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# Iowa CONSERVATIONIST





# Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

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## COVER

"December Thaw-Bobwhite" by John Bald, 5023 N. Pine Street, Davenport 52806.

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# The New Shotgun

BY ROGER SPARKS

My wife confronted the gun rack the other day, peering scornfully at my most prized earthly possessions.

"I don't know how much new guns cost," she said, "but I think you need to replace this yucky old thing."

Recovering quickly, I surmized the "Y.O.T." she had referred to was my Browning automatic shotgun, admittedly in serviceable condition at best. These were unusual words, I noted, to be spoken by a person who would rather spend a snowy November day at home by the fire than in a duck boat. Indeed, this was a unique comment to be directed to a husband whose buying power rarely exceeds BB gun velocity.

Knowing the gate to the field of Golden Opportunity can quickly close, I planned my strategy. A fast but carefully chosen reply, I contemplated, could result in a fine, shiny addition to the rack, which had hung there for years, yearning to embrace just one more fowling piece. It would be needless to mention costs I reasoned, as I knew the fat could easily be trimmed from our food and fuel budgets. Borne from desire, ideas became words.

"Well, it is embarrassing to be seen in the field with anyone other than immediate family," I began slowly. "And I do hate to have the neighbors see this disgraceful thing hanging on the wall," I warmed up. "Think of the extra meat we could enjoy if I had a better gun," My mind had become a computer. "I wonder if this rusty old gun is causing those brown spots on your plants?" I finished confidently, reaching for the gun catalog.

It was about then that my eyes fell upon my old Browning and I was compelled to pick it up. The once beautifully glazed finish had long been gone and the fine wood was badly scarred. The third bluing had been worn silver and many rust pits had eluded the rubbing cloth. The bore showed more than a little leading and the action had been weakened by the proper work of a truck load of shells. I smiled at the blemishes received from countless skirmishes with wild raspberries (anti-hunters must plant the stuff to discourage the otherwise perfectly pleasant pursuit of bobwhite quail).

I recalled the many autumns when despite the punishment of marsh mud, rain and snow, the old gun had faithfully barked three times at decoying flocks. I thought of many trips to the rocky ridges of grouse country and of a wonderful fall day in particular. I savored again the sweet juice of a wild apple and the beauty of a pair of Ruffs on a bed of aspen leaves. I chuckled at the recollection of a rainy spring morning when only a tin horn would have carried a gun into the turkey timber...and come out 20 pounds heavier. And I remembered roosters upon roosters, offering easy open-field shots and near impossible ones through hawthorn thickets. In every case, when my eyes and hands had been up to it, my dependable old friend had performed dutifully.

I considered the catalog in one hand, the shotgun in the other. One bore pretty images on slick paper; the other, evidence of a lifetime of pleasure.

"What's wrong?" A voice tangled my thoughts. "Can't you find one you like?"

I remembered when years ago she had saved for months to buy me an expensive gift. On my way to the cabinet where I keep my gun cleaning kit, I handed my wife a rolled up catalog.

"Here," I smiled, "You start the fire tonight."



# WHERE DID ALL THE WATER GO?

by Al Van Vooren

FISH MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST, FAIRPORT FISH MANAGEMENT UNIT

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

IMAGINE AFTER WEEKS of planning and anticipation, you've left home in the early morning darkness and headed to Spirit Lake for a weekend of fishing. Rounding the last bend in the road, you crane your neck to glimpse again the big blue expanse of water. But wait! What's going on? The lake is gone! Instead of water the entire 5700 acres is a solid cover of cottonwood and willow thickets, cut-grass, cattails, lotus, and other vegetation.

Extreme situation? Not so! This very thing has happened on one stretch of the Mississippi River between Guttenberg, Iowa and Saverton, Missouri. It didn't happen overnight — but in a relatively quick 24 years. Over 5800 acres of backwaters and side channels, some of the most productive and important habitat in the river, have been converted from open water to vegetation since 1956. In just one 25 mile long pool that lies between Davenport and Muscatine, an area the size of Big Creek Reservoir (900 acres) has been filled in!

As alarming as this complete loss of fish habitat is, still thousands of the acres of open water remaining have become so shallow that they can't support fish over winter, and access to anglers is all but impossible.

Who's doing this? For the most part mother nature. Nearly 80 percent of this loss is due to "natural" sedimentation. Sediments, which originate largely from surrounding farm lands are carried to the river. As the river water slows down in backwater and side channel areas, much of the sediment suspended in the water settles out. Most of the sedimentation occurs during spring high water periods when the river carries tremendous amounts of sediment. Average sedimentation rates in some areas have been estimated at 1-2 inches per year!

But some of man's activities on the river have contributed to the problem as well. In the past, some of the material dredged from the channel has been deposited directly into backwaters and side channels. It has also been deposited at the entrances to these areas, where it increases sedimentation behind it or is itself carried into the area by high water.

In addition, wing dams, closing dams across the entrances to side channels, and other "channel training devices" have in many cases caused filling. These training devices also prevent the river from meandering and creating new side channels as it fills old ones.

What's being done to stop this habitat loss? The losses attributable to channel maintenance practices by the Corps of Engineers, in part, prompted Congress to authorize the Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) study in 1976. Representatives from eleven federal and



Once an open water lake several feet deep — now only inches of water with solid lotus, cattails, cutgrass, and willows.





state agencies examined this problem, along with others facing the river. Channel maintenance plans have been developed which identify disposal areas for dredged material where it will have the least harmful impact. In many areas, beneficial uses were identified for the material such as levee maintenance, road sanding, or commercial sand and gravel companies. The Corps of Engineers has already modified policies and practices considerably since the inception of GREAT. Recommendations have been forwarded to Congress that will further ease these problems.

But what about the "natural sedimentation"? Construction of the navigation dams originally raised the level of the river and artificially created most of the important backwater and side channel habitat. But at the same time, this spread the river out wider than it's normal conveyance. Filling these off-channel areas is nature's way of returning the river to only the dimensions it needs to carry it's water load. It's not so easy to "fool with mother nature", but the GREAT study also examined ways to slow down or reverse this process.

The obvious and simplest solution, but the most difficult to effect, is to eliminate the sediments entering the river. No-till, minimum till, and other soil conservation practices on surrounding farm land would go a long way toward stopping soil loss. These practices are being encouraged, and gaining acceptance, but it will be a long time before we see a stop to soil loss.

Techniques such as actual dredging of shallow backwaters were examined and tried during the GREAT study. Though relatively short-lived and costly, new equipment capabilities could make this feasible on a large scale basis in the future.

The most promising solution right now may be altering flows into backwater areas to prolong their life. If the proper amount of flow can be directed through these backwater systems, it can keep sediments moving and carry them out of the system. The feasibility and environmental effects of opening channels into several areas were examined along the Minnesota portion of the river. Where backwater depths were sufficient to support fish year-round, harmful effects were generally predicted. But in other areas, already in advanced stages of sedimentation, channel openings were predicted to improve water quality and transport finer sediments out of the system.

The amount of flow is critical. Three foot deep by six foot wide channels were opened into several stagnant backwater areas, but these cuts were too small to significantly affect the areas. On the other hand, a natural cut which opened from the main channel into Cassville Slough in Pool 11 is so large it diverts a large portion of the river flow and carries a constant load of sand and river bed sediments which drop out in the quieter water of the slough, reducing it's volume and productivity.

Researchers from the University of Wisconsin River Studies Center have developed a mathematical model to predict the effects of altering flows into backwater areas. It has proved accurate in upper portions of the river, but to test it along the Iowa portion of the Mississippi, a study was conducted in the Burnt Pocket backwater system near Keithsburg, Illinois from 1978 to 1980.

In 1978, University of Wisconsin personnel intensively sampled the sediments, depths, currents, vegetation,

plankton, water clarity, and bottom invertebrates. Fisheries personnel from the Iowa Conservation Commission, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intensively sampled the fish population in the area throughout the year, collecting over 11,000 fish of 49 species. In October of 1979, a channel 50 feet wide by 5 feet deep was opened from the main river to the upper end of the Burnt Pocket system. The pre-opening sampling done in 1978 was then repeated in 1980 to determine what immediate effects this cut had made on the system.

There had been no flood after the channel was opened to cause drastic changes in the habitat, but a significant shift of finer sediments from the upper to the lower end of the system did occur.

Likewise, there were no drastic changes in the overall fish populations this first year. But some current-loving species such as flathead catfish and white bass were generally more abundant, and bluegill and crappie became more abundant in the lower end of the system where finer sediments were deposited. The numbers of adult northern pike did increase greatly in the system, presumably in response to increases in shad and other forage fish which occurred.

It may take several years before the full effects of opening this channel are seen in the habitat and fish populations of Burnt Pocket. The Conservation Commission will continue to monitor the Burnt Pocket system as changes occur. When assured that this technique of altering flows into backwater areas will prove beneficial, and confident of our ability to predict those effects in different areas, we can then initiate a large-scale co-operative effort to preserve and prolong the lives of these important backwater areas.

