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FARMLOT TREES— *Where have they gone?*

by Ed Gardner
District Forester

LAST WINTER, while driving through central Iowa, the stark, barren landscape had a depressing effect. On both sides of the road as far as one could see, the land was black. The snow drifts were covered with black dirt. There was no place for a rabbit to hide or a pheasant to seek shelter. When I was a farm boy in this part of the state, winter weekends were spent rabbit hunting, exploring the sloughs, watching for winter birds, and trying to read the wildlife tracks in the snow. There was even a flock of prairie chickens in the neighborhood.

Farm houses stand naked against the horizon. It is obvious that the only buildings used are the house, machine shed and grain storage bins. All of this made me think of a paragraph from Wendell Berry's book, *The Unsettling of America*:

"A healthy farm will have trees on it — woodlands where trees are native — also, fruit and nut trees, trees for shade and windbreaks. Trees will be there for their usefulness — for food, lumber, fence posts, firewood, shade and shelter. But they will also be there for comfort and pleasure, for wildlife

that they harbor, and for beauty. The woodlands bespeak the willingness to let live that which keeps wildness flourishing in a settled place. A part of the health of a farm is the farmer's wish to remain there. His long-term good intention toward the place is signified by the presence of trees. A family is married to a farm more by their planting and protection of trees than by their memories or their knowledge, for trees stand for their fidelity and kindness to what they do not know. The most revealing sign of ill health of industrial agriculture — its greed, its short term ambitions — is its inclination to see trees as obstructions and to strip the land bare of them."

In the struggle for financial survival on the farm, it is easy to let, "Will it make any money?" be the criteria for all that is done. Regard for the land then becomes the same as if it were a factory, a building, or a commodity with money-making the sole reason for existence. Instead, why not ask if your actions make this a nicer place to live? Are you protecting the land? Will other creatures be permitted to survive?



Photo by Ron George

Game Bird Outlook '79-'80

by Ronnie R. George and James B. Wooley, Jr.
Wildlife Research Biologists

BY NOW, the opening weekend of Iowa's 1979 pheasant, quail, and gray partridge hunting season has come and gone. Your hunting success to date (or lack thereof) has probably hinged on a number of factors including your skill with a scattergun, your frustration at your "field trial" bird dog, the cover and weather condition you encountered, the number of birds you have seen, and last but not least, your definition of a successful hunt.

Quail

If you are one of the old-time hunters who needs a sky "black with birds" in order to have a successful hunt, you could be in for a disappointing season. Last winter's severe weather and extended period of continuous snow cover reduced Iowa's rangewide quail population index by approximately 62 percent. The loss of quail is even greater than this in some parts of southeastern Iowa where the effects of the winter weather were most severe.

Once we recognize that we have a problem with low quail numbers, the question is, "What should we do about it?" The traditional response of state fish and wildlife agencies to severely reduced populations of almost any game species has been to reduce the hunting pressure on that species. Over the years, many hunters and non-hunters alike have come to believe that shorter seasons are the correct response to low game populations of all species and public pressure demands that "Something should be done immediately." Commission biologists believe Iowa's quail population will recover to pre-1979 levels in approximately 3 years regardless of hunting pressure or season length. Biologists have long recognized that quail hunting mortality in the fall usually replaces and does not add to natural mortality that occurs primarily during the late winter months. Generally, quail hunting pressure is low late in the season. However, some of the most enjoyable quail hunting occurs during the month of January.

The bobwhite quail is (or at least should be) an important resource for all of the citizens of Iowa, but it is simply impossible to set a season that will please everyone. Ultimately the Commission, based on staff recommendations, chose the conservative approach and closed the quail season on January 6 (Iowa's quail season usually runs to the end of January) and also reduced the daily bag and possession limits to 6 and 12 birds respectively. These restrictions were based on public reaction to reduced quail numbers following the severe winter. The biology of the

species actually would have allowed the same lengthy season and liberal bag limits that have been maintained over the past 14 years. Biologists feel that the present restrictions will have little to do with the eventual recovery of the species.

Pheasant

Ring-necked pheasant numbers, as noted in the August roadside survey, are down about 13 percent statewide. The decline varies by area and is most pronounced in Iowa's eastern grain and livestock producing regions. The season length and bag limits for pheasants remains approximately the same as in past years, running from November 3 to January 6 with limits of 3 cocks daily and 6 in possession. The decline noted in the survey may, in fact, be due to the poor conditions that existed during the survey period of August 1-15. The best counts of pheasants along roadsides occur under calm wind conditions with heavy dew. Hot, dry weather hampered survey efforts this year.

Setting restrictive seasons for rooster pheasants is not the answer, even in the face of a temporarily lower population. Since pheasants are polygamous (one cock mates with many hens) most young cocks produced the previous summer are "excess baggage," and this surplus can be safely harvested. Studies have shown that a single cock pheasant is able to mate with and successfully fertilize as many as 50 hens, a sex ratio of 50 to 1. Winter sex ratio surveys by the Conservation Commission have generally shown post-season sex ratios to be about 4 hens to each cock, indicating about 75 percent harvest of roosters. Harvest of roosters in Iowa has never exceeded 79 percent, thus a sufficient supply of males has always been available for reproduction.

Partridge

The gray partridge population index was up more than 56 percent over last year, indicating Iowa's gray partridge population is at an all time high. The gray partridge, a native of Europe and Asia, seems quite at home in the intensively farmed agricultural areas of north-central and north-western Iowa. Gray partridge are not only increasing in numbers, but are currently expanding their range into eastern and even southern Iowa. Other regions of the state may eventually be open to partridge hunting; however, for the present only that portion of Iowa north of U.S. Highway 30 is open for gray partridge hunting.

Duck Hunter Blues

by James Horan

THIS STORY isn't about a duck hunter who sings the blues, or some guy who's feeling blue about not getting any shots. It is about the color blue, which is the color you get when you suffer from exposure to cold air or cold water.

Duck hunters, like ice fishermen, are notorious for their ability to suffer. The reason for their willingness to suffer the wind and rain and maybe no ducks to shoot has always been a secret shared with no one but other duck hunters. We think we've figured it out though. It goes something like this. Duck hunters are the world's most wonderful people. But, like the rest of us mortals, they occasionally backslide and

kick the cat, or holler at the kids, or forget to use their signal lights, even swear (although this has rarely been witnessed). So to retain their status as wonderful people they voluntarily inflict the punishment of duck hunting on themselves to purge their bodies of evil spirits.

Occasionally, things don't go just right and they get blue. This color is a direct result of prolonged exposure to cold air or cold water. All most of the body's blood has retreated to the inner core of the body. This, of course, is a self-protecting mechanism which keeps the critical body functions going. Eventually though, even this fails, unconsciousness sets in, and death results.



Photo by Ken Formanek

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How to prevent the blues? The old saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" applies except that instead of ounces think of inches. Inches of insulation, that is. Insulation is our most important factor of reducing heat loss and is critical to our survival in the cold. Generally, the colder it is the thicker your insulation should be.

When you're going duck hunting, think about the environmental conditions you will or may be subjected to. Factors such as temperature (water), wind, rain, water depth, may be critical to your survival. Choose your clothing carefully according to the conditions you can expect.

Insulation of body moisture next to the skin is required for insulation. Net underwear one-eighth of an inch in thickness and three-inch square mesh works fine for this purpose and allows the air to move up and out the neck opening. Otherwise moisture is trapped through the clothing reducing its effectiveness.

Layers of clothing can serve as the insulation. Most often the conventional shirt and pants are worn next to the underwear. They are an inner layer of about one-fourth of an inch thickness. Additional layers of clothing simply add to the thickness and insulating qualities. This is all fine in theory except that what happens if it rains, or the wind blows, or if you walk around a lot, or worse "fall in the water"?

As a practical duck hunter you'll probably try to average it out, right? It won't work. What works well on a cold windless day won't work so much on a cold rainy day. Then you need an outer shell of waterproof protection. A poncho provides rain protection and good ventilation, too. If it's just windy a wind parka will do fine.

