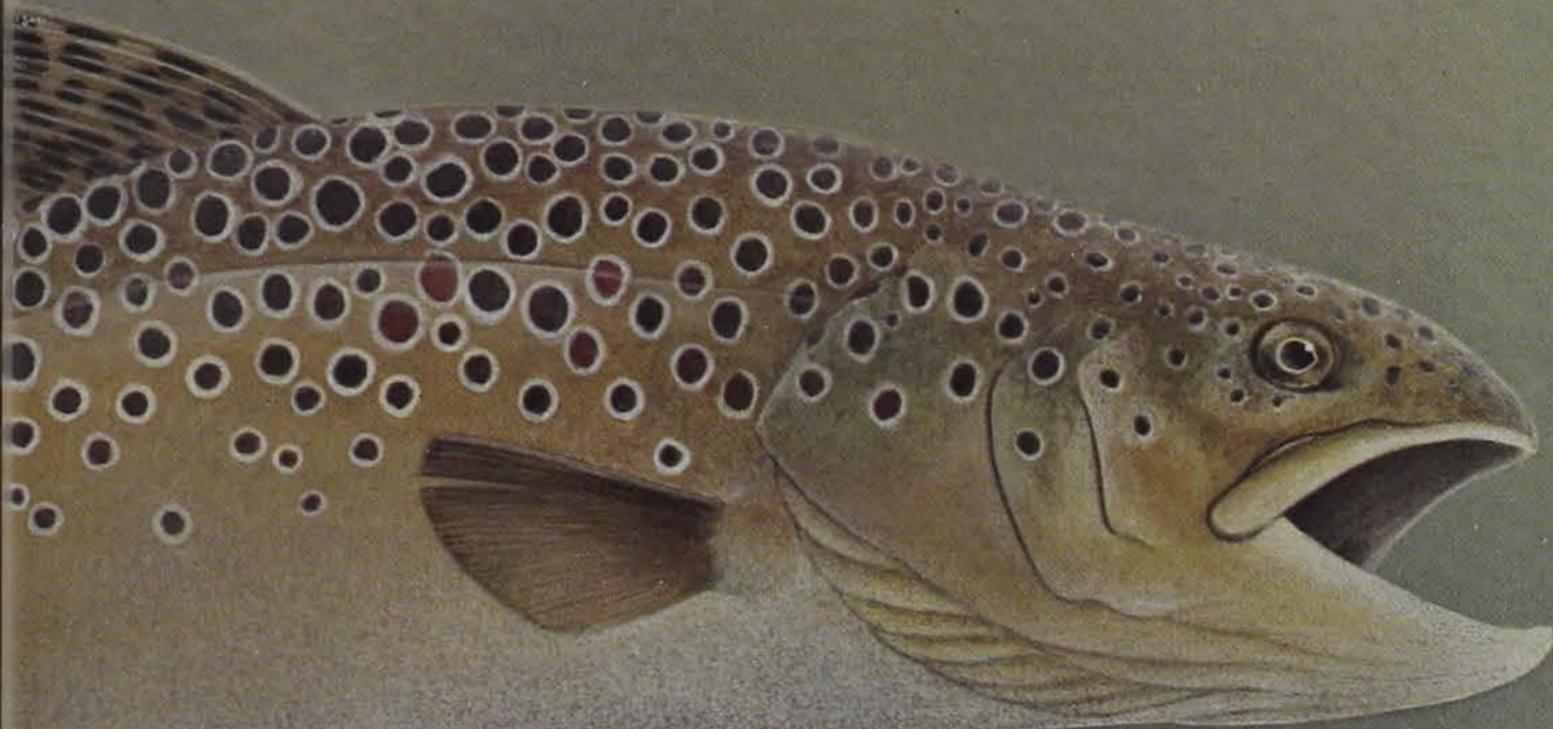


APRIL 1980

# conservationist



by Ron Johnson

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CONTENTS FOR APRIL, 1980

- 2 A RED ROCK HIGH
- 3 BIG CREEK AND SAYLORVILLE
- 4 THOUGHTS ON FISHING
- 5 A MEASURE FOR QUALITY IN SMALLMOUTH BASS
- 6 BANNER YEAR FOR TURKEYS
- 8 PINICON RIDGE
- 10 MOURNING DOVE NESTING STUDIES
- 11 PASQUE FLOWER
- 12 FARM GAME HABITAT DEVELOPMENT IN THE BLACKHAWK UNIT
- 14 WARDEN'S DIARY
- 14 1980 NON-GAME CERTIFICATE
- 15 LOOKIN' BACK
- 15 CLASSROOM CORNER

COVER

1980 Trout Stamp artwork by Paul Bridgford.

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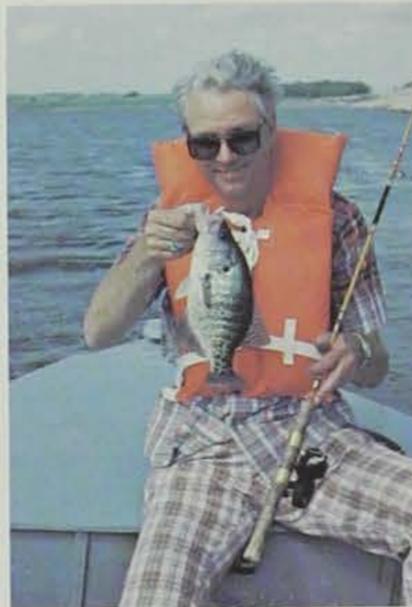


ALTHOUGH NOT MANAGED for recreation, Red Rock reservoir offers a unique boating experience. When heavy spring rains swell the Des Moines River and its tributaries, the flood control reservoir may expand from some 9,000 acres to 50,000 acres or more. When this happens, the water in the 30 mile-long pool drops its load of silt in the upper end where the current disappears. This silting out process results in the creation of an unusual phenomenon in Iowa during a wet spring — a clear water lake.

The original conservation or normal pool level was established at 725' above sea level. The Corps is studying the effects of permanently raising that minimum level to 728' and that level is currently being maintained as a part of the study. Higher water levels would further enhance recreation. Mother nature temporarily provides that opportunity in the springtime.

Photos by Ken Formanek

Red Rock may rise some 30 to 50 feet as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers holds water from the lower Des Moines and Mississippi. Though this flood pool may last only a few weeks, it creates a "new" lake, putting water back into the hills bordering the wide floodplain. The lake takes on an entirely different look with timber-lined bays and flooded creek

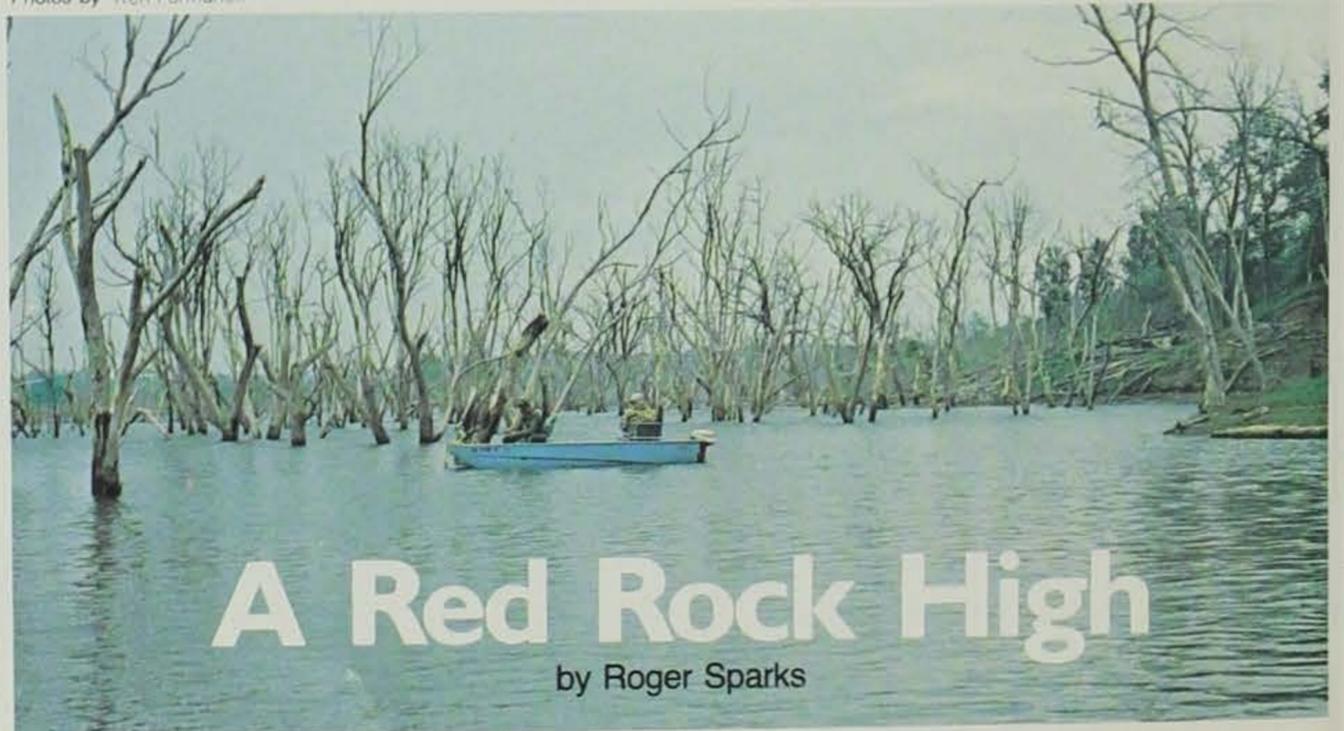


channels winding for a half mile or more through the brushy terrain. Even a larger pleasure boat can maneuver back into a narrow, but deep inlet, hidden beneath an awning of oak branches.

