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FRONT COVER: Spring's annual spectacle of migrating geese over Forney Lake — by Ken Formanek.

BACK COVER: Brook Trout — 1979 Iowa Trout Stamp — design by Jim Landenberger, 2031 Northgate Dr. N.E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Prints are available from the artist.

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IOWA'S SMALL LAKES

BY DON KLINE, FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST

IOWA'S SMALL LAKES are a valuable aspect of our fisheries resource.

They offer angling opportunities which cannot be found elsewhere in the state. Their distribution makes them convenient to fish, their variety makes them a pleasure to fish, and their productivity makes them desirable to fish. For our purposes a small lake will be defined as all standing water less than 30 surface acres.

Farm ponds are one type of small lake which many anglers are familiar with, and many more anglers should investigate this spring. Their productivity is dictated by the watershed in which they exist and agricultural practices on surrounding lands. They are small, averaging about 1 acre in size and most often are found on private land, so permission must be obtained to fish. But, the effort can be rewarding — the state record for five of Iowa's most popular fish has been caught from farm ponds. Largemouth bass (10 lb. 5 oz.), bluegill (2 lb. 5 oz.), bullhead (4 lb. 8 oz.), crappie (4 lb. 1 oz.) and misc. sunfish (1 lb. 7 oz.) make an impressive list.

The Conservation Commission stocks from 200 to 400 farm ponds each year to get this kind of fishing started. Our initial stocking is formulated to produce good growth, and an abundance of catchable sized fish in the shortest time. There are over 80,000 farm ponds in Iowa.

A second type of small lake which is becoming more common is the County

Conservation Board lake. These lakes are located in county owned areas and are managed through cooperative agreements with the Iowa Conservation Commission. These lakes have many characteristics of farm ponds, but they offer more recreational potential. They are relatively small, with a lot of shoreline in relation to the amount of water. It is generally easy to fish around these lakes.



LAKES CONTRIBUTION

lake entire lake without the aid of a boat. as the species mix is the same as for farm ve us, which makes for outstanding erving potential.

man Accessibility and related recreational s, but ties make these small county lakes ent to area anglers. They are lot of lakes, open to all anglers who unt to spend some time fishing. Many and these lakes are the central feature of

a larger recreation complex. Camping, swimming, hiking and picnicking are just a few of the opportunities which await you.

Fishing small lakes can be as easy or as hard as you make it. An easy chair or blanket, cane pole rig and garden worms are the basic requirements. But, of course, you can go much more elaborate — motor home, spin cast

outfit and a tackle box full of artificial lures. The choice is yours. Just remember you must be a sportsman at all times and respect the other angler's line.

Small lakes have the potential to provide you with a rewarding outdoor experience. Give them a try this Spring ... good things come in small packages. □



Two New Big Fish Records — Another Tied in 1978

By Sonny Satre

Iowa anglers had another banner year in 1978 setting two new state records and tying another. Over 340 qualifying entries were submitted in the Commission's annual Big Fish Records Registry.

Lowell Washburn of Fertile and Timothy Dolan of Waterloo each caught 1 lb. 5 oz. yellow bass which topped the old record by two full ounces. Washburn landed his streaker from Clear Lake while Dolan netted his from a Black Hawk County sandpit.

George Paulson's catch of a blue sucker from the Iowa River in Johnson County set a new record for the miscellaneous sucker category. All of the suckers except buffalo are now in one category to avoid difficult identification problems. The Cedar Rapids angler's unusual catch weighted 12 lbs. 2 oz., topping the former record of 6 lbs. 9½ oz.

Another uncommon catch, a 1 lb. 14 oz. brook trout, tied the mark set in 1975. DuWayne Rude of Decorah enticed the brookie from Canoe Creek in Winneshiek County.

The crappie record almost toppled when Bob Tesar of Tama pulled a four pounder out of Green Castle Lake in Marshall County. Tesar's large slab missed tying the record by only one ounce.

Because of the record breaking number of qualifying entries there is not enough space available in the magazine to list them all. We have therefore listed only the top ten catches for each species. Some of the species categories with incredible numbers of entries include: 60 walleye eight pounds or larger, 41 smallmouth bass four pounds or larger, 36 northern pike 10 pounds or larger, 24 crappie two pounds or larger, 23 brown trout three pounds or larger, 22 rainbow trout three pounds or larger, 21 largemouth bass seven pounds or larger, and 18 bluegill one pound or larger.

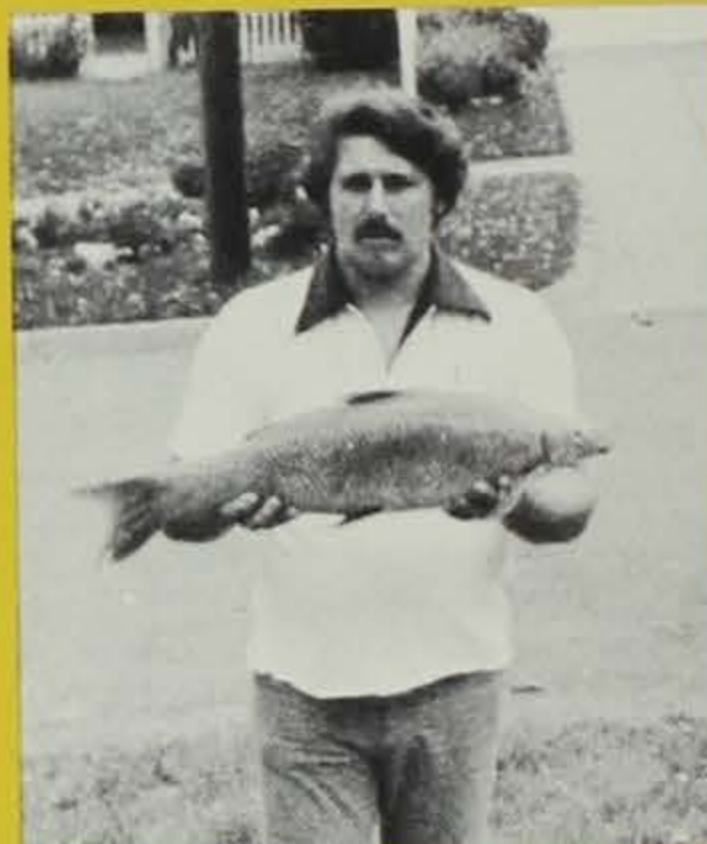
Catches such as these go to prove Iowa waters do produce some excellent fishing. Spring isn't far away, so it's time to get your fishing equipment in tip top shape, purchase a fishing license and be ready that first nice day.