*This infrared photo of Burnt Pocket shows the filling that has occurred in the upstream end.*

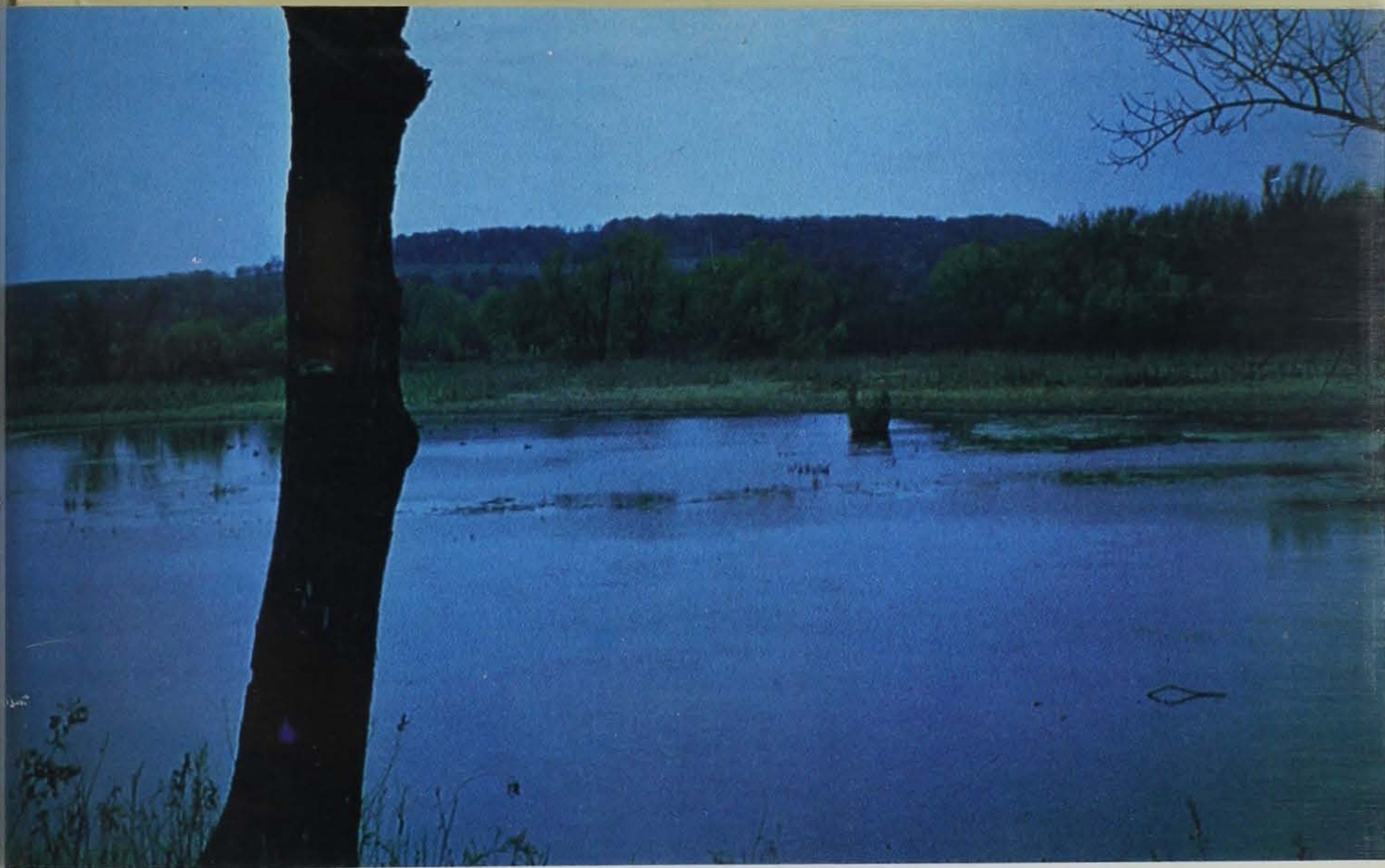


*A channel was opened from the river to the upper end of Burnt Pocket in October, 1979.*





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*This particular area named Aiken or Spratts Lake is on the Illinois side of the river across from Jackson County (river mile 563.5). Note the striking contrast of the two photos due to siltation. Top photo was taken in 1967, the bottom photo was taken in 1981.*







## PRAIRIE BOOMERS

by Ronnie R. George  
WILDLIFE RESEARCH BIOLOGIST

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

**T**HE GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN of the Central Plains, the heath hen of the Atlantic Coast (now extinct), Attwater's prairie chicken of the Texas Coast (now endangered) and the closely-related lesser prairie chicken of the arid southwest were unique and widely distributed grassland birds that sometimes occurred in incredible numbers in pioneer days.

Stempel and Rodgers in their publication entitled "*History of the Prairie Chicken in Iowa*" reported the greater prairie chicken was historically found throughout the prairie regions of Iowa. It was a native species that actually increased in numbers and thrived on the extra food provided when the first settlers broke the prairie sod and planted grain on the fertile Iowa soils. The prairie chicken was an important gamebird and food source for Iowa pioneers that reached its peak numbers about 1880 when 69 percent of the state was in farms. Daily bags of 25 to 50 prairie chickens were common and market hunters frequently killed 200 or more per day. The prairie chicken was interesting and conspicuous to early Iowans because of its unusual courtship behavior (booming), but prairie chicken numbers declined rapidly after 1900 when 90 percent of the state was in farms. The prairie chicken hunting season was closed in Iowa in 1916 in hopes that this action would prevent further declines in the population. However, loss of grassland habitat continued to plague the prairie chicken, and breeding numbers continued to decline.

For a time, large flocks of prairie chickens produced in surrounding states continued to make seasonal migrations across Iowa's borders. Until about 1920, the Willow Slough Wildlife Area in Mills County was a traditional roosting place for thousands of migrant prairie chickens. From 1935 to 1940 an estimated 500 prairie chickens wintered south of Livermore in Humboldt County. The last great fall migration from west of Sioux City reportedly occurred in 1943. Stragglers continued to appear in northern, western and southern Iowa until 1953.

The last known nesting prairie chickens in Iowa were small flocks that persisted in Wayne and Appanoose Counties. This area was too wet to cultivate until it was tiled and drained about 1952. Farmers realized that agricultural disturbance would destroy remaining nesting places, but all available land was needed for cultivated crops. By 1954, the only remaining prairie chickens were a few on booming grounds in Appanoose County. In 1955, only one cock was booming.

Since Stempel and Rodger's report was published in 1961, there have been occasional verified prairie chicken sightings in Iowa, usually single birds observed along Iowa's borders. Recent reports of "prairie chicken flocks" in central Iowa are probably due to sightings of gray (Hungarian) partridge coveys, large quail-like birds introduced from Eurasia.



All of the states surrounding Iowa have been successful in maintaining at least remnant flocks of prairie chickens. Dedicated individuals, private organizations, university personnel, and state and federal agencies have often worked together on prairie chicken restoration programs in surrounding states. Without these efforts, prairie chickens would undoubtedly have disappeared from Wisconsin and Illinois by this time, and prairie chicken numbers would have been greatly reduced in Missouri and Minnesota. Good prairie chicken numbers still exist on some privately-owned rangelands in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Oklahoma, but many acres of western rangeland are currently being converted to irrigated farmland so additional emphasis will need to be placed on prairie chicken management in those states in the future.

If all of the states surrounding Iowa can still have prairie chickens, why can't Iowa? Recent interest in prairie restoration and native grass pasture management have resulted in several thousand acres of newly seeded or restored grasslands in Iowa. While some of these areas are too small and widely scattered to be of much use to prairie chickens, other areas hold considerable promise. The Loess Hills Wildlife Area along the Missouri River in western Iowa and the Rathbun and Ringgold Wildlife Areas in southern Iowa have been identified as possible prairie chicken management sites.

After these sites were selected, Iowa Conservation Commission personnel agreed to trade 52 eastern wild turkeys to Kansas for 100 greater prairie chickens. A total of 53 prairie chickens were captured in baited, woven wire traps in the Flint Hills of Kansas in February 1980. These birds were banded and released in the Loess Hills in Monona County east of Onawa, Iowa, on February 19, 1980. Approximately 30 of the birds were observed near the release site on February 20, the day after the release. One bird was killed by a vehicle 6 miles north of the release site in April, and there have been a number of sightings since then some as far as 18 miles from the release site. As recently as January 1981, a fresh prairie chicken roost bowl was located near the release site so there are still some birds in the area.

On the discouraging side, no prairie chicken spring booming activity has been observed anywhere near the release site in either 1980 or 1981. Efforts to capture the remaining 47 birds in Kansas this past winter failed due to extremely mild weather and lack of snow cover.