Hands and feet are often the greatest problem areas. Although gloves are more popular, mittens are the warmest. Shooter's mittens allow you to wear mittens for warmth, yet provide an opening to pull the fingers out. Boots should be suited to one of two conditions — walking or sitting. When walking ventilation of moisture is important. Leather boots with heavy wool socks are a good combination. When sitting, neoprene or thermo boots with thick insulation work best.

Your head is important too. Naturally! you say, but did you know that 20 percent of heat loss can be through the head. This is the reason for the old cliché in survival training "if your feet are cold, put your hat on." Be sure to cover your head in cold weather. A parka is best because it keeps the cold wind from blowing down your neck and it helps trap the warm air from your body and protects the neck from the cold air.

Now, you've beat the cold, wind, and rain; what happens if you fall out of your duck boat into that COLD water? Any number of things can happen, including shock, unconsciousness, and heart failure. This is where preventative action really pays off.

Providing you survive the initial dunking, your future depends on your clothing and the next actions you take. Those layers of clothing can help you in the water too since they serve to restrict the flow of water next to your body. That cold water will cool you off 20 times faster than air and your body can't keep up with it and keep you afloat. Although the law requires you to carry a personal flotation device in your boat, it's not doing you any good if it's in the boat and you're in the water.

So wear it at all times when near or on the water. The type III special flotation device is probably your best bet. It's styled like a vest and is made of foam (about one inch thick) and can serve as part of your clothing layers. Some type III devices are designed as outer shell jackets and are called "float coats". They can be purchased in a variety of colors, including camouflage. Remember, to be legal under Iowa law, must be Coast Guard approved.

When dressed properly in anticipation of this problem the next step is not to panic! Attempt to slowly move toward and grasp flotation devices or floating objects such as the boat (unless you're right next to it).

Most boats have sufficient flotation to keep them and their occupants afloat. Boats of the kind used by most duck hunters will have sufficient flotation called "level flotation" after July 1, 1978. These boats, when properly used, will keep a great part of your torso out of the water, thereby increasing survival time.

Depending on water temperature, you can expect to survive 15 minutes to indefinitely. During the duck hunting season water temperatures typically range from 40° to 55° F. and you must be on your way out in a short time. By preparing yourself properly, you can double and triple your survival time.

It all kind of sounds odd, doesn't it. We always figure "Boy! If I ever fall into cold water, I'm going to be out of there in a hurry!" Don't even think it. It's not going to happen that way. You'll probably have hip or chest waders on and these plus other clothes and a life jacket will serve to slow you down.

You can use all these clothes and boots to your advantage if you'll just relax a little. Even your wet clothes still have some air in them as do your boots, so they'll help to hold you up. Okay, so you can't just lay back and take it easy, but you've just increased your chances of going duck hunting again and that makes it all worthwhile.

If your companion falls in the water there are several things to remember: First,

Rescue him and quickly, please. Handle him gently, but get him insulated from the environment as quickly as possible. Restore core (inner body) temperature first. If he's been in the water any length of time, he may be suffering from "hypothermia". This is when your body can't manufacture enough heat to overcome the surrounding cold. Your inner body temperature drops, you turn blue.

Symptoms of hypothermia are uncontrollable shivering, pale bluish skin, very cold to the touch, dilated pupils, loss of consciousness. As core temperature decreases, shivering is diminished, pupils dilate fully, respiration decreases and unconsciousness increases.

The victim may deny he is in trouble, but believe in his symptoms, not what he tells you. Even the mild symptoms demand immediate attention. Get the victim out of the wind and into some kind of shelter. Strip all of his wet clothing off and get him into some warm clothing or a sleeping bag or into a tub of warm water (approximately 110° F.), but do not immerse the head, legs or arms. Hot packs along the victim's sides and groin area can help restore body core temperature.

As soon as possible, *always* take a victim of cold water immersion to the hospital. Your victim may say he feels all right, but let the doctor make the decision.

If you are rescuing someone who is unconscious practice mouth-to-mouth breathing and take him directly to the hospital. If unable to move to a hospital, attempt rewarming techniques listed above.

All of this activity doesn't make for fun duck hunting but just in case you think it can't happen to you, the Coast Guard estimates that in 1975 at least 43 percent of the boating fatalities occurred while fishing, hunting, or drifting. In addition, 54 percent of fatalities occurred in September through May and 67 percent occurred in craft less than 16 feet in length. In the Midwest at least, using accident reports as a statistical base, the duck hunter is more likely to become an eventual boating fatality than recreational boaters.

We've all heard that gun powder or boats and alcohol don't mix. Here's why. Your body is protecting itself by keeping the bulk of its blood near the inner core area. Alcohol reverses this process. It relaxes the blood vessels in the extremities, allowing them to cool faster. This gives you a temporary "glow" and makes you feel warmer while accelerating the circulation of blood and making the whole body cool faster.

So prevent the possible. Buy and wear a U.S.C.G. approved PFD. They can be comfortable, warm, and will keep you afloat. Protect yourself against cold weather by dressing properly. Always tell someone exactly where you are going and when you intend to be back. If possible, hunt with a companion. Don't drink alcohol just before or while hunting. Should you fall in, don't panic. Move slowly to your boat (or shore if it's close). Assume the H.E.L.P. position if no flotation is available.

Always warm the inner core of the body first when rescuing. Take the victim to a hospital as soon as possible but always take him.

Let's prevent duck hunters from becoming an endangered species.

□

1979 Record Racks

IT WAS ANOTHER great year for the trophy deer rack program with over sixty entries. Although no state records were broken, Iowa hunters entered many racks of outstanding quality.

Racks Measured in 1979

SHOTGUN TYPICAL

(MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE — 150 POINTS)

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total
Carl W. Schroder	Creston	1977	Madison	180 3/8
Dale Blazek	Creston	1962	Adams	177 9/8
F. Dean Stagner	Mt. Pleasant	1978	Henry	177
Junior Kirchner	Keokuk	1978	Lee	170
Vincent Steckel, Jr.	Sherrill	1978	Allamakee	169 3/8
Roger Sedlacek	Des Moines	1978	Madison	168 7/8
Dennis Wicker	Madrid	1978	Boone	168 3/8
Verl D. Johnson	Keokuk	1978	Lee	167 7/8
O. A. "Bud" Ruhs	Sioux Rapids	1977	Buena Vista	166 3/8
Charles Dose	Danbury	1958	Monona	166 3/8
Lial Selzer	Homestead	1976	Iowa	164 3/8
Gary Frost	Ft. Madison	1978	Des Moines	163 3/8
Mike Buster	Burlington	1978	Des Moines	162 3/8
Donald K. Buswell	Jefferson	1968	Greene	162 3/8
Larry Schalbuch	Marengo	1978	Iowa	162 3/8
Charles Berns	Postville	1978	Allamakee	161 3/8
Keith Cunard	Missouri Valley	1977	Harrison	161 3/8
Dwight Pierce	Coon Rapids	1978	Guthrie	160 3/8
Richard G. Adams	Stacyville	1978	Mitchell	159 3/8
Bill Downs, Jr.	Allerton	1978	Wayne	159 3/8
Richard Moothart	Washington	1978	Washington	159 3/8
John Okland	Kelley	1978	Story	159 3/8
Craig Taylor	Nevada	1978	Story	157 3/8
Charles W. Kelly	Burlington	1978	Des Moines	157 3/8
Steven Carlson	Prole	1978	Warren	156 3/8
Richard Goebel	Dubuque	1978	Des Moines	155 3/8
Vern Ellingson	Des Moines	1978	Allamakee	155 3/8
Tommy Millard	Ottumwa	1978	Davis	154 3/8
Joe Skow	Sac City	1978	Monona	153 3/8
Patrick Mastin	Brandon	1978	Wayne	153 3/8
John H. Rider	Corydon	1978	Wayne	152 3/8
Ed Wallaser	Lansing	1978	Allamakee	152
Dennis Cunnard	Missouri Valley	1975	Harrison	150 9/8
Lester L. Hansel	Garber	1978	Clayton	150 9/8
Ron Willenborg	Manilla	1978	Shelby	150 3/8

