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Trout Talk



By Gene Vaughan

Hatchery Manager,
Big Spring Hatchery, Elkader

As winter slowly relinquishes its glacial hold on Iowa's trout streams, anglers find themselves rummaging through basements and hallway closets, driven by some unknown power, in search of creels, ultra-lights and that black-tailed, triple-swiveled, red-eyed spinner that so adeptly enticed those lunkers last year. Yes, it is trout time again and those two screen doors and the wife's toaster that both need fixing aren't really in that bad of shape!

Even though you may just be readying yourself for combat with those rainbow, brown, and albino rainbow, Iowa's trout hatcheries have long been preparing themselves for your 1975 fishing -- they started two years ago.

Let's take a brief glimpse into the Iowa Conservation Commission's trout program to familiarize you with the operation which has developed into one of the nation's most successful fisheries.



Raceways at Manchester

Photo by Ken Formanek

Trout Culture

Iowa has three state trout hatcheries each designed to maximize its particular resources to fulfill their purpose in the overall program of shortening the time between bites.

Manchester Hatchery in Delaware County has an adequate supply of 50 degree water which is ideal for hatching and rearing fingerlings in the fall of 1973 at the former Backbone Hatchery. The rainbow and brown trout that you will catch this year were hatched. After hatching, the young fish (sac fry) sustained themselves for 2 - 3 weeks on the yolk material present in their bodies. Artificial feeding was then initiated using specially formulated diets consisting of at least 40% protein. As the fry matured into fingerlings their diet was constantly monitored and changed in accordance with the metabolic requirements of the fish. In the spring of 1974, after reaching 2 - 4 inches, the majority of the fingerlings were transferred to the Big Spring and Decorah Hatcheries. These two facilities are blessed with high water volumes and adequate rearing space and it is here that the trout

Trout food increases in size as fish grow. Photos by Wayne Lonning



Someday he may be as big as your frying pan.



Life begins in a hatchery tray.

Photo by Wayne Lonning

are cultured under designed programs to insure both quantity and quality to Iowa anglers. Fish are fed in relation to body weight providing uniform stocking size fish of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ pound (10-15") throughout the stocking season. Raceway and ponds at all three facilities are constantly being cleaned in order to provide optimal growth conditions and at the same time reduce the chance of disease outbreak. In addition, chemical treatments are used as preventive measures to further insure healthy fish.

Stocking

Stocking of catchable size trout in Iowa is the best way to overcome the limiting factor of inadequate spawning sites and at the same time utilize the 52 spring fed streams in nine northeastern counties that are capable of supporting productive fisheries. Each stream is given a yearly stocking quota based on water quality, fishing pressure, and availability of public access. These quotas are designed to obtain the highest return of stocked fish to the fisherman's creel. The frequency of stocking is a compromise between what would yield optimal results and what time and manpower will allow. The goal of the trout hatchery manager is to stock trout as many times as physically and economically feasible each year. This allows each trout angler a equal chance to harvest

these stocked fish. Last year Big Spring Hatchery alone spent in excess of 1300 hours distributing trout. Statewide, in 1974 approximately 350,000 trout were stocked for the nearly 21,000 anglers who purchased trout stamps; an average of 16.6 trout per fisherman. If you feel that your favorite stream is not stocked enough it is probably because the stream itself will not support greater numbers and at the same time return high percentages of trout to the angler.

Stocking this year began the first week of April and will continue into late October or until all the catchable size fish have been distributed. April 1 is the target date each year for the initiation of stocking, but weather conditions dictate the actual date. In the distribution of the trout the stocking trucks stop at as many areas along each stream as they can in order to equally disperse the fish. Obviously, not every pool can be stocked, but with diligent distribution and the actual movement of the fish once they enter the stream, the trout are scattered to where they will provide many hours of fishing enjoyment. All streams are stocked weekly, but in the case of high use areas (Little Paint, Richmond Spring, Turkey River, and Trout Run, for example) biweekly stockings are made. During certain times of the year environmental conditions (such as high water and turbidity, high water temperatures and inaccessibility to the streams) influence stocking, but in most cases these situations are only temporary.

Brown trout fingerling plants have periodically been made on small streams that contain suitable habitat for a limited fishery, but which cannot sustain high fishing pressure. Past experience has shown these stockings to produce lunker browns for the ambitious angler who is willing to explore little known streams.

Each year an attempt is made to stock surplus brood stock when available. These fish are distributed during the latter part of the stocking season and give the angler the opportunity to hook fish that weigh from 3 - 10 pounds.



Photo by Jerry Leonard

Future

What does the future bring for Iowa's trout fishing fraternity? Open gates, littering, and disconcert for private property, if left unchecked, will without a doubt seriously downgrade the program. Also, private land management practices must be initiated to prevent livestock grazing and farming to the edge of the stream banks which results in appreciable silt deposition in many areas.

Trout production in the years to come is reasonably assured by recent hatchery additions and improvements. Also, the Conservation Commission is constantly purchasing land (Open Spaces Program) along key streams thus increasing the areas available for public fishing. These two factors coupled with a hopefully increased public and private awareness will continue to assure Iowa's trout program as one of the most productive in the nation.

Photo by Wayne Lonning





Photo by Ken Formanek

"The Pike are Running"

By Bob DeCook
Fisheries Technician

This phrase can be heard repeatedly along the upper Mississippi River as the first warm days of spring eat away the ice in the tailwaters of the navigational dams. "Pike" to the Mississippi River angler are the highly-prized walleye and sauger.

In late March and early April snow runoff and spring rains begin to raise water levels and temperatures. With this change the walleye and sauger fishing in the river is at its best. The rising waters and temperatures spur these fish into feeding actively until they begin to spawn. The angler's chances of limiting out or catching a bragging-size walleye are best at this time.

To participate in this annual fishery one needs only to travel to one of the dams on the river. The tailwaters of dams 9 thru 12 produce the best "pike" fishing along the Iowa border.

Access to the fishery at this time of the year is good, as boat liverys and fishing barges open with the "ice out" in the river.

Five sauger, one walleye and the lure that caught them.

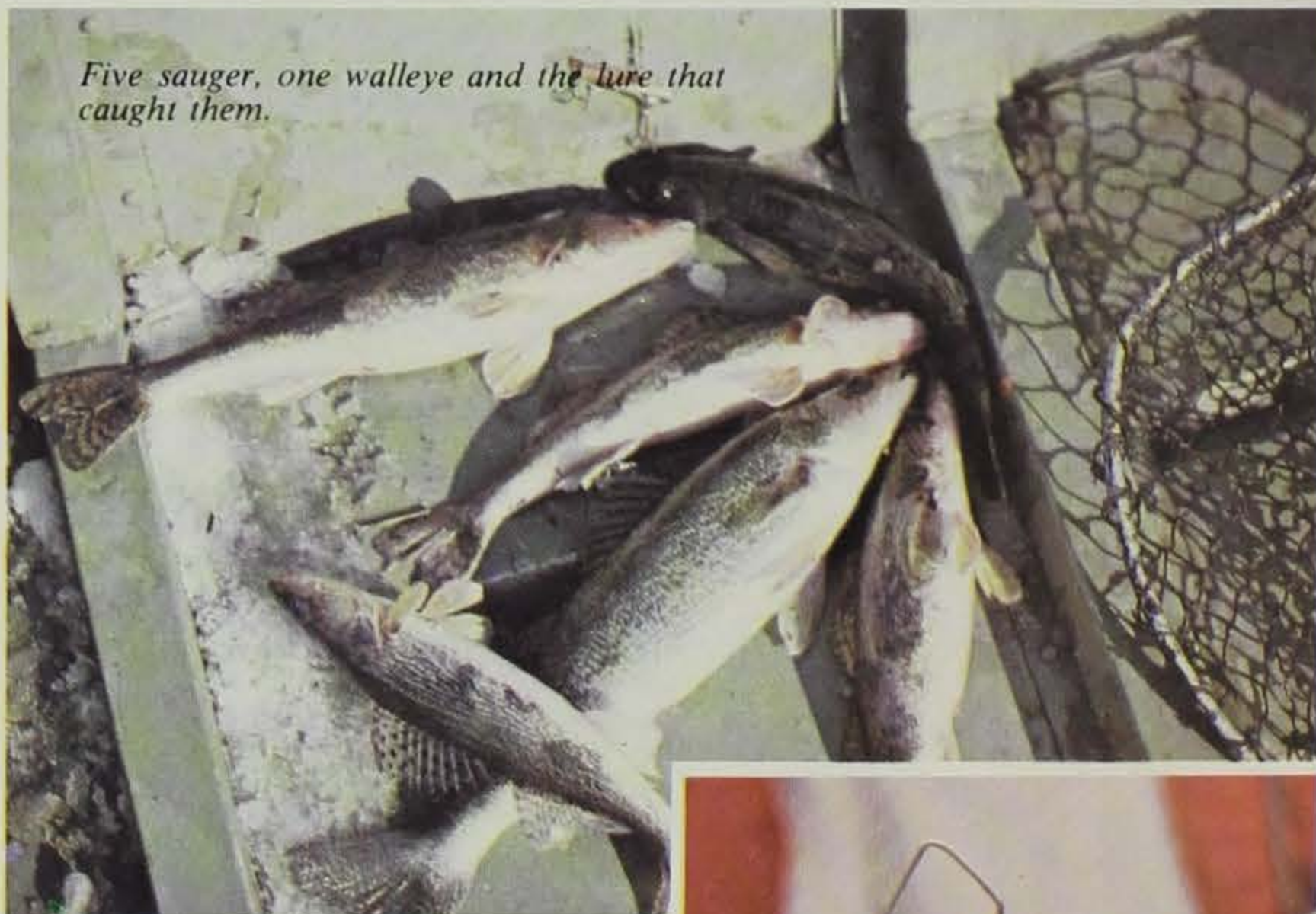


Photo by Bob Runge

Methods for taking walleye and sauger vary with individual fishermen, although most use either live minnows or a jigging type lure such as the lead head jig or sonar lure.