Lowell Washburn — Yellow Bass



Tim Dolan — Yellow Bass



George A. Paulson — Blue Sucker



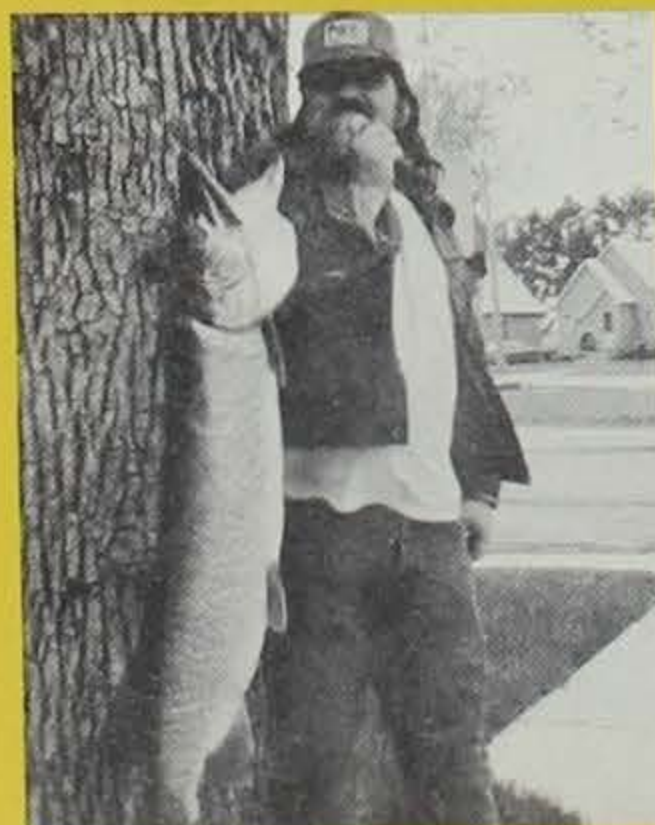
Bob Tesar — Crappie



Jim Stone — White Bass



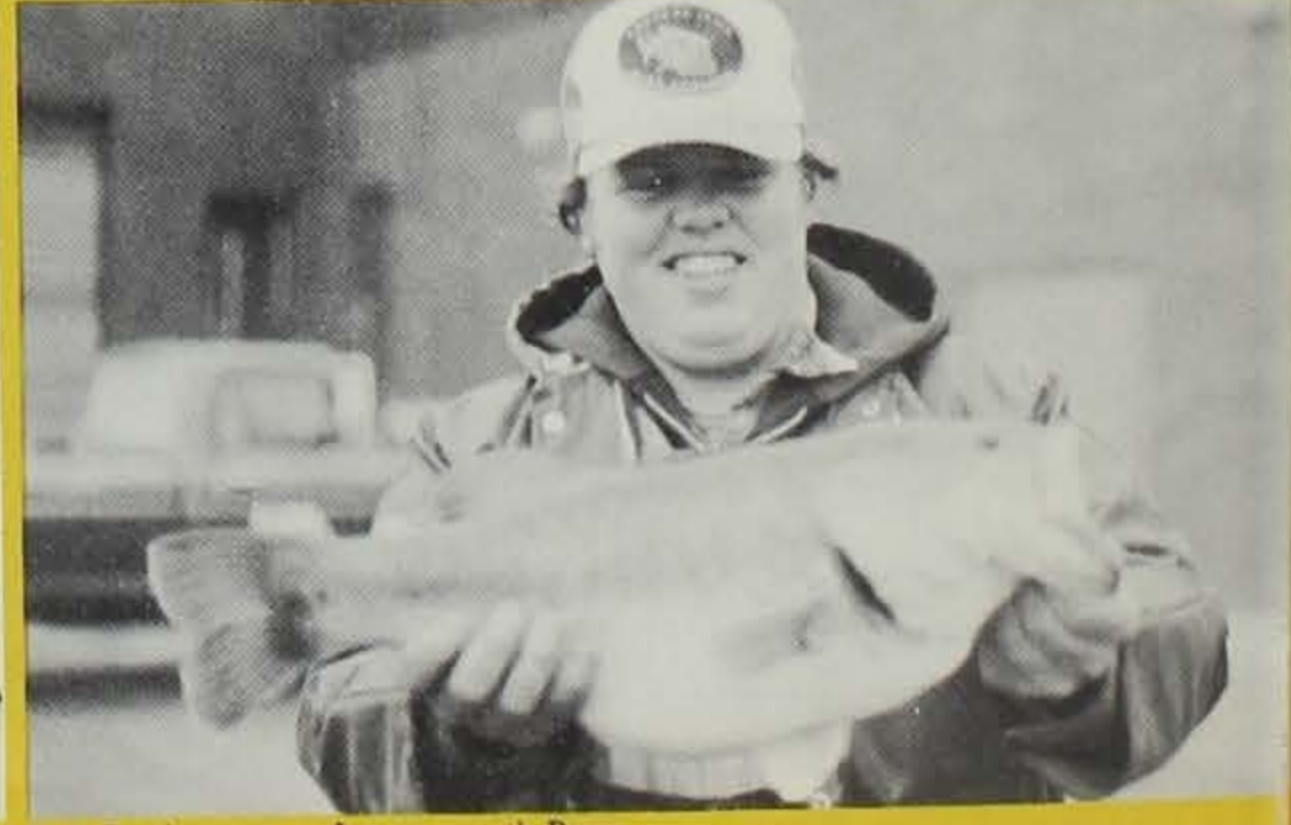
Michael McGee — Bluegill



Fred Varner — Muskie



Henry Jenn — Walleye



Bob Backstrom — Largemouth Bass

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1978 ENTRIES

WEIGHT	LENGTH	WHERE CAUGHT	DATE	NAME
BASS (Largemouth) (20 entries over 7 lb.)				
8 lb. 8 oz.	21½"	Rathbun Reservoir	5-7	Bob Backstrom
		Appanoose County		Des Moines
8 lb. 2 oz.	21¼"	Atalissa Quarry	5-6	Dennis R. Bishop
		Scott County		Bettendorf
8 lb. 1 oz.	23"	Blue Lake	9-17	Dennis R. Stessman
		Monona County		Omaha, Nebraska
8 lb.	24½"	Farm Pond	8-9	Robert Axtell
		Muscatine County		Muscatine
8 lb.	21"	Twin Anchor Pond	4-13	Lois Erickson
		Story County		Bondurant
8 lb.	22½"	Pierce Creek Pond	10-19	Claude E. Peterson
		Page County		Stanton
7 lb. 12 oz.	23"	Lake Wapello	11-25	Denny Burd
		Davis County		Burlington
7 lb. 8½ oz.	23½"	Farm Pond	9-16	Ted Trowbridge
		Marshall County		Marshalltown
7 lb. 8 oz.	22"	Lake Manawa	4-26	Frank Belt
		Pottawattamie County		Council Bluffs
7 lb. 8 oz.	22"	Don Williams Lake	1-22	George Davis, Jr.
		Boone County		Rockwell City
7 lb. 8 oz.	22½"	Lake Darling	6-3	Franz Schmidt
		Washington County		Washington
BASS (Ocean striped) NO ENTRIES				
BASS (Rock) NO ENTRIES				
BASS (Smallmouth) (40 entries over 4 lb.)				
5 lb. 3 oz.	20½"	West Okoboji	4-26	L. J. Hackett
		Dickinson County		Okoboji
4 lb. 14 oz.	20¾"	West Okoboji	5-21	Jim Taylor
		Dickinson County		Spencer
4 lb. 13 oz.	19½"	West Okoboji	4-26	Alvin Akin
		Dickinson County		Spirit Lake
4 lb. 10 oz.	21½"	Rock Quarry	6-15	Dan Shaffer
		Linn County		Fairfax
4 lb. 9 oz.	20"	West Okoboji	5-6	Noel Austin
		Dickinson County		West Liberty
4 lb. 6 oz.	19"	Elk Creek	9-2	Jerry J. Lee
		Clayton County		Dubuque
4 lb. 5 oz.	20"	Turkey River	10-7	Bob Humpal
		Winneshiek County		Ft. Atkinson
4 lb. 5 oz.	20"	West Okoboji	9-10	Vernon Krambeck
		Dickinson County		Fort Dodge
4 lb. 5 oz.	19¾"	Mississippi River	4-19	Debra Lee McIntire
		Allamakee County		Floyd
4 lb. 5 oz.	18½"	West Okoboji	5-5	Jim Sangl
		Dickinson County		Worthington, Minn.
BASS (White) (12 entries over 2½ lb.)				
3 lb. 11 oz.	18¾"	West Okoboji	10-4	Jim Stone
		Dickinson County		Arnolds Park
2 lb. 15 oz.	16½"	West Okoboji	11-2	Robert E. Duncan
		Dickinson County		Millford
2 lb. 14½ oz.	19½"	Cedar River	7-17	Bryan Timmerman
		Black Hawk County		Waterloo
2 lb. 13 oz.	17¼"	Mississippi River	4-23	Frank C. Anderson
		Scott County		Clinton
2 lb. 13 oz.	17"	West Okoboji	4-29	Ray Barthole
		Dickinson County		Millford
2 lb. 13 oz.	17½"	Cedar River	5-2	Denise Mason
		Linn County		Cedar Rapids
2 lb. 13 oz.	18½"	West Okoboji	5-7	Toby Simpson
		Dickinson County		Omaha, Nebraska
2 lb. 10 oz.	14½"	Mississippi River	4-29	Terry L. Martens
		Scott County		Davenport
2 lb. 9 oz.	17"	Lake Wapello	6-21	Connee S. Meyer
		Davis County		Cedar Rapids
2 lb. 8 oz.	17¾"	Clear Lake	6-17	Roger J. Benda
		Cerro Gordo County		Tama
2 lb. 8 oz.	17½"	West Okoboji	5-28	Sid Bolton
		Dickinson County		Des Moines
2 lb. 8 oz.	18"	Clear Lake	2-15	Robert Nasheim
		Cerro Gordo County		Mason City
BASS (Yellow) (6 entries over ¾ lb.)				
1 lb. 5 oz.	12½"	Clear Lake	5-2	Lowell Washburn
		Cerro Gordo County		Fertile
1 lb. 5 oz.	13"	Sand Pit	6-17	Timothy Dolan
		Black Hawk County		Waterloo
1 lb. 2½ oz.	12½"	Clear Lake	1-7	Clark Cook
		Cerro Gordo County		Clear Lake
1 lb. 2 oz.	12½"	Afton Reservoir	10-14	W. C. (Gus) Mullen
		Union County		Afton
1 lb.	13¼"	Clear Lake	7-22	Michael P. Bockert
		Cerro Gordo County		Des Moines
15 oz.	13¼"	Clear Lake	7-23	Michael P. Bockert
		Cerro Gordo County		Des Moines
BLUEGILL (17 entries over 1 lb.)				
2 lb. 2 oz.	11"	Farm Pond	6-1	Michael McGee
		Warren County		Indianola
2 lb. ½ oz.	12½"	Farm Pond	7-27	William H. Ballton II
		Mahaska County		Vista, California
1 lb. 14 oz.	12"	Farm Pond	7-27	William H. Ballton II
		Mahaska County		Vista, California
1 lb. 12 oz.	11½"	Farm Pond	6-8	Bill Brown, Jr.
		Woodbury County		Sioux City
1 lb. 9 oz.	12"	Farm Pond	7-15	Arlan Greve
		Davis County		Bloomfield
1 lb. 8 oz.	10½"	Farm Pond	7-9	Fran Pingree
		Union County		Creston
1 lb. 4 oz.	10¾"	West Okoboji	12-25	Peter Bakker
		Dickinson County		Rock Valley
1 lb. 4 oz.	11"	Red Haw	9-2	Robert Davidson
		Lucas County		West Point
1 lb. 4 oz.	10¾"	Farm Pond	9-24	Kim Engquist
		Montgomery County		Red Oak
1 lb. 4 oz.	10¾"	Lake Ahquabi	5-7	Bill Hutton
		Warren County		Des Moines
1 lb. 4 oz.	11"	Farm Pond	6-19	Tony Fischer
		Fayette County		Elgin
1 lb. 4 oz.	11"	Farm Pond	5-30	Lester Noel
		Pottawattamie County		Council Bluffs