It's not a bad idea to include a fishing rod, along with the proper safety equipment, lunch and suntan lotion. During some years, crappie fishing is good in the bays, although it may take a considerable amount of searching to find just the right spot. White bass often school up near the dam and channel catfish may be caught almost anywhere.

There are several things the Red Rock boater must remember. First, big water and heavy wind are dangerous. A "Nor'wester" will sweep the lake from stem to stern and when that occurs, Red Rock is simply no place for boating. The lake is wide enough, particularly at high stages, to make a strong wind from any direction unpleasant, if not

(Continued on Page 14)



# A Red Rock High

by Roger Sparks

# BIG CREEK & SAYLORVILLE

## Fishing Outlook Good

by Sonny Satre

Central Iowa anglers should experience some outstanding fishing this year based on the predictions of Tom Putnam, Commission fisheries management biologist. According to Putnam, some of the best "hot" spots are right on the capital city's doorstep — Big Creek, Saylorville and the Des Moines River.

Let's delve into each area and see why Putnam offers such an optimistic forecast.

### Big Creek

Big Creek Lake is located just north of Polk City in Polk County. The 885 acre lake is relatively new, being impounded in 1972. According to Putnam, Big Creek should offer anglers a wide variety of fishing action. At the top of the list is crappie with bluegill a close second. Most crappies will average about one-half pound while nice-sized scrappy bluegills are expected to be quite common in the angler's creel.

Surveys show healthy populations of largemouth bass with many of them exceeding the 12 inch minimum size limit. Walleyes in the two to three pound bracket are quite prevalent and will continue to provide much interest. Channel catfish occupy their share of Big Creek waters with many of them running six to eight pounds. For an added bonus, although difficult to catch, some tackle-busting muskellunge and tiger muskies roam the depths. Some smallmouth bass exist in Big Creek offering an additional opportunity.

Boat motors up to six horsepower are permitted at Big Creek.

### Saylorville Reservoir

Putnam classifies Saylorville as very underfished with tremendous potential for the angler. New lakes usually provide excellent fishing and Saylorville shouldn't be an exception. The lake was impounded in 1977. It should be in its prime in 1980 providing the lake doesn't experience drastic fluctuations and turbidity from heavy upstream rains.

Walleye angling is virtually untapped. Conservative population estimates based on the survival rate of walleye fry stocked since the lake was impounded is at least 200,000 one to two pound fish. Besides the much sought after walleye, there are plenty of crappie of various sizes running from five to eleven inches throughout the 5,400 acre lake. Largemouth bass are available in good numbers, but fish must be at least 12 inches to be legal keepers. Putnam assures there are many bass that easily surpass the length limit. Don't be surprised if you hook into some nice northern pike. Creel surveys show many of these top quality sportfish in the six and eight pound class. Both species of catfish, channel and flathead, are available along with some fine bullhead fishing.

There are no restrictions on boat motor size at Saylorville or the Des Moines River.

### Des Moines River

The Des Moines River above Saylorville is teeming with catfish. In fact, Putnam says more catfish die of old age than are caught. Beginning at the Iowa Highway #17 bridge and working upstream is considered the best bet. Also in certain stretches there are some excellent walleye "hangouts." Limits of five walleye were quite common during the 1979 fishing season all the way to the Fraser Dam located in Boone County. There is no reason why this shouldn't be true again this year.

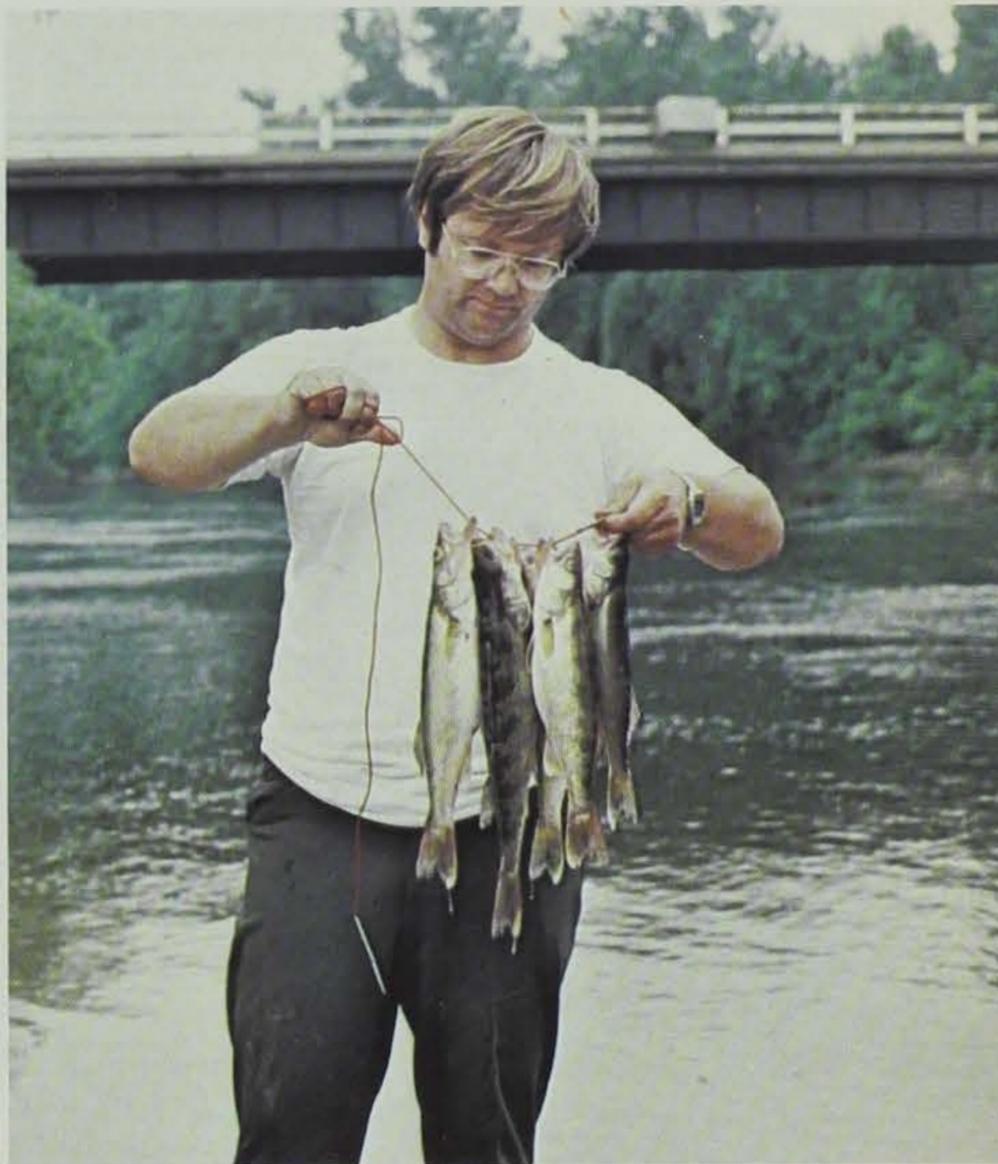


Photo by the Author

From the Scott Street Dam in Des Moines and on downstream to Red Rock is an angler's paradise but you will do better from a boat, especially in some of the isolated stretches. At the Scott Street Dam, early spring anglers usually find white bass angling the big attraction. Also some nice walleyes and northern pike are taken here. Anglers should note, however, wet springs and heavy rainfall often hamper the fishing by keeping the water level too high. During the summer months the area is known for its channel and flathead catfish. On downstream there are some good areas for walleye along gravel bars and rocky rubble areas. In most of the downstream stretches, the channel catfish is king. There is also some very good fishing for flatheads in this region.

With the energy crunch affecting everybody who drives a car, it may pay dividends to fish closer to home. This poses no problem for central Iowa anglers — their fishing is the best it's ever been.

*Iowa offers some top-notch fishing opportunities in most areas of the state. For your guide to Iowa angling write for a free copy of the IOWA FISHING GUIDE. Send request to the Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.*

# Thoughts on Fishing



by Bob Mullen

STATE CONSERVATION OFFICER

Photo by the Author

FROM the early times of recorded history to the present, man has fished. Primitive man was a fisherman, but his sole motive was to obtain food for subsistence. The principle means for catching fish used by early man were nets, spears and some hand lines. Early Egyptian nobility were the first people who enjoyed fishing as a sport. Other than such wealthy individuals, others continued to fish for food.

In the early 17th century such individuals as John Milton, John Donne, and Izaak Walton made tremendous contributions to fishing as a sport. Walton, who lived in England, believed that outwitting any fish was great pleasure, if done for the sport. Walton had little use for those he considered fishmongers — taking all they could by whatever method used.

If we look back on our youth, we may remember fishing for chubs or suckers with a cane pole or fresh cut sapling. The excitement and fun of using an old cane pole to catch chubs from the creek is never to be forgotten. As we became older we felt we needed more sophisticated and complicated fishing equipment. A different fishing outfit was needed for each type of fishing that we did. One would think that using such fishing equipment would bring added enjoyment to fishing. A funny thing happens, nothing can equal or add to that first fishing trip as a youngster with the old cane pole.