SHOTGUN NONTYPICAL

(MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE — 170 POINTS)

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Donald V. Buswell	Carroll	1975	Greene	202 3/8
Raymond McDaniel	Missouri Valley	1970	Harrison	197 3/8
Mike Lawrence	Muscatine	1968	Louisa	176 3/8
Bill Bickford	Cedar Rapids	1978	Linn	176 9/8
Verlan G. Van Wyck	New Sharon	1978	Mahaska	172 1/8

BOW AND ARROW TYPICAL

(MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE — 135 POINTS)

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Gary Troester	Waterloo	1978	Clayton	159 3/8
Harold Carr	Greenfield	1975	Montgomery	156 3/8
Don Gothier	Anthon	1963	Woodbury	149 3/8
Harold Boysen	Morning Sun	1978	Louisa	147 3/8
Terry Cannady	Oelwein	1976	Fayette	147 3/8
Guy Hempey	Sioux City	1969	Woodbury	147
Mike Kiscner	Muscatine	1977	Muscatine	146 3/8
Mark Clemens	West Point	1978	Lee	146 3/8
Randy Randall	Waterloo	1978	Mahaska	145
Alan Kokenge	Sioux City	1974	Woodbury	141 3/8
Don C. Bright	Cherokee	1978	Cherokee	141 3/8
Fred Othmer	Atalissa	1977	Muscatine	140 3/8
Gary Sobiesky	Cushing	1978	Woodbury	139 3/8
Ronald L. Cover	Davenport	1978	Des Moines	139 3/8
Tom Wilhelm	Dyersville	1978	Delaware	138 3/8
Nathan Ellefson	Wyoming	1978	Jones	137 3/8
Jim Heiselman	Waterloo	1978	Black Hawk	136 3/8
Greg Bruns	Oskaloosa	1978	Mahaska	135 3/8
Mike Thomas	Marshalltown	1978	Marshall	135 3/8
Charles Walter, Jr.	Knoxville	1978	Marion	135

BOW AND ARROW NONTYPICAL

(MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE — 155 POINTS)

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Scores
Phillip M. Collier	Burlington	1978	Des Moines	203 9/8
Evert Gothier	Anthon	1963	Woodbury	172 1/8

The following hunters took the largest deer rack in their respective categories.

Shotgun typical - Carl W. Schroder of Creston
 Shotgun nontypical - Donald V. Buswell of Carroll
 Bow and Arrow typical - Gary Troester of Waterloo
 Bow and arrow nontypical - Phillip M. Collier of Burlington

In order to enter your trophy it must be legally taken with bow and arrow or shotgun - muzzleloader within Iowa boundaries. If the rack meets minimum scoring standards you qualify for a certificate and a colorful shoulder patch in recognition of your feat. Unentered deer taken in past seasons as well as the present are eligible for entry. To have the rack officially measured, simply contact the Iowa Conservation Commission, Information and Education Section, Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa 50319. After we receive notification, we will forward a name of an official scorer who may be contacted. Because of shrinkage in varying degrees when antlers dry out, they cannot be officially measured for at least 60 days from time taken.

New All-Time Top Ten Racks

SHOTGUN TYPICAL

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Wayne A. Bills	Des Moines	1974	Hamilton	199 3/8
George L. Ross	Ottumwa	1969	Wapello	195 3/8
Dennis Vaudt	Storm Lake	1974	Cherokee	187 3/8
Randall Forney	Glenwood	1971	Fremont	186 3/8
Jack W. Chidester, Jr.	Albia	1976	Monroe	186 3/8
Franklin Taylor	Blencoe	1976	Monona	185 9/8
Marvin Tippery	Council Bluffs	1971	Harrison	185 3/8
Wayne Swartz	Bedford	1967	Taylor	183 7/8
Austin Watters	Ottumwa	1974	Van Buren	183 9/8
Terry Daniel	Marshalltown	1967	Marshall	182 3/8

SHOTGUN NONTYPICAL

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Larry Raveling	Emmetsburg	1973	Clay	282 3/8
Carroll Johnson	Moorhead	1968	Monona	256 3/8
David Mandersheid	Welton	1977	Jackson	253 3/8
Duane Fick	Des Moines	1972	Madison	228 3/8
LeRoy Everhart	Sumner	1969	Van Buren	224 3/8
Donald Crossley	Hardy	1971	Humboldt	221 3/8
Mike Pies	Ackley	1977	Hardin	221 3/8
John Meyers	Council Bluffs	1969	Pottawattamie	218 3/8
Tom McCormick	Harpers Ferry	1977	Allamakee	215 3/8
M. V. Bruening	Hawkeye	1954	Allamakee	215

BOW AND ARROW TYPICAL

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Robert Miller	Wyoming	1977	Jones	198 3/8
Lloyd Goad	Knoxville	1962	Monroe	197 9/8
Gary Wilson	Cherokee	1974	Cherokee	175 3/8
Gordon Hayes	Knoxville	1973	Marion	175 3/8
Jack Douglas	Creston	1974	Union	173 3/8
Ardie Lockridge	Amana	1965	Iowa	172 3/8
Bob Fudge	Burlington	1966	Des Moines	170 3/8
Brad Vonk	Des Moines	1974	Warren	165 3/8
Loy J. Brooker	Clinton	1963	Clinton	166
Richard L. Larsen	Ottumwa	1976	Wapello	165 7/8

BOW AND ARROW NONTYPICAL

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Jerry Monson	Clear Lake	1977	Cerro Gordo	220 3/8
Blaine Salzkorn	Sutherland	1970	Clay	218 3/8
Phillip M. Collier	Burlington	1978	Des Moines	203 9/8
Bill Erwin	Sioux City	1966	Woodbury	202 3/8
Dorrance Arnold	Oelwein	1977	Clayton	200 3/8
Dennis Ballard	Iowa City	1971	Johnson	197 3/8
Lyle Miller	Vinton	1977	Benton	188 3/8
Richard Rekemeyer	Maquoketa	1974	Jackson	186 3/8
LeRoy Spiker	Harpers Ferry	1968	Allamakee	185 3/8
H. F. Nelson	Iowa Falls	1964	Hardin	181 3/8

Deer Hunting '79

by Lee Gladfelter



Photo by Ken Formanek

THE COOL, CRISP DAYS of November are upon us and it's time to prepare for the 1979 deer hunt. The anticipation has been building since the license application period in late August and early September. Hunting stories are being told and retold by hunting buddies and those pertinent questions about this year's hunt are popping up frequently. Who will get the any-sex licenses, who will take the first deer, the biggest deer, the best rack, and what will the weather be like? "Hope it isn't as cold and miserable as last year."

The 1979 shotgun deer season will consist of two separate seasons with the first being 4 days in length and held on December 1-4 and the second a 7 day season running from December 8-14. There are 10 hunting zones and hunters are allowed to choose only one hunting zone and season combination. Landowners or tenants are eligible for a free shotgun license but only one person per farm unit may apply for this license and that person must actually reside and hunt on that farm. It should be emphasized that it is unlawful to apply for both a free landowner shotgun license and a paid license. Shooting hours for deer are from sunrise to sunset and only one deer can be taken during the season.

Most deer hunters will be required to hunt for bucks with at least one forked antler. Since bucks can mate with many does, there is an excess each year that can be harvested. Therefore, bucks can maintain a higher hunting pressure than does. The harvest of does is closely controlled in each hunting zone by limiting the number of any-sex licenses issued. This ensures that enough does remain in the herd to maintain a stable to growing deer population.

There is one change in the licensing procedure this year that is intended to distribute the any-sex licenses more fairly. If a hunter received a bucks-only license this fall, he will also receive a certificate which gives him preferential treatment in the 1980 license drawing. This certificate does *not* guarantee an any-sex license for the hunter next year. The advantage is that the 1980 any-sex license quota will be drawn only from the certificate holders in each hunting zone and season combination. This improves the odds since those individuals that received an any-sex license this year did not receive a certificate and therefore, will not be eligible for the 1980 any-sex drawing unless they apply for a zone and season that has licenses left over after the initial drawing from certificate holders.

