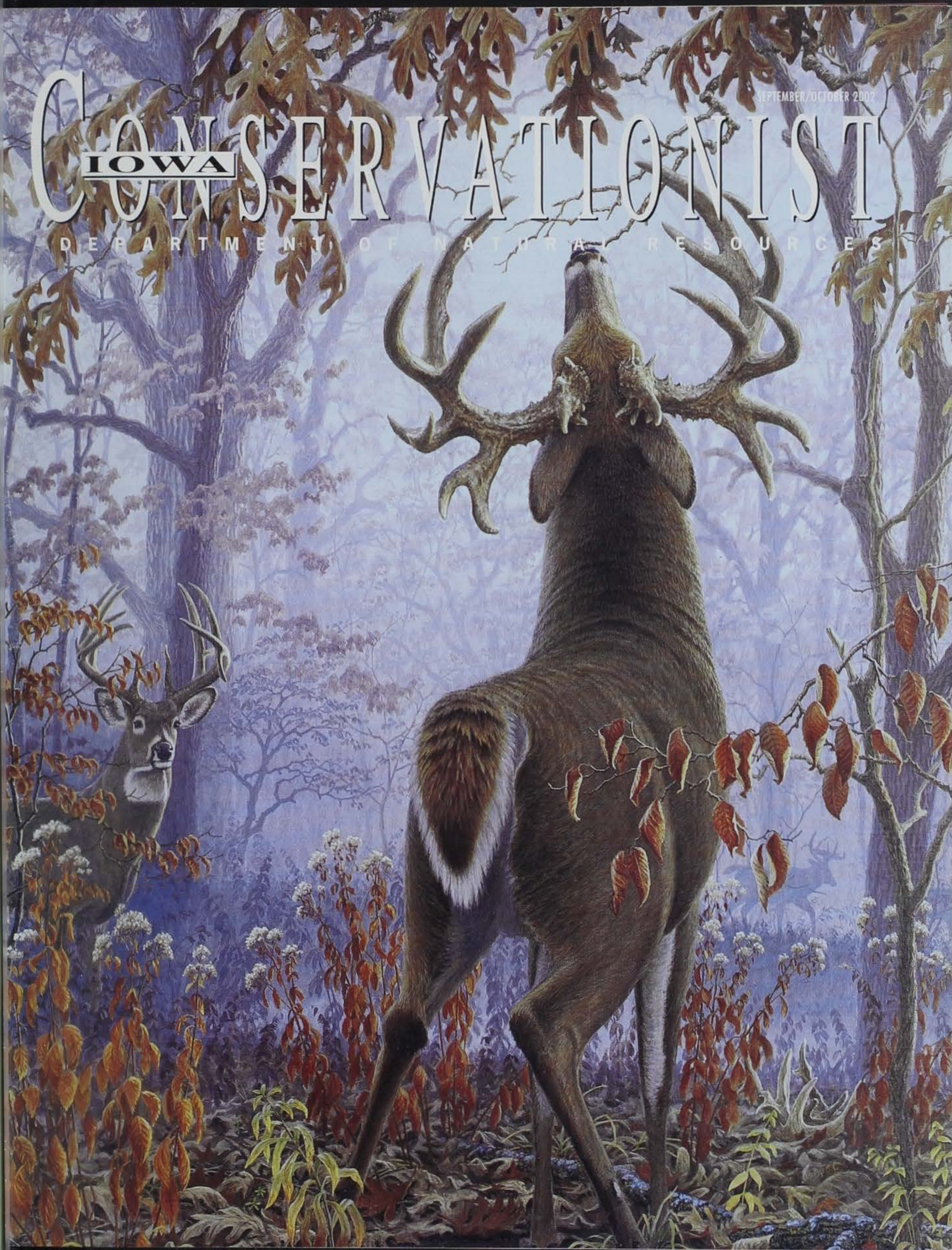


SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

CONSERVATIONIST

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



enders

G. AND
T

DNR ON THE AIR

by Mick Klemesrud

It was around noon and KUOO 103.9 FM was preparing for its local news hour. The voice on the radio told listeners to stay tuned for DNR conservation officer Jeff Morrison who would be talking about what anglers could expect for the opening of walleye season. As the show came back from commercial, Morrison gave anglers in the audience a few pointers on boat ramp courtesy, reminded boaters to check their safety equipment and gave them a quick update on fishing and boating laws.