The fisherman quickly learns there are many facets of fishing. The ardent fisherman is a ichthyologist of sorts, familiar with life cycles and feeding habits of the fish he seeks. He is an

amateur entomologist, fully aware of the various insect life of the waters which he fishes. The fisherman is a dabbler into meteorology, as he is aware of the weather patterns and the effect they have on fishing. A bit of mechanical ability is in every fisherman. He knows and respects his equipment and must know how to make emergency repairs when necessary.

Why do people fish? It's impossible to give a single reason. What causes an otherwise sane, normal individual to stand for hours in hot waders, in a rain, casting his fishing rod until his arm aches? He comes home from such a day possibly fishless, but is ready to go again when the first opportunity exists. Does man go through all this today because of a desire for fish to eat? Doubtfully, for a fraction of the time and money involved you could saunter down to the corner market and buy a package of fish.

As a conservation officer, I have seen fishermen use all their skill plus a bit of luck, to bring to the landing net a lunker bass or huge catfish only to release it. After losing gear from casting into brush and weed infested waters, which seem to gobble up fishing gear, why would one release such a well deserved catch? Some call it sport, others respect. The enjoyment is in hooking and bringing in a fish you have conquered in its own environment. The fellow that releases such a fish is giving someone else the chance to have the enjoyment of the catch and feeling the surging power at the end of his line. The fisherman that returns a large fish to the water is giving the fish a well earned "thank you" for those moments of joy he had in catching such a prize. Part of the pleasure of fishing is becoming proficient enough to accurately present a fly to a deep trout pool overhung with vegetation, or a well executed cast into just the right spot where a large bass lingers. Yet, it's definitely more than all those previously mentioned things that makes fishing so popular. It's an engrained age-old desire that moves the trout purist, as well as the kid fishing for bullheads with a cane pole. It has a bit to do with the peace and quiet, and taking time to think and really look at one's self. For a moment, the fisherman realizes that the world around him can go on but nothing else really matters at that moment . . . while he is fishing.

# A Measure for Quality in Smallmouth Bass

by Vaughn L. Paragamian FISHERIES RESEARCH BIOLOGIST

After three tries I finally dropped my 1/8 ounce jig into the precise spot. The jig settled as I started a medium retrieve interrupted by repeated twitches with my rod tip. The white jig traveled only a few feet before a scrappy 10 inch smallmouth bass was hooked. The bass gave it everything it had including several aerial leaps to shake the hook, but the fight was over after I grabbed the bass by the lower jaw, removed the hook and then released the fish. It was the ninth bass of the morning, but all had been less than a foot in length. I wanted to catch a few bigger fish, that is, a couple of fish at least 12 inches long or even a real trophy keeper of 18 inches or more.

When it comes to fishing and size of a fish, "quality" means something different to everyone. This is not a discussion to establish who may be right or wrong. But, as a fisheries biologist I find myself using the word "quality" more frequently these days. The plain fact is there aren't many big bass in northeast Iowa streams anymore. In fact, few bass in these streams are over 12 inches long. Most have been caught before they can reach a larger size.

The Fisheries Section has conducted a research study of smallmouth bass over the past three years. The study included growth, habitat, size structure, abundance and characteristics of the anglers' catch. Most of the smallmouth bass populations caught in northeast Iowa streams had several similarities. Their growth was excellent, most were 1 to 3 years old and most were small.

Habitat was found to be the most important factor determining smallmouth bass distribution or abundance. Habitat (gravel and cobble) is important to bass for spawning, food production and cover. However, this did not explain why research crews seldom found large bass even in good habitat. It

was found that bass over 11" were seldom caught from the more heavily used portions of streams. Stream segments with the better fishermen access contained the fewest quality sized bass.

*Photos by the Author*

Life history studies of smallmouth bass indicated most bass in Iowa grow fast; actually better than fish in most neighboring states. Many bass in Iowa streams reach 12 inches during their

third year of life; however, it takes 4 years for the majority of bass to reach what many of us call a "quality size" of 12 inches.

Smallmouth bass were also found more numerous in Iowa



streams when compared to similar streams in other states. This is probably due to the fertile water which produces an abundance of food. The number of bass available in a given year is variable, however, due to weather conditions and flooding which hurts reproduction.

In our study, electrofishing was used each year to make population size estimates of selected reaches of the streams. Bass were marked or tagged so they could be individually identified. On the average, 33% of the bass over 7½ inches long were caught. Also of concern was the total number of bass that died each season of natural causes and fishing. About 65% of the bass one year or older die each season and over 50% of these bass are harvested by fishermen. When we considered all of these factors, it is not surprising so few bass live long enough to grow to "quality size".

One of the most practical and acceptable methods of controlling the harvest of fish by the angler is to implement a minimum length limit so the smaller fish in the population are protected.

The question remains what length would provide more "quality sized" bass. The research on smallmouth bass in northeast Iowa streams clearly showed a 12 inch minimum length limit would be effective in most inland streams. Length limits are nothing new to this state or for that matter in most states. A 10-inch length limit was once imposed on smallmouth bass but that was to protect a segment of the adult bass population for spawning. The regulation was dropped many years ago because it was proven that spawning was not the main problem.

The 12 inch length limit on smallmouth bass that was initiated on interior Iowa streams this year will improve

the chances of a bass living to age four or a "quality size". The catch rate and bass fishing action will increase although many sublegal bass will have to be released. In fact, the total weight of bass caught and kept by Iowa fishermen will increase considerably. A reduction in the total number of bass taken will be the only predictable tradeoff.

The minimum length limit will not improve bass habitat, only wise land use will halt the continuous degradation of Iowa streams.

It will take at least two years before fishermen notice a change in bass size. A research project will commence this year to monitor the success of the 12 inch length limit on smallmouth bass and its effectiveness to control chronic overharvest by fishermen.

The success of any regulation to improve fishing is

dependent on angler acceptance. Over 82% of the interviewed on the Maquoketa River favored a length limit on smallmouth bass. The goal of these fishermen, as it is of most, is to have quality fishing. Included in this experience is the opportunity to relax and not only to catch fish, but "quality size" fish.



## Banner Year for Turkeys

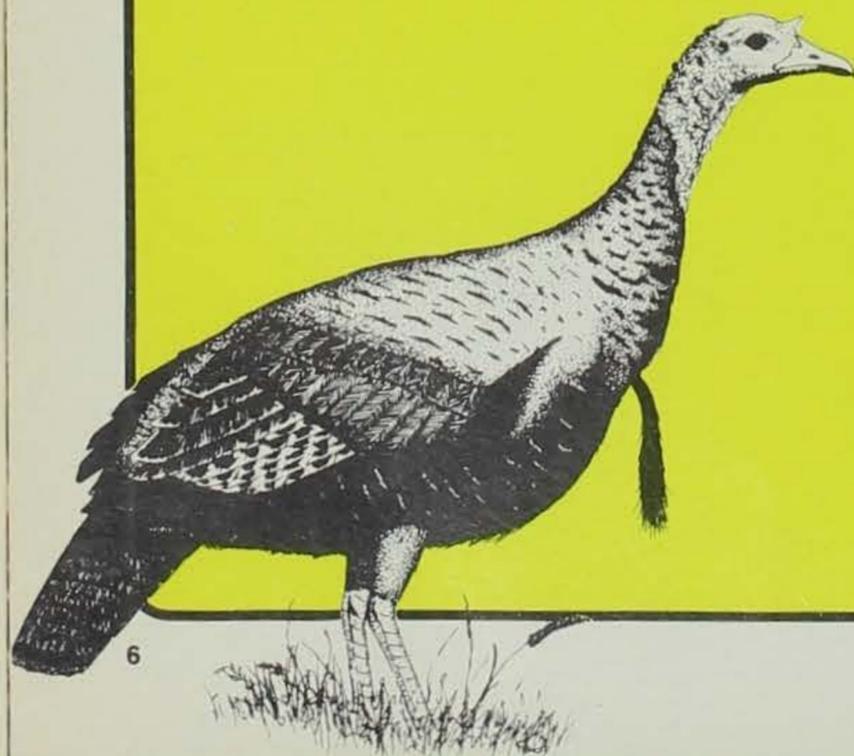
The 1979 turkey season was a great one for Iowa hunters. Not only were there many successful gobbler hunters, but 109 of them shot turkeys big enough to qualify for Iowa trophy turkey awards.

If that wasn't enough, the state record was broken not once but twice last spring. The first bird turned in was one weighing 27 lb. 8 oz. taken in Allamakee County by John Hockspeier of Alta Vista. A short time later another bird weighing an even 28 pounds was entered by Ronald D. Brown of Burlington. Brown took his bird in Des Moines County.

All indications point to another great year in 1980. If you are one of the lucky ones to shoot a turkey weighing 23 pounds or more you may enter it for inclusion on the 1980 list. You will also receive a certificate and colorful shoulder patch in recognition of your trophy. See your license package for details.