WEIGHT	LENGTH	WHERE CAUGHT	DATE	NAME
BUFFALO (4 entries over 25 lb.)				
39 lb.	40"	Cedar River	4-28	Walter F. Zahn, Jr.
		Linn County		Center Point
30 lb. 2 oz.	36"	Clear Lake	5-19	Carl Lillenthal
		Cerro Gordo County		Waterloo
27 lb. 8 oz.	34½"	Clear Lake	5-19	Carl Lillenthal
		Cerro Gordo County		Waterloo
26 lb. 4 oz.	35"	Wapsipinicon River	5-21	Bryan B. Clark
		Linn County		Martelle
BULLHEAD (5 entries over 2½ lb.)				
3 lb. 4 oz.	17"	Farm Pond	5-21	Fred Boswell
		Adams County		Corning
3 lb. 2 oz.	15½"	7 Lakes	5-21	Raymond E. Davis
		Des Moines County		Wapello
2 lb. 9 oz.	14¼"	Farm Pond	6-4	Jim Adam
		Washington County		Wellman
2 lb. 8½ oz.	15½"	Farm Pond	7-26	Raymond Moyer
		Keokuk County		Washington
2 lb. 8 oz.	16¼"	Reservoir	5-7	Billy Carter
		Monroe County		Albia
CARP (2 entries over 25 lb.)				
31 lb.	44"	West Okoboji	5-13	Morey Green
		Dickinson County		Spencer
25 lb. 9 oz.	36"	West Okoboji	6-3	Shawn Moritz
		Dickinson County		Okoboji
CATFISH (Channel) (12 entries over 15 lb.)				
22 lb. 4 oz.	34"	West Okoboji	5-20	Dean Baker
		Dickinson County		Spirit Lake
21 lb.	33½"	Farm Pond	7-22	Jerry Abramovich
		Madison County		West Des Moines
20 lb.	34"	West Okoboji	5-10	Donald Johnson
		Dickinson County		Spirit Lake
19 lb. 8 oz.	35"	Rathbun Reservoir	5-3	Hardin M. Marvin
		Appanoose County		Moulton
18 lb. 4 oz.	31"	Farm Pond	8-22	Ronald E. Cloyd
		Page County		Shenandoah
18 lb.	33"	Lake Ahquabi	5-11	Jud Core
		Warren County		Indianola
17 lb. 8 oz.	32"	Farm Pond	5-9	James E. McNeeley
		Polk County		Des Moines
16 lb. 12 oz.	33"	Prairie Rose Lake	7-8	Otto Pries
		Shelby County		Irwin
16 lb. 2 oz.	30"	Farm Pond	8-20	Ronald E. Cloyd
		Page County		Shenandoah
15 lb. 10 oz.	31½"	West Okoboji	1-2	Clarence Bendlin
		Dickinson County		Arnolds Park
CATFISH (Flathead) (7 entries over 20 lb.)				
43 lb.	40"	Cedar River	6-11	Ted Slaman
		Linn County		Cedar Rapids
30 lb.	32"	Des Moines River	5-31	Bounpheng Phimpangsy
		Polk County		Des Moines
27 lb.	39"	Des Moines River	10-4	Patrick Broderick
		Polk County		Des Moines
22 lb. 8 oz.	34"	Des Moines River	10-20	Ted Adams
		Boone County		Woodward
22 lb.	37"	Des Moines River	9-30	Ray Budrevich
		Marion County		Des Moines
21 lb. 8 oz.	35"	Des Moines River	7-20	Ray Budrevich
		Marion County		Des Moines
21 lb. 7¾ oz.	37"	Skunk River	7-27	Gary Plackett, Jr.
		Lee County		Fort Madison
CRAPPIE (24 entries over 2 lb.)				
4 lb.	19"	Green Castle Lake	4-22	Bob Tesar
		Marshall County		Tama
3 lb. 8 oz.	17"	Des Moines River	5-7	Jimmie Woodard
		Marion County		Oskaloosa
3 lb. 7 oz.	18"	Green Castle Lake	4-22	Bill Gitautis
		Marshall County		Tama
2 lb. 15½ oz.	17½"	Green Castle Lake	4-22	Art Nelson, Sr.
		Marshall County		Montour
2 lb. 15 oz.	16½"	Green Castle Lake	5-16	Dale Meyer
		Marshall County		Marshalltown
2 lb. 15 oz.	18"	Nine Eagles Lake	4-29	Ralph Wall
		Decatur County		Des Moines
2 lb. 14 oz.	17"	Lake Wapello	6-5	N. D. Hendricks
		Davis County		Ottumwa
2 lb. 13 oz.	18½"	Green Castle Lake	12-17	John Lee Von Ahn
		Marshall County		Marshalltown
2 lb. 12½ oz.	17½"	Green Castle Lake	5-14	Jerry Clark
		Marshall County		Marshalltown
2 lb. 12 oz.	16½"	Green Castle Lake	4-22	Art Nelson, Jr.
		Marshall County		Montour
MUSKELLUNGE (8 entries over 15 lb.)				
28 lb. 1 oz.	47½"	Clear Lake	5-16	Fred Varner
		Cerro Gordo County		Kensett
22 lb. 14 oz.	44"	West Okoboji	8-11	Jerry Peschon
		Dickinson County		Worthington, Minn.
20 lb. 10 oz.	43½"	West Okoboji	5-22	Doug Stange
		Dickinson County		Sibley
20 lb. 9 oz.	42"	West Okoboji	8-31	Steven Kistenmacher
		Dickinson County		Holstein
19 lb. 8 oz.	41"	West Okoboji	7-31	Don McCulloch
		Dickinson County		Spirit Lake
19 lb. 5 oz.	41"	East Okoboji	7-2	Kathy Quincey
		Dickinson County		Rapid City, So. Dakota
17 lb. 8 oz.	41"	West Okoboji	9-26	Jerry Peschon
		Dickinson County		Worthington, Minn.
15 lb. 14 oz.	42"	West Okoboji	8-23	Dean Truog
		Dickinson County		Estherville
NORTHERN PIKE (35 entries over 10 lb.)				
19 lb. 6 oz.	42"	West Okoboji	1-14	Harold Vanderlaan
		Dickinson County		Orange City
17 lb. 12 oz.	43½"	Gravel Pit	4-29	Carmen Allen
		Franklin County		Hampton
17 lb. 2 oz.	42"	West Okoboji	8-12	Tim Olechoski
		Dickinson County		Omaha, Nebraska
16 lb. 3 oz.	40"	West Okoboji	2-14	Charles P. Shuck
		Dickinson County		Millford
15 lb. 13 oz.	40"	West Okoboji	11-9	C. F. VanSteenwyk
		Dickinson County		Okoboji