One of the main ingredients for a good deer hunt is choosing the season that best fits your individual preferences. The first season gives the hunter a crack at deer before they become wise and wary. But, there are fewer any-sex licenses available and weather is unpredictable. The second season offers more days to hunt and higher any-sex license quotas but many deer will be harvested during the first season and those that are left are wily. In 1978, of the estimated 15,168 deer harvested by shotgun hunters, 7,282 were taken during the first season and 7,886 the second. The 52,000 paid shotgun and 16,000 free landowner-tenant licenses were evenly divided between the two seasons. Hunter success rates for bucks-only hunters in the first season was 23% compared to 19% success in the second season. Any-sex hunter success was the same between the two seasons at 52%. Higher harvest was obtained during the second season because 70% of the any-sex licenses were issued for that season.

Another important aspect of a successful deer hunt is choosing the best area. Deer are most plentiful in areas of the state where good stands of timber exist. The highest densities of deer are found in southern, southeastern, western, and north-eastern Iowa and along major river drainages in the remainder of the state. Several of the most important practices are pre-season scouting for deer sign and obtaining permission to hunt from landowners. Renewing acquaintances or making new friends with landowners not only provides a place to hunt but good information about the habits of deer and the best way to hunt them.

Other components of a successful deer hunt include a good knowledge of regulations, skill, and the proper equipment, such as: shotgun, slugs, blaze orange safety clothing, etc. Sighting in a shotgun before hunting can make the difference between venison steaks and missed shots or even worse, crippled deer. Many shotguns are not accurate and it is important for deer hunters to be able to place shots correctly. One of the best ways to improve accuracy is to install detachable shotgun sights currently available at most sporting goods stores. Then practice with the shotgun until an 8 inch circle can be hit consistently at a range of 75-100 yards.

There will be a good population of deer available this season. With proper planning, skill, good equipment, and a little luck, the opportunity exists for many hunters to bag that trophy buck they have always dreamed about. □

A faint 'peep' ... 'peep' ... 'peep' ... came from within the egg as I lifted it from the bulky nest 50 feet above the forest floor. I quickly replaced it, hurried down the tree and ran from the area, hoping to cause no further disturbance. The egg was that of the Red-Tailed hawk and the young bird was just beginning to hatch. As I raced from the area, the parent birds escorted me, screaming incessantly as they circled overhead. The date was May 12th and normally ... but, wait ... I'm getting ahead of myself. I would like to trace a year in the life of Iowa's most common large raptor, the Red-Tailed Hawk.

Let's start in late winter, say, late February, when resident pairs may often be seen perched close together on a branch or soaring together. A little later, one may be seen in a series of shallow dives in a courtship flight while the other watches from a nearby tree. In late February or early March, one hawk may be seen carrying a dead stick to the nest tree, to add to the growing bulk of the nest. Placement of the nest is of great importance to the prospective parents; it is nearly always situated high in a tree that affords a splendid view of the landscape. This allows them a good vantage point from which to hunt and observe the approach of any potential enemy. The nest itself is an engineering feat, composed of several hundred small to medium-sized dead sticks in the crotch of a tree and constructed to withstand blizzards and Iowa's windy, stormy springs. Most nests are sufficiently sturdy a year later to be remodeled and used again. However, many nests are taken over by Great Horned Owls, which nest approximately a month earlier than the hawks. Occasionally, I've seen the Red-tails complete the remodeling, only to have the owls move in and take over. Because the owls are nocturnal, not to mention them being big and a bit grouchy, the hawks cannot compete once the invaders have taken over. Loss of their preferred nest site causes the hawks to re-locate, often in a less-desirable location. Owls never build or refurbish a nest, and, after a year of use the nest is no longer fit for them and Red-tails may re-claim it. Many nests we have under observation alternate broods of hawks and owls. The nest, complete by mid-March, is lined with a soft material, either the inner bark of trees or corn husks. An interesting phenomenon of Iowa Red-tail nests is the regular occurrence of House Sparrow nests in the side of the larger structure, particularly if the nest is near a farmstead. The sparrow nests are usually successful and often contain young birds when I band the young hawks in the spring.



A Year in the Life of the Red-Tailed Hawk

by Dean M. Roosa
STATE ECOLOGIST



By mid March, mating and egg-laying is complete. The eggs, slightly larger than those of chickens, normally number two, but clutches of one or three are not uncommon. I know of only one report of four young in a single nest, this was from far western Iowa and undoubtedly the western subspecies, which often has clutches of four. The egg is pale green ground color, usually blotched with chestnut.

After approximately 30 days of incubation, the egg is 'pipped', or cut open by a tiny white 'egg tooth' located

on the top of a tiny hooked beak. After what must seem like an eternity to an anxious adult, out struggles a baby hawk which must rank high on anybody's list of adorable baby wildlife. The adult now moves around the nest with extreme care, placing sharp talons carefully so not to injure the new arrival. Some large birds of prey have been seen to close their talons into a 'fist' while at the nest containing hatchlings. Hatching time is critical because the parent birds seem to abandon easily and excessive disturbance will key the adults away, allowing the young to



their wings in a strong breeze and begin to hop about on branches near the nest. Visiting the nest this late in the nesting cycle often results in one or more jumping from the nest and alighting in a near-by field. This means climbing down, finding the youngster, climbing back up to place it in the nest. This is hard on both bander and bandee! The young now spend much time exercising their wings, preparing for life on their own.

Life now begins in all seriousness. The young are fed by the adults for a period of time after leaving the nest, but the young often return to the nest at night or to be fed. This is an especially critical time in their lives and many fail to make the transition to self-sufficiency. Some researchers feel that 70% of the young hawks fail to survive to adulthood.

During this transition period, the young, now fending for themselves, wander erratically and many eventually end up in the southern United States for the winter. However, the annual state-wide winter hawk survey has turned up sizeable numbers of immatures in Iowa, especially in the southern portion or the loess hills. During their wandering, they may show up in unexpected places such as did three young birds I banded in northern or western Iowa that were found dead in Minnesota several months after leaving the nest. One of these was killed near the Canadian border in October, the same year as leaving the nest in June. The parent birds, on the other hand, bid farewell to the youngsters and usually remain in the vicinity of the nest throughout the year. At least some Red-tails spend most of their lives close to the nest from which they were hatched. Two birds I banded in north-central Iowa were found dead near their original home, one 10 years later, the other 12 years after banding. I will remember forever this last bird, officially known as 667-91176.

As I climbed the nest tree, a gigantic Hackberry a few miles east of Parkersburg, I noticed a hole in the trunk, but dismissed it as a squirrel hole. I cautiously approached the nest, "talking" to the three youngsters peering over the edge. One got nervous and jumped, gliding to the ground a few hundred feet away. I noted its location, banded the two nest mates and hurried down the tree to retrieve the errant hawk. I soon located the bird and started back up the tree, cradling the bird in one arm, climbing with the aid of the other arm. The hole I had dismissed earlier now proved to be a nest of bumble bees, one of which thought my eyebrow a fine place to land. Despite being poised forty feet up in a tree with a young hawk cradled in one arm, holding

(Continued on Page 14)

...ne chilled. The adult now tears prey
...ny bite-sized pieces and holds the bit
...at until the baby instinctively reaches
...it. I've seen these baby hawks on
...dred occasions; each time it is a
...n thrill.
...ing the next six weeks, the hatch-
...will change to adults in size and
...te as the adults forage an area of
...a square mile for suitable prey. The
...aptured by this large buteo (hawk)
...es a variety of fare; but the most
...ant prey item I find in the nest is the
...en-lined ground squirrel. Also found

are snakes, voles, mice, shrews, moles, squirrels, and, very rarely, small birds. Never have I found poultry remains in nests, even in the case of a pair of hawks that nested about 300 feet from a yard that contained 200 young white chickens. Young hawks banded during this early period of their lives do not consider the human intruder an enemy and show no fear or defense; later, they become aggressive and defensive and gladly grab bare hands with sharp talons.