So if the spring fever hits you after a long winter, head for the upper Mississippi for some of the best walleye and sauger fishing in the Midwest.



Photo by Wayne Lanning

George Marzeck, always near the top in bass, caught this fish at Odessa.



“TRUE” FISHING TALES OF 1975----

New Records Set For Yellow Bass, Brook Trout & Musky

By Sonny Satre Contributing Editor

Iowa “fisherpersons”—men, women, boys and girls, had another tremendous angling season on the state’s waters during 1975. For the proof, check the 236 qualifying entries in the Iowa Conservation Commission’s annual Big Fish Registry accompanying this article. New state records for muskellunge and yellow bass were established and the second largest walleye and third largest northern pike taken since the Commission began keeping records in 1962 were recorded.

Iowa’s first 1975 record was topped July 1, when John W. Ennor of Cedar Falls successfully landed a plump 14 ounce yellow bass from Clear Lake. The 11¼ inch true member of the bass family was taken on light tackle with a small beetle spin. Ennor’s record “streaker” topped the old mark by 2 ounces. Incidentally, according to Commission fishery creel surveys, there is a very good chance some lucky angler will top the new record again this year. Surveys show a good number of nice sized yellows in Clear Lake and Little Wall Lake. Although these fish seldom attain a size much larger than a pound, the world record is 2 lbs. 2 oz. Chances are Clear Lake or Little Wall Lake is holding another state record and possibly a world record.

West Okoboji and muskellunge were synonymous in 1975. These trophy fish simply went on a rampage and provided anglers a type of excitement they will never forget. Ten out of the eleven muskies entered were taken from West Okoboji including two state records. On August 4, Leo Kofoot of Spirit Lake managed to net a thrashing 32 lb. 8 oz. musky. Kofoot’s trophy fish outweighed the old record set in 1974 from Clear Lake by three pounds. This record, however, was short lived. Just a little more than a month later, on September 12, at 7:45 p.m., the big one (locally known as “jaws”) provided the battle of a lifetime for Ed Feldhacker of Spencer. He was fishing in Emerson Bay when the huge fish struck his green-yellow perch spoon. After the fight was over the tale of the tape read as follows: length—52½ inches, girth—23¾ inches, and weight—a whopping 38 pounds.

During the year there were a number of interesting tales from West Okoboji, Clear Lake and Rathbun of muskies stretching and snapping fishing lines before the angler knew what was happening. So it’s a good bet Iowa’s muskellunge record is again in jeopardy in 1976.

Believe it or not, an Iowa fisherman landed a nice sized brook trout from one of the state’s trout streams in northeast Iowa in 1975. John Delleman, Davenport, fishing at Sny Magill Creek in Clayton County was the surprised angler. Delleman was using a flyrod with a Panther Martin spinning lure when the 16 inch beauty struck. The fish weighed 1 lb. 14 oz. This is the first confirmed brook trout taken since records were begun in 1962.

At one time brook trout were quite common in northeast Iowa streams and they are the only trout that is native to the state. The Commission plans to reintroduce brook trout in selected streams this year.

The second largest walleye ever entered in the Big Fish Registry was landed in 1975 by Lawrence Lee of Cherokee. He caught the giant fish from West Okoboji. It weighed 13 lbs. 12 oz., only six ounces shy of the record. The current state record is 14 lbs. 2 oz. and was taken from Spirit Lake in 1968. Lee must be ranked as one of the better anglers in the state as he also caught the first and fourth largest northern pike in 1975. His top northern weighed an even 23 lbs. and ranks third on the All-Time Record List. It was taken from West Okoboji as well.

The remaining 226 qualifying fish were also prize catches and would start the adrenaline flowing in any angler. Although the 1975 entries were dominated mostly by fisherMEN, Iowa’s fairer sex contributed eight of the qualifying catches.

Some anglers ask why Iowa has not had a category in the Big Fish Registry for blue catfish. The answer is that blue catfish are rarely taken by sportsfishermen from Iowa waters. According to ICC fishery biologists they are found in the lower Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and rarely in major tributaries. The blue catfish is the largest member of the catfish family in North America (the world record is 97 lbs.). The surest identification feature is the number of rays on the anal fin. A channel catfish has 24 to 29 rays while a blue cat has from 30 to 35 rays. The charcoal to dark blue color phase of the male channel catfish is easily mistaken and commonly referred to as a “blue cat”. In the event a blue catfish is taken we will now have a category for this species. Any potential blue catfish entry must weigh a minimum of 20 lbs. and be examined and verified by an Iowa Conservation Commission fishery biologist before it can be officially recognized as a state record.

1976 BIG FISH ENTRIES

Entries for the 1976 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 qualifying weights or length limitations as listed below:

Bass, largemouth..... 7 lbs.	Crappie..... 2 lbs.
Bass, ocean striped..... 5 lbs.	Muskellunge..... 15 lbs.
Bass, rock..... 1 lb.	Northern pike..... 10 lbs.
Bass, smallmouth..... 4 lbs.	Paddlefish..... 25 lbs.
Bass, white..... 2½ lbs.	Perch, yellow..... 1 lb.
Bass, yellow..... ¾ lb.	Sauger..... 2½ lbs.
Bluegill - sunfish..... 1 lb.	Sheepshead..... 15 lbs.
Buffalo..... 20 lbs.	Sturgeon, shovelnose..... 3 lbs.
Bullhead..... 2½ lbs.	Sucker, white..... 4 lbs.
Carp..... 25 lbs.	Trout, brook..... 1 lb.
Catfish, blue..... 20 lbs.	Trout, brown..... 3 lbs.
Catfish, channel..... 15 lbs.	Trout, rainbow..... 3 lbs.
Catfish, flathead..... 20 lbs.	Walleye..... 8 lbs.

Any potential 1976 state record fish must be weighed to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade. The weighing must be witnessed by two persons.

If there is some doubt in species identification, the angler should contact the nearest Iowa Conservation Commission personnel for verification. *Any new all-time state record fish must be examined and verified by Iowa Conservation Commission personnel.*

The angler must fill out an official entry blank or facsimile and send it and a photo or color slide of the angler and the fish to Official Big Fish Records, Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by January 1, 1977. The entry blank includes the angler's name and address, the species of fish, date caught, body of water, county, total length, bait or lure used, and the witnesses' signatures and addresses. Official entry blanks will be included in the 1976 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 release. All state records and the 1976 record fish will be published in the March 1977 issue of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST. Iowa Angling Award certificates and shoulder patches will also be sent to qualifying anglers.

ENTRY BLANK FOR IOWA RECORD FISH

NAME _____
 STREET/RFD _____
 CITY _____
 SPECIES _____ DATE _____
 COUNTY WHERE CAUGHT _____
 LAKE OR STREAM _____
 TOTAL LENGTH _____ WEIGHT _____ lb. _____ oz.
 BAIT OR LURE USED _____

WITNESSES

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

(Entries of fish caught during the year must be sent to the Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 by January 1, 1977.)

Dennis Thompson's saucer-sized bluegill weighed 1 lb. 15 oz.



Walleye taken by Lawrence Lee was the second largest ever recorded — 13 lb. 12 oz.



Lawrence Lee also caught the largest northern pike in 1975, a 23 lb. lunker.



John Ennor's new State Record yellow bass.



Largest brown trout entered, a 9 lb. 1½ oz. beauty, was taken by Jim Jennings.



This 7 lb. 10 oz. largemouth was outsmarted by Leo Welch at Lake Wapello.



A fine 5 lb. 4 oz. smallmouth provided plenty of action for Don Lamb.



Mark Powell was the king of Iowa bullhead fishermen with this 3 lb. 14 oz. "yellow belly."



John Delleman and his State Record brook trout.