### ALL-TIME TOP TEN (with ties)

Name and Address	Weight	Date	County Taken
Ronald D. Brown Burlington	28 lb. 0 oz.	4-22-79	Des Moines
John Hockspeier Alta Vista	27 lb. 8 oz.	4-26-79	Allamakee
Greg Smith Donnellson	27 lb. 0 oz.	5-3-75	Lee
Dennis W. Proctor Corydon	26 lb. 15 oz.	4-21-78	Lucas
Ron Johns Allerton	26 lb. 12 oz.	4-20-79	Lucas
Todd Poulson Swisher	26 lb. 12 oz.	4-20-79	Iowa
C. L. Current Monroe	26 lb. 9½ oz.	4-20-78	Monroe
Durlin Meyers Waterloo	26 lb. 9 oz.	4-22-79	Van Buren
William D. Cook St. Charles	26 lb. 8 oz.	4-22-79	Lucas
Robert J. Daniels Moulton	26 lb. 8 oz.	5-8-79	Appanoose
Roland H. Meyer Chariton	26 lb. 8 oz.	4-20-79	Lucas
Tim Plimmer Des Moines	26 lb. 8 oz.	4-22-78	Clarke
P. K. Vondra Grimes	26 lb. 8 oz.	4-21-79	Clarke



# 1979 CERTIFIED TROPHY TURKEYS

Name and Address	Weight	Beard	Spur	Date	County Taken
Ronald D. Brown Burlington	28 lb.	10 1/2"	1 1/4"	4-22	Des Moines
John Hockspeier Alta Vista	27 lb. 8 oz.	9 3/4"	1 1/8"	4-26	Allamakee
Ron Johns Allerton	26 lb. 12 oz.	10"	1 1/8"	4-20	Lucas
Todd Poulson Swisher	26 lb. 12 oz.	10"	1 1/8"	4-20	Iowa
Durlin Meyers Waterloo	26 lb. 9 oz.	10 7/8"	1"	4-22	Van Buren
William D. Cook St. Charles	26 lb. 8 oz.	11"	1 1/4"	4-22	Lucas
Robert J. Daniels Moulton	26 lb. 8 oz.	10"	1 1/4"	5-8	Appanoose
Roland H. Meyer Chariton	26 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/4"	1 1/4"	4-20	Lucas
P. K. Vondra Grimes	26 lb. 8 oz.	9 3/4"	1 1/4"	4-21	Clarke
John Chapin Buffalo	26 lb. 4 oz.	10"	1 1/4"	4-27	Lee
Tom Burreson Decorah	26 lb. 2 oz.	11 1/4"	7/8"	5-4	Winneshiek
Wm. W. Hoscheid Des Moines	26 lb. 2 oz.	10 7/8"	1 1/8"	5-3	Clarke
Duane T. Durian Ottumwa	26 lb. 1 oz.	11"	1 1/4"	5-5	Davis
Dr. Robert Bryant Aurelia	26 lb.	10"	1 1/4"	4-26	Lucas
John Hershey Altoona	26 lb.	10"	3/4"	5-3	Clarke
Michael Inman Van Meter	25 lb. 10 oz.	10 3/4"	1 1/2"	5-8	Lucas
Randy Benish Fairfax	25 lb. 8 oz.	9"	3/4"	4-21	Lucas
David Claeys Victor	25 lb. 8 oz.	11"	3/4"	4-19	Lee
Leslie E. Dorsett Indianola	25 lb. 8 oz.	10"	1 3/8"	4-20	Clarke
Robert Livingston Guttenberg	25 lb. 8 oz.	10"	7/8"	5-3	Clayton
Bob Davidson Des Moines	25 lb. 7 oz.	10 1/4"	1 1/8"	4-26	Lucas
Bob Rouse Des Moines	25 lb. 5 oz.	9"	1"	4-20	Lucas
Michael J. W. Sells Wapello	25 lb. 4 oz.	10 1/2"	1 1/8"	4-20	Jefferson
Lee R. Fulton Missouri Valley	25 lb.	9 3/8"	1"	4-19	Lucas
Bobby M. Jackson Thayer	25 lb.	10"	1"	4-26	Union
George E. Scall Ottumwa	25 lb.	12"	1 3/8"	4-21	Davis
Douglas R. Wirth Ames	25 lb.	11"	3/4"	4-22	Clarke
Donald P. Baker Des Moines	24 lb. 15 oz.	9"	3/4"	4-26	Wapello
Ricky A. Hawley Belmond	24 lb. 14 oz.	10"	1 1/4"	5-3	Clayton
Thomas L. Place Janesville	24 lb. 14 oz.	10 1/8"	1/2"	4-22	Jefferson
Rex Armstrong Van Wert	24 lb. 12 oz.	10"	1 1/8"	4-23	Clarke
Russell E. Davis Des Moines	24 lb. 12 oz.	9 3/4"	1"	4-25	Monroe
Melvin H. Grief Grimes	24 lb. 12 oz.	10 1/4"	1 1/4"	4-20	Clarke
Jim Rochard Fredericksburg	24 lb. 12 oz.	9"	3/4"	4-26	Fayette
Bob Golick Cincinnati	24 lb. 9 oz.	9"	1"	4-21	Appanoose
Michael A. Hines Springville	24 lb. 9 oz.	10 1/2"	1 1/4"	4-19	Van Buren
Raymond J. Biondi Iowa City	24 lb. 8 oz.	11"	1 1/8"	4-29	Monroe
Dick Corell Mount Pleasant	24 lb. 8 oz.	11"	1"	4-19	Van Buren
Dale L. Finck Greenfield	24 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/2"	1"	4-29	Clarke
Ronnie George Russell	24 lb. 8 oz.	8 3/4"	1/2"	4-19	Lucas
Steve A. Hanschild Cedar Rapids	24 lb. 8 oz.	11"	1"	5-12	Lee
Duane L. Maxwell Mount Pleasant	24 lb. 8 oz.	9"	1"	4-22	Van Buren
Joe Mitrain, Jr. Eddyville	24 lb. 8 oz.	10"	7/8"	4-22	Davis
Donald Pfeiffer North Liberty	24 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/2"	1 1/4"	4-26	Johnson
Steve Read Gladbrook	24 lb. 8 oz.	11"	1"	4-21	Lucas
David Stainbrook Mount Pleasant	24 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/2"	1"	5-9	Lee
Roy Tallman Harcourt	24 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/2"	3/4"	4-20	Clarke
Duane Teiden Elkader	24 lb. 8 oz.	11"	1 1/8"	4-26	Clayton
Stanley A. Wiebold Amana	24 lb. 8 oz.	9"	1 1/4"	4-26	Iowa
Terry L. Stubbs Albion	24 lb. 6 oz.	11"	1 1/2"	4-28	Appanoose
Larry Crow Centerville	24 lb. 5 oz.	9 1/2"	1 1/2"	4-20	Appanoose
Larry Reighard Burlington	24 lb. 5 oz.	10"	1 1/2"	4-25	Henry
Duane Dirks Newton	24 lb. 4 oz.	10 1/4"	3/4"	4-20	Appanoose
William A. George Marshalltown	24 lb. 4 oz.	9"	1 1/4"	4-21	Van Buren
Gene Sacco Centerville	24 lb. 4 oz.	10 1/4"	1 1/8"	5-3	Monroe