If this initial stocking attempt should prove unsuccessful, we may need to redirect some of our efforts. There are several other methods recommended in the scientific literature for stocking prairie chickens. The winter bait-trapping method was used initially because wild prairie chickens are relatively easy to catch in substantial numbers when there is sufficient snow cover available. Unfortunately, prairie chickens tend to be highly mobile during the winter, and stocked birds may disperse in all directions from the release site never to return. Some states have had limited success in moving prairie chickens captured with rocket nets on the booming grounds. Birds captured and transported in the spring seem less inclined to leave the release site than winter-trapped birds. A still better method may be to capture prairie chicken hens and their broods of young chicks by night-lighting during the summer. At this time, the young are unable to fly great distances, the hen will remain with her brood, and they are much more likely to remain near the release site. While cost per bird captured in this manner tends to be quite high, this type of stocking program should ultimately have a far greater chance of success.

What does the future hold? We really don't know, but we are optimistic about the eventual reestablishment of prairie chickens in Iowa. Perhaps one day soon people in Iowa will again be able to hear that incredible haunting boom of the prairie chicken.

Ronnie George is now employed with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He worked for the Iowa Conservation Commission from 1972 to June 1981. He was stationed at the Chariton Research Station and was in charge of upland wildlife research. George is a native of Greenville, Texas.





# Construction Of A Portable Ice Fishing House

BY DALE ANDERSON  
FISHERIES TECHNICIAN



As the snow begins to accumulate outside and hunting seasons close, many sportsmen turn their attention to the pursuit of their favorite winter piscatorial pastime — ice fishing. Unfortunately, the very weather which has formed the ice covering discourages many from experiencing one of the seasons most popular sports.

The large ice fishing houses seen on almost any northern lowa lake in the winter are very comfortable but cumbersome and not very portable for the weekend angler. The ice fishing house described in this article combines the best of both worlds. It is not only portable but provides excellent protection from the elements.

If this house were to be named, the name would have to be Versatile. This house can be used merely as a seat when the weather is very warm with all ice fishing gear contained inside. If the weather should

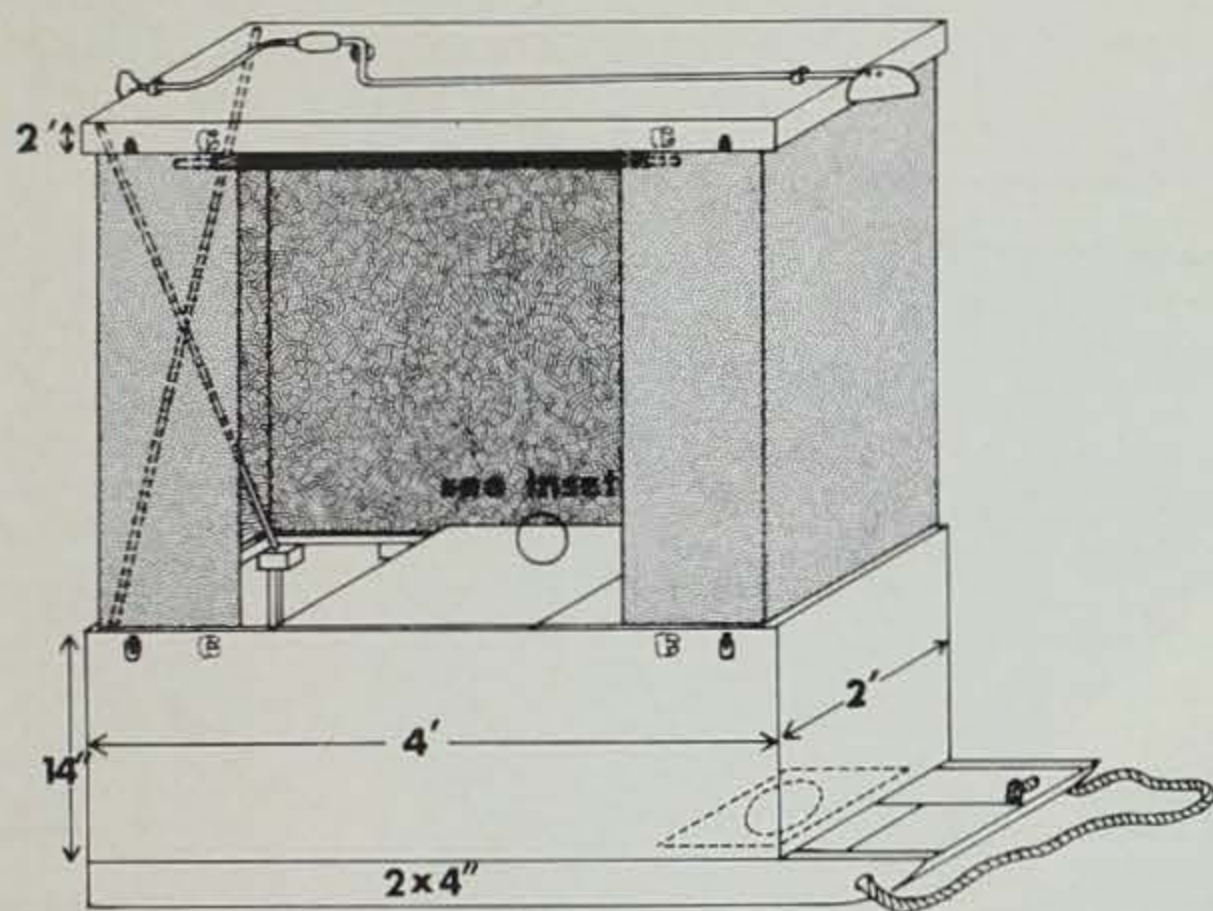
turn cold or the wind should come up, the house can be set up and one can sit in the house with his feet outside thereby providing an excellent windbreak.

The house will really prove its worth in very cold weather when one can sit completely inside and roll down the curtain which protects the occupant from the elements. An angler can fish out of only one hole this way but that is one hole more than you would probably be fishing from without the house!

Construction of the house is simple, using mainly plywood, canvas and wood cleat reinforcing. Basically, it is a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch plywood box with 1" x 2" reinforcing at each inside corner. All needed plywood can be cut from one 4'x8' sheet if allowances are made for saw cuts. Reinforcing cleats are glued and either nailed or screwed on for additional strength. The 2' x 4' runners should be placed at the very edge of the box for added stability.



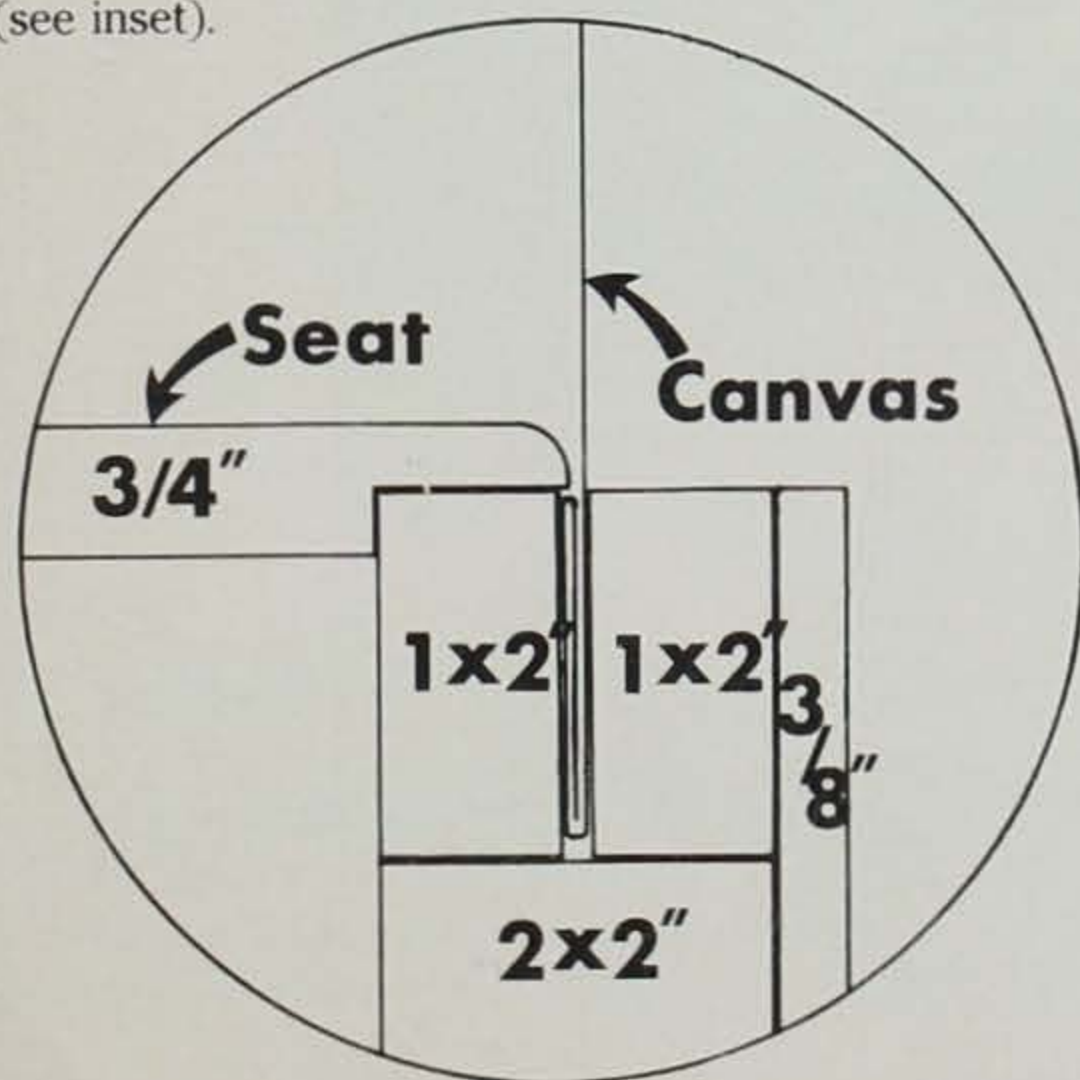
After the box has been built the canvas portion should be added. This is done by folding the edge of a 4'x10' canvas over or using the existing seam and nailing first through a 1" x 2" and then through the