1978 ENTRIES

WEIGHT	LENGTH	WHERE CAUGHT	DATE	NAME
15 lb.	35"	Clear Lake	7-30	Gary E. Rhead
14 lb. 4 oz.	37"	Cerro Gordo County	1-4	Marshalltown
13 lb. 15 oz.	40 1/2"	West Okoboji	7-29	Dwane C. Krogman
13 lb. 1 oz.	37"	Dickinson County	4-21	Lismore, Minn.
13 lb.	36"	Clear Lake	9-30	Larry Hylarides
		Cerro Gordo County		Garner
		West Okoboji		Kyle Koopman
		Dickinson County		Sibley
PADDLEFISH (17 entries over 25 lb.)				
57 lb.	63 1/2"	Mississippi River	4-4	Edward Kopp
		Clinton County		Clinton
57 lb.	57"	Mississippi River	3-25	Jerry A. Wiley
		Jackson County		Waukon
55 lb.	57"	Mississippi River	3-26	Ron Tuttle
		Jackson County		Urbana
46 lb. 8 oz.	62 1/2"	Mississippi River	4-24	Maurice Glesne
		Clayton County		Elkader
46 lb.	62 1/2"	Mississippi River	3-26	Michael Holter
		Jackson County		Toledo
45 lb.	64"	Mississippi River	5-14	Harlan Strampe
		Clayton County		Elkader
43 lb.	61"	Mississippi River	3-23	Gary Fluhr
		Jackson County		Bellevue
42 lb. 8 oz.	61 1/2"	Mississippi River	3-23	Gary Fluhr
		Jackson County		Bellevue
41 lb. 8 oz.	60"	Mississippi River	3-30	David Boyles
		Jackson County		Urbana
38 lb. 13 oz.	53 3/4"	Mississippi River	1-7	Philip Riffey
		Jackson County		Urbana
PERCH (9 entries over 1 lb.)				
1 lb. 1 oz.	12"	West Okoboji	1-8	Alvin Akin
		Dickinson County		Spirit Lake
1 lb. 1 oz.	12 1/4"	West Okoboji	1-14	Paul Donnenworth
		Dickinson County		Spirit Lake
1 lb. 1 oz.	12 1/4"	West Okoboji	10-20	Ed Feldhacker
		Dickinson County		Spencer
1 lb. 1 oz.	11 3/4"	Mississippi River	12-2	Robert D. Murray
		Dubuque County		Dubuque
1 lb.	12"	West Okoboji	2-3	Alvin Akin
		Dickinson County		Spirit Lake
1 lb.	11 1/2"	East Okoboji	3-5	Alvin Akin
		Dickinson County		Spirit Lake
1 lb.	12 1/4"	Mississippi River	5-15	Calvin Duke
		Clayton County		Des Moines
1 lb.	12 1/4"	West Okoboji	10-20	Ed Feldhacker
		Dickinson County		Spencer
1 lb.	12 1/4"	West Okoboji	1-6	Fred Steigs
		Dickinson County		Eagle Grove
SAUGER (8 entries over 2 1/2 lb.)				
4 lb. 12 oz.	22 3/4"	Mississippi River	2-27	Kurt Kipper, Sr.
		Jackson County		LeClaire
4 lb. 2 oz.	22"	Mississippi River	3-21	Carl F. Lillenthal
		Clayton County		Waterloo
4 lb. 2 oz.	23 1/4"	Mississippi River	5-6	Dan Schroeder
		Clayton County		Cedar Rapids
3 lb. 10 oz.	21 3/4"	Mississippi River	10-31	Harry R. Kardux
		Muscatine County		Muscatine
3 lb. 10 oz.	24 1/4"	Mississippi River	5-21	Ruth Mortland
		Clayton County		Cedar Rapids
3 lb. 4 oz.	20"	Mississippi River	10-20	Verne D. Miller
		Dubuque County		Dubuque
3 lb.	22"	Mississippi River	4-30	Dan Schroeder
		Allamakee County		Cedar Rapids
2 lb. 8 oz.	19"	Mississippi River	3-14	Sam Demeyer
		Scott County		Bettendorf
SHEEPSHEAD (2 entries over 15 lb.)				
24 lb. 10 oz.	34 1/2"	Spirit Lake	7-16	Dave Shiffer
		Dickinson County		Grimes
19 lb. 8 oz.	32"	Mississippi River	7-17	Ronnie Steere
		Allamakee County		Greene
STURGEON (Shovelnose) NO ENTRIES				
SUCKERS (Misc.) (3 entries over 4 lb.)				
*12 lb. 2 oz.	31"	Iowa River	4-9	George A. Paulson
		Johnson County		Cedar Rapids
10 lb. 9 1/2 oz.	30 3/4"	Iowa River	4-7	George D. Frondle
		Johnson County		Cedar Rapids
7 lb. 5 oz.	27"	Yellow River	4-28	Wally Johnson
		Allamakee County		Waukon
SUNFISH (Misc.) NO ENTRIES				
TROUT (Brook) (1 entry over 1 lb.)				
*1 lb. 14 oz.	16 1/2"	Canoe Creek	4-15	DuWayne Rude
		Winnebago County		Decorah
TROUT (Brown) (23 entries over 3 lb.)				
6 lb. 7 oz.	25 3/4"	Brush Creek	9-17	Jackie L. Fish
		Jackson County		Davenport
5 lb. 11 oz.	23"	Swiss Valley	7-23	Richard W. Ruden
		Dubuque County		Dubuque
5 lb. 8 oz.	22"	Big Paint	5-20	Raymond Steinberg
		Allamakee County		Denver
5 lb. 2 oz.	23"	Sny Magill	10-21	Roger Ruden
		Clayton County		Dubuque
5 lb.	23"	Hickory Creek	5-10	Helen Walters
		Allamakee County		Luana
4 lb. 9 oz.	24"	Bloody Run Creek	10-28	Terry Huntzinger
		Clayton County		Iowa City
4 lb. 7 oz.	20 1/4"	Siewers Spring	8-11	David Spencer
		Winnebago County		Rhodes
4 lb. 4 oz.	21"	Bloody Run Creek	4-14	Rod Richardson
		Clayton County		Davenport
4 lb. 2 oz.	21 1/4"	Turkey River	5-21	Gary L. Campbell
		Clayton County		Davenport
4 lb. 2 oz.	21"	Bailey's Ford	8-30	John Willoughby
		Delaware County		Iowa City

*New State Record

WEIGHT	LENGTH	WHERE CAUGHT	DATE	NAME
TROUT (Rainbow) (22 entries over 3 lb.)				
13 lb.	31"	Richmond Springs	5-6	Norman (Pete) Bliss
		Delaware County		Oelwein
12 lb. 12 oz.	28 3/4"	Richmond Springs	9-27	Gordon Watters
		Delaware County		Waterloo
12 lb. 2 oz.	28 1/4"	Fountain Springs	5-24	Bernie Clark
		Delaware County		Manchester
11 lb. 3 oz.	29"	Sny Magill Creek	5-16	Edna Youngblut
		Clayton County		Dyersville
10 lb. 12 oz.	29 1/4"	Big Mill Creek	5-2	Lester Yeager
		Jackson County		Bellevue
10 lb. 8 oz.	29"	Waterloo Creek	5-25	Lyle R. Foster
		Allamakee County		Chariton
10 lb. 6 oz.	26"	Waterloo Creek	5-5	Henry J. Brinkman
		Allamakee County		Ankeny
9 lb. 5 oz.	27 1/4"	Joy Springs	5-25	James R. Stuart
		Clayton County		Ames
8 lb. 9 oz.	26"	Waterloo Creek	5-10	Fred Daugs
		Allamakee County		Minneapolis, Minn.
8 lb. 4 oz.	27"	Swiss Valley	10-15	Mike Hauron
		Dubuque County		Dubuque
WALLEYE (60 entries over 8 lb.)				
12 lb. 10 oz.	29"	Mississippi River	3-16	Don Platt
		Muscatine County		Muscatine
12 lb. 5 1/2 oz.	30"	Cedar River	11-10	Henry Jenn
		Chickasaw County		New Hampton
11 lb. 12 1/2 oz.	31"	Mississippi River	10-28	Paul Kilcher
		Allamakee County		Monona
11 lb. 8 oz.	29"	Shellrock River	3-29	Steve Johnson
		Butler County		Shell Rock
11 lb. 8 oz.	30 1/4"	Cedar River	3-30	Bob Whitlatch
		Black Hawk County		Cedar Falls
10 lb. 14 oz.	30"	West Okoboji	12-18	Jon Parks
		Dickinson County		Milford
10 lb. 12 oz.	30"	West Okoboji	11-3	Jim Nielsen
		Dickinson County		Arnolds Park
10 lb. 9 1/2 oz.	30"	West Okoboji	11-25	Clarence Bendlin
		Dickinson County		Arnolds Park
10 lb. 8 oz.	28 1/2"	Mississippi River	3-31	Joe Barker
		Clayton County		Dyersville
10 lb. 8 oz.	30"	Clear Lake	10-21	Carroll Norcross
		Cerro Gordo County		Mason City

From top to bottom: Dean Baker — Channel Catfish; L. J. Hackett — Smallmouth Bass; Harold VanderLaan — Northern Pike.



IOWA ALL-TIME RECORD FISH

WEIGHT	LENGTH	WHERE CAUGHT	DATE	NAME
BASS (Largemouth) 10 lb. 5 oz.	24 1/4"	Farm Pond Lee County	8-70	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
BASS (Smallmouth) 6 lb. 7 oz.	22"	Upper Iowa River Winneshiek County	7-76	Jimmie McAndrews Decorah
BASS (Rock) 1 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/2"	Mississippi River Dubuque County	6-73	Jim Driscoll Dubuque
BASS (White) 3 lb. 14 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	5-72	Bill Born Milford
BASS (Yellow) 1 lb. 5 oz.	12 1/2"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo County	5-78	Lowell Washburn Fertile
1 lb. 5 oz.	13"	Sand Pit Black Hawk County	6-78	Timothy Dolan Waterloo
BLUEGILL 2 lb. 5 oz.	11 3/4"	Farm Pond Jasper County	4-76	Mary L. Pool Prairie City
BULLHEAD 4 lb. 8 oz.	17 3/4"	Farm Pond Taylor County	4-66	Dennie Karas Massena
4 lb. 8 oz.	22 1/2"	Boyer River Harrison County	8-71	Ralph Cooney Woodbine
BUFFALO 43 lb. 8 oz.	40"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	4-74	James D. Grim Arnolds Park
CARP 50 lb.	44"	Glenwood Lake Mills County	5-69	Fred Hougland Glenwood
CATFISH (Channel) 30 lb. 4 oz.	39"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	8-74	Glenn Harms Shenandoah
CATFISH (Flathead) 62 lb.	46"	Iowa River Johnson County	7-65	Roger Fairchild Coralville
CRAPPIE 4 lb. 1 oz.	19 1/4"	Farm Pond Tama County	5-69	John Lenhart Tama