Morrison and fellow officer Gary Owen share a radio show on KUOO in Spirit Lake as well as a show on KKOJ AM 1190 in Jackson, Minn.

The Iowa DNR has a long history of partnering with radio stations. In fact, at 600 WMT in Cedar Rapids, the DNR has participated regularly in an outdoor show for more than 55

years. On the other side of the coin, the DNR began a partnership with KJJC FM in the Des Moines area last spring.

Outdoor sports shows are a great way to provide quality information to the public. The majority of the shows are hosted or co-hosted by conservation officers who have the most up-to-date information on hunting, fishing, camping and other outdoor pursuits for the area.

As a courtesy to readers of the *Iowa Conservationist*, the DNR has assembled a list of outdoor sports radio shows around Iowa.

The following stations have regularly scheduled outdoor shows:

Ames/Madrid FM 96.1 KLRX – Thursdays 6 p.m.

Atlantic AM 1220 KJAN – bi-monthly Saturdays 7:30 a.m.

Atlantic FM 96.5 KSOM – Saturdays 7:30 a.m.

Carroll AM 1380 KCIM – Fridays 6:50 a.m. and Saturdays 7:35 a.m.

Cedar Rapids AM 600 WMT – Saturdays 6:45 a.m.

Creston AM 1520 – FM 101.3 KSIB – Wednesdays 12:55 p.m.

Denison AM 1530 KDSN – Fridays 11:45 a.m.

Des Moines AM 1040 WHO – Sundays 9 a.m.

Dubuque AM 1370 KDTH – Fridays 5:25 p.m.

Keokuk AM 1310 KOKX – Saturdays 8:30 a.m.

Mt. Pleasant AM 1130 – FM 105.5 KILJ – Saturdays 8 a.m.

Muscatine AM 860 KWPC – Fridays 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Newton AM 1280 – FM 95.9 KCOB – Saturdays 8 a.m.

Osceola/Des Moines FM 107.1 KJJC – Tuesdays 6 p.m.

Red Oak AM 1080 KOAK – every other Saturday 11:30 a.m.

Shenandoah AM 960 KMA – Saturdays 5 p.m.

Spencer AM 1240 KICD – Saturdays 8:55 a.m.

Washington AM 1380 – FM 95.3 KCII – Saturdays and Sundays 12:40 p.m.

The following stations have shows that air at different times:

Burlington AM 1490 KBUR – FM 93.5 KDWD

Fairfield AM 1570 KMCD

Jackson, MINN AM 1190 KKOJ

Spirit Lake FM 103.9 KUOO

Atlantic AM 1220 KJAN – April through July, Thursdays 5 p.m.

Mick Klemesrud is an information specialist with the department's communications bureau in Des Moines.



Alan Foster

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

FRONT COVER: BIG TIMBER BUCKS BY WILDLIFE ARTIST LARRY ZACH. TO GET THE STORY BEHIND THE ART, SEE PAGE 16.



Departments

4 Letters

50 Parks Profile

54 Conservation 101

56 Kids' Corner

58 Conservation Update

62 Warden's Diary

63 Parting Shot

Features

6 2002 HUNTING SEASON OUTLOOK

by Terry W. Little

The August roadside counts are in for upland game, and deer and turkey population estimated have been tabulated. Will this hunting season be a boon — or a bust?

16 2001 RECORD RACKS

21 IOWA DEER HERD HEALTHY

by Lowell Washburn

Chronic wasting disease is gaining much attention lately. Find out what the Iowa DNR is doing to protect Iowa's deer herd from the disease.

22 FLIGHT BIRDS

by Lowell Washburn

What makes the woodcock the oddest — and most endearing — gamebird you'll ever hunt?