canvas into the 1" x 2" cleat (see inset). If you cannot find a 4' x 10' section of canvas, try finding a friend who is also interested in building this house and split an 8' x 10' tarp which will be readily available.

Support for the top is provided by two pairs of crosspiece pivot supports. These can be made of three-quarters of an inch thinwall conduit or 1"x1" hardwood. The supports should be approximately 49" long and should pivot at the exact center by means of a pin. The pin can be a nail which is bent over after insertion or a small bolt. These supports will rest on four 2"x4"x4" blocks — one being attached at each corner of the box just below the canvas. The blocks should be attached with screws and glue since they support the top and stretch the canvas tightly between the top and bottom sections.

The seat used when fishing with your feet outside is a piece of three-quarter inch plywood which measures approximately 18" x 23" with the two shorter edges rabbeted so the seat locks into the cleats on each side of the box. The seat is narrower than the box and will fit inside when not in use. Extra support has been added at the back side of the house by using a short piece of 2" x 2" to prevent the two 1" x 2"s from sagging (see inset).

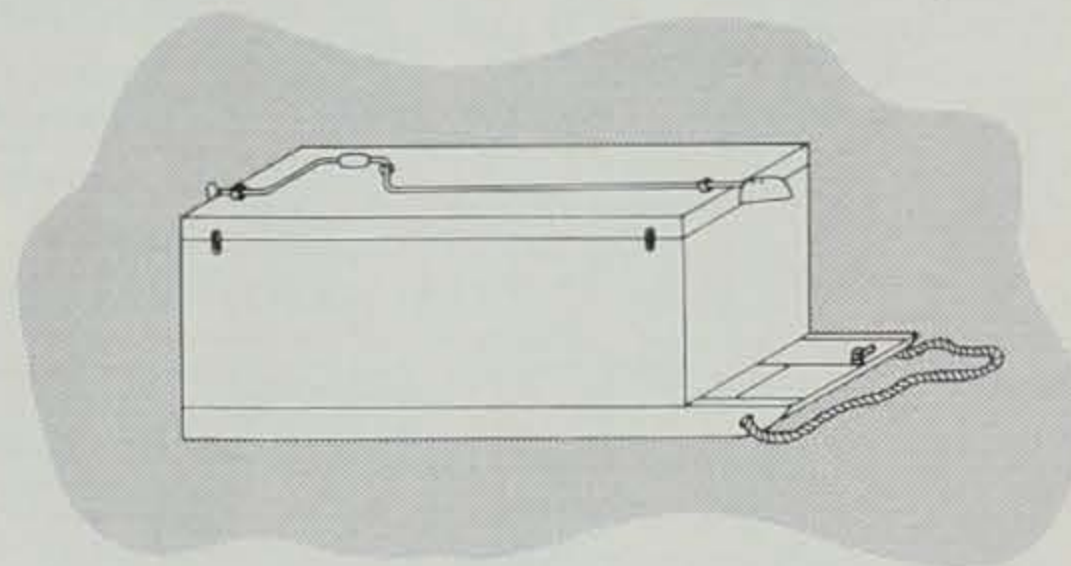


An eight inch diameter hole has been cut in the bottom of the box three inches from the end to facilitate fishing from inside. The cutout from this hole is attached to a piece of plywood which just fits in the end of the box so that the hole is covered when not in use.

An insulated metal milk box (the type that was furnished by milk delivery people) is an excellent indoor fishing seat. If this is unavailable, any seat which is lower than the upper edge of the box will suffice. The milk box is handy because fish can be placed in the box as they are caught and are kept cold but not frozen.

The rolled curtain which provides protection from the elements is made of reinforced plastic storm window material. This material is transparent with green reinforcing fibers every one-quarter of an inch. The transparency of the plastic provides plenty of light but some anglers may prefer a canvas curtain to obtain a dark house. The inside of the house should be painted black to aid in seeing one's fishing line while inside.

The curtain is attached to the house by stapling the top edge of the material to the inside edge of the lid. The lower edge of the material is attached to a broomstick so the material is flat against the canvas and the broomstick is on the inside of the curtain. Broom clips are attached to the inside edge of the lid to hold the rolled up curtain when not in use. Clips on the inside edge of the box hold the curtain in place while fishing from inside the shelter.



To erect the shelter, one merely folds the lid to the side, climbs in the box and holds the lid up with their back while installing the crossmember supports at each corner. Suitcase latches hold the lid on while transporting the shelter and broom clips can be used to hold an ice auger on top.

Two options which may come in handy are: a skid pan on the ski fronts to keep the skis from sinking into fluffy snow; and a bottomless plastic bucket which is used when fishing from inside. The bucket serves as a guard against fishing line snagging on the plywood bottom while feeding out line. It also serves as a shield preventing fish from flopping back into the hole and escaping.

Once this shelter has been constructed, all that remains to be done is to go out and catch some finny fritters for the frying pan.

*Dale Anderson is a fisheries technician and is stationed at the Southwest Iowa District Office, Cold Springs Park, near Lewis. He has been with the Commission since 1972.*



It's Christmas time...



Cardinals by John Bald  
Davenport Wildlife Artist

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Knowing that no one could have that much fun unless it was illegal, I tried to ignore their happiness. However, curiosity and envy got the best of me and before I knew it, I was sitting at Sambo's at 6:00 a.m. in full hunting regalia, breaking bread with the "Mad Norwegian" and the "Crazy Italian". I bagged my first pheasant that day, and my family didn't see me for a month.

beginning to view my life as a small part of a larger scheme.  
As a youth in Sioux City, I was taken out two or three times on unsuccessful pheasant hunting expeditions by friends of my father. They introduced me to principles of safe hunting and in return, I

every time a rooster exploded from his hiding place. Later, moving to central Iowa, I lost contact with my hunting partners and consequently, the sport itself. Then last year I ran into a couple of guys at work who always seemed to be blissfully happy on Monday mornings.



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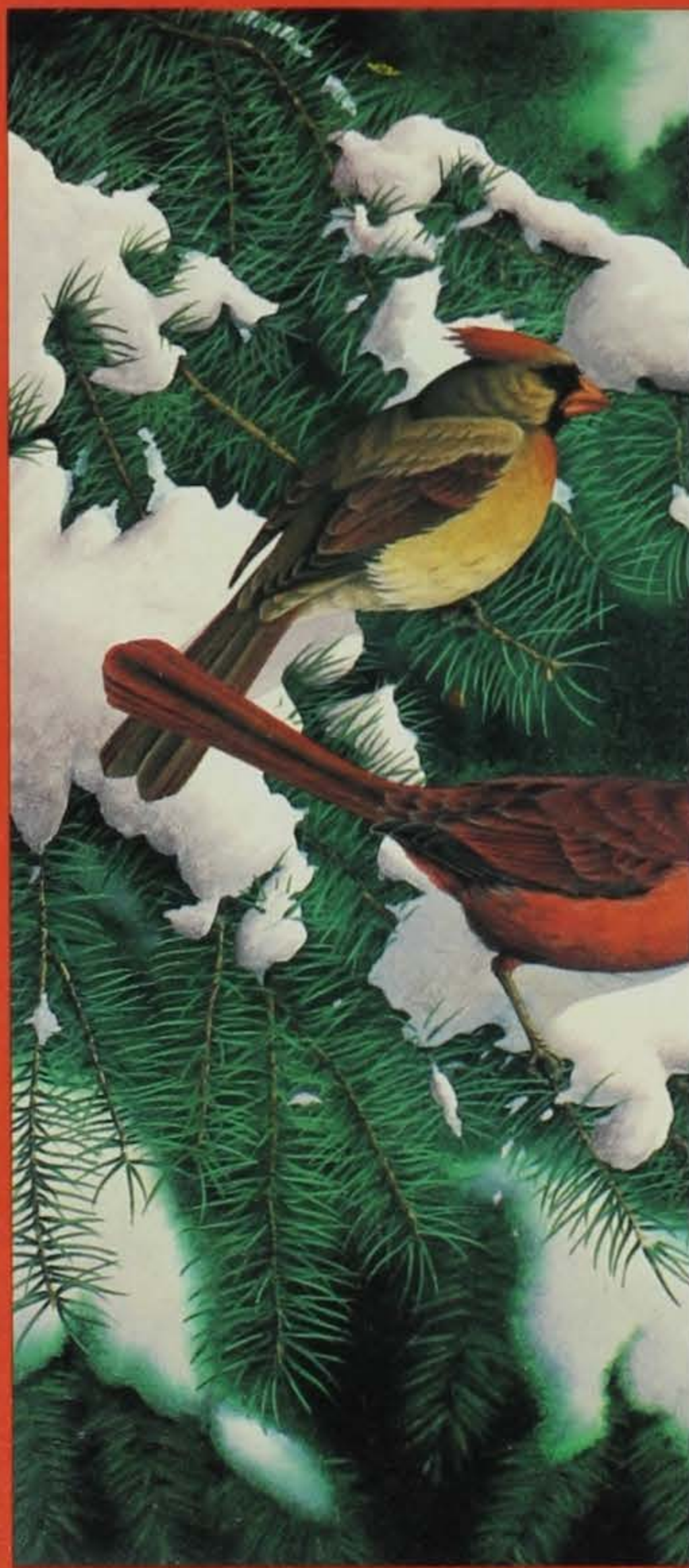
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## er's Fate"