1975 Entries

BASS (Largemouth)

8 lb. 12 oz.	23"	Farm Pond Davis Co.	4-26	James Augspurger Bloomfield
8 lb. 11 oz.	24"	Farm Pond Van Buren Co.	11-6	Paul M. Burgund Ft. Madison
8 lb. 9 oz.	21"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie Co.	6-16	Jim Stiles Council Bluffs
7 lb. 15 oz.	23"	Rock Quarry Lee Co.	11-21	George L. Marzeck West Burlington
7 lb. 11 oz.	22"	Farm Pond Crawford Co.	6-8	John A. Hast Denison
7 lb. 11 oz.	22 1/4"	Gravel Pit Franklin Co.	5-26	Delmar A. Leedom Sheffield
7 lb. 10 oz.	23 3/8"	Lake Wapello Davis Co.	5-13	Leo J. Welch Burlington
7 lb. 9 oz.	23 1/2"	Lake Odessa Louisa Co.	5-21	George L. Marzeck West Burlington
7 lb. 8 oz.	23"	Prairie Rose Shelby Co.	10-27	Edward McColley Sr. Omaha, Neb.
7 lb. 5 oz.	23 1/8"	Farm Pond Lee Co.	11-7	Paul W. Burgund Ft. Madison
7 lb. 4 oz.	23 1/4"	Lake Wapello Davis Co.	4-27	Kenneth Nelson Norwalk
7 lb. 3 oz.	22 1/2"	Farm Pond Lee Co.	10-3	Paul W. Burgund Ft. Madison
7 lb. 2 oz.	23"	Farm Pond Guthrie Co.	6-18	Vic Holm Bayard
7 lb. 2 oz.	22 1/2"	Lake Wapello Davis Co.	11-29	Dennis Burd Burlington
7 lb. 2 oz.	21 1/2"	Farm Pond Jasper Co.	4-13	Bob Underberg West Des Moines
7 lb. 1 oz.	23 1/4"	Farm Pond Ida Co.	10-22	Bruce R. Brock Battle Creek
7 lb. 1 oz.	22 1/4"	Osceola Lake Clarke Co.	10-15	Paul J. Grasso West Des Moines
7 lb. 1 oz.	22 1/2"	Farm Pond Lee Co.	3-21	George R. Moore Ft. Madison
7 lb.	25"	Fairfield Pond Jefferson Co.	9-14	Vito A. Belardinelli Fairfield
7 lb.	22 1/2"	Lake Iowa Iowa Co.	9-6	Dave Hickey Cedar Rapids
7 lb.	22 1/2"	Lake Wapello Davis Co.	4-12	Larry G. Roush Ottumwa

BASS (Ocean Striped) No Entire

BASS (Rock) No Entire

BASS (Smallmouth)

5 lb. 4 oz.	21 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-16	Don Lamb Milford
5 lb. 2 oz.	22"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-10	Barry Day Sibley
5 lb. 2 oz.	21 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-3	Glen Larsen Clare
5 lb. 1 oz.	21 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-14	Cliff Cunningham Leon
5 lb.	22 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-24	Bob Bryant Sheldon
4 lb. 14 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-24	Larry Bendlin Spencer
4 lb. 9 1/2"	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-18	Jim Taylor Spencer
4 lb. 9 oz.	22"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-14	Burton Brown Lake City
4 lb. 8 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	10-24	Tom Ahrens Waterloo
4 lb. 8 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	10-5	Darrell Grove Ft. Dodge
4 lb. 8 oz.	21 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-29	Don McCulloch Spirit Lake
4 lb. 7 oz.	22 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-22	Clarence Bendlin Spencer
4 lb. 6 oz.	21 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-14	Charles L. Brown Lake City
4 lb. 6 oz.	22"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-22	Larry Bendlin Spencer
4 lb. 6 oz.	20 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	5-3	Tom McGrath Estherville
4 lb. 5 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-18	Mark Gustand Royal
4 lb. 5 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-18	Carlton Mitchell Harris
4 lb. 4 oz.	20"	Farm Pond Jones Co.	11-1	Rick Busch Onslow
4 lb. 4 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	11-1	Frank Tielbur Spencer
4 lb. 4 oz.	20 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-7	Larry Eckard Royal
4 lb. 3 oz.	20 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-11	Otis Smith Sibley
4 lb. 3 oz.	21 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-3	Bob Fitzgerald Milford
4 lb. 2 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-15	Clarence Bendlin Spencer
4 lb. 2 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-18	Robert Bendlin Spencer
4 lb. 2 oz.	20 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	7-13	A. W. Nystrom Sioux City
4 lb. 2 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-17	Jack Grandgeorge Ft. Dodge
4 lb. 1 oz.	22 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-19	V. C. Krambeck Ft. Dodge
4 lb. 1 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-10	Bob Fitzgerald Milford
4 lb.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-18	Larry Bendlin Spencer
4 lb.	21"	Farm Pond Benton Co.	8-30	Richard F. Berger Vinton
4 lb.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-18	Gary Kilpatrick Spencer
4 lb.	20 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	8-27	Kenneth Lacaille Kokomo, Ind.



BASS, WHITE

3 lb. 6 oz.	19"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-25	Milo Hawkinson Worthington, Minn.
3 lb. 2 oz.	18 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-8	Dr. Ken Hansen Sibley
3 lb. 2 oz.	19 1/2"	Minnewashta Lake Dickinson Co.	5-6	Bob Huse Arnolds Park
3 lb. 2 oz.	18 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	10-27	Tim Thompson Spirit Lake
3 lb.	18 1/2"	East Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-8	David Evers Clinton
3 lb.	19 1/4"	East Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-18	Don McCulloch Terril
2 lb. 14 oz.	17"	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	8-29	David Meade Edgewood

BASS, YELLOW

*14 oz.	11 1/4"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	7-1	John Ennor Cedar Falls
13 oz.	12"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	8-30	Elizabeth Stattelmann Clear Lake
12 4/5 oz.	11 1/8"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	5-10	Rick Poole Clear Lake
12 oz.	11"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	5-26	Steve Davidson Des Moines

BLUEGILL, SUNFISH

1 lb. 15 oz.	12"	Cottonwood Pit Monroe Co.	5-7	Dennis A. Thompson Albia
1 lb. 13 oz.	10 3/4"	Farm Pond Warren Co.	5-26	Sandie Lambert Des Moines
1 lb. 11 oz.	11"	Farm Pond Montgomery Co.	5-8	Steve F. Cleland Red Oak
1 lb. 3 oz.	10 1/4"	Farm Pond Pottawattamie Co.	4-12	Larry Hylarides Walnut
1 lb. 2 oz.	11 1/2"	Farm Pond Pottawattamie Co.	5-17	Ken Elam Council Bluffs
1 lb. 2 oz.	9 3/4"	Viking Lake Montgomery Co.	8-16	John E. Ostrem II Red Oak
1 lb. 2 oz.	11 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	8-30	Gerry Winger Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
1 lb.	11"	Farm Pond Pottawattamie Co.	5-17	Ken Elam Council Bluffs
1 lb.	9 3/4"	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	8-6	Mike Hansen Cedar Falls
1 lb.	10"	Farm Pond Decatur	8-4	Rick Trine Humeston

BUFFALO

32 lb.	38"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie Co.	9-12	Wesley Turner Council Bluffs
21 lb. 8 oz.	36 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-7	Harold Bendlin Spencer

BULLHEAD

3 lb. 14 oz.	16 1/2"	Farm Pond Taylor Co.	6-9	Mark Powell Bedford
3 lb. 3 oz.	16 1/2"	Des Moines River Polk Co.	5-12	Greg Hansen Des Moines
2 lb. 12 oz.	16"	Farm Pond Iowa Co.	3-29	Janice H. Wiebold Williamsburg

CARP

27 lb. 8 oz.	38"	Boyer River Crawford Co.	5-12	Kenny R. Ranson Arion
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CHANNEL CATFISH

25 lb. 15 oz.	34 1/2"	Leisure Lake Jackson Co.	7-20	Gary Kremer LaMotte
23 lb.	36 1/2"	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	7-1	Bryan D. Fisher Spencer
19 lb. 13 oz.	32 1/2"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie Co.	6-12	Bruce Steel Council Bluffs
19 lb. 4 oz.	33"	Farm Pond Lucas Co.	8-17	Steve Boyd West Des Moines
19 lb. 1 oz.	36"	Farm Pond Page Co.	12-22	Ernest Pearson Clarinda
18 lb. 2 oz.	33 1/2"	Red Haw Lake Lucas Co.	8-26	Verna Foland West Burlington
17 lb.	31 3/4"	Farm Pond Guthrie Co.	10-5	Laird Heikens Ankeny
16 lb. 8 oz.	30"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	8-3	William C. Douglas Iowa City
16 lb. 9 oz.	33"	Farm Pond Fremont Co.	6-7	Richard Potts Des Moines
16 lb. 3 oz.	32"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-7	Dan Craig Ames
16 lb. 1 oz.	33"	Mississippi River Scott Co.	5-17	Larry Sherman Bettendorf
16 lb.	32"	Wapsipinicon River Chickasaw Co.	8-19	Francis Peters New Hampton
15 lb. 10 oz.	31"	Lake Macbride Johnson Co.	8-3	James Edwards Cedar Rapids
15 lb. 3 oz.	32 1/2"	Amber Lake Jones Co.	7-18	Carl Haas Dubuque

CATFISH (Flathead)