By early June, the young are nearly adult-sized and ready to exercise

Pheasant Hunting DRIVE & BLOCK

by R. Runge

IT'S THE THIRD WEEK of the pheasant season and you're ready to go. You had good hunting opening day on a private farm, but you are looking for something different . . . where do you go?

How about one of our larger public hunting areas? I know what you're thinking. Those areas were crowded the first two weekends and the hunters have shot all the birds. Why, you would be lucky to kick up a field mouse if you hunted with infrared scopes and the fourth army. An entire team of flame-throwing tanks would only scare out a marsh wren and a kid carrying a pumpkin . . . right? Wrong.

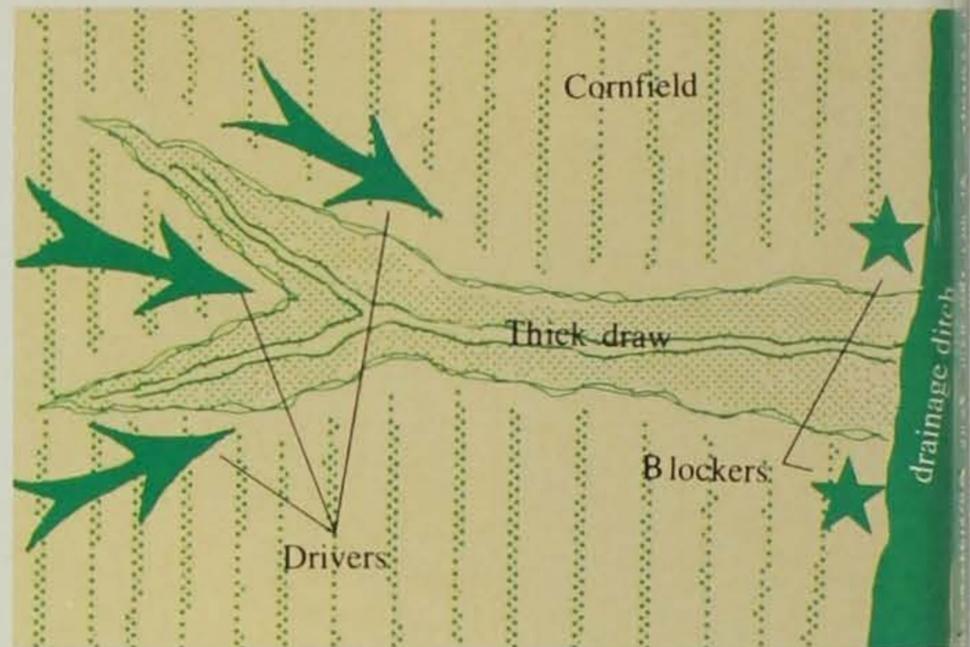
The last day of the season, those big areas will still hold rooster pheasants as fat as soccer balls. Some of them haven't run since Johnson said he wouldn't. An exaggeration? Of course. But, there are plenty of birds on these areas throughout the season. It may seem like there aren't many birds, but they are there and they will stay there unless you figure out a way to hunt them.

Two hunters walking willy-nilly through a hundred acre field may as well be stalking the parking lots of Veterans Memorial Auditorium. It takes a well-planned hunt to be successful in these areas and most often, this requires at least four hunters and a dog. No one can deny how much fun it is to hunt with one friend or a dog, but it is hard to do so with much success in the middle of the season on a large public hunting area. Hunting in a group of four or five, once or twice a year, can be a great time if well-planned and safely done.

The advantages provided by a team of hunters are more than just additional guns. There are more chances to see what is going on, and most of all, the opportunity to use blockers. It is not unusual to have a wily, old rooster running a quarter mile ahead of the hunter. The challenge is to figure out in advance where the birds are going to go and have a blocker in position to intercept them. This method, along with the use of one or two good dogs can make a productive hunt on the large public hunting areas any time of year.

The Hunt

Upon arriving at the hunting area, drive around it if possible, in order to see as much of it as you can. Look for the cover areas, the draws, where the food is, and the lanes the birds might use to work back and forth. When you find a likely looking area, figure out how to get your blockers in there as



quietly as possible, even if it means dropping them off on one side and driving around to hunt in from the other. The blockers must get in position without alarming the birds. This position must be known by the other hunters for safety reasons and a blocker must be very careful not to move into another area or he might surprise one of the drivers during the hunt.

The driver has one job and that is to push the birds down to the blockers. Drivers can whistle, yell back and forth or play bagpipes as long as they cover their area carefully and completely. When the drivers draw near to the blockers, everything gets serious. Everyone must be careful not to shoot in the direction of another member of the group. This is easy to do if everyone is careful and does his job the right way.

When the drive and block method is used correctly, it will not be unusual to have six, seven or even more birds come up at once, even late in the year. Better yet, they should come up in range of at least one member of your group. The rest is up to the shooter. No more excuses. When your first drive is over, move on to another likely spot and try it again. Change positions if you want to, as the blockers usually get the best of the action.

Likely Areas

A nice thick draw running right through a cornfield is a natural for drive and block hunting, but there are other areas to try as well. A fence line is a natural travel lane for pheasants and easy to block. A drainage ditch is also good, because the birds will most often run down to it and along it rather than fly across. The list below represents some of our larger public owned areas. You will soon learn some tricks of your own on the areas you choose to hunt. Just remember, the pheasants are there. The question is, are they smarter than you.

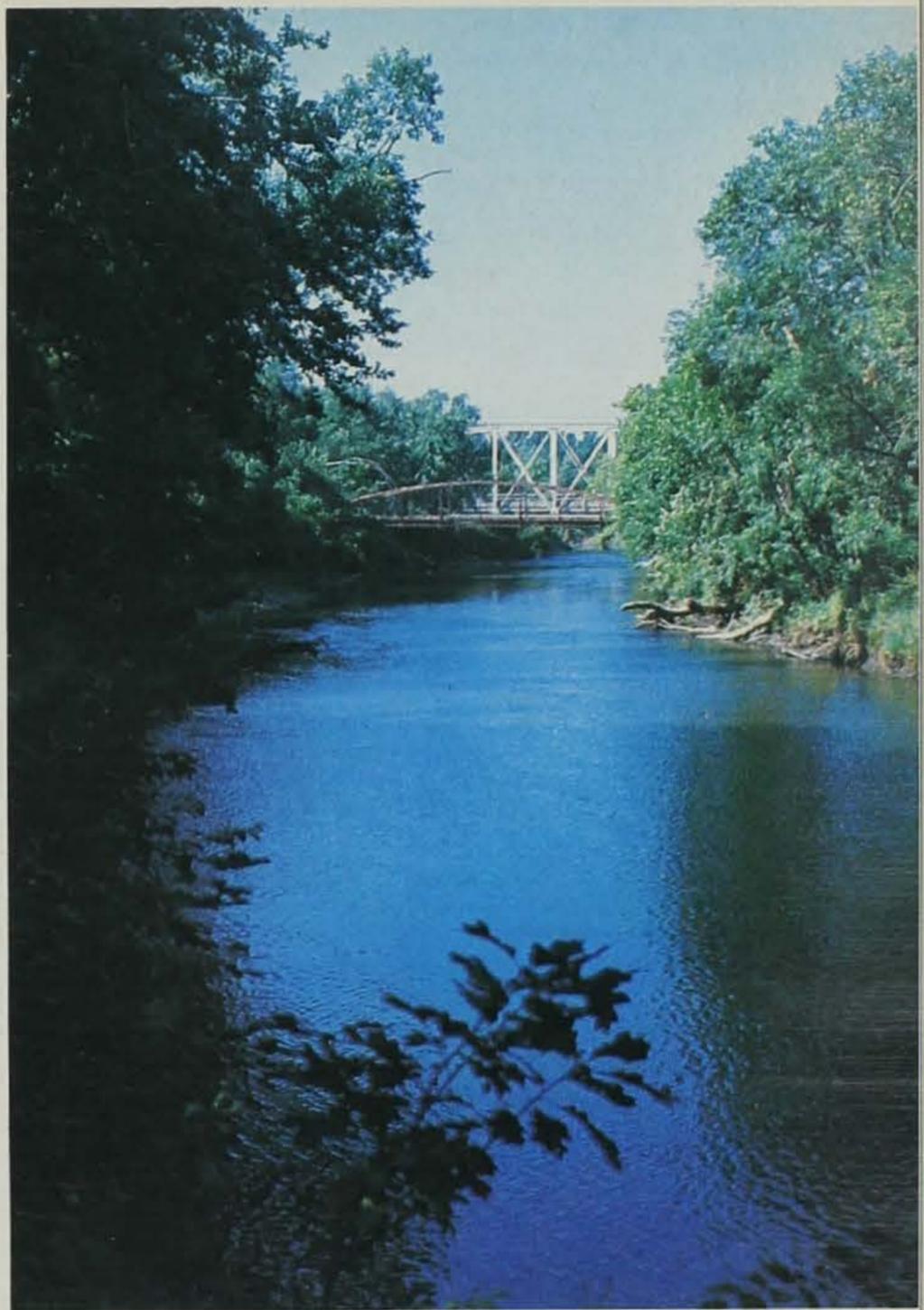
County	Area	Size
Adams	Walters Creek Area	approx 1,740 acres
Appanoose	Rathbun Wildlife Area	approx 4,000 acres
Bremer	Sweet Marsh	approx 900 acres
Guthrie	Bays Branch	approx 530 acres
Johnson	Hawkeye Wildlife Area	approx 9,000 acres
Madison	Badger Creek	approx 775 acres
Marion	Red Rock	approx 16,000 acres
Polk	Big Creek	approx 2,300 acres
Tama	Otter Creek	approx 1,000 acres
Webster	Brushy Creek	3,805 acres