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*It's Christmas time...*



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## “The Beginner’s Fate”

BY STEVE CARLSON RURAL ROUTE #1, PROLE, IOWA

At one point in my life, I didn't put a lot of stock in fate. As I grow older and reflect on my experiences, however, I am beginning to view my life as a small part of a larger scheme.

As a youth in Sioux City, I was taken out two or three times on unsuccessful pheasant hunting expeditions by friends of my father. They introduced me to principles of safe hunting and in return, I

treated them to endless laughter at my ability to turn ghost white, drop my upper bridge, and clear my five-buckles every time a rooster exploded from his hiding place. Later, moving to central Iowa, I lost contact with my hunting partners and consequently, the sport itself. Then last year I ran into a couple of guys at work who always seemed to be blissfully happy on Monday mornings.

Knowing that no one could have that much fun unless it was illegal, I tried to ignore their happiness. However, curiosity and envy got the best of me and before I knew it, I was sitting at Sambo's at 6:00 a.m. in full hunting regalia, breaking bread with the “Mad Norwegian” and the “Crazy Italian”. I bagged my first pheasant that day, and my family didn't see me for a month.



Everything was going fine until mid-December, when I found myself marooned at home as commander and chief of the USS Eureka, 2nd Carpet Division, Living Room Fleet. My friends had gone deer hunting and although they had asked me to go, I had declined. I had heard there were deer in Iowa, but the truth was, I had never seen one.

During the rest of the year I read every article on deer hunting I could get my green hands on. Two months before the next season we toured some likely territory. South-central Iowa is a beautiful mixture of rolling terrain laced with hardwood forests and brushy waterways. The patchwork effect of crop farms nestled in the woods provides a sight that is not only pleasing to the eye, but fine habitat for white-tailed deer.

We had taken some early snow, but most of it was gone a week before deer season. Two nights before the big day, we received about six inches of powder. The "Mad Norwegian" and I were really excited about the snow (good tracking, you know). The Norski had spent many days of the bow season talking to himself about a certain "Squaw Creek buck" and the fact that there were no elk in Iowa regardless of what he had seen one morning from his tree stand.

On the eve of the opening day of deer season, it happened — a freezing rain covered the snow with a very thick crust. The first two days of hunting were really a comedy. Everywhere we went it sounded like a thousand drunks touring a saltine cracker factory. We did not see a deer. This was more disturbing to the Norski than to me since I had never seen a buck in my entire life. We drove, we stalked, we went on many a chilly stand. The noise was deafening, and as much as we were moving, the deer were not. They

were as leery of their own vulnerability in the crunching snow as they were alarmed by our crashing footsteps.

The third day was entered into more out of commitment than enthusiasm, as we had arranged a special day off work (if we needed it). We had decided to go to Hooper, a game management area south of Lake Ahquabi State Park in Warren County. I went on stand in a brushy ditch near the intersection of two county roads that border the area. Accompanied by a hard wind, the temperature had dropped steadily over the past few days to about 10 degrees. I huddled in a pile of brush that offered some protection and a fair view of a small timber.

Sitting there, I felt a presence about me that was later confirmed by the sound of hoof steps. The sounds would come and go and each time they stopped, my heart would race with their ever-increasing nearness. Then, almost as though they had always been there but my eyes hadn't really been focused on them, seven does cautiously walked delicately out of the timber and onto the road. Although I was only fifteen feet from them, I felt strangely transparent and somewhat clever while I kept watching for a buck to appear. The buck didn't show, and my aching feet and hands warned me I could stand the cold no longer. Walking back to the car, I kept wondering if the deer had seen me.

We ate some lunch and discussed our next strategy. We decided that the best thing to do would be for me to employ an age-old deer hunting tactic — go for a walk. The Norski would block the north end of the section until I arrived from the south. I followed an old logging road to a convenient jump-off point that took me

through a really thick line of brambles. Descending a gentle slope dotted with sumac, I started to pick up tracks. Continuing into a deadfall-littered swamp, the number of tracks increased but seemed to come and go in all directions. I picked a large set of tracks that were going north. I picked these tracks for one very important reason — they were headed toward the car.

I finally found my way to a small secluded cornfield riddled with the sign of feeding deer. These were definitely fresh tracks. Skirting the cornfield, I looked up at the hill ahead of me. There stood a huge doe. I watched her bounce her way to a private timber. My first reaction was to move directly to a stand of cedars that she had come from, but decided to "silently" follow her to the point where she had left the public hunting area and backtracked to the cedars. I was approaching the cedars when a shot rang out about a half mile to the south of me. I froze in my tracks and very slowly knelt in the snow some fifty yards from the cedars.

The woods were dead quiet for an eternity. Suddenly, the silence was broken by the crashing sounds of a moving deer coming from the cornfield below me. Tucked behind a windrow, I could see nothing of the field, but sounds kept coming closer and closer. Then as quickly as it had started, the noise stopped and again all was agonizingly quiet. As the minutes passed, my legs were starting to cramp. I was on the verge of standing when my eyes again focused on a deer just in front of me. Clearly silhouetted against the cedars, a magnificent rack brought my heart to my throat. I pushed the safety off and slowly brought his chest into the sights. In this



Photo by Ron Johnson



minute segment of time in a man's life, anything could go wrong; but the buck never moved — he was looking right at me. I fired and the sixteen-point buck crumbled.

I tagged the deer after reading the tagging instructions at least three times and proceeded to scream for the Norski, who was at least a half mile away. My calls were later described as those of someone locked in hand-to-hand combat with a wringer washing machine. Finally, gasping for air, over the hill he came.

"I shot a buck!" I cried. The Norski stopped dead in his tracks and then ran down the hill toward me. His face was beaming with the red glow of a fat little Christmas elf. "You sure did", he said. I asked if it looked like a good one. "Good?" he screamed, "You'll hunt the rest of your life and never get another buck like this. It's all downhill from here, Single Shot."

We danced, patted each other on the back, and exchanged congratulations. He broke the celebration, however, with the announcement of a work schedule that would have earned a person a degree in anatomy at the Mayo Clinic. "Give me your knife; we first have to field dress him." I explained my knife was neatly tucked away in my lunch bucket in the car. He dressed the deer himself with his own knife, all the time muttering something about dumb Swedes, Iowa elk, sixteen points and beginner's luck.

I still don't know where that day fits into the total picture of my life's experiences and I think I'll keep it that way. It was a rare glimpse of another age and time, lived for only a moment, but captured forever in my mind. Luck? Fate? I humbly choose the latter.

## RANCH VENISON AND VITTLES

Even young bucks yield venison cuts lacking in tenderness. If shoulder, neck and shank meat can be prepared to satisfy the sophisticated tastes of cattlemen, imagine what it does for a tenderfoot like me.

After boning, cut the meat into 2-inch chunks. Covered iron skillet are great but electric pans work well too. Brown in a capful or two of cooking oil. Bake covered with moisture (cooking sherry or water) at 300 degrees for an hour, then add the other stuff and bake for another hour or until tender.

- 2 lb. venison
- 1 medium tomato finely cut
- ½ green pepper chopped
- ¼ C. onion chopped
- ½ C. BBQ sauce
- ½ C. catsup
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- Seasonings — garlic powder, thyme, black pepper

Another good use of the less desirable cuts of venison is to make summer sausage. Many Iowa meat lockers prepare a fine, smoked sausage like the one pictured above. Include some Swiss cheese, some crackers and something cool to drink, then stand back. — Editor



# Boating and Water Safety Poster Contest Announced

BY BETSY MALUEG  
BOATING SAFETY COORDINATOR

Who will win cash prizes, plaques, and have the chance to meet the Governor? Children in the fourth through sixth grades who enter this year's Water and Boating Safety Contest are eligible.