44 lb. 9 oz.	44"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	6-22	Joel T. Sales Coralville
44 lb.	45"	Iowa River Washington Co.	5-31	Kenneth L. Stoddill Crawfordsville
34 lb. 12 oz.	41"	English River Washington Co.	6-18	Eldon L. Hotz Iowa City
34 lb. 8 oz.	40 3/4"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	5-30	Marvin L. Hotz Iowa City
34 lb.	42"	Cedar River Muscatine Co.	6-8	Fred Schildt Muscatine
33 lb.	41"	Cedar River Linn Co.	7-24	Terry Richardson Anamosa
30 lb.	39"	Iowa River Iowa Co.	8-3	Oris Voigtman Marengo
27 lb. 8 oz.	39"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	6-21	Eldon L. Hotz Iowa City
26 lb. 4 oz.	36 1/4"	Mississippi River Bellevue	8-4	Timothy Dunn Savanna, Ill.
24 lb. 6 oz.	39"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	9-16	Gregg R. Redlin Iowa City
21 lb. 14 oz.	37"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-12	Mark Gustin Royal

CRAPPIE

3 lb. 3 oz.	18 1/4"	Viking Lake Montgomery Co.	6-11	Donald E. Thompson Omaha, Neb.
2 lb. 4 oz.	15 1/4"	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	5-12	Mark Pate Badger
2 lb. 2 oz.	18 1/2"	North Twin Lake Calhoun Co.	5-11	Leo L. Rost Manson

2 lb.	15"	Farm Pond Polk Co.	3-12	Mike Coffey Des Moines
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MUSKELLUNGE

*38 lb.	52 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-12	Ed Feldhacker Spencer
32 lb. 8 oz.	53"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	8-4	Leo Kofoot Spirit Lake
26 lb. 3/4 oz.	46 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-19	Gary Mulrone Fort Dodge
23 lb. 5 oz.	44"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-16	Eugene Reynolds Milford
21 lb. 12 oz.	43 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-5	Frank Whicher Sioux City
21 lb. 9 oz.	44"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-13	Alvin E. Akin Pocahontas
21 lb. 3 oz.	44 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-9	Larry Bendlin Spencer
20 lb. 8 oz.	NA	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-21	Jon Parks Milford
18 lb. 13 oz.	44 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	8-23	Bob Fitzgerald Milford
18 lb. 4 oz.	40 1/2"	Chariton River Appanoose Co.	1-5	Nick Konrady Chariton
15 lb.	41"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-17	Lolla Bryan Milford

NORTHERN PIKE

23 lb.	42"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	2-15	Lawrence Lee Cherokee
22 lb. 15 oz.	44"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	12-29	Doug Otte Primghar
20 lb.	39"	Cedar River Bremer Co.	6-14	Fred Stifter Waverly
15 lb. 12 oz.	40"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-23	Lawrence Lee Cherokee
15 lb. 2 oz.	39"	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	8-30	Donald R. Cole Lake View
15 lb.	40"	Wapsipinicon River Bremer Co.	10-13	Dennis R. Buhr Tripoli
15 lb.	43"	East Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-19	James Tymkowitz Sioux City
14 lb. 15 oz.	39 7/8"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	10-19	John W. Klesath Mason City
14 lb. 14 oz.	36"	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	6-10	Karen Schiedel Aurelia
14 lb. 8 oz.	38"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	12-28	Kenneth Kruse Little Rock
14 lb. 6 oz.	39"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	9-28	Clarence Winkel Sanborn
13 lb. 8 oz.	39 1/2"	Cedar River Benton Co.	9-17	Darrell Kenney Vinton
13 lb. 7 oz.	35 1/2"	Cylinder Creek Palo Alto Co.	4-5	Wayne A. Schellhammer West Bend
13 lb. 4 oz.	39"	Cylinder Creek Palo Alto Co.	7-9	Richard D. Kisch West Bend
13 lb.	41 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	8-29	Ted Meyers Shenandoah
12 lb. 15 oz.	42 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	5-16	Gary Brown Osceola
12 lb. 13 oz.	41"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-10	O. C. Holderness Cherokee
12 lb. 3 oz.	36 3/4"	Lake Wapello Davis Co.	7-6	Steven D. Jones Centerville
12 lb. 3 oz.	35"	Dudgeon Lake Benton Co.	4-17	Lewis Kenney Vinton
12 lb. 2 oz.	41"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	9-7	Dean Taylor Sioux City
12 lb.	35"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	11-16	Don Kraus Britt
11 lb. 15 oz.	39 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-4	Raymond Peterson Harlan
11 lb. 10 oz.	36 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	11-2	Albert Imhoff Melvin
11 lb. 6 1/2 oz.	36"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-18	Robert Bendlin Spencer
11 lb. 5 oz.	35 1/2"	Pike Run Muscatine Co.	11-9	Jim Bekker Nichols
11 lb. 5 oz.	39 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	6-4	Galen McDanel Sioux Rapids
11 lb. 3 oz.	37	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-5	Eldred Joines Spencer
11 lb. 1 oz.	39 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-10	Danny Schlarbalm Arnolds Park
11 lb.	37"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-8	Gerald Rowe Jackson, Minn.
10 lb. 14 oz.	40"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	9-24	Eldon Anderson Laurens
10 lb. 4 oz.	38"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-22	Tex Strickland Okoboji
10 lb. 2 oz.	31"	Farm Pond Johnson Co.	6-22	William C. Douglas Iowa City
10 lb.	37 1/2"	East Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-26	Dennis Anderson Laurens
10 lb.	35"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	8-16	Mike Stattelmann Clear Lake

PADDLEFISH

29 lb. 11 oz.	57"	Mississippi River Jackson Co.	8-8	Tom Putnam Boone
26 lb.	52"	Mississippi River Jackson Co.	3-17	Kenneth Struve Vinton

PERCH, YELLOW

1 lb. 3 oz.	13 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	2-7	William Bennett Sibley
1 lb. 2 oz.	14"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	4-2	Jim Burgeson Spencer
1 lb. 1 oz.	14"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-4	Alan Munson Spirit Lake
1 lb. 1 oz.	13"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	2-22	Ron Wemark Arnolds Park
1 lb. 1 oz.	13 1/8"	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	6-14	Fred Wiemerslage New Albin

SAUGER

4 lb. 12 oz.	23"	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	4-17	Del Blanchard Cedar Falls
4 lb. 10 oz.	19"	Mississippi River Dubuque Co.	4-15	Peter Meder Dubuque
4 lb.	21"	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	2-15	LeRoy Steen Guttenberg
3 lb. 13 oz.	21 1/2"	Mississippi River Clinton Co.	7-14	Robert E. North Clinton