AN ISLAND OF GREEN:

THE PRESERVATION OF A RIVER VALLEY THROUGH ZONING

by Bob Pinneke

Bob Pinneke is Executive Officer of the Story County Conservation Board.



The *Code of Iowa*, Chapter 111A.1, concerning County Conservation Board objectives, states that it will be the responsibility of each Conservation Board to "... promote and preserve the health and general welfare of the people, to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources, and to cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate programs of public recreation."

The Skunk River Greenbelt/Conservation District in Story County has grown out of a realization of the responsibility to fulfill these objectives, through the combined efforts of the citizenry and the various governmental agencies.

History of the Greenbelt Concept

The Greenbelt concept arose in the early 1970's when the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, while proposing the development of a reservoir between Story City and Ames within the Skunk River Valley, was directed as a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A staff of researchers from Iowa State University and the University of Iowa were assembled to assist in preparing the EIS. NEPA requires that a number of alternatives to any project be assessed and that social and environmental considerations be weighed appropriately along with economic factors. A major Greenbelt along the Skunk River Valley was assessed as one of those possible alternatives.

The reservoir was originally conceived as a multi-purpose water resources project. Its primary objectives were to insure high water quality and quantity for the City of Ames, flood control for the lower Skunk River Valley, outdoor water recreation for a nine county Central Iowa region, and incidental fish and wildlife propagation. If constructed, the reservoir would have directly inundated a twelve mile long reach on the upper Skunk River, including fifty-five households and would have forced the displacement of up to one hundred seventy individuals. A number of other households and homeowners outside the acquisition boundaries would have been immediately affected. Local opposition to the reservoir concept ran high in the '60's and '70's. Such opposition was expressed, not only by those citizens being displaced, but by concerned groups and individuals who did not want to allow the destruction of a unique landscape setting and the spending of large amounts of public money necessary for the proposed reservoir construction. They also believed the costs of the project would outweigh the benefits as compared to other alternatives or doing nothing at all. Many who opposed the reservoir construction did so because of their desire to see the Skunk River Valley preserved.

The Skunk River, in Story County, with its meandering stream and wooded valley, is rich in many natural resources, each contributing an important part to the natural resource system. During preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement, the forest inventory showed that twenty-five percent (25%) of the valley woodlands in Story County are contained in the Skunk River Valley, north of Ames, and they are among the highest quality to be found in the county. Mineral extraction is important to the region with sand, gravel, and limestone rock being extracted at several locations for construction materials. Wildlife census data has revealed a quantity and quality level of fair to good in species densities and adequacy of suitable habitat. Archaeological sites were inventoried in a reconnaissance study in 1973 and periods of occupancy identified were the historic Euro-American, native American "Indian" and post-woodland tradition.

The Impact Statement concluded in 1973 stated that any of the reservoir alternatives would have a greater impact on the natural resources than a Greenbelt, open space, or recreational alternative. A suggested "do-nothing" alternative proposed in the EIS posed a threat to the valley as it exists today, because of urban encroachments and other intensive use patterns. The final environmental evaluation recommended the Maximum Greenbelt to be the most favorable alternative. At the time these recommendations were released, in late 1973, the study team expressed great concern that adoption and implementation of the greenbelt or open space alternative would fail because of a lack of public concern and funding, or inadequate local and state initiative.

Quite to the contrary, though, the Story County Conservation Board, working in conjunction with the Story County Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, local citizenry, and various other governmental agencies and concerned groups, have spear-headed a drive which at the present time has resulted in the development of a Greenbelt/Conservation District zone.

The Greenbelt/Conservation Zoning District

On June 30, 1977, the Story County Board of Supervisors adopted a county land use plan. It requires the county to recognize and develop programs to preserve and protect our unique natural resources. The Conservation Board and the County Planning and Zoning Commission introduced the concept of a Greenbelt/Conservation Zoning District, primarily as a method for achieving these objectives.

Whereas the Maximum Greenbelt alternative proposed in the Impact Statement required total public ownership of the land, the Greenbelt/Conservation Zoning District will provide special regulations for the use of lands under private and public ownership in the form of a zoning ordinance.

The basic intent of the Greenbelt/Conservation District, under amendment twenty-eight, Article XXIII-A of the Story County zoning ordinance, is "... to promote water quality and conservation, to protect aquifers, alluvial soils and slopes, and to protect areas which possess outstanding scenic, vegetation, wildlife habitat, travel corridors, geological, historic or recreational values. Structures that are inconsistent with the permitted uses shall not be allowed in the Greenbelt/Conservation District." These regulations will permit reasonable economic use of

property and at the same time protect the natural resources and recreational assets of the area.

As originally conceived, a Greenbelt/Conservation District boundary was defined using the principle criteria of tree cover, floodplain and visual periphery, with secondary criteria including wildlife habitat, slope, geology, soils and historical/archaeological sites. When applied to the Skunk River, the result was a boundary that was curvilinear, following the meandering of the Skunk River between Story City and Ames. Although based on sound criteria, the ultimate boundary proposed was difficult to describe legally as it did not relate to any existing roads or property lines.

After the Greenbelt/Conservation District zoning ordinance was adopted, it became apparent that the ordinance would have little effect on regulating land use if a zoned district could not be based upon legally defined boundaries and specific resource parameters.

The Skunk River Greenbelt/Conservation boundary delineation has been well thought out and based on specific resource parameters along legally definable sections of land. The parameter selection eliminated personal planning judgements. Gerrymandering was employed to exempt specific uses (home, farms, etc.), where they were found to occur outside of these parameters. It is anticipated such parameters could be utilized in defining all critical resource zoning.

The development of planning parameters utilized in the Greenbelt/Conservation District is based on the following criteria: alluvial soils in conjunction with steep slopes (18-40%), location of the floodplain, vegetative cover and its effect on visual periphery from within the river valley, wildlife habitat, and historical/archaeological sites. Legally definable boundaries based on property lines, section lines, and existing road right-of-ways were developed in accordance with these parameters, and adopted as delineated by the Story County Conservation Board and the Story County Planning and Zoning Commission on December 15, 1978. In cases where the boundary line could not be described in these terms, a 100' buffer zone was set aside from the centerline of the Skunk River.