28 MR. FISH HALTS HABITAT LOSS ON THE MISSISSIPPI

by Gene Jones

A partnership between state and federal agencies and local volunteers is helping protect habitat along the Mississippi River.

32 RECORD PRODUCTION YEAR FOR PEREGRINES AND TRUMPETERS

by Lowell Washburn

One of the state's most popular and best-followed wildlife programs is paying big dividends.

39 PRAIRIE RESCUE REVISITED

by Matthew J. Edwards and Jeff Sing

It was an odd request, but hundreds of volunteers turned out on Earth Day 2002 — to cut down trees.

44 NEW SAFETY PROGRAM HELPS IOWA SCHOOL CHILDREN BREATHE EASIER

by Brian Button

Under a new state program, all Iowa diesel school buses will be tested for emissions. The Bus Emissions Education Program will help Iowa schools identify and correct emissions deficiencies to help improve Iowa's air quality — and protect it's school children.

LETTERS

Thanks For The Personal Touch

I recently changed my address and in the process ran into mostly bad experiences. Most organizations attempt to do it electronically and fail. They also ignore the info you send them in the mail or mess it up somehow.

I got your 800 phone no. from the magazine and talked to a real person who transferred me to the "change of address" real person and it was a done deal. Both people I talked to were courteous and enjoyable to talk to.

A few days later, the last issue of the *Conservationist* was mailed to my new address.

If you can, extend my gratitude to your staff; they are great and thanks for doing things the old fashioned way.

Tom Powers
Iowa City

Doesn't Agree With Catch-And-Release

People who catch and eat fish are tired of being labeled unsporting, meat hogs, or greedy anglers, by catch-and-release angling elitists.

The catch-and-release ethic is a crock invented by so-called sportsmen who pursue poor little fishies with thousands of dollars' worth of Space Age technology. Fishing is essentially an atavistic activity harking back to our hunting/gathering roots, and consumption of the fish we take is as integral a part of fishing as

eating mushrooms is of mushroom hunting. The hunt may be more than half the fun, but the edibility of the quarry is the point of the whole exercise.

After Noah's Flood, according to Genesis, God gave man the right to use beasts, fowls, and fish for food. Never did He give us the right to torment His sentient creatures just because we get a kick out of their panicked reaction to the pain and fear we inflict. Eating fish sanctifies the catching of fish.

Don't sprain your elbow patting yourself on the back for releasing a bass if you're going to go home and eat a pork chop. Eating fish you catch treads more lightly on the environment than buying store-bought meat. This is especially true here in Iowa, where manure, ag chemicals, and silt from row crops are a major environmental problem.

Finally, consumption of legally taken fish is pretty low on the list of factors that can adversely affect the quality of fishing in Iowa.

Rick L. Olson
Indianola

Writers Disagree On Laminated Licenses

Dick Wagner's letter published in the July/August issue of "*Iowa Conservationist*" suggested that the lifetime fishing license be laminated. I too was surprised to get a piece of paper for a lifetime license. I'm only 65 and I doubt that the license will be

readable in 30 years.

I suggest that the DNR mail out a laminated license to each of the persons who already have a lifetime license. I'd be happy to send a buck to cover the cost of a permanent lifetime license.

Roger Mobley
Cedar Rapid

I would object to your spending money to laminate the lifetime licenses. In 1986 I purchased my lifetime hunting and fishing license and went right to a local office supply store and had it laminated.

The cost I don't remember but with that being the last one I'd purchase the cost did not matter.

That license still remains in my billfold at all times and is still in pretty good shape.

Dar Kephart
Mason City

Author Points Out The Other Side on ATVs

In the March/April and May/June issues of the *Iowa Conservationist* you shared opinions from several readers regarding their disappointment with the ATV advertisements that are present in the recent issues of the magazine. While I'm proud to say that I'm an ATVer, a snowmobiler, and a conservationist, the problem I have is the negative connotation that is automatically associated with the ATV and the snowmobile. I for

one know many riders of ATVs and snowmobiles that are good conservationists that abide by all the laws and respect other's right to enjoy nature. I'm not going to argue that there are not a few individuals that may ruin people's outdoor experience but I for one have had several outings ruined by a hiker or a fisherman who was trespassing. So in concluding please don't pass judgment on an individual just because they choose to ride a recreational vehicle.

