Electricity costs an additional 50 cents.

Away from the campground, the six rustic family cabins stand in a wooded area. Reservations

for these cabins must be made in advance with the park officer. Rental for the cabins is \$10 per cabin per day and \$50 per cabin per week.

The organized youth group cabins are located on the other side of the campground. These cabins will sleep a group of up to 130. Cabins, cots, mattresses, sanitary facilities and water are furnished at the camp. Youth groups

pay 75 cents per person, per day with a minimum of \$25 to rent the facilities. Other types of groups may rent the camp for a minimum of \$25 per day, per group, plus \$7 per day, per cabin.

With these facilities, the campground, the beautiful natural areas and a lake, Springbrook State Park has something for everyone who enjoys the outdoors. ☆