Last year, the Iowa Conservation Commission, along with the American Red Cross, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and U.S. Power Squadron, initiated a water safety poster program for children. It was thought that if water safety rules or boating precautions were learned at this age, they would have the greatest chance of being retained. As an incentive for children to enter the poster contest and learn about water safety, IMT Insurance Company agreed to donate over \$300 in cash prizes.

Last year, the poster contest was a *huge* success with over 1,400 entries. Ten winners were selected by a team of judges. The posters which, in the opinion of the judges, best illustrated the contest theme, were selected to win the cash prizes.

Because of last year's success, the Conservation Commission is promoting a second poster contest. Rules for this year's contest are as follows:



## Contest Rules

School children in fourth through sixth grades are eligible to enter. Students have been assigned the theme "Safe Boating Is No Accident". suggestions for the theme are:

1. Every boat must carry one life jacket per person.
2. Load your boat properly.
3. Know how *not* to fall overboard.
4. Keep a sharp lookout to avoid collisions.
5. Don't fool with fuel — fire can be very dangerous.
6. Watch the weather when boating.

These ideas are suggestions only, as long as the theme is depicted in some way, the poster will be accepted.

1. The poster must be drawn on poster paper 15" by 20" or 14" by 22". Students may sketch their design lightly with pencil, but it must be colored. There is no limitation as to the type of media — such as paint, crayon, cut paper, etc., but it should be easy to reproduce.

2. Posters must be designed on a vertical plane rather than horizontal plane.

3. The official entry form must be completely filled out, and attached to the back of the poster.

4. Posters may be packed and wrapped flat or mailed in a sturdy sealed mailing tube. Entries must be postmarked or received by February 1, 1982.

5. We will not be able to acknowledge or return any entries. All entries become the property of the Water and Boating Safety Committee of Iowa.

6. Winners will be contacted by mail and listed in the Conservationist Magazine.

7. Children of the judging committee may not enter.

8. The right to modify any poster for reproduction is reserved.

9. Please do not use magazine illustrations or copyrighted material.

10. The cash prizes for the contest are: First prize — \$100.00 savings bond; two second prizes — \$75.00 savings bonds; three third prizes — \$50.00 savings bonds. The winners will also receive a plaque. In addition to the above-mentioned awards, other deserving participants will receive honorable mention.

## Special Notice

The Iowa Conservation Commission, in cooperation with the Coast Guard Auxilliary, Des Moines Power Squadron, and the Iowa Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring the Water Safety Poster Contest for 1982. Contest cosponsor, IMT Insurance, is providing the cash prizes and plaques.

The poster contest is conducted in conjunction with Iowa Safe Boating Week. The first prize winner will be invited to attend the signing of the Safe Boating Proclamation by Governor Ray at the State Capitol. Winners will be notified by mail.

### Official Entry Form (Please Print)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NAME & ADDRESS OF SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

#### To Parent or Teacher:

To the best of my knowledge, this is the original work of my child/student and represents his/her level of ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Teacher

Check One: ( ) Parent ( ) Teacher

All entries must be postmarked no later than deadline date of February 1, 1982. Address to: **Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, East 9th and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.** Fill out entry form completely and secure it to the lower left hand corner on the back of the entry.



# TREES AND SHRUBS AVAILABLE

The Conservation Commission's State Forest Nursery grows tree and shrub seedlings for conservation uses on Iowa lands. Attached is the Nursery's 1982 application form. The following instructions should make it easy to complete:

1. **Delivery Information.** Check either "Pick up" or "Ship". If "Ship", give an address; a P.O. Box number is not enough. (All orders to be shipped will be sent by United Parcel Service.)
2. **Nursery Stock Requested.** Fill in the amounts you wish to order. You must order in units of 100, and the total order must be 500 or more plants (except the Wildlife Packet which may be ordered individually). If ordering plants to complete the previous year's planting, you may order less than 500 total but still in units of 100.
3. **Legal Description of Planting Location.** Fill in information (as found on your tax assessment).
4. **General Information.** Answer each question.
5. **Landowner Agreement and Signature.** Print your name, home address, and phone number. Read and sign the Agreement. (If it's not signed, we'll have to return it to you.) Check "Tax-Exempt" if applicable.

Check form for completeness — incomplete applications will be returned. (You can copy your order on the reverse side of this sheet for your records.) Detach the application, fold, and staple it twice. Attach postage and mail. **DON'T SEND MONEY AT THIS TIME — IT ONLY CAUSES HANDLING DELAYS.**

This year we'll be providing a new service to help you know what planting stock is available when you place your order. You can find out what species are currently available by calling 515-294-9642 for a recorded message which will give you our present inventory. We hope this service will be helpful to you and that you will take advantage of it.

If we have the plants requested when we receive your application, we'll deduct them from the inventory and send you a bill for the correct amount. This bill is our acknowledgement of your order. **PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE NURSERY WITHIN 15 DAYS**, otherwise we'll cancel your order, putting your plants back in the inventory and making them available for other orders.

For everyone's convenience, we are changing our billing procedure this year so the price for seedlings is the only charge. There will be no separate amounts for shipping. This will better reflect our handling costs — for both pickup and ship orders.

We begin preparing orders as early in the spring as possible. Unfavorable weather (rain, snow, etc.) can cause delays. The Nursery gets each order ready as quickly as possible, but we can't guarantee availability by any specific date.

For pickup orders, do not come to the Nursery for your order until you receive a postcard saying it's ready. Then bring the postcard with you when you come. For ship orders, a postcard



will be sent when your order is shipped so you can contact us if there's a delay in receiving your seedlings. You can get information about our shipping schedule in the spring by calling 515-294-9642 for a recorded message.

The Nursery reserves the right to make comparable substitutions if sufficient stock is not available.

Early orders have preference; the sooner you send your application, the better our chances of being able to serve you. If you have any questions, you can contact the Nursery Forester, 2404 South Duff Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010 (515/294-4622), Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.



### SUGGESTED SPACING

Species	Reforestation	Wildlife	Erosion Control
Pines	8' x 6' (908 plants/acre) — for timber 5' x 5' (1,742 plants/acre)— for Xmas Trees	same (High density makes good cover)	same
Walnut, Ashes, & Maple	8' x 8' (681/acre) to 12' x 12' (302/acre)	8' x 8' (681/acre) to 16' x 16' (170/acre)	8' x 8' to 12' x 12'
Russian Olive		6' x 6' (1,210/acre) to 12' x 12'	same
Autumn Olive & other shrubs		3' to 5' between plants within rows; 5' to 10' between rows; range from 2,900 plants/acre (3' x 5') to 871 (5' x 10'). Or plant in clumps 4 x 4 or 6 x 6.	

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Species	Mature Size Range	Moisture			Light		Growth Rate	Remarks	#Ordered (For Your Records)
		Dry	Well Drained	Moist	Full Sun	Some Shade			
White Pine	50-80'		X	X	X	X	fast	Intolerant of air pollutants. Good timber tree. Adaptable to most sites.	
Scotch Pine	30-60'	X	X		X		medium	Hardy. Adaptable.	
Red Pine	50-80'		X		X		medium	Requires cool sites. Good timber tree.	
Ponderosa Pine	60-100'	X	X		X		medium	Recommended for Western Iowa only.	
Jack Pine	35-50'	X	X		X		fast	Hardy and adaptable. Good cover for coal spoil banks.	
Red Cedar	40-50'	X	X	X	X		medium	Tolerates poor, gravelly soils; prefers airy site. Very drought resistant. Good food and habitat for wildlife.	
Black Walnut	50-70'		X		X		fast	Valuable wood products tree. Good firewood. Requires deep, rich, well-drained soil.	
White Ash	50-80'		X		X		medium	Valuable wood products tree. Very good firewood.	
Green Ash	50-60'		X	X	X		fast	Valuable wood products tree. Very good firewood.	
Hard Maple	60-75'		X	X	X	X	slow	Valuable wood products tree. Very good firewood. Maple syrup.	
Silver Maple	60-80'		X	X	X	X	fast	Bottomland sites. Valuable wood products tree. Good firewood.	
Shagbark Hickory	60-80'		X		X		medium	Wood products. Excellent firewood.	
Red Oak	60-80'		X	X	X		fast	Valuable wood products tree. Excellent firewood.	
Bur Oak	70-80'	X	X	X	X		medium	Adaptable to various soils. Excellent firewood. Staves and railroad ties.	
White Oak	50-80'		X	X	X		medium	Valuable wood products tree. Excellent firewood.	
Mixed Oak								Contains red oak, white oak and bur oak.	
Osage Orange	20-40'	X	X		X		fast	More adaptable to southern Iowa. Withstands poor soil extremely well. Thorny, useful for wildlife habitat.	
Wild Plum	12-15'	X	X	X	X	X	fast	Hardy. Forms thicket. Good wildlife habitat.	
Russian Olive	12-15'	X	X		X	X	medium	Very hardy plant. Good food for wildlife. Drought resistant.	
Autumn Olive (Cardinal strain)	12-18'		X		X	X	medium	Good wildlife food and habitat. Plant on protected site.	
Tatarian Honeysuckle	10-12'	X	X		X	X	fast	Very hardy. Dense growth. Good wildlife habitat and food for birds. Fruit available July-August.	
Amur Honeysuckle	12-15'	X	X		X	X	fast	Occasional winter killing of branches in northern Iowa. Fruit available in September-November. Good wildlife habitat and food for birds.	
Ninebark	5-9'		X	X	X	X	medium	Very hardy. Good wildlife habitat.	
Redosier Dogwood	7-9'		X	X	X	X	fast	Producers cluster of stems from ground. Good wildlife food and habitat.	
Common Lilac	8-15'		X		X		medium	Hardy. Shrub border or in groupings. Good wildlife habitat.	
Wildlife packet									