Development on any floodplain land in the State of Iowa is also specifically restricted and controlled by the Iowa Natural Resources Council. The resource inventory prepared for the Ames Reservoir study disclosed the opinion that many soils in the valley and the upland are not conducive to septic tank effluent tile systems, and others are sensitive to intensive use stress by recreational users.

An important objective of the Greenbelt concept would be the provision of the same services that could be afforded by the reservoir alternative, without the immense construction costs, the physical displacement of large numbers of people, and the losses of valuable natural resources, or lands of historic, religious, or ancestral value. Soil and water conservation techniques could be utilized to reduce soil erosion, bank erosion, water sedimentation and turbidity and afford higher water quality and quantity. The Conservation Board supports the concept of developing conservation techniques on a smaller individual basis, thus resulting in far greater monetary and physical resource savings to the general public.

There are a variety of conservation techniques which could be utilized, some of which might include: (1) Encouraging continued contour planting in agricultural areas to combat surface water runoff and increased soil erosion potentials; (2) Developing bank stabilization projects; (3) Planting vegetative buffer zones along waterways to trap sediment; (4) Maintaining soil stabilization projects which would reduce soil loss and maintain a high quality of soil health; (5) Restricting uses which might adversely affect water quality; (6) Restricting floodplain development for flood control purposes; (7) Reforestation of hardwood stands into areas where tree cover has been lost; (8) Preserving and reseedling of native prairie remnants into woodland border areas; (9) Developing habitat management programs for fish and wildlife populations. Providing these services of increased water quality and quantity, along with flood protection, and soil, water and wildlife conservation, through the development of a Greenbelt plan, could go a long ways towards making any future plans for a major reservoir construction unnecessary. The idea of smaller sub-impoundments could also be explored.

Recent surveys by the Iowa Conservation Commission and Iowa State University reveal that nature appreciation activities are receiving the greatest amount of attention by Iowa residents when compared to other forms of outdoor recreation. With other large reservoirs within an hour's drive, which offer little in the way of true natural areas, the Skunk River

Conservation Officer Awarded



Iowa Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer Pat Tilley of Creston has been presented an award for outstanding and dedicated service to area sportsmen by Creston radio station KSIB. The presentation was made as a result of Tilley's weekly radio show which first aired in 1953. Mary McConville of KSIB made the presentation last fall on the anniversary of the first show.

Ahead of Their Time



On May 4, 1979, the day before the great Iowa clean-up day, our FFA chapter and Ecology class from our school were let out of a day of school to perform our yearly clean-up.

This year we walked 21 miles of road ditches, picked up the dam area of Rush Lake, emptied the rubbish barrels we placed at Pickeral Lake in a previous year, and picked up litter around dry Mud Lake. At total, we picked up 4358 lbs. of cans, signs, paper and other garbage.

—David Long, Chapter Secretary, Laurens-Marathon FFA

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and recrea-
greenbelt publicly owned lands could provide any area suitable for nature
related recreation: i.e. camping, hiking, canoeing, wildlife appreciation,
etc. The Conservation Board and local educational institutions have
already developed and implemented programs in environmental educa-
tion and awareness with the hope of expanding on these.

One of the primary objectives of the Conservation Board is to provide
increased public access to the Skunk River and to associated forested
lands. The Skunk River Greenbelt/Conservation District as proposed
encompasses approximately 2,100 acres of land, of which approximately
1,400 acres are within the floodplain as designated by the U. S. Army
Corps of Engineers. Public lands, to date, in the Skunk River Green-
belt/Conservation District total 725 acres. With the acceptance of the
Skunk River Greenbelt/Conservation District, total public ownership
is not required.

The Conservation Board has plans to acquire additional lands as they
may be offered for sale, primarily for access to water or public recreation
lands. It is important to note, though, that the Conservation Board has no
plans of using the Greenbelt/Conservation Zoning District to force prop-
erty values down and result in the ultimate acquisition of all of the lands
into the public domain.

There is too often the misconception that a Greenbelt/Conservation
District means open access of all lands to the public. This, however,
would not be the case. A majority of the lands will remain in private
ownership, thus requiring the general public to respect the rights of the
individual landowner. The Conservation Board asks for the cooperation
of the public in manners concerning access to private and public lands,
and will clearly designate the delineation between the two, along with
accepted uses in the various public lands.

The Story County Conservation Board and staff, in cooperation with
the Story County Planning and Zoning Commission support the exercise
of utilizing police power in preserving critical resource areas. This support
is shared by many citizens within the county as well. The Conservation
Board, in reviewing legal case studies throughout the United States, feel
the establishment of the Skunk River Greenbelt/Conservation district is
not confiscatory, arbitrary, vague or capricious, and provides for the
public welfare by preserving critical resource areas.

An Island of Green

The Greenbelt/Conservation District is intended and designed to pro-
vide special regulations for the use of lands which are designated for
conservation and/or recreational purposes. In the officially adopted
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan for Story County, as acknowl-
edged by the Story County Conservation Board and the Story County
Board of Supervisors, the regulations controlled by the Story County
Planning and Zoning Commission, will permit reasonable economic use
of property, and at the same time, protect the natural resources and
recreational assets of the area.

Permitted uses include agriculture, truck gardening, tree farms, or-
chards, apiaries, wildlife preserves and sustained yield forestry. Clean
cutting of forests is prohibited. Livestock grazing is also allowed. Soil and
water conservation structures are permitted as well as most outdoor
recreational facilities.

The Greenbelt/Conservation District Zoning Ordinance allows the
Story County Conservation Board or other public agencies involved in
planning from time to time, to review any new information which
may effect the Greenbelt/Conservation District boundary. Based on
that new information, the adopted boundary may be altered, changed, or
otherwise redefined.

Boundary adjustments become effective upon approval by the Story
County Board of Supervisors after holding a public hearing and receiving
recommendations from the Story County Conservation Board and the
Story County Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Skunk River Greenbelt/Conservation District was officially
adopted on December 28, 1978, by the Story County Board of Super-
visors. Hopefully, Greenbelt/Conservation zoning can become an ef-
fective tool to provide for the future designation and protection of
critical resources. □

Portions of this document were contributed by Ken Smith, former Administrator of the Story
County Planning and Zoning Commission, County Conservation Board Chairman, Donald E.
Boles, and Story County Conservation Board staff members.

HAWK (Continued from Page 9)

onto the tree with the other arm and a bumble bee sitting on an eyebrow, one can become amazingly agile. After enthusiastically thumping my head against the tree to kill the bee, I ascended to the nest in record time, replaced the hawk and cautiously descended. This young hawk proved to be a match for any further challenges for the next 12 years at which time it was recovered near the nest. To survive a decade or more of Iowa winters, living off the land, requires no small amount of hunting skill. Do you begin to see why I respect them so much?

The young Red-tails that survive their first winter return the following spring, still wearing their juvenile plumage and will not achieve a red tail until late summer of the year after hatching, or when they are about 16 months old. They still have the

dark breast band of the immature, but this will become less pronounced with the years. These immature birds have no territory and, if they innocently wander into the territory of an adult pair, are chased away and forced to take up residence in an unoccupied area until late the following winter when they are sexually mature and may serve as replacements for mates lost during the year. In late winter they may be seen perched with their new mate on a branch or seen soaring with their mate, or . . . but that's where we started, isn't it?

A small but dedicated group of volunteers assist me in banding young Red-tails in spring, and, in 1978, approximately 100 were thus marked. Already four have been recovered, one just a few miles from the nest, one about 100 miles northwest of Minneapolis and

two from Alabama. Recoveries from this group of banded hawks will occur for years as we continue to piece together the basic biology of the species.

Remember a few things — trod the woodlands carefully in the spring. If your thoughts are interrupted by a piercing scream from above, it means you may be interrupting the magical cycle of rejuvenation occurring in the forest canopy, so don't tarry. Remember that all hawks are protected by state and federal law, so never take a careless shot at one while you are hunting. If you should find a banded hawk, be sure to report the number to the address stamped on the band. Remember also that Iowa's woodlands are vanishing rapidly, forcing this hawk into marginal habitats. It will need our help if it is to remain as a part of our natural heritage.