WEIGHT	LENGTH	WHERE CAUGHT	DATE	NAME
MUSKELLUNGE 38 lb.	52 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	9-75	Ed Feldhacker Spencer
NORTHERN PIKE 25 lb. 5 oz.	45"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	2-77	Allen Forsberg Albert City
PADDLEFISH 83 lb.	66 3/4"	DeSoto Bend Harrison County	5-73	Lawrence J. Bonham Missouri Valley
PERCH (Yellow) 1 lb. 15 oz.	14 3/4"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	9-74	John Walz Estherville
SAUGER 6 lb. 8 oz.	25"	Missouri River Woodbury County	10-76	Mrs. William Buser Sloan
SHEEPSHEAD 46 lb.	38 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-62	R. F. Farran Clarion
STURGEON (Shovelnose) 12 lb.	33"	Des Moines River Van Buren County	4-74	Randy Hemm Douds
SUCKERS (Misc.) 12 lb. 2 oz.	31"	Iowa River Johnson County	4-78	George A. Paulson Cedar Rapids
SUNFISH (Misc.) 1 lb. 7 oz.	10 3/4"	Farm Pond Des Moines County	6-77	Delbert Cover Mediapolis
TROUT (Brook) 1 lb. 14 oz.	16"	Sny Magill Creek Clayton County	2-75	John Delleman Davenport
1 lb. 14 oz.	16 1/2"	Canoe Creek Winneshiek County	4-78	DuWayne Rude Decorah
TROUT (Brown) 12 lb. 14 1/4 oz.	28"	Elk Creek Delaware County	11-66	Billy Lee Marion
TROUT (Rainbow) 15 lb. 8 oz.	30 3/4"	Turkey River Clayton County	8-77	Chuck Greth West Des Moines
WALLEYE 14 lb. 2 oz.	31 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	10-68	Herbert Aldridge Spirit Lake

HOW TO ENTER 1979 BIG FISH

Any species of fish taken by hook and line and caught in state or boundary waters is eligible. There are, however, minimum qualifying weight limitations as listed below:

Bass, largemouth... 7 lbs.	Muskellunge..... 15 lbs.
Bass, ocean striped..... 5 lbs.	Tiger Musky..... 15 lbs.
Bass, rock..... 1 lb.	Northern pike.... 10 lbs.
Bass, smallmouth..... 4 lbs.	Paddlefish..... 25 lbs.
Bass, white..... 2 1/2 lbs.	Perch, yellow.... 1 lb.
Bass, yellow..... 1 lb.	Sauger..... 2 1/2 lbs.
Bluegill..... 1 lb.	Sheepshead..... 15 lbs.
Buffalo..... 20 lbs.	Sturgeon, shovelnose..... 3 lbs.
Bullhead..... 2 1/2 lbs.	Sucker (Misc.).... 6 lbs.
Carp..... 25 lbs.	Sunfish (Misc.).... 1 lb.
Catfish, blue..... 20 lbs.	Trout, brook..... 1 lb.
Catfish, channel.. 15 lbs.	Trout, brown..... 3 lbs.
Catfish, flathead.. 20 lbs.	Trout, rainbow.... 3 lbs.
Crappie..... 2 lbs.	Walleye..... 8 lbs.

Any 1979 entry 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 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, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by January 1, 1980 (photo will be returned). The entry blank includes the 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 1979 Fishing Laws Synopsis brochure which will be available to the public wherever fishing licenses are sold. Any fish that surpasses the official state record will be publicized through the Conservation Commission's weekly news release. All state records and the 1979 record fish will be published in the March, 1980, 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 _____ ZIP _____
 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, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 by January 1, 1980.)

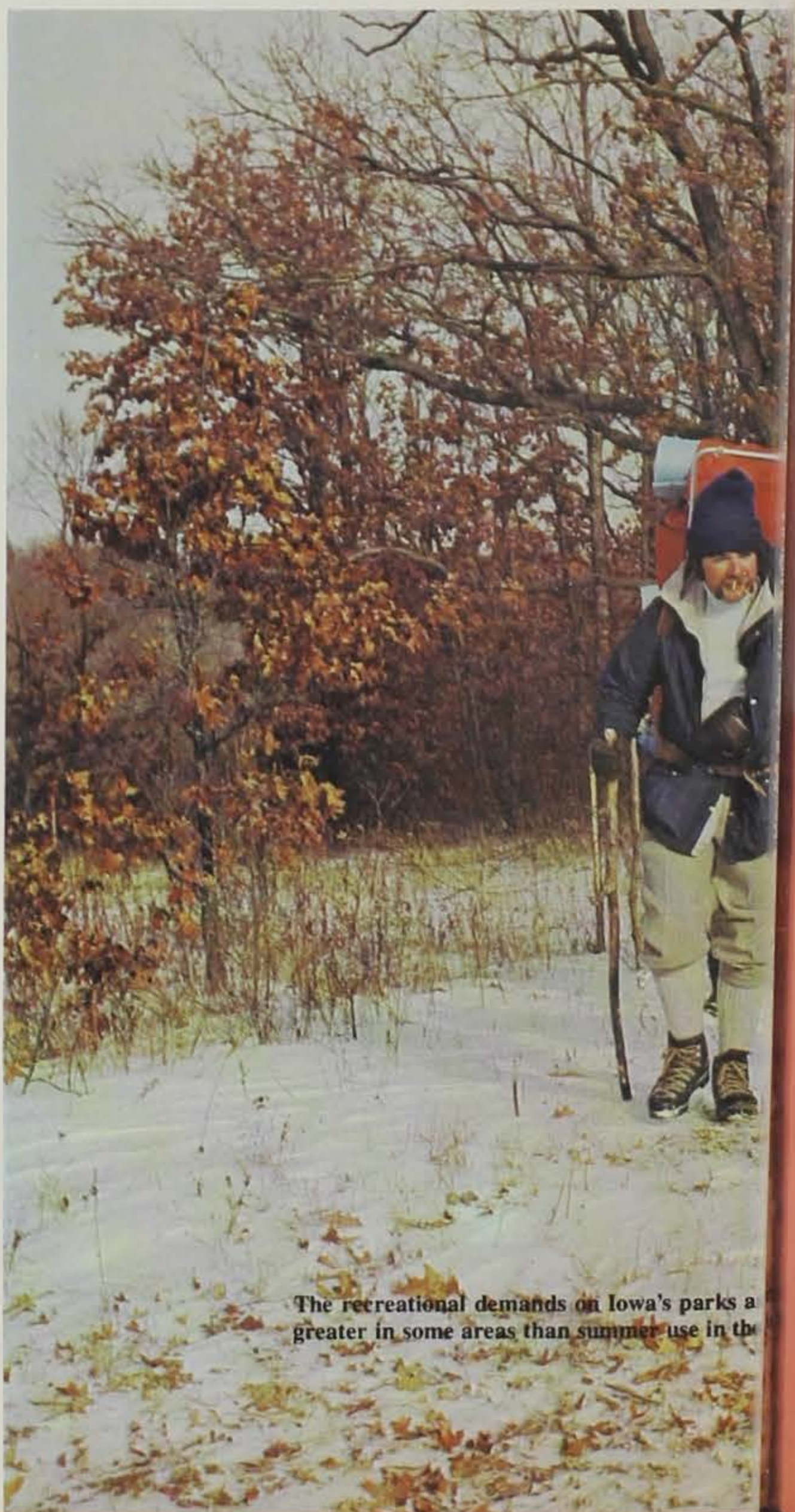
AN UNFINISHED TALE

ONCE UPON A TIME, long, long ago, State Conservation officials created something called a "state park". Designed to preserve natural regions of high practical and esthetic value, or to meet local recreational demands, the old fashioned park usually had protection first and foremost in mind. Noticing that these early parks seemed a pleasant place to be, people began to visit them for picnicking and fishing. The park officials liked these visitors, wished to encourage the public use of the area, and decided that it wouldn't do any harm to supply a few campsites and picnic tables for their benefit. So the years passed happily and visitors came and went in increasing numbers and with a multiplying amount of interests. Then one day things began to change. Where originally a table and a tent site had been satisfactory, demands for things such as guided hiking trails, swim areas, and nature centers began to be heard by bewildered park officials. Although most visitors knew they ate under trees, and smelled pretty flowers, and shared the park with all kinds of wild creatures, they often didn't know the names of the trees, flowers and creatures nor how they all fit into a natural scheme. Park officials were concerned over the possible harm which would occur from an increasing number of park users, and yet wanted to make everyone as happy as possible without sacrificing the original goals of the park system. The dilemma raged. What was to be done?

In all probability, this unfinished tale will have a happy ending. The state parks system in Iowa is reviewing its goals and planning for a gradual change that, over the years to come, will both satisfy the conservation priorities of Iowa's natural resources, and still provide feasible recreational alternatives to the state's burgeoning park users.

Numerous alternatives and improvements to the traditional park system have been envisioned, and, if all goes well, visitors may begin to notice and enjoy them in the very near future. *"The use of public land should be maximized to the extent environmentally feasible and appropriate, from a sound planning standpoint,"* claims Jim Scheffler, Assistant Superintendent of Parks and Recreation at the Iowa Conservation Commission. Efforts for obtaining this maximization include an advanced, far reaching "interpretive" program for park visitors, new park designations to better suit individual user needs and special projects such as a comprehensive state trails network. Perhaps never before have park officials sought so directly to understand what the public desires from their parks, and to modify and enlarge present systems to meet this desire.

If you jump at the chance to amble down a guided nature trail, or can't sleep nights unless you know everything there is to know about a park's geological and historical background, then you are a prime candidate to savor the widescale interpretive program planned for Iowa's parks. Ranging from the simple printing of informative brochures to the establishment of in-park nature centers, staffed by full-time personnel, this program's aim is to "subtly convey information and insight to the area visitor." Parks and Recreation Superintendent Joe Brill is enthusiastic about this concept. *"Many people,"* he says, *"come to parks without realizing what they're missing."* By providing readily accessible information and instruction, park officials hope to increase the pleasure of each visitor's stay. True, the tree *IS* pretty, but wouldn't it be more rewarding to know what kind of tree it is? Nature can achieve added value when it is appreciated by a knowledgeable mind. The world surrounding us acquires new significance when we appreciate the fascinating, complex, and interlocking order within it.