SHEEPSHEAD 18 lb. 6 oz. 33 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-15	Gerald Dykstra Primghar
STURGEON, SHOVELNOSE (No Entries)			
WHITESUCKER 4 lb. 5 oz. 20 1/4"	Lower Gar Dickinson Co.	4-24	Alan Riemenschneider Spencer
TROUT, BROOK 1 lb. 14 oz. 16"	Sny Magill Clayton Co.	2-3	John Delleman Davenport
TROUT, BROWN 9 lb. 1 1/2 oz. 26 1/2"	Bloody Run Allamakee Co.	11-4	Jim Jennings Davenport
8 lb. 4 1/2 oz. 25 3/4"	Hickory Creek Allamakee Co.	5-16	Jim Jennings Davenport
8 lb. 4 oz. 27 1/2"	Richmond Springs Delaware Co.	4-22	Andrew Hollenback Jr. Farley
6 lb. 15 oz. 24 1/2"	Silver Creek Allamakee Co.	NA	John Reich Adel
6 lb. 5 oz. 24 1/2"	Paint Creek Allamakee Co.	6-14	William Hutchings Cedar Rapids
5 lb. 14 1/2 oz. 24"	Elk Creek Delaware Co.	6-11	Robert R. Runge Des Moines
5 lb. 13 oz. 26"	Patterson Creek Allamakee Co.	7-4	Ray Steinberg Denver
5 lb. 11 oz. 23"	Trout Run Winneshiek Co.	1-25	Larry B. Teslow Decorah
5 lb. 8 oz. 22 3/4"	Middle Bear Creek Winneshiek Co.	6-9	Norma Mestad Dorchester
5 lb. 8 oz. 22 1/4"	Bear Creek Winneshiek Co.	9-30	Tom Conder Des Moines
5 lb. 22 1/4"	Sny Magill Clayton Co.	7-9	Roger Ruden Dubuque
5 lb. 22 1/2"	Little Mill Creek Jackson Co.	4-14	Randy Pribyl Davenport
4 lb. 12 oz. 22 1/2"	Silver Creek Allamakee Co.	6-14	Eric Fulton Cedar Rapids
3 lb. 9 oz. 20"	Big Paint Creek Allamakee Co.	4-23	Earl Kline Charles City
3 lb. 8 oz. 18 1/2"	Sny Magill Clayton Co.	5-1	William H. Noel Sr. Grinnell
3 lb. 4 oz. 18 1/2"	Coon Creek Winneshiek Co.	5-26	Jeanette Wilson Toddville
TROUT, RAINBOW 7 lb. 27"	Sny Magill Clayton Co.	4-29	William H. Noel Sr. Grinnell
WALLEYE 13 lb. 12 oz. 31"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-4	Lawrence Lee Cherokee
12 lb. 4 oz. 31"	Cedar River Bremer Co.	6-28	Fred Stifter Waverly
11 lb. 10 oz. 31 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-14	Don Reason Arnolds Park
10 lb. 13 oz. 28 1/2"	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	4-16	Richard Moser Guttenberg
10 lb. 12 oz. 28"	Des Moines River Marion Co.	3-1	Lyle E. Jansen Oskaloosa
10 lb. 9 1/2 oz. 30"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	12-24	Marlin Gustin Royal
10 lb. 9 oz. 29 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	10-30	Arlow Wolff Spencer
10 lb. 9 oz. 31 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	2-9	Larry Bendlin Spencer
10 lb. 7 oz. 28 1/2"	Shellrock River Butler Co.	3-6	Leonard J. Swiatly Cedar Falls
10 lb. 6 oz. 30"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	11-15	Dave Mills Spirit Lake
10 lb. 4 oz. 28"	Lost Island Palo Alto Co.	11-10	Lowell Wade Spencer
10 lb. 3 1/2 oz. 31"	Shellrock River Butler Co.	4-15	Randy Schell Clarksville
10 lb. 2 1/2 oz. 27 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	10-26	Clarence Bendlin Spencer
10 lb. 2 oz. 29"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	11-18	Jim Taylor Spencer
10 lb. 30"	Cedar River Bremer Co.	9-23	Willis Dengler Cedar Falls
10 lb. 32 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-19	V. C. Krambeck Ft. Dodge
10 lb. 30"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	10-4	Dennis Slauson Cedar Rapids
9 lb. 14 1/2 30 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	11-16	Bob Bendlin Spencer
9 lb. 10 oz. 30"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	12-7	Bob Bendlin Spencer
9 lb. 8 oz. 29 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-31	Larry Eckman Arnolds Park
9 lb. 8 oz. 32"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo	5-22	William M. Mote Clear Lake
9 lb. 8 oz. 29"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	12-29	Lawrence Olson Fort Dodge
9 lb. 6 oz. 29"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	11-28	C. J. (Cap) Kennedy Arnolds Park
9 lb. 6 oz. 29"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-7	Bill Steen Arnolds Park
9 lb. 5 oz. 31	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-3	Andrew McClain Milford
9 lb. 5 oz. 28 1/2"	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	4-22	John Munch Guttenberg
9 lb. 4 oz. 30"	Shellrock River Bremer Co.	6-8	Floyd E. Russell Waverly
9 lb. 4 oz. 28"	Shellrock River Butler Co.	3-1	Charles Cain Shell Rock
9 lb. 4 oz. 26 1/2"	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	3-8	Robert DeCook Guttenberg
9 lb. 1 oz. 27 1/2"	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	10-5	Gary Rick Dubuque
9 lb. 1 oz. 29 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-30	Jerry Wahs Marathon
9 lb. 27 1/2"	North Twin Lake Calhoun Co.	10-15	Lee Van Asma Manson
8 lb. 12 oz. 28"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	2-2	Jim Taylor Spencer
8 lb. 9 oz. 28 1/2"	Iowa River Hardin Co.	7-27	Rick Clemons Eldora
8 lb. 8 oz. 29 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	9-21	Richard Roe Estherville

8 lb. 8 oz. 27"	Shellrock River Butler Co.	4-	Richard G. Ross Greene
8 lb. 7 oz. 28"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-28	Dave Hennings Hartley
8 lb. 7 oz. 29"	Lake Macbride Johnson Co.	10-11	Jack E. Neuzil Solon
8 lb. 7 oz. 29 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-9	Daryl Schmitt Spencer
8 lb. 7 oz. 29"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	10-27	B. J. Schneiderman Sibley
8 lb. 6 oz. 28"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	12-31	James T. Letts Cherokee
8 lb. 5 oz. 29"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	1-29	Clarence Bendlin Spencer
8 lb. 5 oz. 27 1/2"	Lost Island Palo Alto Co.	10-24	Jim Taylor Spencer
8 lb. 4 oz. 26"	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	4-17	Del Blanchard Cedar Falls
8 lb. 4 oz. 30 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-23	Richard Riley Algona
8 lb. 3 oz. 27 1/4"	Shellrock River Butler Co.	3-31	Max R. Jacobs Clarksville
8 lb. 1 oz. 28"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	6-25	Fred Bendlin Whittier, Calif.
8 lb. 1 oz. 31 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	7-13	Daryl Schmitt Spencer
8 lb. 25"	Des Moines River Marion Co.	12-22	Ray Budrevich Des Moines
8 lb. 30"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	7-9	Floyd Ward Missouri Valley

***NEW STATE RECORD**

All-Time Record Fish

BASS (Largemouth) 10 lb. 5 oz. 24 1/4"	Farm Pond Lee Co.	8-70	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
BASS (Smallmouth) 6 lb. 4 oz. 20"	Upper Iowa River Howard Co.	5-73	Duane Duneman Cresco
BASS (Rock) 1 lb. 8 oz. 10 1/2"	Mississippi River Dubuque Co.	6-73	Jim Driscoll Dubuque
BASS (White) 3 lb. 14 oz. 20"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	5-72	Bill Born Milford
BASS (Yellow) 14 oz. 11 1/4"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	7-75	John Ennor Cedar Falls
BLUEGILL 2 lb. 3 oz. 11 1/2"	Farm Pond Jefferson Co.	4-71	Bob Adam Fairfield
BULLHEAD 4 lb. 8 oz. 17 3/4"	Farm Pond Taylor Co.	4-66	Dennie Karas Massena
4 lb. 8 oz. 22 1/2"	Boyer River Harrison Co.	8-71	Ralph Cooney Woodbine
BUFFALO 43 lb. 8 oz. 40"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	4-74	James D. Grim Arnolds Park
CARP 50 lb. 44"	Glenwood Lake Mills Co.	5-69	Fred Hougland Glenwood
CATFISH (Channel) 30 lb. 4 oz. 39"	Viking Lake Montgomery Co.	8-74	Glenn Harms Shenandoah
CATFISH (Flathead) 62 lb. 46"	Iowa River Johnson Co.	7-65	Roger Fairchild Coralville
CRAPPIE 4 lb. 1 oz. 19 1/4"	Farm Pond Tama Co.	5-69	John Lenhart Tama
MUSKELLUNGE 38 lb. 52 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	9-75	Ed Feldhacker Spencer
NORTHERN PIKE 25 lb. 43"	Cedar River Black Hawk Co.	3-74	Kenneth Eastman Cedar Falls
PADDLEFISH 83 lb. 66 3/4"	DeSoto Bend Harrison Co.	5-73	Lawrence J. Bonham Missouri Valley
PERCH (Yellow) 1 lb. 15 oz. 14 3/4"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	8-74	John Walz Estherville
SAUGER 5 lb. 2 oz. 22 1/2"	Mississippi River Dubuque Co.	11-63	Art Hurlburt Dubuque
SHEEPSHEAD 46 lb. 38 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	10-62	R. F. Farran Clarion
STURGEON (Shovelnose) 12 lb. 33"	Des Moines River Van Buren Co.	4-74	Randy Hemm Douds
SUCKER (White) 4 lb. 6 oz. 21 1/2"	Granger's Creek Dubuque Co.	3-74	Mike Lambert Dubuque
TROUT (Brook) 1 lb. 14 oz. 16"	Sny Magill Creek Clayton Co.	2-75	John Delleman Davenport
TROUT (Brown) 12 lb. 14 1/4 oz. 28"	Elk Creek Delaware Co.	11-66	Billy Lee Marion
TROUT (Rainbow) 13 lb. 8 oz. 32"	Richmond Springs Delaware Co.	11-68	C. Melvin Vaughn Waterloo
WALLEYE 14 lb. 2 oz. 31 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	10-68	Herbert Aldridge Spirit Lake



Photo by Ken Formanek

The Wapello Wildlife Unit

By Chuck Steffen
Wildlife Biologist

The Wapello Wildlife Unit, located in south-east Iowa consists of the following counties: Mahaska, Keokuk, Wapello, Jefferson, Davis, and Van Buren. The general topography of this part of the state is that of a broad plain dissected by streams that extend into most parts of the counties. Thus, the land surface varies from flat or gently rolling upland remnants to rolling and steep uplands to terraces and bottomlands.

Although this part of Iowa has been covered by at least two different ice sheets in the geological past, the two most recent glaciations did not reach this part of the state. During and after the most recent glaciation in northern Iowa, this part of the state was being covered with wind blown material from which most of the present day soils were developed. These wind blown or loess soils are characterized by a uniform fine texture, are very porous, and are rather subject to water erosion.