\*New State Record

Name and Address	Weight	Beard	Spur	Date	County Taken
Kenneth W. Hoch Lacona	24 lb. 2 oz.	10 1/2"	1"	4-19	Lucas
Richard Randolph Des Moines	24 lb.	9 7/8"	1"	4-22	Lucas
Robert F. Drahn Monona	24 lb.	10 1/4"	1"	5-3	Allamakee
Kevin J. Gahn Burlington	24 lb.	10"	1"	4-21	Henry
James Gillespie Creston	24 lb.	10 1/2"	1 1/4"	5-4	Decatur
Doug Jones Alton	24 lb.	10 1/4"	1"	5-5	Clarke
Paul Trent Leipa Des Moines	24 lb.	10"	1 3/8"	4-28	Lucas
Larry D. Sparks Mystic	24 lb.	11"	1"	5-8	Appanoose
Monnie Stauffer Sheldahl	24 lb.	10"	1"	5-8	Fayette
Lyle Youngblut Oelwein	24 lb.	11 3/4"	7/8"	4-26	Fayette
Michael Scott Noma	23 lb. 14 oz.	10 1/4"	1 1/8"	4-24	Appanoose
Barry L. Kenney Des Moines	23 lb. 12 oz.	9 1/2"	1"	4-20	Clarke
Dick E. Kuncze Yale	23 lb. 12 oz.	10"	1"	4-20	Lucas
Wayne R. Scott Iowa City	23 lb. 11 oz.	9 1/4"	1/2"	4-25	Appanoose
Larry Troester, Jr. Dubuque	23 lb. 11 oz.	10 1/2"	3/8"	4-26	Clayton
Richard L. Allbones Center Point	23 lb. 8 oz.	9 1/2"	1 1/4"	4-20	Lee
Brian DeCook Guttenberg	23 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/4"	1"	5-8	Clayton
Dan D. Ebert Kellogg	23 lb. 8 oz.	11 3/8"	1 3/8"	4-29	Monroe
Francis Hewlett Grand River	23 lb. 8 oz.	11 3/4"	1"	4-26	Decatur
Steven K. Hood Farmington	23 lb. 8 oz.	10"	3/4"	4-21	Van Buren
Thomas W. Marsh Oakville	23 lb. 8 oz.	9 1/2"	3/4"	4-27	Van Buren
Peter O. Meder Dubuque	23 lb. 8 oz.	10"	1 1/4"	5-3	Clayton
Ken Varland Boone	23 lb. 8 oz.	9 1/2"	1"	5-6	Allamakee
Douglas DeHart Keosauqua	23 lb. 6 oz.	10 1/2"	1 1/8"	4-27	Van Buren
Douglas R. Roush Keosauqua	23 lb. 6 oz.	10"	1 1/4"	4-21	Van Buren
Doyle D. Adams Indianola	23 lb. 4 oz.	11"	1 1/2"	4-21	Lucas
Don Cummings Mitchellville	23 lb. 4 oz.	11 1/8"	1 1/4"	4-19	Lucas
Ralph Livingston Guttenberg	23 lb. 4 oz.	10"	1"	4-26	Clayton
Alan (Andy) Moore Moravia	23 lb. 4 oz.	10 1/4"	3/4"	4-27	Appanoose
David O'Neal Des Moines	23 lb. 4 oz.	10 3/4"	3/4"	4-22	Lucas
Hubert L. Schwenker New Albin	23 lb. 4 oz.	10 1/4"	7/8"	4-26	Allamakee
D. Tom Stewart Clarion	23 lb. 4 oz.	10"	1"	5-1	Appanoose
John T. Tucker Cedar Rapids	23 lb. 4 oz.	11"	1 1/4"	4-28	Lee
Milo C. Visek Cedar Rapids	23 lb. 4 oz.	9"	3/4"	4-28	Van Buren
Ray Whalen New Albin	23 lb. 4 oz.	9 1/2"	3/4"	4-28	Allamakee
Lyle Goodrich Indianola	23 lb. 3 oz.	10"	1"	4-21	Lucas
Bill Wagles Burlington	23 lb. 3 oz.	10 1/2"	7/8"	4-19	Des Moines
Lee Gladfelder Madrid	23 lb. 2 oz.	5 3/4"	1"	4-20	Monroe
Robert Hough Center Point	23 lb. 2 oz.	9 3/4"	1 1/8"	4-29	Allamakee
James R. Arnold Russell	23 lb. 1 oz.	10 1/2"	3/8"	5-4	Lucas
Robert Hansen Cedar Falls	23 lb. 1 oz.	10 3/4"	1 1/4"	4-26	Allamakee
Leslie Livingood Postville	23 lb. 1 oz.	9 3/4"	1"	5-6	Allamakee
Jim Loynachan Adel	23 lb. 1 oz.	10 1/2"	0"	5-3	Monroe
Randy Querry Derby	23 lb. 1 oz.	10 1/2"	1"	4-21	Lucas
Lloyd Ammons Albia	23 lb.	10"	7/8"	5-6	Monroe
Wilfred Bayer Des Moines	23 lb.	10 3/8"	1 1/8"	5-13	Lucas
James G. Clinton Guttenberg	23 lb.	10"	1"	5-12	Clayton
Calvin W. Gill Davenport	23 lb.	10"	1 1/8"	5-6	Lucas
Wilson Hadder Essex	23 lb.	10 1/4"	7/8"	5-5	Clarke
John H. Lenhart Tama	23 lb.	10"	1"	4-28	Clarke
Gary Middleswart Indianola	23 lb.	10"	1 1/4"	5-10	Clarke
Patrick Rist Des Moines	23 lb.	9 1/4"	7/8"	4-20	Lucas
Glenn D. Vondra Grimes	23 lb.	10"	1 1/8"	5-5	Clarke
Burdette Voss Ely	23 lb.	9 3/4"	1 1/8"	4-23	Iowa
David Zellinger Knoxville	23 lb.	11"	1 1/4"	5-3	Lucas



## PINICON RIDGE - A Linn County Park

by Thomas F. Hazelton

PARK RANGER, PINICON RIDGE DISTRICT

FROM ITS BEGINNING in January of 1959, the Linn County Conservation Board was looking at a section of land northwest of Central City, part of which was already a city park, and the rest of which was nearly undeveloped. Former owners of part of the area had practically made a park out of it by driving wagon loads of people through the area to show them the remarkable natural beauty along a trail they had cut themselves.

At this point along its course, the Wapsipinicon River flows past wooded hills along its west banks which rise steeply just beyond the flood plain. Cut by ravines, the hills are covered with the various kinds of native trees, berry bushes, and many of the native wildflowers. Many of the varieties of wildlife native to Iowa can be found among these hills, if you know when and where to look.

As told by Indian legend, the name of the Wapsipinicon River came from the love shrouded deaths of two young Indians. Princess Wapsie and brave Prince Pinicon met and fell in love as the prince was defending the princess's tribe and helping them recover after months of fighting and disease. They eventually wed, and as they were leaving for the

prince's village, an arrow from the bow of a jealous brave struck Prince Pinicon, knocking him into the river. Princess Wapsie slipped into the water after her beloved, but the two were never seen again. It was said that the Indians ever after could hear the river as it sluiced back and forth over the rocks in its beds, whisper "Wapsie" and "Pinicon".

In its early days, the park was unofficially designated as the "Upper Central City Park". Soon the use began to increase and as additional land acquisitions were made, it was decided the park had outgrown its name and was in the need of a designation more in keeping with its developing character. A "name the park" contest was held, with the winner receiving a \$50.00 Savings Bond and the runners up, honorable mention. The contest was won by Cedar Rapids native Mrs. Virgil Boynton with the name "Pinicon Ridge Park".

The early '60's found a bridge trail being established (which was later phased out), sites being cleared for picnic facilities, nature trails being established, restrooms under construction and considerable expansion of the road system in the park.

By 1964 Pinicon Ridge was deemed ready to undergo the major development projects which when completed, would turn it from a rural picnic ground into a modern recreation area.

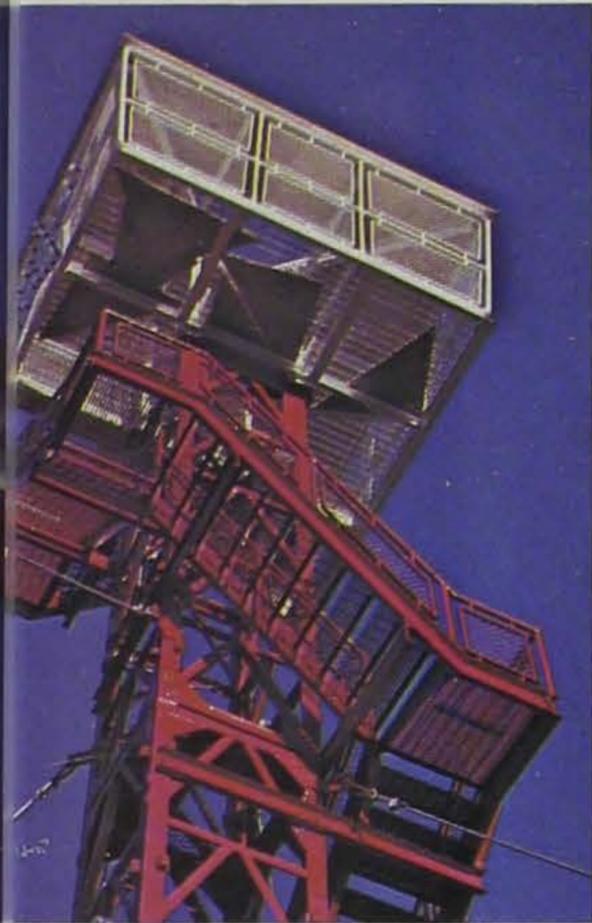
The first item of attention was to be the reconstruction of the Central City Dam which had given way in 1950. Federal funds became available in 1964 for recreational development projects, and with help from a \$1,000,000.00 favorable bond issue vote in Linn County in 1965, the Pinicon Ridge Park of today began to take form.

The bond issue was to provide funds and matching funds (for federal aid projects) for land acquisition at Pinicon Ridge and Squaw Creek Parks, and the construction of the dam, an observation tower, and an all-weather year round lodge at Pinicon Ridge.

The dam, with its 65 acre impoundment, was completed in 1967 one year late and a year behind the completion of the triangular shaped Woodpecker Hill Lodge, and 65 foot Observation Tower. Land acquisitions which had begun in 1960 at \$45.00 an acre continued into the mid-sixties at \$400.00 an acre and finished up in 1972 around \$600.00 an acre.

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LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION



Photos by the Author

Present day Pinicon Ridge consists of 816 acres just 12 miles north of the Cedar Rapids/Marion area on Highway 3. The Wapsipinicon River, dammed at the south end of the park, flows through the entire length of the park providing a variety of year round activities. During the warmer months, a boat concession is operated in the marina area where one can spend a lazy afternoon on the river and backwaters in a paddleboat, canoe, rowboat, motorboat, or just an innertube. You can even hop a shuttle 13 miles downstream and float down to the park. A boat ramp is also available for those with their own vessels. Fishing opportunities abound in the impoundment with crappie, blue-gill, and catfish there for the taking. The steep rock banks and overhanging trees provide some good bass fishing also. Someone taking a cool refreshing dip in the Wapsie is not an uncommon site on those hot summer afternoons. When the river is frozen over in the winter months, the river and park become a haven for ice fishermen, snowmobile and cross country skiing enthusiasts, and ice skaters.

Pinicon Ridge boasts four fine shelters and lodges which are available on either reservation or first come-first served basis. These facilities can accommodate from 40 to 275 people and are located at scenic locations throughout the park. Woodpecker Hill Lodge, the only one available on a year round basis, sits high on a hill overlooking a bend in the Wapsie, and has the best lighted leading hill in the area directly adjacent.

The Observation Tower is a unique feature of Pinicon Ridge. This platform is 65 feet above ground level and is the highest point in Linn County. From its location on Woodpecker Hill, one can see the scenic surrounding countryside for miles.