The recreational demands on Iowa's parks are greater in some areas than summer use in the

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by Rebecca Leach

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AN

ONCE UPON A TIME, park officials created a park system. Designed to preserve and esthetic value, or to make an old fashioned park usually in the mind. Noticing that these parks were to be, people began to visit. The park officials liked to have the public use of the area, and harm to supply a few can benefit. So the years passed and went in increasing number of interests. Then one day, a table and a chair were placed outdoors. Demands for things such as picnic grounds, nature centers began to be heard. Although most visitors came for the pretty flowers, and the wild creatures, they often came for the flowers and creatures in the park. Park officials were in a dilemma which would occur from the park and yet wanted to make it without sacrificing the original dilemma. What was the solution?

In all probability, this is the solution. The state parks system is planning for a gradual change which will both satisfy the conservation resources, and still provide to the state's burgeoning population.

Numerous alternatives for the park system have been suggested. Park officials may begin to notice the future. "The use of public lands from an environmental planning standpoint," is the chief concern of the Department of Parks and Recreation Commission. Efforts for an advanced, far reaching park system, new park design, new park needs and special projects, trails network. Perhaps the park system sought so directly to understand their parks, and to meet this desire.

If you jump at the chance to know about a park's history, then you are a prime candidate for the interpretive program plan. The simple printing of information about in-park nature, and insight to the area visitor, is the aim of the program. Joe Brill is enthusiastic about the people, he says, "they're missing." By providing information and instruction, park officials can make each visitor's stay. True, it is more rewarding to know about the park, achieve added value with a park, and a clear mind. The world is a better place when we appreciate the order within it.

The problem of choosing which park to visit can baffle many people. Sometimes, differentiating between the parks that offer electrical hookups for RVs, and those that contain pristine trails for backpackers, can be difficult. But the state hopes to ease the problem by altering the park designation system. Today the park fan is able to choose from a variety of State regions, from "State Park — Natural Area" to "State Recreation Area". This diversity in parks suits the diversity of public needs apparent today. Many activities now popular, such as backpacking, snowmobiling and motorcycling, were relatively unheard of just a few years before. If the Iowa park system is to satisfy the public and yet prevent damage from inappropriate area use, it must evolve to accommodate the changes in recreational enjoyment. This diversity of parks can help to prevent one foreseeable problem. By creating various kinds of parks rather than trying to meet ALL needs within each park, heterogeneity can be retained. Otherwise, one could wind up with a single park that tries so desperately to suit everybody that it ultimately satisfies no one.

Particular evidence of the parks system updating includes a campaign for a scenic rivers program and the creation of special trails such as the Dickinson County Trail and the Saylorville Corridor. The trail projects are planned to increase opportunities for biking, snowmobiling and hiking, often by utilizing such diverse terrain as river bottomland, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, and city streets. Canoeists can rejoice at plans to step up the formation and operation of an Iowa scenic rivers program designed to protect and keep flowing many of Iowa's beautiful natural streams, with the cooperation of local, state and federal agencies.

A new concept in Iowa is that of the "State Recreation Area". Currently, several of these multi-use, year-round recreation divisions are being developed, such as the Big Creek, Brushy Creek, and Volga River State Recreation Areas. All with artificial impoundments, these areas are unique in that they will allow hunting and a 24 hour lake access, and stress year-round usage.

Perhaps not as exciting as the above projects but certainly as noteworthy and as necessary, is the push to bring existing park facilities up to par. "We are placing high emphasis on the revamping of such 'mundane' but important facilities as sewer, water, and electrical systems," points out Scheffler. Current park personnel, although dedicated and working to their full potential, are not adequate to maintain and protect existing and future areas and must be supplemented.

This is but a tasty sampling of the treats in store for Iowans in the coming years. The situation in Iowa looks quite optimistic. Population growth in the state is slow — only 3.8% between 1970 and 1980 is estimated — and the beneficial aspects of new programs such as those discussed here should help to relieve the outdoor recreational boom that is resounding across Iowa. The Iowa Conservation Commission hopes to continue to acquire new lands as they become available, and to modify and to improve existing areas in the state, ultimately reaching an optimal level of efficiency and use. Brill comments on this aim by speculating, "I myself don't foresee a great influx of population here — nothing like California, for instance. If we're farsighted enough to acquire new lands through our open spaces program and other acquisitions and easements, we should be able to accommodate future demands." With careful planning, realistic expectations, and the cooperation of all involved, the Iowa Parks System should continue to satisfy the needs of all Iowans far into the future. □

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if Joe Fisherman comprehends how incredibly long it takes for the beer can that he casually tosses overboard to decompose, then perhaps they will alter their actions. Whatever the end product, the interpretive approach can already be witnessed in scattered parks across the state. *"Many of our people,"* says Scheffler, *"are already carrying out interpretive efforts at individual park levels, but need a more unified approach."*

The interpretive program could play a dual role. It is hoped that an increased understanding of Iowa's natural resources will lead to an increased respect for them. Most "people damage" committed in parks (littering, defacement, etc.) is believed to be the result of simple ignorance, rather than of malicious vandalism. When Jane Parkuser realizes that the "weed" she is trampling underfoot is a young walnut tree, or

The problem of choosing which park to visit can baffle many people. Sometimes, differentiating between the parks that offer electrical hookups for RVs, and those that contain pristine trails for backpackers, can be difficult. But the state hopes to ease the problem by altering the park designation system. Today the park fan is able to choose from a variety of State regions, from "State Park — Natural Area" to "State Recreation Area". This diversity in parks suits the diversity of public needs apparent today. Many activities now popular, such as backpacking, snowmobiling and motorcycling, were relatively unheard of just a few years before. If the Iowa park system is to satisfy the public and yet prevent damage from inappropriate area use, it must evolve to accommodate the changes in recreational enjoyment. This diversity of parks can help to prevent one foreseeable problem. By creating various kinds of parks rather than trying to meet ALL needs within each park, heterogeneity can be retained. Otherwise, one could wind up with a single park that tries so desperately to suit everybody that it ultimately satisfies no one.

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Today than ever before. Winter use is now
re from Ledges State Park.

Bright Future for Saylorville!

by TOM PUTNAM
FISH MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST

ON APRIL 12, 1977, the gates were finally closed on the most recent addition to Iowa's mainstream flood control system, Saylorville Reservoir, after nearly 2 decades of planning and construction. It then joined its sister reservoir, Red Rock, in the attempt to provide flood protection in the central and southeastern portions of the state.

Recreationists of all persuasions have had reservations as to what the 5400 acre lake had in store for them in its future. Could an impoundment with a watershed encompassing over 5800 square miles and extending nearly 50 miles into Minnesota offer any benefits in the way of outdoor recreation? Would a lake that is the first major "settling basin" for agricultural runoff from many thousands of farms to the north not be permanently clouded by water-borne sediment? Would it be possible to establish gamefish populations in the lake and would they be able to expand into a catchable fishery in both size and quantity?

These questions can be answered, in the short run at least, by a look at the reservoir during its first full year of impoundment.

Gamefish Populations Firmly Established

As with any new impoundment in Iowa, an extensive fish stocking program was planned in an attempt to establish several species in the reservoir. The program was being formulated as early as the fall of 1974, following a pre-impoundment survey of the section of the Des Moines River to be inundated by the proposed reservoir's conservation pool.

Results of the survey revealed a large and healthy channel catfish population capable of establishing strong year classes. This species would definitely not have to be included on the stocking list. Other gamefish species, such as walleye, northern pike and largemouth bass, were observed in low numbers, and future stocking would be necessary to expand



them to catchable size populations. Crappie were also low enough in number to warrant a one-time stocking to establish a reproduction base. Gizzard shad, a species desired as the principle forage fish in large flood control reservoirs, were also infrequently observed at that time and were of some concern. The shad population increased dramatically through a strong year-class, however, and their availability was of little concern after that.

Initial stocking began during the first week of impoundment in April 1977. A fry stocking of 1.25 million northern pike from the Guttenberg Hatchery was placed in the gravel pit area immediately in front of the dam. Two weeks later, 4,000,000 walleye were received from the Spirit Lake and Rathbun Hatcheries. These were also stocked off the face of the dam which was then impounding a pool of several 100 acres.

In May, netting operations began at Lake Red Rock to capture and transport adult crappie to Saylorville for brood stock. Red Rock was selected for this project because the tremendous numbers of crappie in the lake would make trapping relatively simple. Eleven hundred adults were transported and stocked in several areas around the expanding reservoir, insuring a stronger initial yearclass.

In early June, 1977, an additional major predator, the largemouth bass, was introduced to the reservoir. Advanced fry 1 inch in size, totaling 152,000 fish were stocked from the Fairport Hatchery. As with previous stockings, reservoir conditions were excellent for survival of this species. The expanding reservoir had inundated 100's of acres of terrestrial vegetation offering habitat for protection of the young fish. The increase in nutrients provided to the water from the flooded terrain offered the "substrate" necessary for the expansion of populations of minute animal organisms. These rich "zooplankton blooms" provided the food necessary for fast growth of the fish during their first few weeks of life in the reservoir.