The counties which make up the Wapello Wildlife Unit are drained primarily by two major river systems. The Skunk River passes through and drains most of Mahaska and Keokuk counties. It also drains most of Jefferson county although it passes through only the north-east corner of that county. The Des Moines River, which passes diagonally through Wapello and Van Buren counties, drains most of these counties as well as the northern part of Davis county.

Because the last glacier did not penetrate this part of the state, there are no natural glacial lakes or marshes as in northern Iowa. However, by impounding small streams or creeks, man has made his own lakes. Lake Keomah in Mahaska county and Lake Wapello in Davis county are two such man-made lakes in the Wapello Unit. In addition to these, thousands of smaller impoundments and farm ponds scattered throughout the unit

provide a distribution of water much different than in primeval times.

When white man first came to this part of the state, he found large expanses of hardwood timber along the river valleys, along their tributaries, and extending into the uplands. These timber areas were sanctuaries for such forest species as deer, gray squirrel, wild turkey, and ruffed grouse. On the flatter uplands he found large expanses of native prairie dominated by the tall grasses such as bluestem and Indiangrass. On these prairies such species as the prairie chicken and the bison were to be found. At the interface between the prairie and the forest early man found the preferred habitat for fox squirrels and quail.

When white settlement began in this part of the state, the prairie began to disappear under the influence of the plow and the large expanses of timber were cleared to make room for crops. Today the prairies, especially on the flatter areas, have been replaced with essentially monocultures of corn and soybeans. In the more rolling parts of the unit a different type of farming is present. Cattle and sheep are grazed on the steeper hillsides while the tops of the hills and the flat bottomlands are planted to corn and soybeans.

By 1900 most of the timber had been logged from this part of the state. As a result such species as the deer were greatly diminished in numbers and the wild turkey completely disappeared. Today, however, much second-growth timber has returned although not nearly to the extent of former times. Most of the timber today is in small privately owned woodlots. Many of these woodlots are grazed, thus reducing their potential for forest game wildlife and reducing the erosion control potential of the timber.

There are several tracts of state owned timber in the Wapello Wildlife Unit. Parts of Stevens State Forest are located in northwest Davis county and part of Shimek State Forest is in Van Buren county. In addition to this the Eldon Game Area in Davis county and the Van Buren Wildlife Area in Van Buren county provide a combination of second growth upland timber and bottomland timber. The Skunk River Wildlife Area and the Rubio Area are both bottomland timber tracts along the Skunk River in Keokuk county.

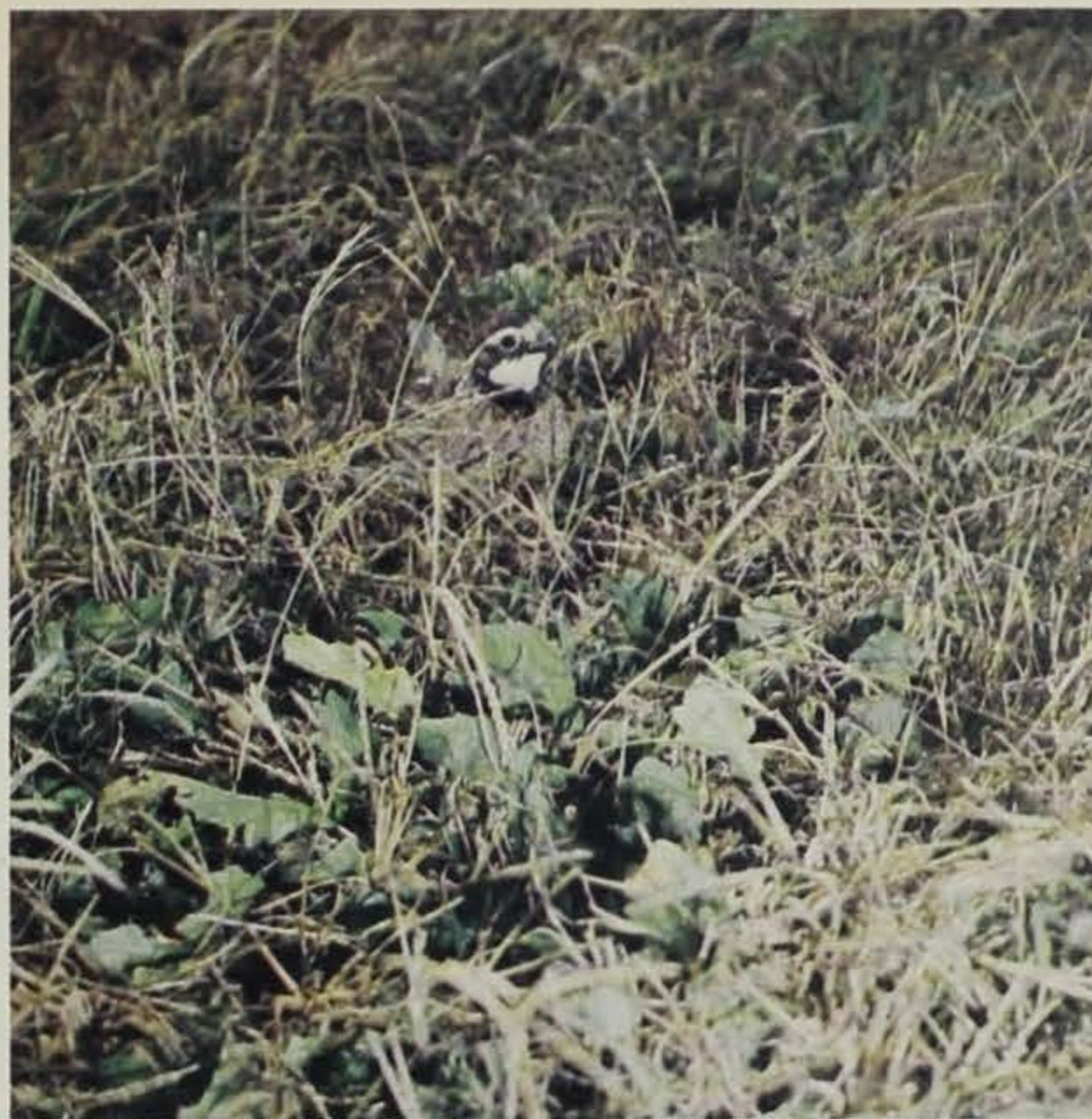


Photo by Jerry Leonard

Most of the private land in the Wapello Unit provides excellent upland game hunting. The interspersed small woodlots, brushy areas, pastures, and crop fields provide excellent habitat for rabbits, squirrels, and quail. Because much of the unit is too steep for intensive farming, there is still a relatively large amount of brushy draws and fencerows which provide winter cover for upland wildlife. In recent years, however, more and more of these areas have been bulldozed out and seeded to pastures for the growing livestock industry.

The Wapello Wildlife Unit also furnishes excellent deer hunting. Relatively large stands of timber along the Des Moines