For those wanting to spend more than a day in the park, overnight camping facilities are in abundance. Horseshoe Falls Campground has 5 campsites with electricity, located near the tower, shelter, hiking trails and a large playground complex. This is also the only campground open on a year round basis. On the other side of the Wapsie we find Flying Squirrel Campground. Located on the river, its 68 campsites vary from semi-primitive to modern with electricity and water and 9 sites with sewer hook-ups. Connected to Flying Squirrel is Plains Campground, a semi-primitive area which can accommodate up to 60 camping units. These are all family campgrounds managed on a first come-first served basis.

Those who are more primitive-minded might find the new pack-in campground interesting. With an anticipated opening date in May of 1980, the small area is located off an extensive hiking trail and is only accessible by "packin' it in".

For larger groups, wishing to have an area guaranteed upon arrival, Pinicon Ridge offers 5 Group Camp areas which can be reserved for a nominal fee. Groups vary in size from 6 people to 30 camping units, and they use these areas for family reunions, camping clubs, scouting activities, or just camping with friends.

A small section of the park on the north side is open for hunting and has game populations of deer, squirrel and rabbits. If you'd rather observe animals than pursue them, hiking on the miles of nature trails would benefit you. One section of trail has a self-guided, post by post tour which you can follow along with its own book. Or maybe you would rather pull up a bench and just relax and watch the antics of the white-tailed deer and Canada geese in the wildlife display area. This area is located right across the road from the self service park office.

With over 300 picnic tables, numerous cooking grills, restrooms and drinking fountains located throughout its wooded hills and riverfront areas, Pinicon Ridge Park provides many unique opportunities for the public to have a fine outdoor recreation experience. Whatever your pursuits are, winter, spring, summer or fall, you can find something of interest at Pinicon Ridge Park.

THE MOURNING DOVE is the most abundant game bird in the United States with a fall population estimated to be approximately 500 million birds (approximately 13 million in Iowa). It nests throughout the 48 contiguous states, the southern portions of the Canadian Provinces, the Greater Antilles, and Mexico. The species is known to have a long nesting season beginning in late winter or early spring and extending into September in some areas. Mourning doves generally lay only two eggs per clutch, but a single pair, unlike other gamebirds, may produce three to four broods per year. It has been established that approximately 49 million birds are harvested by hunters annually in the United States. More mourning doves are harvested each year than all other migratory game birds combined.

Frameworks permitting mourning dove hunting in September have been set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1918 under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Of the 32 states permitting dove hunting all but Florida usually open their seasons in September.

In recent years, regulations permitting hunting of mourning doves in September have been criticized by some groups who assert that loss of breeding adults due to hunting results in a substantial loss of nestlings. Based on previous studies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service concluded in a 1977 environmental assessment that regulations permitting September hunting have little, if any, adverse impact on the maintenance of mourning dove populations in the United States. However, additional information on this point was needed to more fully evaluate September mourning dove hunting. Consequently a number of states, including Iowa, initiated studies in 1978 to learn more about mourning dove nesting ecology in their respective states and perhaps resolve some of the remaining questions involving nestling mortality associated with September dove hunting. While mourning doves are not legal game in Iowa, they are a migratory species, and birds produced in Iowa are often harvested in

September. Phase two was designed to compare September dove nestling mortality between hunting and non-hunting states.

In accordance with the proposal for phase one of the study, five study plots (each as large as one person could search in one day's time) was selected in the vicinity of the Iowa Conservation Commission's Research Station at Chariton. Study plots were located in hedge rows, pine plantings and other areas where good concentrations of nesting doves could be found. Nest searching activities in Iowa began immediately after snow melt in the spring and continued through October each year.

Nest searching consists of walking through each plot once per week, carefully examining potential nest

were located in late April. Each year, April nests have accounted for approximately 5 percent of the annual production. About 30, 22, 20, and 19 percent of the nests were established in May, June, July and August, respectively, each year. Out of a total of 94 dove nests located in 1978, only one was established in September; however, 11.2 percent of all the 1978 nests were still active as of September 1. Out of 92 nests in 1979, none were established in September, and only 5.4 percent of the total were still active as of September 1.

Under phase two of the study, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service selected 11 paired study areas along the borders between hunting and non-hunting states (two of these study areas were along the

birds. An alternate pair of search points was similarly selected in case nests could not be located at the primary points. Field workers for each study area were instructed to find a minimum of two active nests (egg or nestling present) within a one mile radius of each of the 24 searching points. Nest searches were conducted within the 10-day period immediately prior to the opening of the dove hunting season at each study area. Observations were recorded on each nest beginning on the day prior to the hunting season opening date in the hunted portion, and continued until the young had fledged or the nest had been destroyed, abandoned, or predated.

During 1978-79, no statistically significant difference was detected between the daily survival rates of eggs and nestlings in the treatment and in the control portions of the study. Therefore, based on the data available after two years of study the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded there is no reliable evidence that the survival rates of dove eggs and nestlings are reduced in areas where September hunting is allowed in comparison to areas where September hunting is prohibited.

Additional data will be collected during the 1980 nesting season to create a more complete picture of dove nesting in Iowa and the effects of September dove hunting throughout the United States.

## MOURNING DOVE NESTING STUDIES

by Ronnie R. George and James B. Wooley, Jr.

other states and in Mexico. Cooperative studies involving both hunting and non-hunting states are therefore essential when studying mourning dove hunting mortality.

The study proposal provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consisted of two phases. Phase one was basically a life history study designed to determine the percentage of dove nests still active in

sites in bushes and trees, watching for flushing birds, using a mirror on an extendable pole when necessary, and recording pertinent information about the nest and nest site. While the proposal is primarily interested in information about mourning dove nests, data on nests of all other bird species encountered on the study plots were recorded.

During both 1978 and 1979, the first dove nests

Iowa-Missouri and Iowa-Nebraska borders). Each of the 11 study areas was further divided into 12 strata of approximately equal size. A pair of nest search points was randomly located in each stratum with one point in the treatment (hunting zone) and one in the control (non-hunting zone). Each of the search points was located 10 miles in from the border to allow for the movement of nesting

## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

# PASQUE FLOWER

(*Anemone Patens*)



Nesting mourning dove.



Normal clutch of two eggs.

10-11 day old nestlings.



Photo by Ken Formanek

by Dean M. Roosa and Sylvan T. Runkel

A most startling sight on the early spring Iowa prairie is the otherwise brown and drab prairie knob festooned with hundreds of pale lavender blossoms of the Pasque Flower (*Anemone patens*). This is one of the earliest events on the prairie and one which signals the arrival of spring. Happy events which surround the blooming of this hardy little plant and one which may be savored by the human visitor are the haunting sounds of north-bound geese, the first call of the killdeer and the acknowledgement of Spring by the chorus frogs from a near-by prairie pothole. The common name "Pasque" also indicates its relationship to the Easter season, which to

Christians is indeed another happy event.

This flower, the state flower of South Dakota, is common on the tops of some of the dry knobs of northwestern Iowa, becomes less common as one travels east but is still found sparingly across northern Illinois. It is nearly unknown in the southern half of Iowa.

The lovely blossom is fairly ephemeral and soon gives way to a long-plumed feathery fruit. A hillside of these plumes blowing in the wind, when observed from a distance, resembles smoke wafting upward. Thus, they have a second common name, "Prairie Smoke". When in bloom, the plant has a superficial resemblance to the cultivated crocus,

thus a third common name, "Wild Crocus". After flowering, the flowering stalks continue to lengthen. Some species of anemones will nearly double in length even after being cut and placed in water.

Though esthetically pleasing, it produces a poisonous volatile oil, anemonine, that may cause severe inflammation in livestock which graze on it. Anemonine has been used in medicine as an irritant.

If, after a long and boring winter, wanderlust should grip you as it does us, grab your walking shoes and head for the dry prairie ridges. You may be rewarded by the sight of this harbinger of Spring.

# Farm Game Habitat Development in the Blackhawk Unit

by Glenn Jones

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST

*Photos by the Author*

THE MAJOR PART of Iowa's wildlife lives on private land. Therefore, if we do anything to improve the habitat our best bet is to concentrate on private land, right? Right!

These plantings are done under a Lease - Agreement, whereby the Conservation Commission agrees to furnish the planting stock, do the planting, furnish the fencing, and do the fencing of the plots. In return for this the farmer agrees to maintain the area for a period of ten years and exclude fire and livestock. In actual practice, we have no trouble getting the farmer to furnish one-half of the fencing and in some cases he is willing to furnish all the fencing — as long as we do the work.

We like to establish plots from one-half to one acre in size although the size will vary according to the situation. We try to employ good land-use practices — that is odd areas and areas that are impractical to farm are often good for wildlife habitat plots. The photo below is such an area. This is a south facing slope and very sandy. This plot was planted in 1973 to plum, ninebark, Russian Olive, Austrian pine, red cedar, and multiflora rose. The picture was taken in February 1978 so the trees and shrubs had been planted for 5 years. The farmer had plowed and disced the area before it was planted. He also kept the area cultivated for about 3 years. The plantings are making good growth. This was a one-half acre corner plot and is 207 feet on a side. It was simple to put a diagonal fence across it to enclose it.

A mixture of shrubs and conifers are the best for these plantings — shrubs furnish escape cover. The conifers are

good winter cover for birds which roost right in the trees when snow has filled in all the other cover.

A north or west facing slope is the best for conifers as the evaporation rate seems to be lower. Photo at right is a planting on a northeast slope in central Sac County. The area was planted in 1973 and the jack pine shown are 2 years after planting. Photo #3 is the same area 4 years after planting. It takes two to three years for the roots of conifers to become established. Then, all of a sudden, the trees start growing like Topsy! This slope was brome grass sod. Furrows were made using a sod scalper. Then the trees and shrubs were planted in these furrows using the Forester tree planter. These furrows serve 3 functions: 1. They eliminate grass competition next to the seedlings. 2. They put the new seedlings down low which protects them from the hot sun and wind. 3. The furrow serves as a basin for the collection of rain, which waters the seedlings.