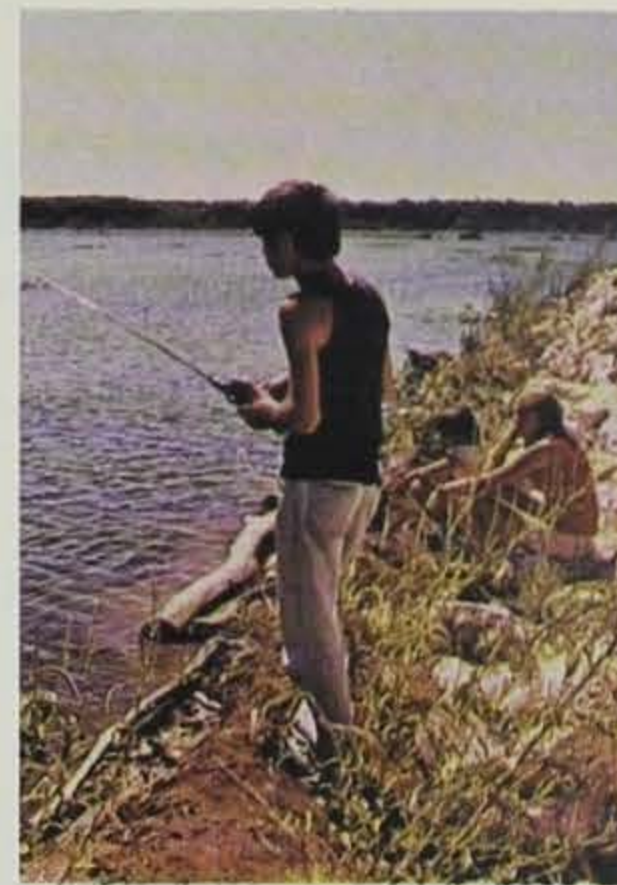
An additional predator species, the ocean striped bass, was also stocked in mid-summer in an attempt to establish this trophy species in another Iowa reservoir. This fish, an ocean dwelling version of the familiar white bass or "striper" of our inland streams and reservoirs, has been found to be capable of living year around in fresh water. Ocean stripers are now beginning to take hold in Rathbun Reservoir after several successive stockings. Once this open water species becomes firmly established, expect someday a chance to do battle with a 20 to 30 pounder!

During 1978, the 2nd year of impoundment, additional northern pike, walleye and large mouth bass were stocked bringing the total received from our hatcheries to more than 12.3 million fish. Ocean striped bass, although not available last year, will be stocked in the future, beginning in 1979. Its Iowa cousin, the white bass, will also be stocked as adult brood stock in May 1979.

Fish management surveys are being conducted annually at Saylorville to determine the current status of gamefish populations. Our most recent surveys, coupled with angler spot creel checks have revealed that not only are several of the species doing very well, but they are also being caught by fishermen.

The biggest success stories are with walleye and largemouth bass. Both species are growing rapidly and are at least 1 year ahead of their counterparts of the same age in other Iowa lakes. The major reason for this fast growth is the successful expansion of the gizzard shad population, providing tremendous amounts of small sized fish forage for the hungry predators.

Channel catfish reproduction also has been good and added to those established prior to impoundment, there are several strong yearclasses available. Stringers of 4 or 5 fish ranging in size from 1½-2½ lbs. have been observed on several occasions last fall.



PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

Individuals from the northern pike and ocean striped bass stockings have not been observed thus far during the surveys. Both species are difficult to capture at a young age, however, and efforts will continue to sample them next year.

Reservoir conditions are ideal for the crappie population also to expand in 1979. Expect good crappie fishing by 1980.

Water Level Control Plan

In June, 1978, a plan to optimize waterlevel fluctuations at Saylorville for the benefit of fish and wildlife was formulated by the Conservation Commission and endorsed by the Corps of Engineers. Part of the plan called for a 2 ft. increase in the conservation pool elevation from 833 MSL to 835 MSL in the spring of the year between April 1 and June 15. This annual inundation of shoreline vegetation will offer additional habitat to gamefish during the critical spawning season. Young-of-the-year fish will not only be given more protection from predators but also an increased source of zooplankton food during their early stages of life.

Length Limit on Bass

A management tool designed, in this case, to maintain a quality largemouth bass fishery was put into effect at Saylorville in March, 1977. A minimum length limit restriction of 12 in. was placed on this species enabling anglers to creel "keepers", weighing at least 1.0 lb. Influencing the decision

(Continued on Page 15)

Warden's Diary

By Rex Emerson

MARCH IN IOWA is a battle of the elements. Winter usually tries for one last stand, but spring is sure to win out. The winds of March will warm the soil and make way for the spring rains that will awaken the dormant seeds and roots of wildflowers. They have been sleeping all through the long winter months, but will soon start showing themselves from beneath the forest's leafy floor. Spring, where have you been?

This is the month the migrating birds start coming back from their winter homes in the south. About the middle of March the snow geese will stop in southwestern Iowa to rest and feed on their way to their ancestral nesting grounds. They have made this annual stop in southwest Iowa for as long as man can remember. There will be more than 300,000 geese in that area at the peak of the migration. They may stay a week or more, depending on the weather further north.

If you haven't been to Fremont County during this goose migration it should be on your "must do" list. Take your camera along and a tape recorder if you have one. Don't disturb the geese or try to sneak up on them. The Missouri River bottoms are flat and you will be able to see very well from the road. Just have a little patience and they might raise up and come right over you. That will be when you need a tape recorder. You can take home the sounds of the wild.

Of course some people enjoy something like this more than others. One fellow said, "What do you mean, 'sounds of the wild'? I can't hear anything but those 'darn' geese."

My old friend who lives down by the river thought that surely sounded like a lot of poultry when I told him about all the geese in southwestern Iowa. He took

another sip of coffee and said, "You know, I never thought much about it before. Those geese spent the winter in the sunny south while I froze half to death. That makes me dumber than a goose."

There is no doubt in my mind that he wouldn't miss one of the four beautiful seasons in Iowa for anything. Each one has something great to offer.

The first nine years of my game warden career I was located in the west side of the state and spent each spring "baby sitting" the geese as they migrated north through Iowa. There are several thousand ducks in the area at about the same time also. Without the protection of the state officers there would be a lot of the waterfowl that would not get to their nesting grounds. Just because the season is closed doesn't keep the greedy person from shooting some of them.

The first spring waterfowl case I tried to make didn't turn out so good. I tried to make my way through the willow thicket along the Missouri River to get to where I had heard a volley of shots. There was a long blast on a car horn, and all I found when I got to the pothole were some dead mallards. One of the poachers had his wife in the car as a lookout. When they heard the car horn, they disappeared into the willows.

We always encouraged people to come and take pictures of the geese. The more people standing around with cameras, the better. Who is going to shoot a goose out of season with someone taking pictures of him? We can just answer questions about the geese and enjoy watching them ourselves when there are a lot of people around. When the weather gets bad and it starts to sleet or snow the shutterbugs all go home and then our work gets tough.

The ones who wish they had a nice easy job like ours should stay out there and wade through the gumbo and slop, when there is no one there but the poacher and the warden.

A game warden's sense of humor is probably a little different than most other people's. One very wet spring, Ward Garrett was working in Fremont County. He found a drainage ditch that was running bank full. Where the road crossed it was a sharp little raise, and then you crossed on a little bridge with no side rails. The water was over the bridge floor about two inches deep.

This gave Ward an idea. He drove back to Council Bluffs, where he lived, and picked up a friend who himself was quite a practical joker. Ward took his friend to Fremont County under the pretext of assisting on a case. They were going about forty miles per hour when they went up the sharp raise, and at the top Ward yelled, "Bridge out." About one heartbeat later they were on the water covered bridge. A sense of humor like that can wear a friendship mighty thin.

The Federal Fish and Wildlife Officers do a great job nowadays "riding herd" on the migrating waterfowl. But back in my early days as a warden a Federal officer would come around, look over the area where the ducks and geese were, buy us a cup of coffee and tell us what a fine job we were doing — then split.

One year I saved up all the empty shotgun shells that I could find. When the spring migration was on I was sent to Fremont County. The drainage ditches were wall to wall ducks. The empty shells were carefully placed along a mile strip of the ditch so they could easily be seen from a car on the road. Two days later the Federal officer came down to look the area over. When he saw those empty shotgun shells he jumped to conclusions and we got some extra help from the Feds. In fact, he almost got an ulcer over that.

Now, who says a game warden doesn't have a sense of humor?

LOOKIN' BACK

in the files of
the CONSERVATIONIST

Ten Years Ago



the Iowa Conservationist featured an article on the importance of conservation education.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new conservation training center at Springbrook State Park were held three months earlier and the new complex was expected to be completed in 1970. Today the uses of the Center are still being expanded as students, teachers and other interested Iowans become more aware of what it has to offer.

Twenty Years Ago



the magazine went bird watching or at least gave its readers a few tips on how to see the thousands of ducks

and geese which return to the north through Iowa. The Missouri River bottoms were mentioned as one area to visit but many waterfowl can be seen by just driving to the nearest lake or marsh anywhere in the state. Mid-March is generally the time to try.