Brian Atkinson
Center Point

Quail Decline Saddening

Your thorough-going piece on quail, "A Vanishing Species" (*Conservationist*, July-August 2002 issue) brushed off early memories of this wonderful bird, together with curiosity on present status of numbers hereabouts. First the memories.

The house in which I was born and grew up is located, then as now, on one of Iowa's busiest streets, First Avenue, two miles out from downtown Cedar Rapids on the road to Marion. Across the avenue and down a block was an expansive meadow full of thick grass, from which on summer mornings we used to hear the delightful "bob-white" call of free-ranging quail.

One year my early rising

father discovered an active quail nest right in a flower bed in our front yard. Only after the eggs had all hatched and the young covey gone from the premises did he proudly show us children the empty nest. I recall surprise at all those left-behind egg shells. There must have been all of 16 little ones in the departed brood.

Fast forward 75 years, and I continue to live in the same block, but not the same house. Now 83, I haven't heard the "bob white" call for at least the past 30 years. The meadow has been taken over by one of Iowa's largest assisted living care centers. The quail left long, long ago.

Your article prompted curiosity, are there any quail left in Linn County? I phoned our county conservation folks and luckily was referred to the man in charge of game bird counts. He reported his most recent count turned up two quail, although he hastened to add he had heard reports of a few in the Springville area. But officially only two? Only two left in Iowa's second most populous county? Yes, and prospects continue shrinking for the species throughout the entire country. I feel awful — but I do thank you for the article, disheartening as it is.

John M. Ely Jr.
Cedar Rapids

The *Iowa Conservationist* welcomes letters from readers. Printed letters reflect the opinions of the author. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Letters can be emailed to alan.foster@dnr.state.ia.us.

September/October 2002
Volume 61, Number 5

STAFF

Ross Harrison, Bureau Chief
Julie Sparks, Editor
Alan Foster, Managing Editor
Lowell Washburn, Writer/Photographer
Clay Smith, Photographer
Larry Pool, Graphic Artist
Circulation, 515/281-3359 or 281-3887

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

William Sullivan, Chair, Cantril
Paul Christiansen, Vice-Chair, Mount Vernon
Carol Kramer, Secretary, Newton
Joan Schneider, Okoboji
R. Kim Francisco, Lucas
Richard Garrels, Mount Pleasant
Janice Marcantonio, Council Bluffs

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

Kathryn Murphy, Chair, LeMars
Gary C. Priebe, Vice-Chair, Algona
Rita Venner, Secretary, Breda
Terrance Townsend, Newton
James Braun, Latimer
Darrell Hanson, Manchester
Lisa Davis Cook, West Des Moines
James Tobin, New Market
Lori Glanzman, Mount Pleasant

DIRECTOR

Jeffrey R. Vonk

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Liz Christiansen

DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS

Linda Hanson, Management Services
Michael Brandrup, Conservation and Recreation
Wayne Gieselman, Environmental Services

WEB ADDRESS

www.state.ia.us/dnr

SPECIAL PHONE NUMBERS

Hunting (515) 281-HNTR
Fishing (515) 281-FISH
Parks (515) 281-TENT
Forestry (515) 281-TREE
Waste Management and Recycling (515) 281-8941
Emergency Spill Response (515) 281-8694
Energy (515) 281-5918
Main Number (515) 281-5918
Turn-In-Poachers (TIP), (800) 532-2020
TTD (515) 242-5967

Iowa Conservationist (ISSN 0021-0471) is published bimonthly by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Periodicals postage paid in Des Moines, Iowa and additional mailing offices. **Subscription rates: \$12 for one year, \$18 for two years and \$24 for three years. Prices subject to change without notice.** Include mailing label for renewals and address changes. POSTMASTER: Send changes to the *Iowa Conservationist*, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D. C. 20240