It should be pointed out that grass in these plots is nesting cover for pheasants and other birds. However, it must be subdued as indicated in order to get the trees started. This is a good combination — the birds can nest in the plot and can also get protection from winter weather in the trees and shrubs.

Photo #5 shows red cedar in a wildlife habitat planting, which was 9 years old at that time. These red cedars are planted thick — 6 feet apart. It is the only conifer whose branches can overlap without loss of branches. Wildlife needs this thick growth during the winter.

Another site for wildlife habitat plantings is around farm ponds. Photo #6 is an example of how trees and

shrubs can be planted around a farm pond. This was the Lyle Tietsort farm in Ida County. These plantings (and others around the pond) were made in 1975. The pond was fenced against livestock and these plantings are doing quite well.

Since 1972, when the Blackhawk Unit came into existence, we have established 8 farm-game habitat plots in Ida County, 6 in Calhoun County, and 4 in Sac County. In addition, 6 other plots were established in Calhoun County in the 10 years from 1962 to 1972. We make every attempt to get the trees and shrubs to grow in these plots. Some of them we have replanted 3 to 4 times. Success of the plantings usually depends on the weather. Sometimes the rains came just right after planting and we have a 100% livability. More usually though, it takes at least one replanting to get it established.

Although I have stated numbers of plots planted we don't play a numbers game. We try to get quality plantings — that is, we select the areas based on the farmer's genuine interest in wildlife. Without the farmer's interest and cooperation the project is doomed to failure at the start.

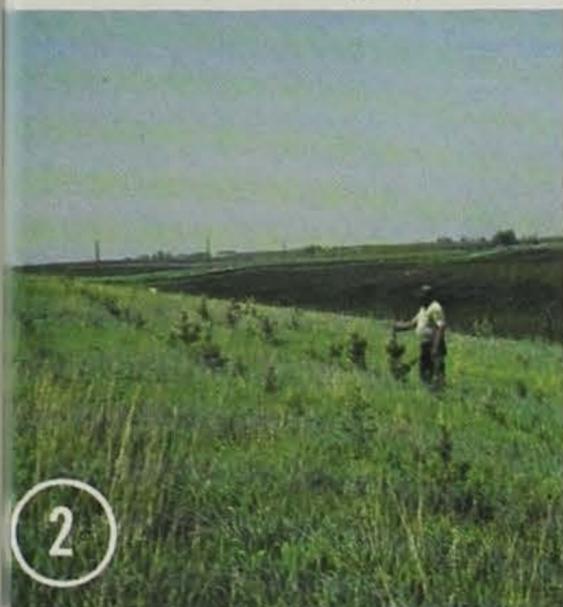
With few exceptions many of these plots over ten years old are still maintained by the farmer even though the Lease - Agreement has expired. Some farmers have even asked to have their Lease - Agreement renewed. And some others, if they sold their farm, have asked the new owner to sign a new lease.

If you want to create good wildlife habitat, plant this year, and the next, and the next. Remember, you plant for posterity — not for yourself.





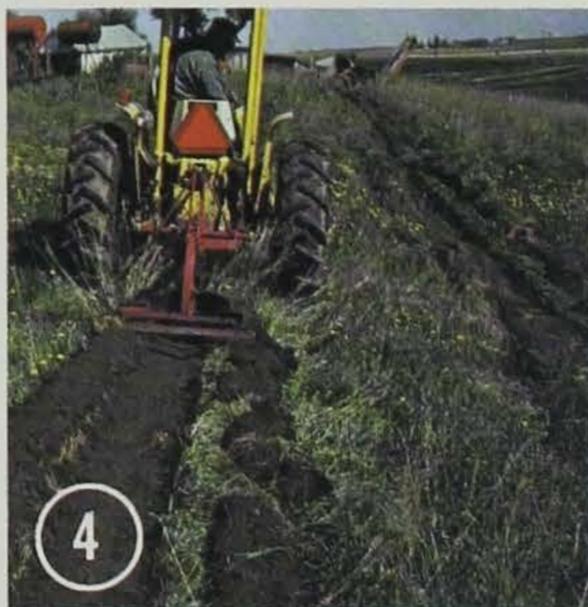
**1** Severin farm, Sac County, 5 years after planting — growth of multiflora rose and red cedar.



**2** Heine farm, Sac County; Jack and Brian pine 2 years after planting.



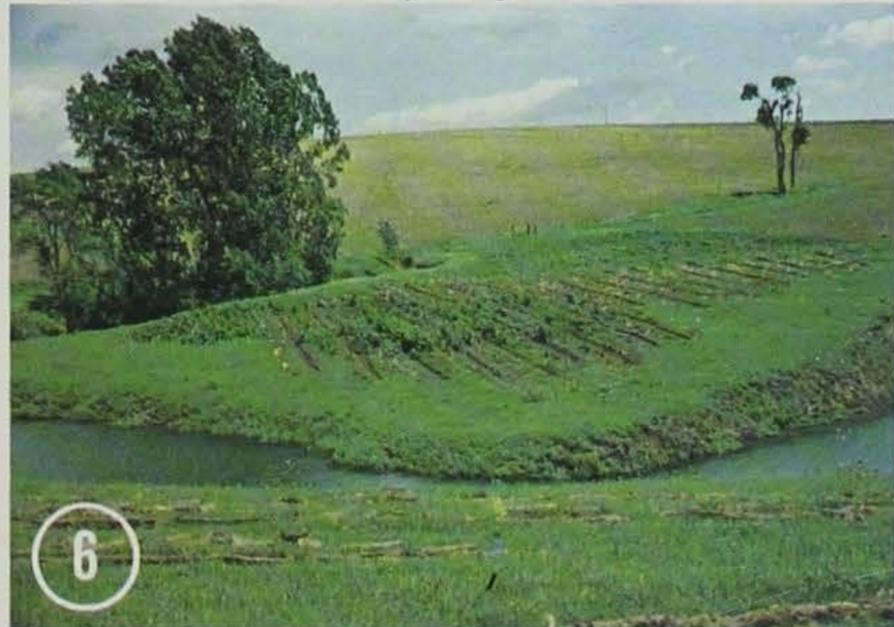
**3** Same planting as Figure #2, 4 years after planting.



**4** Using the sod scalper to remove sod before planting.



**5** Red cedar in a wildlife habitat planting — 9 years old.



**6** L. Tietsort farm — new planting of ninebark around a farm pond.

# Warden's Diary

By Rex Emerson  
LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISOR

YOU CAN CATCH catfish if you try. This time of the year they are hungry and looking for an easy meal. My old friend who lives down by the river was checking his throw lines when I stopped by to see him. He had the legal limit of lines and hooks. There were five lines with three hooks on each line, each attached to the bank above the water line. Also, as required, he had his name and address on each line. I didn't ask him where he got the baby food jars that he had his name and address in. He had printed his name and address on paper and put it inside the jar so it could be easily read from the outside of the jar without removing the lid. The little jar was tied to the line at the stake on the river bank.

The law does not say what the name and address shall be on, only that it shall be legible. We find various methods used along the river. Some will use a white plastic bottle or jug with their name and address painted on it. Some will scratch it on the

inside of a can lid, and others will use a metal tag which they have purchased. The most unusual one was Mr. Miller who used a Miller's beer can on his line. A paper tag is all right, unless it gets wet, and then it becomes illegible.

The old man had caught two nice catfish on his lines. As he rebaited with night crawlers, he said, "If I had caught one more I would have invited you to stay for dinner."

Well, I wasn't too surprised, because that's the way my fishing luck usually runs. Before I left I asked about his wife, which I knew was a mistake.

He said, "You know, there are two kinds of men who don't understand women — husbands and bachelors."

The old man could have had all fifteen of his hooks on one throw line if he had wanted, but he thought that would be too difficult to run from the bank. The law says no more than five lines and no more than fifteen hooks total on such lines,

attached to the bank above the water line, with your name and address on each line. Lines must be checked at least every 24 hours.

The fishing law leaflets have been available since last January, and tell where you may use such lines. It sounds so simple that no one should get into any trouble. Right? **WRONG!!**

One fisherman was using a throw line in a lake. When told he couldn't use a throw line in any lake he became quite belligerent and wanted to know why someone hadn't told him. "Why don't you guys print pamphlets with that information in it?"

We gave him the fishing regulations and informed him he could have picked up the pamphlet where they sell licenses, if he was really interested in knowing the fishing laws. We make them available, but we can't force people to take one and read it.

One day we observed two people in a boat putting out lines along the river bank. They had willow sticks about four feet long with a line about the same length, with one hook attached to each line. They were putting out more than five per person and had no names and ad-

dresses on them. They called them "diddy" poles and the two of them had twenty such lines out when we caught them.

Their excuse was, "No place in that law pamphlet does it tell how many 'diddy' poles you may have."

We hear them called "diddy", "dilly" or "bank" poles, depending on the locality. We explained that in the fishing laws such lines come under the heading of "trot lines".

With this, the person in the front of their boat lost her cool and said, "There ain't no 'trout' in the Skunk River."

Explaining it was spelled TROT didn't seem to make any difference. "There still ain't none in this river".