### FORESTRY SECTION IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Forestry Section of the Conservation Commission assists the people of Iowa to enhance the woodland resources by following this broad objective: To foster environmental protection and strive to insure, for present and future generations, the greatest economic and social benefits from trees, forest land, and related resources. The Forestry Section works toward these objectives through forest management, tree planting, forest protection, timber processing improvement and demonstration of woodland values. These services are available to all landowners, public and private.

\*\*\*\*\*

For planting information and other assistance concerning the management, harvesting, marketing and utilization of your woodlands, contact the District Forester serving the county in which your land is located (see map on back of application). This is a free service, and we urge you to contact them before you plan any special or extensive plantings.

Similar management advice for wildlife is available from Wildlife Management Biologists (also listed on the back of the application). Planting assistance may also be available from your County Conservation Board.



### 1. DELIVERY INFORMATION

(Please print)

I will pick up my order at the nursery when notified.

I want my order shipped to the address below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(ADDRESS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(CITY)

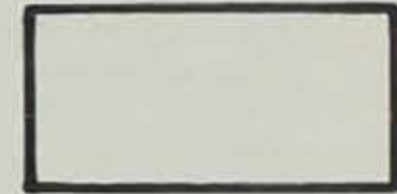
\_\_\_\_\_  
(PHONE)

### 2. NURSERY STOCK REQUESTED

(Do not order less than 500,  
in units of 100)

Species	Age (yr.)	Height	Cost and tax/ Hundred	Number Wanted	Office Use Only
White Pine	3	5-12'	5.80		
Scotch Pine	2	5-10"	5.80		
Red Pine	3	6-14"	5.80		
Ponderosa Pine	2	5-12"	5.80		
Jack Pine	2	5-12"	5.80		
Red Cedar	2	6-12"	5.80		
Black Walnut	1	10-18"	5.80		
White Ash	1	6-12"	5.30		
Green Ash	1	6-12"	5.30		
Hard Maple	2	5-12"	5.30		
Silver Maple	1	6-12"	5.30		
Shagbark Hickory	2	3-6"	5.30		
Red Oak	1	5-12"	5.30		
Bur Oak	1	5-12"	5.30		
White Oak	1	5-12"	5.30		
Mixed Oak	1	5-12"	5.30		
Osage Orange	1	6-12"	5.30		
Wild Plum	1	6-12"	5.30		
Russian Olive	1	6-12"	5.30		
Autumn Olive	1	6-12"	5.30		
Tatarian Honeysuckle	1	6-12"	5.30		
Amur Honeysuckle	1	6-12"	5.30		
Ninebark	1	6-12"	5.30		
Redosier Dogwood	1	6-12"	5.30		
Common Lilac	1	5-12"	5.30		
Wildlife Packet (containing 50 conifers & 150 shrubs chosen by the Nursery)			13.00/ Packet		

## 1982 APPLICATION FORM



### 3. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PLANTING LOCATION

These trees are to be planted in \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter,  
Section \_\_\_\_\_, Township \_\_\_\_\_ N,  
Range \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_ County,  
Iowa.

### 4. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. I RECEIVED ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING THIS ORDER FROM: 1.  No one, 2.  Soil Conservation Service, 3.  ASCS, 4.  County Extension Service, 5.  District Forester, 6.  Conservation Officer, 7.  Wildlife Biologist, 8.  County Conservation Board.

B. MAIN PURPOSE OF PLANTING: 1.  general forestry, 2.  wildlife habitat, 3.  erosion control, 4.  other.

C. METHOD OF PLANTING: 1.  machine, 2.  hand.

D. THE PLANTING LOCATION IS: 1.  farm, 2.  city, 3.  acreage, 4.  government land 5.  other.

E. HAVE YOU PURCHASED PLANTS FROM THE NURSERY BEFORE? 1.  No, 2.  Yes.

If yes, is this order for 3.  Replacement or 4.  Expansion of previous planting?

### 5. LANDOWNER AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURE

I agree to plant and use the nursery stock requested upon the described property for establishing or improving existing forests, erosion control, game or water conservation, with these restrictions: I agree NOT to resell or give these plants away with roots attached to any person, firm, corporation or agency nor to plant any of them for new windbreak, shade, or ornamental purposes. I agree to protect all plantings from fire and domestic livestock grazing. I agree to forfeit for destruction any trees planted or used in violation of the above restrictions.

If you are a tax-exempt government agency, please check here.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(LANDOWNER NAME — PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(MAIL ADDRESS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PHONE NUMBER)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(LANDOWNER SIGNATURE)