2002 HUNTING SEASON Outlook

Iowa's nimrods should enter the 2002 hunting seasons with broad smiles and expectations for a good to excellent season regardless of what they hunt. Quail and pheasant hunting will be greatly improved over last year. Deer numbers remain high and hunting regulations are liberal – hunters will be allowed to take more deer than most families can consume. Duck and goose numbers remain at or above their long-term levels for the species most important to Iowa waterfowlers. Wild turkey broods will be more common than the last few years. And furbearer numbers remain abundant for the few trappers and hunters that still pursue them.

The reason for this euphoria is that Mother Nature wore her happy face this year. In case you have forgotten, the winter and spring of 2001 were nearly the coldest and wettest on record. Upland game numbers plummeted because of greater-than-normal winter losses and poor production of young. There were even documented cases of starvation of deer and wild turkeys, an usual occurrence in Iowa, with concerns expressed that substantial losses may have occurred. The outlook for big game was guarded, but predictions for upland game were downright pessimistic.

Beginning in mid-summer, however, last year's weather did one of those abrupt reversals for which the Midwest is famous. The past fall, winter and spring were among the warmest and driest on record. Over-winter losses of all wildlife were minimal and conditions were favorable for excellent reproduction of upland game and wild turkeys. Mild fall weather allowed deer hunters to take a record number of white-tailed deer, but deer populations remain abundant nearly everywhere.

The prairies of the northern Great Plains — North America's duck factory — were too dry and warm, and drought cycles reappeared for the first time in a decade. Reduced waterfowl production is expected, particularly for species that nest in the shallow wetlands that dry up first when drought strikes. But the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's fall flight prediction for mallards remains at long-term average levels.

Experienced hunters know, however, that more than just the abundance or lack of wildlife affects their hunting success. A variety of factors — weather, timing of crop harvest, migration patterns and even when the full moon occurs — can affect the hunting experience. With that in mind, let's take a more realistic look at what the upcoming hunting seasons might hold.

by Terry W. Little

Roger A. Hill



Upland Game

Pheasants, quail and partridge. Last year the DNR's August roadside counts produced estimates for ring-necked pheasants and bobwhite quail that were the lowest recorded since counts were started in 1963. Numbers of gray partridge were the lowest since the late 1970s.

Hunters apparently took this grim but honest forecast to heart, perhaps too much so. The number of pheasant hunters fell to 123,000, quail hunters to 24,000, and partridge hunters to 6,000 — all record lows. Unseasonably warm November weather led to poor early-season hunting success and ultimately reduced hunting effort. As a result,



produce a similar result, but they have an added advantage; when numbers are low some bobwhite hens will produce more than one brood. Of course weather and predators take their toll on young chicks – about half survive in the best years – so this potential growth is never realized. But a doubling of numbers from one nesting season is very possible, and an even greater increase can occur in very favorable years.

The biggest improvement in upland bird hunting will occur in regions where the most hens survived through the unfavorable weather of 2001. At this time, best hunting for 2002 will probably be in a broad belt across central Iowa along Interstate 80 and in the northwest quadrant of the state. Numbers there rebounded to normal levels in just one

just 470,000 pheasants, 32,000 bobwhites and 6,000 partridge were harvested, about half of the previous lows ever reported for these species. Once normal weather returned in mid-December, however, the few hunters still willing to hunt found a few more birds than might have been expected. Best success seemed to be in east-central and northwest Iowa, where the greatest amount of secure pheasant winter habitat remains.

This reduction in hunter numbers last year had economic as well as recreational impact. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates nonresident pheasant hunters spend an average of \$240 while in Iowa,

and residents spend \$188 annually on hunting expenses. This translates to a loss of revenue last fall of nearly \$100 million that would have been spent for food, lodging, gas and hunting equipment in small, rural towns where the need for additional economic activity is the greatest.