Continued on Page 15

Photo by Jerry Leonard

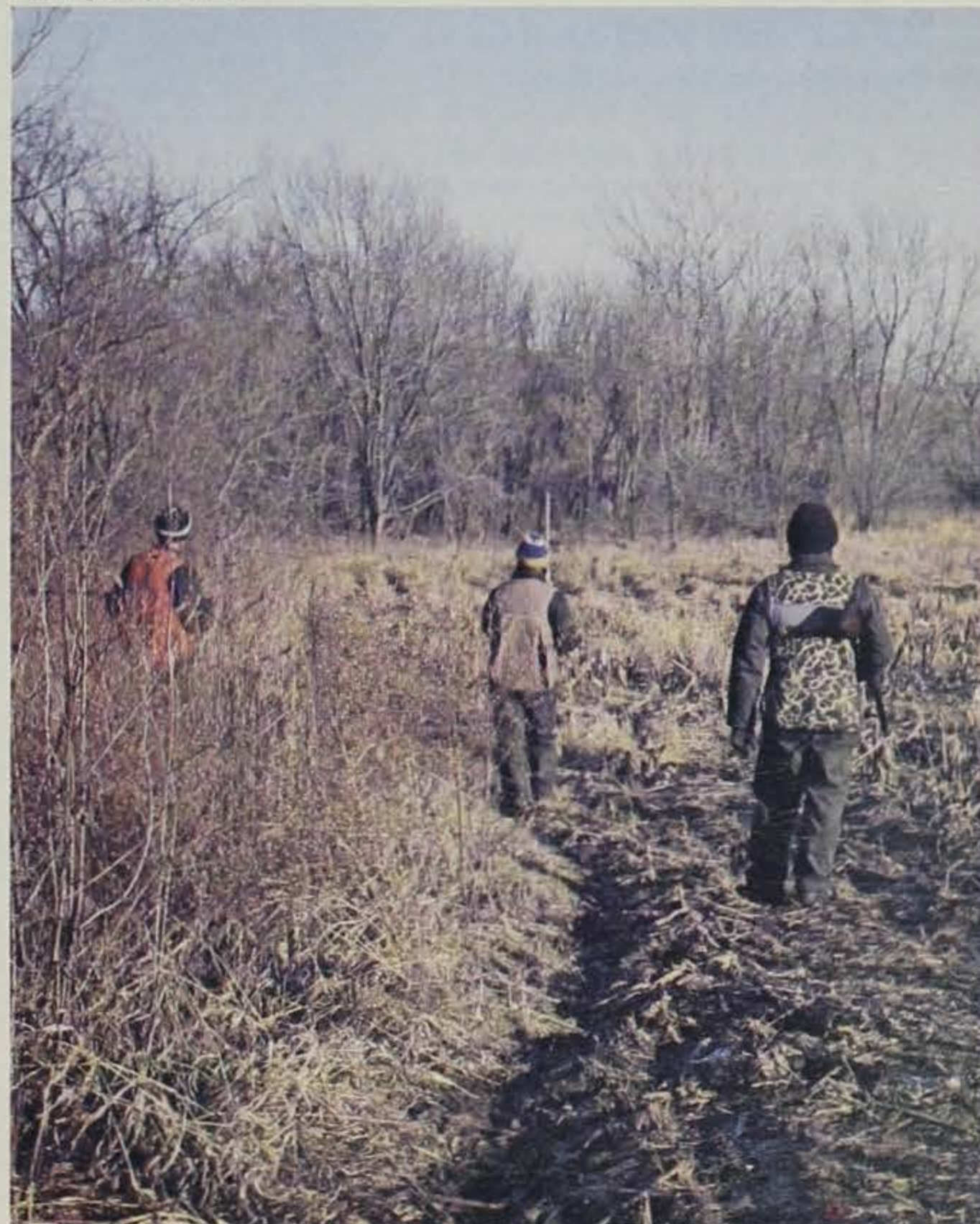


Photo by Larry Pool

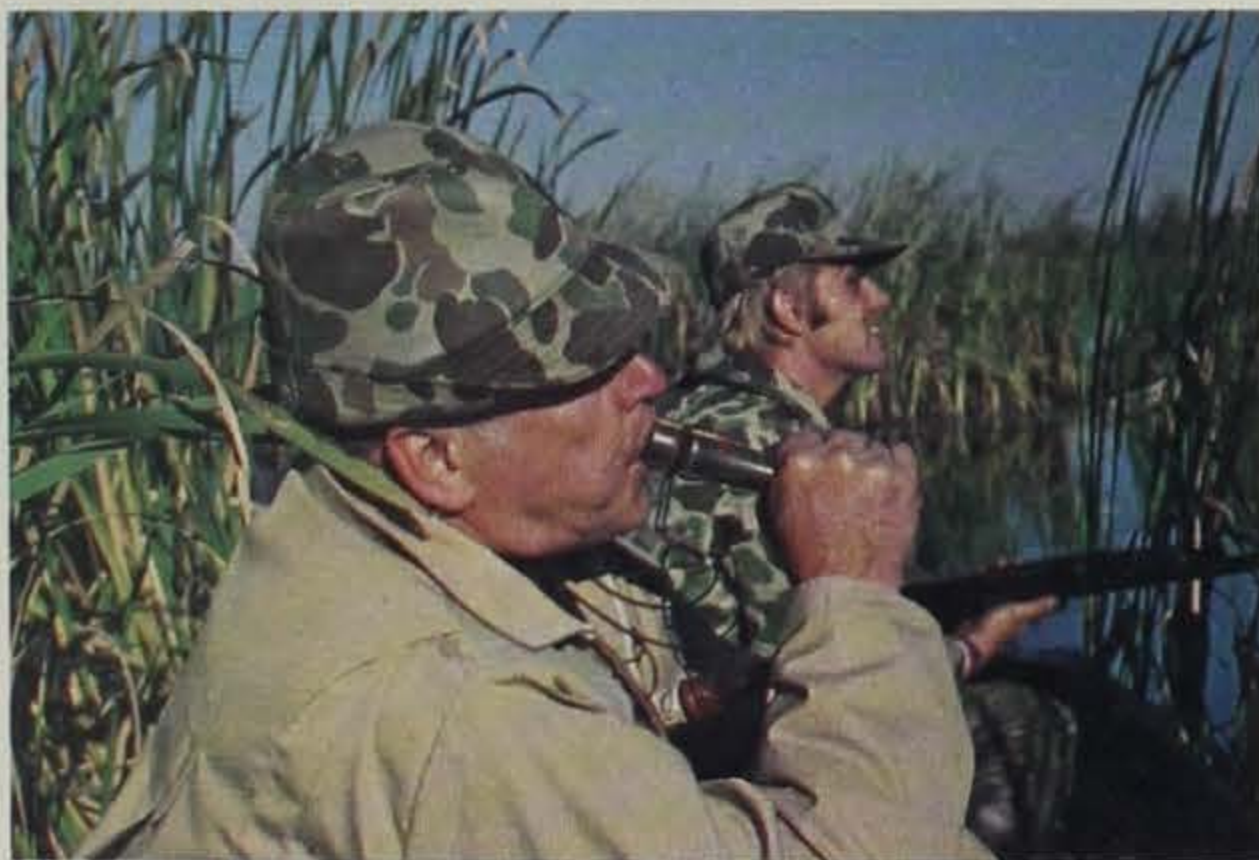


Photo by Jerry Leonard



EDITORIAL

By Harry M. Harrison
Chief, Fish and Wildlife Division

Historically, fish and game departments in the United States have been funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and excise taxes imposed on certain equipment used by sportsmen. Traditionally, this has been a reasonable approach. Because of apathy by the public in general and because sportsmen have been financing programs, wildlife workers have directed their efforts toward the management of game birds and mammals (pheasant, quail, deer, rabbits, waterfowl, etc.) leaving the non-game species to fend more or less for themselves. It must be recognized, however, that all wildlife management programs provide for some spinoff benefits for other species. For

example, waterfowl management benefits all other aquatic or semi-aquatic wildlife. Upland game bird programs improve habitats for certain songbirds, other upland game species, and non-game animals as well.

Environmental awareness evolving since the mid-nineteen sixties has generated a wholly different attitude toward wildlife. Where once apathy fairly described the public view, wildlife agencies are now being besieged for more wildlife programs, and for programs giving attention to rare and endangered and non-game species.

In Iowa, present laws hold the Conservation Commission wholly accountable for all wildlife species occurring in this state. The codes prescribe it to be the duty of this agency to protect, propagate, increase and preserve the fish, game, fur-bearing animals and protect birds of the state and to enforce by proper actions and proceedings the laws, rules and regulations relating thereto.

By prudent use of funds (assigning priorities to game species and with some neglect for non-game wildlife) monies

accumulating from licenses and excise taxes on sporting goods, the Commission has been able to fulfill most of its missions. Budget analysis and projections clearly show that present funding schemes are no longer sufficient for us to carry forward our legislative mandate.

In light of new and increasing demands by the public for additional wildlife lands and for research and area development for rare and endangered and non-game species, new sources for funding the wildlife department is imperative. General fund appropriations or legislation providing for a small tax on items such as soft drinks, cigarettes, pet foods, etc., ear-marked for wildlife programs are legitimate sources for this funding. Monies derived from these sources would purchase areas not now suitable for agriculture or urban development. Unless this is accomplished, we can expect to witness the demise of wildlife in their natural haunts and the day will come when our people will have to view our once rich wildlife heritage in the confines of a cage at the zoo. □

FROM THE

Warden's diary

By Rex Emerson
Law Enforcement Supervisor

March is the month we have been waiting for. There is a great variety of weather during this month, but we can tell spring is just around the corner. Sometimes I wonder where that corner is. March is the month we start thinking about summer vacation and making plans about where to go. Soon there will be sport and vacation shows around the Midwest with exhibitors from all over the United States and Canada trying to lure you to their particular vacation paradise. I have heard some of those people from faraway places say Iowa people come to their vacation place wearing a new pair of bib overalls with a five dollar bill in their pocket, and they don't change either one during their vacation. What I don't understand is why they keep spending so much money on advertising trying to get us Iowans to come to their areas. Still trying to get that five dollar bill, I suppose.

Where are you spending your well earned vacation this year? Have you really seen Iowa yet? About the middle of this month most of the snow and blue geese in the world will be in Fremont County in southwest Iowa where they stop to rest during their migration further north to their nesting places. It's impossible to imagine what three hundred thousand geese in the Missouri River bottoms look like until you have seen them. While you are in that part of the state, visit Waubonsie State Park. It's a beautiful park. It may be a little too early, but later they have wild flowers, birds and

butterflies that you don't find further north.

Or take a trip east and north this summer. Stop and see Hoover's birthplace and Presidential Library at West Branch. There are several state parks to visit and camp in overnight, such as Lake MacBride, Palisades-Kepler, Backbone or Pikes Peak. Don't miss the beautiful view of the Mississippi River from Pikes Peak Park. Effigy Mounds is a national monument that should be on your "must see" list, if you are capable of some uphill walking on excellent trails. Next will be the Yellow River State Forest. Some beautiful primitive camping areas are here too. Don't forget to take your fishing pole on this trip. There are 52 cold water streams in northeast Iowa full of trout just waiting to be caught. Fishing is good in the Mississippi River too. While visiting the Mississippi River area you can see barges locking through the dams. The town of Bellevue is a good place to observe this. Any of the small river towns are interesting to visit and let yourself dream a little about the days of Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. If you are a canoe enthusiast there are some good streams for that too, including the upper Iowa River, which is the most scenic in the midwest. There are the Bily clocks at Spillville, the old fort at Fort Atkinson, the Little Brown Church at Nashua and many other places that I have forgotten to mention in that part of Iowa, commonly referred to as "Little Switzerland".