"LET'S GO on a Snipe Hunt! I know where to find some!" What is going through your mind? One of those campsite specials; a roof-top sniper; a tour through a marsh; or wading in a stream are all possibilities.

Around the turn of the century, interest in real snipe (see photo) hunting was high. The tradition of snipe hunting was practically eliminated by the thirteen-year closed season, beginning in 1941. There is a trend of increased interest in this game bird resource. Yet there will always be a problem for this and other wetland species as they compete for land.

The snipe is a swift, erratic flyer and can be found in a wide ranging area. It is an edible bird, well worth the time spent hunting it.

In the field, the species is identified not only by its rapid and irregular wing beats and fast flight, but also the "scaipe" note emitted when the bird is flushed. The snipe ranges in size from 10-11½ inches — including its bill. It has a long, straight bill, a longitudinally striped crown, variegated upper parts and a white belly.

The bird does migrate, but does not demonstrate the "flock behavior" of most shore birds. It is during these migrations I have observed most of the snipe I have seen.

Food studies indicate that the majority of the food



Courtesy U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Classroom Corner

by Bob Rye

ADMINISTRATOR, CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

consumed is animal matter. The food does vary with the particular habitat that the bird is using. Snipes probe the muck finding insects, earthworms, crustacea, arachnids and molluscs.

Your studies of a stream could produce a snipe fly. Snipe flies belong to the order Diptera. This order includes mosquitoes, horseflies and the common house fly. As an adult, they all have a single pair of wings. The snipe fly is usually discussed at the Center when a stream population is being studied.

The larvae of the snipe fly is aquatic. This is a stage which lives in the water. They get into the water when the adult, which is usually found

around low bushes, foliage and tall grasses, lays eggs on twigs which over hang the streams. Upon hatching, the larvae fall into the water. The larvae are elongated and cylindrical and are usually identified by the presence of two long fringed terminal filaments. They are important in classes in showing the diversity of a stream and are food for other animals such as fish in the stream.

The campsite specials — "Snipe Hunting" — has always been an activity related to camps and camp-like activities. This activity is first into the minds of Center visitors when the common snipe or snipe flies are mentioned.

A "Snipe Hunt" does require the presence of a good sense of humor by any participant. The "hunters" are stationed at various isolated locations. They are told to beat a rock or tree and to call out while they try to get a "snipe" into their bag. The majority of the group leaves to "act as drivers". They are supposed to move the "snipe" to the "hunters". They usually head back to the buildings to laugh and wait for the "hunters" to show up. We have had this activity occur three nights in a row when some really eager "hunters" pressed for continuation.

All three activities — hunting for common snipe, the snipe fly, or the nonexistent snipe — move the observer into a part of the world he or she hasn't experienced. One must experience these in order to appreciate the value of our natural resources.

People continually come to the Center and have never experienced a search through a marsh, a stream or the night in the forest and grassland. If you haven't had these experiences try them. Stand in a marsh and observe what is moving around you. Wade in a stream and pick up rocks, plants and water and observe the many different types of organisms living there. Walk in the dark — no flashlights allowed — and observe the sounds and animals that are moving in the night.

LOOKIN' BACK

Ten years ago



the Iowa Conservationist featured an article on the Upper Iowa River. For many years a favorite river of many Iowans, the Upper Iowa was being studied for possible inclusion in the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Later it was determined that this program might not be the best approach to preserving the river and the Conservation Commission has since acquired additional land along the Upper Iowa in a continuing program for its benefit.

Twenty years ago



the magazine ran a cover story on the Upland Game Bird forecast for 1959. The year before about a million and a half ring-necked pheasants were harvested but the winter was hard on the birds and poor weather conditions during the nesting season gave the population a bit of a set back. When the season was over however, it was just as good a year as the one before.

The dam at Prairie Rose Lake in Shelby County was contracted for at a price of \$225,000.

Thirty years ago



the Iowa Co-operative Wildlife Research Unit was entering its fifteenth year. The program was sponsored by the Iowa Conservation Commission, Iowa State College in Ames, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Management Institute. The oldest program of its kind in the United States, it is still in existence today.

It was reported that President Truman vetoed the Dingell Bill which was similar to the Pittman-Robertson Act passed some time before. Apparently Harry said "Show Me" and the bill wasn't successful until later.

Warden's Diary

by Rex Emerson

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISOR

THE OLD MAN who lives down by the river said, "The reason a dollar won't do as much for people as it once did is because people won't do as much for a dollar as they once did."

Many of the hunting and trapping seasons are now open. Like last year, the Conservation Officers are getting assistance from the Park Rangers, Waters Officers and the Wildlife and Fisheries Biologists. This year the Wildlife and Fisheries biologists have been appointed as officers. They have had training in this field and are quite capable of doing a good job as an officer. In the future we won't be hearing the hunter say, "I've been hunting for thirty years and this is the first time anyone asked to check my license."

With only sixty Fish and Game Conservation Officers in the state it is difficult to be every place that we are needed. The additional officers in the field will act as a deterrent and actually cut down on the number of fish and game violations. That is exactly how it should work. It is more sensible to prevent a deer from being killed out of season than to catch someone after the deer is dead. No amount of fine will bring that deer back to life.

We won't be out of business, however. There are always some people who will violate the laws. Last night we had the airplane out to assist us. One officer was in the plane with a two-way radio. Six of us were in cars spread

across two counties. We kept our cars out of sight and let the pilot and the officer in the plane do the looking. That plane is the most effective way of catching illegal "jacklighters" at night.

It is unlawful to use a light to spot any game, except furbearing animals that have been treed by a dog. If the season is open and your dog treed a raccoon or other furbearing animal, then, and only then can you shine your light on the animal.

Some people get purposely confused about this law. Last night the officer in the plane saw a spotlight working and gave the location to the officers on the ground. As we usually do in such a situation, the two officers who were the closest to the reported location headed that direction. When they got close to the area the officer in the plane directed them in so one officer would be in front of the "jacklighter" and one behind him. Both officers in the cars saw the spotlight flash around for a few seconds and then it went out. That is what usually happens with a "spotlighter" sees car lights. He turns the spotlight off, thinking he won't get caught.

The officers turned on their red lights and stopped the vehicle. It was a pickup truck with only one man in it, and sitting on the seat next to him was a little rat terrier dog.

When the officers approached the vehicle the man stuck his head out of the window and said, "It's O.K., officers. I'm hunting with a dog."

Well, it just doesn't work that way. It was explained to him that the dog must do the hunting for the man and not the other way around. The officers seized two raccoons, a hand held spotlight and a .22 cal. rifle as evidence. The rifle would be returned after all court procedures. The raccoons and the spotlight, with the judge's approval, will be confiscated.

Another call soon came from the plane about a spotlight working at a different location. This time only one car was close enough to get there. The spotlighters saw the officer coming and tried to get away. They were travelling at high speed and the dust was bad behind them. The officer was getting directions of travel from the plane and just stayed back out of the dust. Each time they turned a corner the officer followed them. This continued for half an hour before they finally gave up and stopped.

Their first question was, "How did you do that in all the dust we were kicking up?"

The officer in the plane then directed me to where he had observed a flashlight out in the woods. He hadn't seen it shining in the treetops, but maybe it should be checked out.

When I had gotten as close as I could with the car, the officer in the plane gave me final directions and I took off on foot.

By this time I could hear hounds and it didn't take long to find the hunters. There were four of them and they were using a three cell flashlight to see to walk with, so there was no violation as far as the light was concerned. Their only problem was that one of them didn't have a hunting license.

Anyone who is in pursuit of game must have a hunting license and a habitat stamp. A nonresident raccoon hunter would also need a \$100.00 raccoon stamp.

That airplane is a good law enforcement tool. If you are a violator, don't bet too much that you won't get caught.