The outlook for the coming season is far more optimistic. Results from the roadside counts indicated average statewide pheasant numbers more than doubled since last year and quail numbers are up approximately 28 percent. A single pair of pheasants can potentially increase numbers 700 percent from a single successful nest (one rooster + one hen + 12 young = 14 pheasants). Quail can

nesting season and the outlook for good pheasant hunting is excellent wherever pheasant habitat remains.

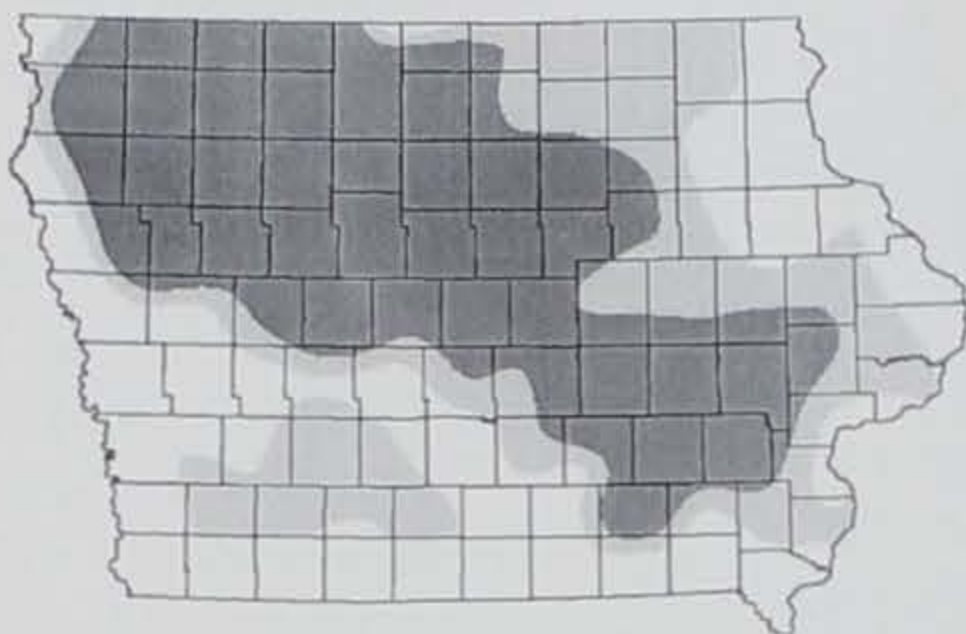
Southern Iowa has been in the grip of poor weather during the nesting season for most of the past decade, however, and upland bird numbers were far below normal even before the disaster of 2001. Pheasant and quail numbers increased there, but the improvement will not be as obvious. Doubling a population of two pheasants per square mile still results in just four pheasants. It will take more than one nesting season to turn things around in this region, but this year will at least have started things in the right direction.

One other factor may work in

Iowa 2002 distribution maps.
Counts represent generalized
game abundance.