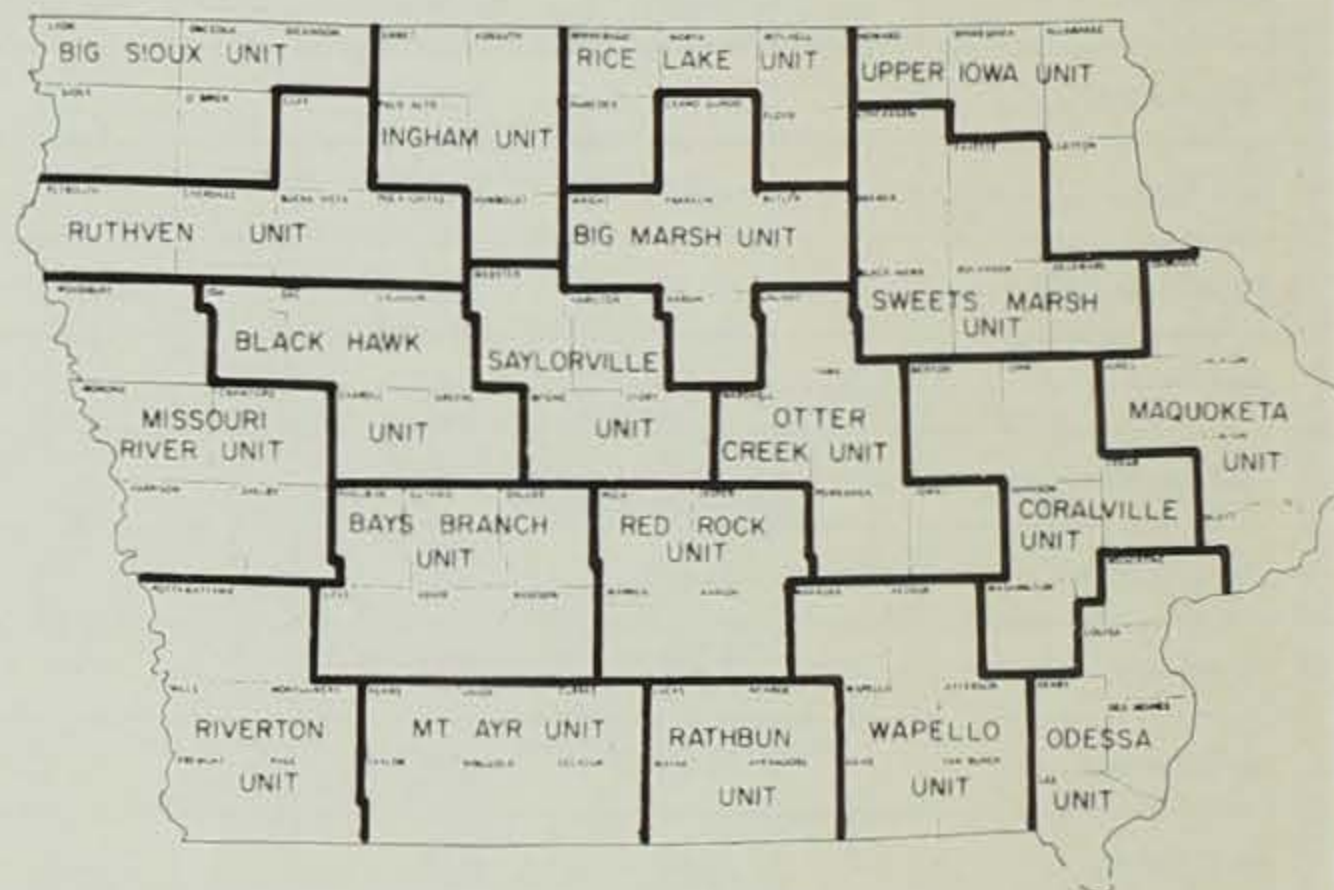
**DISTRICT FORESTER ADDRESSES**



- 1. ELKADER ..... Box 662, 52043, (319) 245-1891
- 2. CHARLES CITY ..... Box 4, 50616, (515) 228-6611
- 3. MARSHALLTOWN ..... Box 681, 50158, (515) 752-3352
- 4. ANAMOSA ..... Box 46, 52205, (319) 462-2768
- 5. WAPELLO ..... Box 62, 52653, (319) 523-8319
- 6. FAIRFIELD ..... Box 568, 52556, (515) 472-2370
- 7. CHARITON ..... Stephens State Forest, RR 3, 50049  
(515) 774-4918
- 8. ADEL ..... Box 175, 50003, (515) 993-4133
- 9. RED OAK ..... Box 152, 51566, (712) 623-4252
- 10. LE MARS ..... Box 65, 51031, (712) 546-5161
- 11. CRESTON ..... Box 2, 50801, (515) 782-6761
- 12. HUMBOLDT ..... 102-8th St., S., 50548, (515) 332-2761  
State Forest Nursery (515) 294-4622

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST ADDRESSES**

- 1. Bays Branch Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 747-2278  
ASCS Office Bldg., Box 247, Guthrie Center, 50115
- 2. Big Marsh Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 456-3730  
ASCS Office Bldg., Box 296, Hampton, 50441
- 3. Big Sioux Wildlife Unit ..... (712) 472-3751  
SCS Office Bldg., Rock Rapids, 51246
- 4. Black Hawk Wildlife Unit ..... (712) 664-2624  
RR #1, Lake View, 51450
- 5. Coralville Wildlife Unit ..... (319) 354-1074  
ASCS Office Bldg., 517 Southgate Ave., Iowa City, 52240
- 6. Ingham Wildlife Unit ..... (712) 362-7222  
SCS Office Bldg., 2109 Murray Rd., Estherville, 51334
- 7. Maquoketa Wildlife Unit ..... (319) 652-2456  
Pershing Rd. E., Maquoketa, 52060
- 8. Missouri River Wildlife Unit ..... (712) 423-2426  
SCS Office, Lindley Bldg., Onawa, 51040
- 9. Mt. Ayr Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 464-2220  
SCS Office Bldg., RR 3, Mt. Ayr, 50854
- 10. Odessa Wildlife Unit ..... (319) 523-8319  
ASCS Office Bldg., 117 S. 2nd St., Wapello, 52653
- 11. Otter Creek Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 484-3752  
USDA Office Bldg., 203 W. High St., Toledo, 52342
- 12. Rathbun Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 774-4918  
Highway 34 By-Pass, Chariton, 50049
- 13. Red Rock Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 961-2587  
Box 423, Indianola, 50125
- 14. Rice Lake Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 324-1819  
SCS Office Bldg., 706 1st Ave. N., Northwood, 50459
- 15. Riverton Wildlife Unit ..... (712) 624-9063  
SCS Office Bldg., Malvern, 51551
- 16. Ruthven Wildlife Unit ..... (712) 225-4595  
SCS Office Bldg., Cherokee, 51012



- 17. Saylorville Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 432-4320  
ASCS Office Bldg., 718 8th St., Boone, 50036
- 18. Sweet Marsh Wildlife Unit ..... (319) 352-1113  
ASCS Office Bldg., 911 Bremer, Waverly, 50677
- 19. Upper Iowa Wildlife Unit ..... (319) 382-4895  
ASCS Office Bldg., 911 S. Mill St., Decorah, 52101
- 20. Wapello Wildlife Unit ..... (515) 682-3552  
ASCS Office Bldg., 1309 E. Mary, Ottumwa, 52501

Fold Here

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Nursery Forester  
 State Forest Nursery  
 2404 South Duff Avenue  
 Ames, Iowa 50010-8093**



# Warden's Diary

BY JERRY HOILLEN

## Maturing Of A Hunter

I've observed lots of hunters over the past twenty some years...some mature and some do not.

In the beginning it starts with a toy gun, with the sound effects furnished by the shooter. Bang-bang, ping, wham, cush, kew, or whatever sounds good to their ears and imagination. Sometimes a pointed stick or even a finger will prove amazingly accurate. Seldom is a shot missed, even from the back of a running stickhorse.

Then comes the B-B gun and all its wonders, and with it comes learning to aim, sight, load, trigger pull, and the ability to hit something...the target can be a pail, a post, a tin can, or an actual bull's-eye paper target. But now they can hit something, maybe even get something...a frog or a sparrow?

As our gunner advances, its a .22 single shot or .410, and his range and power have expanded along with (hopefully) his skills. Now he can get something, and it may not make any difference what it is, as long as he can get it and show off the proof of his skills. Someone has injected caution at this point. "Be sure of your target, watch your backstop, never point at anything you don't intend to shoot". Now they're talking about different kinds of birds,



seasons, limits, hours, kinds of guns and shells. Boy, there's a lot more to this thing than he thought. What about those birds?

Suddenly a strange thing is taking place...now our hunter is studying game, learning to identify it, where it lives, how it lives, all about its ways. Learning all sorts of things like: calling ducks, putting out decoys...there's a whole new world out there and he or she can't wait to get at it.

They have had some success and experience now and another strange thing is happening. Now the hunter wants to share. Making a good shot is much more fun if there's a friend with you to enjoy the thrill of the hunt, watching the birds, seeing the dogs work well, or just being outside in the fresh air.

As our individual matures he or she has to share or even teach another about this wonderful thing they have found and come to love. There's no greater thrill than watching the eyes of a youngster as the world of hunting unfolds before him.

Now the thrill of the kill has become secondary to the preparation and anticipation. Calling the ducks and seeing them swing your decoys and chatter back to you; it stands the hair up on the

back of your neck even thinking about it. The thrill of the sound of a booming tom turkey in the spring thunders in our ears even in the dead of winter as we dream of past experiences. The whirring wings of a ring-necked pheasant or distant drumming of a ruffed grouse is a sound to hold dearly in the confines of your heart, as we anticipate times to come.

By this time, the kill is not important at all...watching a son or daughter take their first bird is almost more than his heart can stand. The look and understanding surpasses any words I could write.

Now our hunter has matured. He or she has grown to the point that they care (to say the least) for wildlife, which has become a part of them. They will spend time, money, effort, and sometimes a lifetime making sure this thing they've found is not lost, but is there for future generations.

There's no magic formula for teaching this maturing business. I don't have a shot I can give you or even a book for you to read. I'm not sure I'd give it to you anyway, after all, isn't this part of life? Do you think the Good Lord gave us all the fish and wildlife just to eat? Think about it? It's part of life...the good life.

I'm much more patient with the violators now because I know they are growing up...maturing. That's a great thrill to me as I watch people mature. Perhaps I've helped in some small way.

Oh yes...incidentally this business of maturing doesn't always match with age. I've seen mature hunters at 16 and juvenile hunters at 61.

GOOD HUNTING!

## Classroom Corner

BY BOB RYE

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Man is but one kind of animal among more than a million other kinds sharing this earth. Man is subject to the same forces and is influenced by factors which affect other organisms. He is completely dependent upon many animals for certain essential services, while suffering enormous losses from the destructive activities of others.



In early civilization some wild animals were domesticated. The dog became an aid for hunting. Horses, cattle, goats, sheep, swine and poultry were used to avoid having to hunt. Others became beasts of burden, transportation, or even items for bartering.

Today man is still making much use of wild animals and profiting from the services they perform, but many take them for granted.

Commercial values include commercial fishing with resulting food, fertilizer, oils, drugs and pearls. Trapping and raising fur bearing animals provide clothing materials and jobs for collectors and processors.

Recreational uses include hunting, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography. Items purchased include equipment, clothes, licenses, transportation, food and lodging, dogs and guides. The true value of the recreational aspect cannot be measured.

Biological values include pollination, reduction of losses from harmful insects, soil formation, water conservation and conversion of materials from one form to another. We all know the value of predators and scavengers, as well as the value of soil which has been aerated by animals.

Esthetically animals have been represented in music, poetry, literature and paintings. Historical significance includes the Thanksgiving turkey, our national symbol, and countless folktales and bedtime stories.

The scientific value is evident in the use of wild animals in studies of behavior and diseases. Many chemicals and medical processes now benefit man because of these studies.

Of course there are endless lists of animals' value to us all. A quiet walk down a nature trail offers the opportunity to observe several species. After your observations, develop your own lists.