Another fisherman was attaching lines to overhanging tree limbs. Even though he argued that the tree was attached to the bank, it didn't keep him from getting a citation for not having his line attached to the bank.

Pick up the fishing regulations at your local license depositor or at the county recorder's office, and if you don't understand some of the laws, call your State Conservation Officer. Then go catch some catfish and ENJOY!

## A Red Rock High (Continued from Page 2)

hazardous. A warning light at the dam shines yellow when wind is 10 to 25 mph and red when it exceeds 25 mph velocity.

Access to the lake depends on the water level. The Ramps at Elk Rock State Park (north and south shore) are only usable when the water is near normal pool (728 feet above sea level). Up to 760', the waters station ramp on the south shore of the lake also provides excellent access. When the lake tops the 760' mark, the marina bay on the north side provides the only usable concrete ramp.

Wind can also limit access.

As the lake rises, it sets thousands of logs adrift. The wind can carry these logs onto a ramp, blocking use until removed with heavy equipment. For this reason it is necessary to watch for wind changes while boating there. A ramp that is open in the morning can become clogged by afternoon if the wind switches.

Most of the debris that finds its way to the main body of the lake soon drifts ashore and poses no hazard. With normal care, water skiing and cruising can be enjoyed at any speed in the big pool, which stretches from the state park to the dam. The

shores, bays and upper end of the lake are an entirely different matter, as high water covers trees, fences and old roadbeds. These become real danger areas for speed boating or water skiing. The cautious boater will, however, find the shorelines intriguing and well worth a weekend of quiet exploring.

There are several camping areas around the lake and finding a site is rarely a problem. Leaving a boat on the shore overnight, however, can be a mistake during periods of rapidly fluctuating levels. Current information about fuel availability, water levels, and ramp conditions

can be obtained by calling the Iowa Conservation Commission's waters station at (515) 842-3805. Camping, fishing and boating reports can be heard by calling the Corps' toll free number, (800) 362-2001.

Flood control and recreation are not always compatible, so it is important to take what the situation yields. At high stage, the lake offers an unusual type of boating. For the boater who wishes to avoid crowds, it is fun to leisurely cruise the bays and backwaters of Red Rock, enjoying a picnic lunch, miles of clear water, and the pleasant effects of spring sunshine.

# LOOKIN' BACK

## Ten Years Ago



The Conservationist featured an article on early spring fishing. It was noted that the early bird angler was often more successful

in his summer counterpart. A proposal was approved concerning renovation work on Union Grove Lake in Tama County. A leak in the dam was to be fixed; jetties constructed; and rough h removed.

Honey Creek State Park near Rathbun Reservoir in Appanoose County was under construction.

## Twenty Years Ago



The magazine bannered the first Arbor Day to be officially recognized in Iowa. The state legislature had enacted a bill the year before which provided for Arbor Day to be celebrated the last Friday in April each year.

A fisherman who was jigging below the dam at Guttenberg hooked a billfold which contained \$1.00. The name on the cards in the wallet could not be read, but the money was in good shape. Stop fishin' — Go fishin'.

## Thirty Years Ago



The Conservationist was into frogs. The article compared the tiny chorus frog with the leopard frog and the giant bullfrog. A toad

was thrown in for good measure. Congressman John D. Dingell of Michigan had introduced a revised version of his Federal Aid to State Fisheries Bill. President Truman had vetoed the first one. Currently there is a bill being considered in Washington which will expand on the Dingell Law as it was passed back then. All anglers should support this bill.

A new dog, called the Weimaraner, was being ballyhooed as the answer to the perfect hunting dog.

HAVE YOU ever attended a program, meeting, or activity and thought that it was great and worth your time? If you have, then you probably have been to the opposite type of program as well.

The Iowa Conservation Commission has begun to present the type of activity lowans feel is worth their time. The Commission, through the Conservation Education Center, is developing a curriculum which can be used in schools - kindergarten through twelfth grade, and interpretive programs which can be used with the general public in state parks, forests, wildlife and preserve areas.

A curriculum is a set of courses pertaining to a specialized area. Interpretation is the translation of information into understandable terms. An interpretive program presents the natural and cultural information of an area in terms that are meaningful and relevant to the visitor. Presently, materials are being collected which will be adapted to Iowa and tested. Then personnel will be trained. This effort will require time, so don't expect your local state area or classroom to be using the new materials this winter.

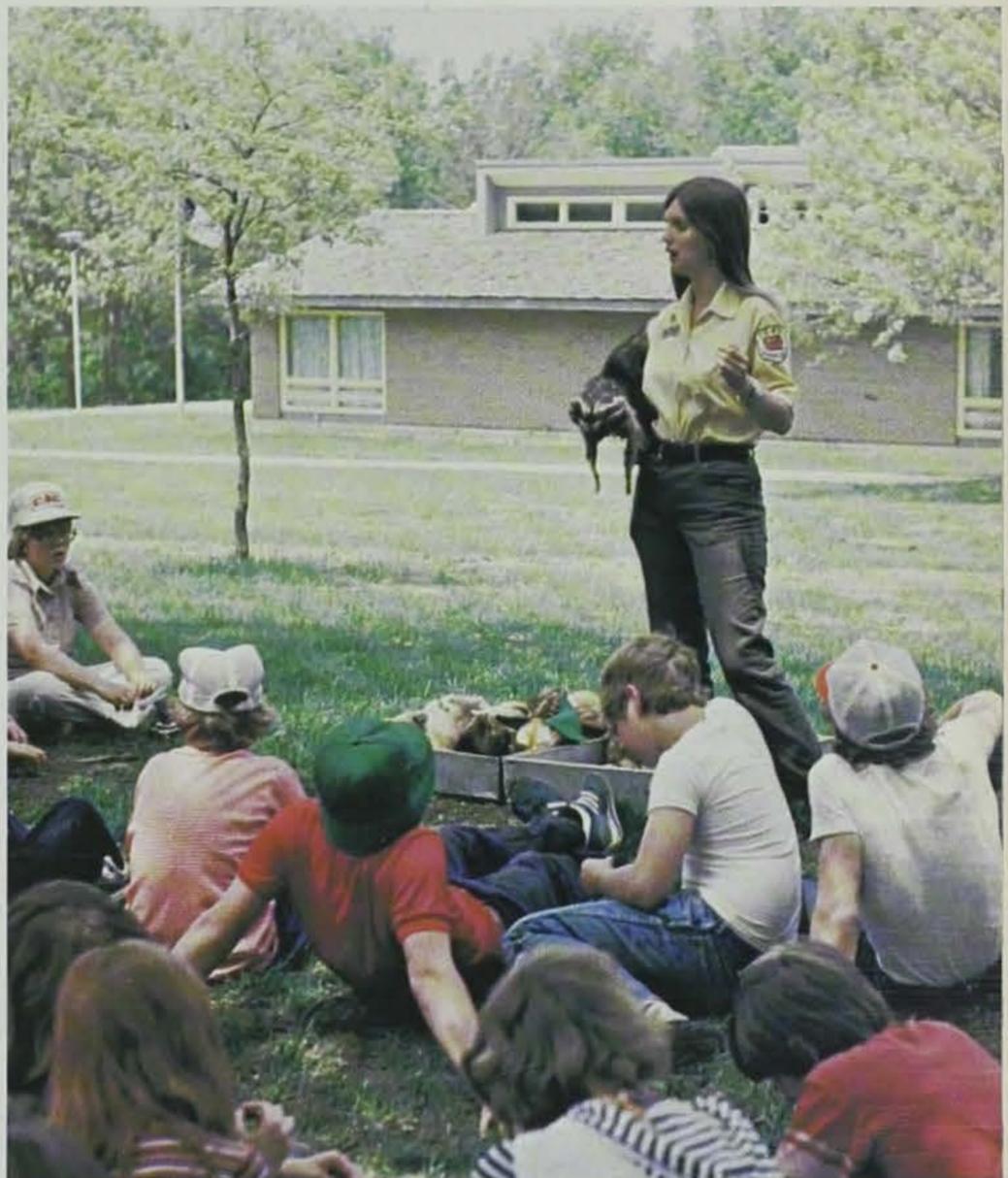
Through this project it is planned that lowans will have the opportunity to better understand why conservation activities are taking place, why an area is like it is, and where they each fit into the efforts of the Commission.

Some of the specific advantages to the Commission are: (1) Knowledge and feeling by lowans for Commission decisions. (2) Better understanding of the interbehavior and requirements of human users of state areas and species of wild animals. These could indirectly reduce the number of law violations due to frustration over lack of success. (3) An increase in awareness of the habitat needs of human users and wildlife species so that lowans will demand from themselves better protection and

# Classroom Corner

by Bob Rye

ADMINISTRATOR, CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER



improvement of their and other species' habitats. (4) An increased awareness by lowans of the biological basis for regulations, with the acceptance that there are valid reasons for game rules, forest management, park regulations and preserve areas. Stressing the idea that if we go below the base-line level (the number of a particular population that can support itself) in wildlife populations, forests or parks, everyone loses.

Further, teachers using the Center have demonstrated that they are in need of conservation education information to use in their classrooms and the

out-of-doors. Some have found useful information for their classes, but many are still looking.

Where does this put us now? All of us come from different backgrounds. We grew up in different places and have different experiences and educations from which to develop our thoughts. We must look at ourselves. How do we view Commission rules and decisions? How do we feel about State properties?

It is our plan through the curriculum and the interpretive programs to have a positive reaction developed by lowans towards their wise use of our natural resources.

*Dutchman's Breeches by Ken Formanek*