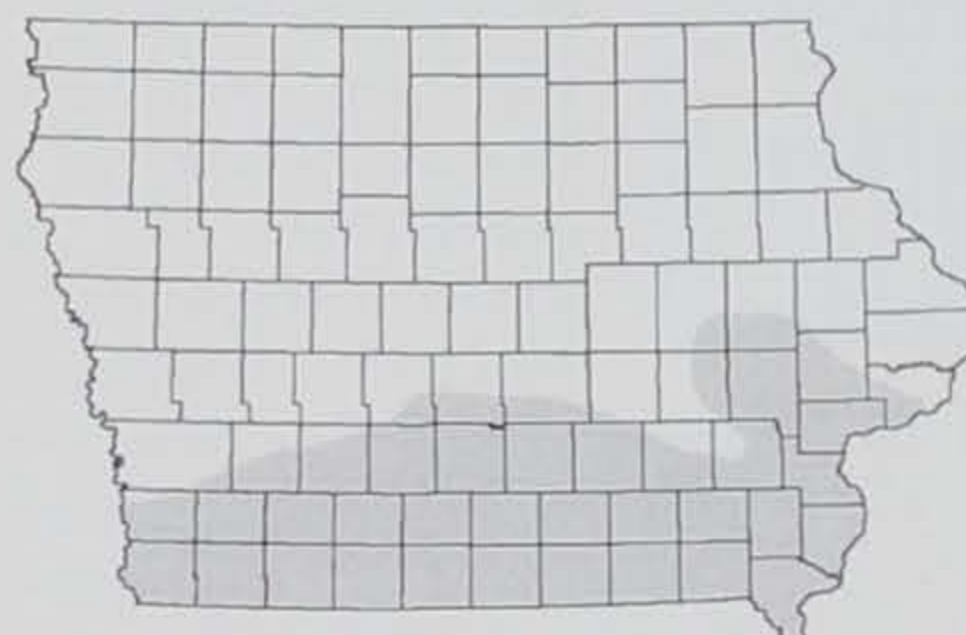
GOOD FAIR POOR

PHEASANT



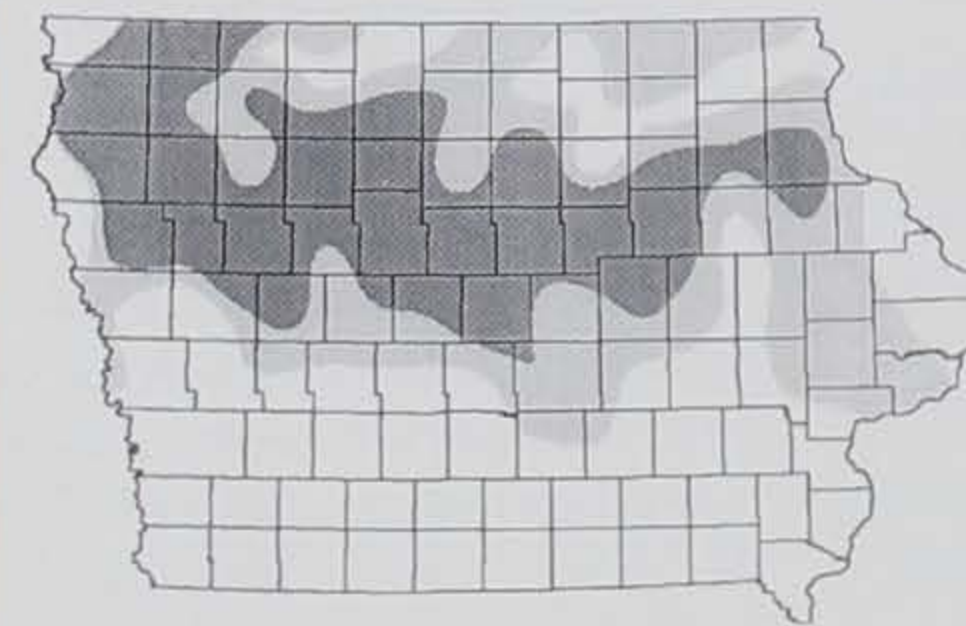
Pheasant

QUAIL



Quail

GRAY PARTRIDGE



Gray Partridge

upland game bird hunters' favor this year. A dry summer has matured crops earlier than normal across most of the state and an early crop harvest should result. This should take away standing corn and soybean fields for birds to hide in and make them more vulnerable to early-season hunters.

Ruffed Grouse.

The harvest of 900 birds last season by 3,000 hunters was the third lowest on record, but seldom have as many as 5,000 birds been taken in the last decade. The warm spring may have improved nesting success for ruffed grouse this year, but two factors work against seeing much of an increase in hunting success in the near future.

Ruffed grouse actually survive winter the best when snow is deep and fluffy. This allows them to roost under snow, isolated from cold temperatures and predators. This year's open winter was not favorable for snow roosting on most nights. And the 10-year cycle in grouse populations is at its lowest peak all across the Great Lakes states. Minnesota and Wisconsin reported declines in breeding grouse populations of 8 to 15 percent and expect populations to hit bottom this year.