A trip to southeast Iowa would be very enjoyable to the fisherman, camper, camera bug, historian or just plain nature lovers. Rathbun Lake is the largest body of water in Iowa, with excellent fishing and boating, and a state park for camping. Southeast Iowa has catfishing rivers, and lakes for the bass and crappie fishermen. Scenic state parks with good camping facilities and fishing will be found at Lake Wapello, Lake Darling, Lacey-Keosauqua and Geode.

An interesting place to visit on this trip would be the little city of Keosauqua. They have the first courthouse in Iowa and the site of the first legal hanging, plus a marvelous old

hotel on the bank of the Des Moines River (a good place to eat). On down the Des Moines River is the restored ghost town of Bentonsport. Be sure to stop there. Further down the river is the town of Croton, the only place in Iowa with Civil War history. The Shimek State Forest has deer, wild turkeys, a large variety of wild flowers and primitive camping areas. The first schoolhouse west of the Mississippi River is in Lee County. You will discover a lot more scenic and interesting places while on this trip.

In the north and northwest part of Iowa we have 33 natural lakes. An entire vacation could be spent just relaxing at one of these lakes. The excellent fishing, boating, swimming and beaches make this part of the state a good place for the entire family. There are excellent places to camp, with plenty of motels and good places to eat. Plan on taking the family to Arnolds Park on the shore of Lake Okoboji, one of the few blue water lakes in the world. Other places of family interest would be the Grotto at West Bend, or the wreck of the ship Bertrand at DeSoto Bend near Missouri Valley.

In the central part of Iowa one could take the family to see the State Capitol, historical museum, art galleries, zoo and parks in Des Moines.

An entire article could be devoted to the Amana Colonies. They have seven villages and 12,000 acres of land. The villages are a one hour ox cart ride apart. They have wineries, bakeries, clock makers, meat markets, a woolen mill, furniture factory, refrigeration factory, a duck decoy carver and the best places to eat in the world. A very friendly place to visit. They will make you feel welcome.

This is just a brief mention of some of the places that I have enjoyed, and there are many more.

For more information about any of the places in Iowa, write to the Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 4th St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

Enjoy a vacation in Iowa. Oh, yes, take your five dollar bill along! □

CLASSROOM CORNER

By Robert Rye

Administrator, Conservation Education Center

Conservation education can be used in some way in all subjects which are taught in school. It can also be used at all age levels. This month let us look at some of the possibilities there are for math or arithmetic.

Many objects in nature can be used in the study of area. Rectangular shapes are readily available and make good objects for elementary or jr. high math classes. For example, ponds are sometimes nearly rectangular and can be exciting to walk around. Other objects come in more unusual shapes and should be studied by higher level math classes.

Determining a pond area involves the ability to count and multiply. If you use a 3 ft. stick or a yardstick your answer will be in square feet or square yards. If you use a meter stick your answer will be in square meters. Or you could use a stick you find (the size is not important) and you could call your answer square sticks. The "square" tells you the number is for area. If you know your pace, it can also be used.

Use your measuring device to find the length and width of your pond or rectangular nature object. This can be done by counting the number of times you turn your measuring stick over or by counting your paces. If you multiply the length and width you counted you would now have the area.

The volume of your pond can be determined by multiplying the length times the width times the depth. Be sure and use the **same measuring stick** and not go over your head in doing this project. Your volume label would be cubic feet, yards, meters or sticks depending on what you measured with.

If you want to determine "gallons" another volume measurement, and happened to measure the depth using a foot or 3 ft. stick, (if you used other measuring sticks a different number will have to be used) you can easily find this information. Take your cubic foot (volume) number and multiply it by 7.48. You will then have gallons.

Math can be used for studying many other things in nature. Ever measure the slope of a hill, height of a tree, flow of a stream, or make comparative counts of sounds (natural, loud, soft, man-made) or sights (different, colorful, shapes)?

Another mathematic activity that can be used is the study of simple machines. This can provide direct experiences with levers or inclined planes, and can clarify understandings of and develop appreciations for the devices. You can even use these simple machines to do work.

There are many hypothetical situations which can call for the use of one of these machines to solve a problem. For example: to remove a person trapped beneath a fallen tree or to remove a tree from the road. Ever try to move a car several feet, or an object which doesn't roll?

Set up these situations for your students to solve. A heavy fallen tree must be raised. Have students suggest various ways it can be done. Allow them to experiment to find the best method of raising the tree. Analyze their experiments. How many students were involved? Which involved the least amount of work? Did they use a pole? Which way of using it worked the best?

The higher and middle grades could go on and study relationship on the tree experience. Drawing a sketch will help. Can they find the load? The effort? The turning point? Do they understand the relationship between input and output and the effect the machine had? Upper-grade students should go further and determine, or attempt to measure the forces, work done, and mechanical advantages.

THE WAPELLO WILDLIFE UNIT

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and Skunk Rivers and along numerous smaller creeks and streams provide some of the best deer hunting in Iowa.

Prior to 1962 very few pheasants were present in most of the Wapello Wildlife Unit. Beginning that year and continuing through 1973, the Iowa Conservation Commission embarked upon an introduction program to provide pheasant hunting in south-east Iowa. Today there are huntable populations of pheasants in Keokuk and Mahaska counties as well as parts of Wapello, Jefferson, and Davis counties. During the 1974 season, the only part of the Wapello Unit closed to pheasant hunting was that area south of Highway 34 and east of Highway 63.

Although upland game species provide the bulk of the hunting opportunities in the Wapello Unit, there is a certain amount of waterfowl hunting that takes place here. In spite of the lack of natural lakes or marshes in this area, a fair number of ducks and geese do use the rivers and farm ponds as stopping places during their fall migrations.

Two of the more sought after game species in the Wapello Unit are the racoon and the coyote. The racoon is extremely common in the many timbered areas and along the numerous creeks and streams throughout the unit. The coyote is found in brushy areas, along the edges of timber areas, and in open farmland throughout the unit. In spite of a year around open season and intensive hunting methods including the use of dogs and two-way radios, the coyote seems to be doing well in this part of the state.

Permanent employees at the Wapello Wildlife Unit include a Wildlife Management Biologist, a Conservation Technician, and a Conservation Worker who are responsible for the management of the above areas. Several of the areas, i.e. Cliffland Access, Des Moines River Access, MacCoon Access, are managed primarily as river access areas. Parking lots and boat ramps are provided at these areas for fishermen, trappers, sightseers, etc.

Management of the other areas is keyed primarily to increasing wildlife populations and providing hunter access and parking. Through the use of Cooperative Farm Agreements the Wildlife Management Biologist can provide the proper interspersions of food, nesting cover and winter cover needed by wildlife populations. Crop rotations compatible with sound conservation practices and designed to provide this interspersions of food and cover are drawn up and bid out to cooperating farmers. Where Cooperative Farm Agreements are unfeasible, food plots are planted by Commission personnel.

Prescribed burning is another management tool used on several of the areas to provide quality nesting cover and to retard brushy invasion on these areas. Plots to be burned are set up on a three or four year rotation and are burned in early spring so that only part of the nesting cover on a given area is affected each year.

Winter cover is provided primarily by managing existing native cover whenever possible. However, tree and shrub plantings are made by Commission personnel in those areas where native winter cover is scarce or lacking.

Besides being responsible for the management of the state areas in his counties, the Wildlife Management Biologist also provides technical assistance for and works with ASCS, SCS, and County Conservation Boards in his counties. He also provides assistance for private landowners interested in wildlife habitat plantings and other management practices on their land.

The wildlife biologist office is located at *Wildlife Management Biologist, ASCS Office Bldg., 1309 E. Mary, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501.* □

Other large and different shaped objects can be used to test their first ideas on moving the tree. This can then be followed up by using known amounts and objects in the calssroom (a one pound bag of beans and a yard stick will suffice). Many students will desire to study books containing the mechanical laws that were used.

All these activities can be used for both improving understanding of your natural resources **and** your math! □



Duck and Trout Stamp Contests Underway

DESIGNS for the 1977 Iowa duck and trout stamps are currently being accepted by the Iowa Conservation Commission.

These two contests are held each year with both winner's designs appearing on the following year's stamps. Artists have a wide latitude in choice of colors or medium. Entries are received in pen and ink, watercolor, etching, pencil as well as oils. The design must be the artist's own creation

and fullest attention should be given to anatomical accuracy. Vertical as well as horizontal formats will be accepted.

Interested artists must enter their creations by May 14, 1976, and judging will take place within a month of that date. For complete information write to: "Stamp Contest", Information and Education Section, Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.