Thirty Years Ago



the Conservationist was teaching us how to catch channel catfish. In those days there was a season on all

catfish (except bullheads) which ran from April 15 to November 30. The author of the article was a fisheries biologist named Harry Harrison who just this year retired as Chief of Fish and Game.

The railroad which ran through Curlew, Plover and Mallard, Iowa, was known locally as the "Bird Line."

SMALL. DRAB. SLEEPS in winter and summer. Has most of its eggs destroyed or eaten by skunks and raccoons. Life history largely unknown. I'm speaking of the Illinois Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens spooneri*), probably one of the rarest vertebrates in the world. Most of the world's population of this species is in eastern Iowa and was little-known until Dr. James Christensen and his students launched on intensive studies of this relict species. Most of the members of this genus are found in Central or South America; five species of the genus are found in the United States, in arid conditions of the southwest states. When the Illinois Mud Turtle is found, it is in situations resembling those of these arid regions. Because of the narrow ecological conditions the turtle can tolerate, it is found in only a few locations; this can spell trouble for the species if competing activities are planned for these locations. Because this is happening, the species is currently being considered for the federal 'endangered species' list. It was put on Iowa's endangered species list in 1977 and the Iowa populations are being carefully monitored by Dr. Christensen. Besides alternate uses for its favored habitat, destruction of eggs by predators is a major problem, as it is with all Iowa turtles, with up to 95% of the eggs destroyed. However, attempts are being made to protect the eggs of this and other rare species by erecting a temporary structure around the nest-site for a few days. The species lays a low number of eggs per nest so destruction of eggs is magnified in effect.

As more is learned of its basic ecological needs, we must translate these needs into management plans. Skillful management, strict protection and acquisition of habitat are the only measures which will assure the survival of this turtle as a free-living, interesting part of the natural history of Iowa into the 21st century. ■

Profile of an Endangered Species

ILLINOIS MUD TURTLE

by Dean Roosa

STATE ECOLOGIST



PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD S. FUNK

MOUNT YOUR OWN ANTLERS

By Roger Sparks

PHOTOS BY RON JOHNSON

A PROPERLY MOUNTED deer rack on the den or office wall looks nifty and brings back fond memories. Even a small rack is well worth mounting, particularly when the whole job requires only a few hours of time and less than ten dollars.

Professional mounting kits may be purchased, but the materials used here are readily available. You will need:

- One 10' by 10' piece of velvet;
- Two feet of fine gold braid;
- One mounting plaque or display board (stained);
- Two 3' by 1/8' bolts with nuts and washers;
- Eight ounces of plaster of paris; and
- Household glue (must dry clear)

After sawing the antlers from the deer, clean all the skin and hair from the base and then clean the antlers with a stiff bristled brush and soapy water. Use neutral shoe polish to brighten the rack.

Position the rack on the board, the way you want it, and drill two holes through the antler base and board. Carve or route indentations in the back of the board large enough to inset the washers and nuts. Before attaching the antlers, place a plastic bag over the board (it will be removed later). Push the bolts through the plastic bag and tighten into place. Shim the rack if necessary to straighten.

Mix the plaster of paris with water in a throw away

container (a plastic margarine bowl works well) and form it around the rack. When dry, sand until smooth and symmetrical. (A rasp works well to get the general shape.) Remove the nuts and washers and pull the rack from the board. Discard the plastic bag and smooth the edges of the plaster.

Things have been pretty simple so far but the next step is somewhat tricky. Cutting the velvet to fit perfectly around the antlers is almost impossible, so cut the material into a general shape, leaving plenty to be removed later. Cut slits at this time to accommodate each antler. Now begin shaping and glueing, starting at the mid front and working toward the back. Glue very lightly on the front, but liberally in the back. You will notice the velvet tends to wrinkle and fold. Don't get impatient, just keep working and smoothing the material by tucking, folding and glueing the excess to the back. Stretch and cut where necessary. Cut around each antler with a razor blade and again stretch, smooth, and glue. Small wrinkles around the base and around antlers will be covered by trim. Attach the antlers to the board, tighten the screws and break or cut off the excess. Cut the trim to fit around each antler and base and glue in place.

Attach some type of wall hanging apparatus and your rack has become a permanent trophy. □



SAYLORVILLE (Continued from Page 11)

to set this limit was the ample amounts of shad forage available to the bass for rapid growth. Bass are now attaining the minimum length in less than 2 years. Under the regulation, largemouth measuring less than 12 inches total length must be returned unharmed to the lake.

Additional Habitat for Better Catches

In August, 1978, a permit was received from the Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers for a 3 year project to place habitat structures at various locations around the lake to aid anglers in catching fish. With the help of members of several area bass fishing clubs and Corps personnel, the first of these structures was set in place last fall. A total of 1275 discarded automobile tires were lashed together in 3-tire bundles and sunk in 17 feet of water to form a reef. The reef dimensions are approximately 100 ft by 25 ft at the base, 6 to 8 ft in height at the center and in the form of an elongated pyramid. The reefs are being constructed primarily to attract crappies to areas easily identifiable to fishermen. Each will be marked with appropriate buoys this year. Although there is presently much suitable fish habitat especially along the reservoir's shorelines, some of this will deteriorate or erode away in the next few years, whereas the tire reefs are a permanent installation.

Creel Survey Planned in 1979

A creel survey will commence in April, 1979, to collect angler success and other catch statistics from fishermen on the lake. The survey, which will be 6 months in duration, will measure many aspects of Saylorville angling and serve as a valuable tool by providing data necessary for future stocking and management recommendations. Included in this data will be tag returns from largemouth bass tagged by a local bass club, in conjunction with the Conservation Commission, to determine an estimate of bass population numbers. The creek survey clerk will also be instrumental in educating the public concerning management programs such as the length limit restriction and the experimental ocean striped bass stockings.

Water Quality Study

Under contract by the Corps of Engineers, water quality studies were initiated prior to impoundment of Saylorville by the Engineering Research Institute at Iowa State University. The project was designed to determine the long range effects on the water quality of the Des Moines River by the impoundment of the reservoir. Included in this study is an evaluation of changes in macroinvertebrate populations which are indicators of changes in water quality. Fluctuations in pesticide levels contained in fish flesh are also being monitored.

Fish Map Available

A hydrographic map of the lake was drawn up this past summer and is now available from the Commission's central office in Des Moines. The map includes depth contours of the lake area between the mile long bridge and the dam and the location of the former river channel. The position of the 5 boat ramps on the main lake are also noted.

Future Looks Bright

Judging from the heavy boating traffic, fishing pressure, camping, and beach use especially later last summer and fall, Saylorville has caught on as a recreationally diverse area with something to offer to almost every outdoor oriented person. Encouraging this use was the lake's water clarity, even following major rains, and the lack of debris floating on its surface following these rains. At this point in time, the future of Saylorville Reservoir as a recreation lake indeed looks bright.

Classroom Corner



BY ROBERT RYE

ADMINISTRATOR, CONSERVATION
EDUCATION CENTER

I HAVE HEARD stories about bobcats most of my life. I can think of several times in my younger days when I was told stories of the disappearance of a family cat, how a person lost a night's sleep because the "bobcats screamed all night," or of the damage the cats can do to farm animals. I heard most often of a lost house cat that spent its nights out-of-doors and how always the bobcat had given high-pitch screams and left tracks. I have also listened to reminiscence of cat hunts in the northern cedar swamps. The tales usually lacked the ending commonly expected of a hunting story.

Bobcats are generally quiet. They prefer heavy forest cover, especially timber with much underbrush. They are also noted for being found in timbered swamps. Places such as these provide them with a chance to move about quietly and unobserved.

Bobcats hunt by stalking. They use their keen eyesight to spot movement along a trail or through underbrush. They will not follow a trail intent on a particular meal. Being very curious, they go from trail to trail and from one stump or deadfall to another leaving their customary zigzag trail in search of a meal.

Bobcats often take position behind a dead tree or some other cover and wait for prey to come close by. They have been known to drop on prey from trees if the situation presents itself.

Rabbits, mice, squirrels, and deer (most likely as carrion) make up their diet. Bobcats gorge themselves when food is plentiful and then they do not feed for several days. They seldom return to a kill unless food is scarce. This results in much food being

wasted when it is in excess.

Bobcats are classified as a medium-size member of the cat family. Their total length is 22 to 50 inches, with a weight of 10 to 40 pounds. It is noted for its short (three to seven inch) tail.

Originally the bobcat lived throughout the United States. However, in recent years cats have become almost nonexistent in much of the Central United States, including Iowa. They require several square miles of habitat to live.

These cats are mostly nocturnal and active year-round. They are good climbers and readily use trees to take refuge from dogs or for resting or observation.

At the Education Center claims of visual sightings, cat screams, or tracks are frequent. So far the tracks have proven to be from another animal. But this has sparked interest and enthusiasm which fits into many programs and concepts taught at the Center, so a benefit is derived.

One activity that can be done is to have a group of students give their description of a bobcat. Those that have attended the Conservation Commission's display at the state fair will give a very accurate description.

Follow this activity with an outside one where the students make tracks showing the bobcat on a hunting trip. They can also make a den or resting place for the cat to live. A good follow-up would be to find places in the state where the bobcat would have the proper habitat to live. Conclude with a survey of their community to determine changes necessary in order for the predator to be able to survive there.