While the cycle has not historically been as apparent in Iowa, some decline in numbers associated with that of the northern states is probable.

Huntible populations of ruffed grouse are restricted to just a few counties in northeast Iowa. The rough terrain and low, scattered populations present a challenge that appeals to just a few hunters. The outlook for the coming season is for little change from last year, but that will probably not deter the hardy few that find ruffed grouse hunting an exciting challenge, no matter how many birds they encounter.

Rabbits and Squirrels. Other upland game hunting opportunities were also passed over last year. Just 36,000 rabbit hunters and 37,000 squirrel hunters took to the fields and woodlands last year, nearly the fewest on record for both groups. The take of 197,000 rabbits was 30 percent below the long-term average, probably because many rabbits are taken while pheasant hunting. The take of 224,000 squirrels was below average but not down as much as rabbits.

Cottontail rabbits, and gray and fox squirrels continue to provide the state's most underutilized hunting opportunities even though rabbit and squirrel populations are abundant. Hunting for these small game animals seems to be on the decline for sociological reasons rather than lack of opportunity. Rabbit and squirrel hunting used to be a young nimrod's introduction to hunting. With fewer hunters entering the sport at a young age, the interest in squirrel and rabbit hunting has declined dramatically. But excellent hunting opportunities exist for those that choose to participate.

Waterfowl

Ducks. Last year duck populations were in mostly good condition after nearly a decade of adequate water on most of their prairie breeding grounds. Numbers of mallards, gadwall, American widgeon, green-winged teal, and blue-winged teal – all species important to Iowa duck hunters – were around average levels. Abundant snowmelt and spring rains left most wetlands in Iowa in good shape in spite of a late summer drought. A warm, dry fall resulted in a very late freeze-up of wetlands – not until early December in northern Iowa and after Christmas in the south.

This combination of good duck populations, warm weather and adequate habitat for hunting produced some of the best waterfowl hunting in recent years, and some of the poorest, depending on when you hunted.

The early duck season was successful nearly everywhere with a good harvest of blue-winged teal and wood ducks. But warm weather throughout most of the rest of the fall delayed migrations until substantially later than normal. A storm in the Dakotas on Oct. 24 provided a day or two of good hunting, but a return to mild weather resulted in very little duck migration throughout November. Hunting was very slow during what is

Iowa 2002-2003 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	SHOOTING HOURS	BAG LIMITS	
			DAILY	POSSESSION
Youth Rooster Pheasant (age 15 or younger)*+	Oct. 19-20	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	1	2
Rooster Pheasant	Oct. 26 - Jan. 10, 2003		3	12
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 26 - Jan. 31, 2003		8	16
Gray Partridge	Oct. 12 - Jan. 31, 2003		8	16
Turkey (Gun)*	Oct. 14 - Nov. 30	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset	One Turkey Per License	One Turkey Per License
Turkey (Bow Only)*	Oct. 1 - Dec. 6 and Dec. 23 - Jan. 10, 2003	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to One-half Hour After Sunset		
Deer (Bow)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 6 and Dec. 23 - Jan. 10, 2003			
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20* (early) or Dec. 23 - Jan. 10, 2003 (late)			
Deer -- Youth (age 12-15) and Severely Disabled	Sept. 21 - Oct. 6			
Deer (Shotgun)	Dec. 7-11 (first) or Dec. 14-22 (second)			
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 5 - Jan. 31, 2003	Sunrise to Sunset	3	6
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28, 2003		10	20
Rabbit (Jack)	Oct. 26 - Dec. 1		2	4
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, 2003	None	6	12
Groundhog	June. 15 - Oct. 31		None	
Crow	Oct. 15 - Nov. 30 and Jan. 14 - March 31, 2003			
Pigeon**	Oct. 1 - March 31, 2003			
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2003	None	None	
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2003	(Open 8 a.m. First Day Only)		
Coyote	Continuous Open Season	None		

* Residents Only.

** Within 100 yards of buildings and bridges, pigeons may be taken year round.

+ See regulations for complete requirements



Roger A. Hill

Excellent squirrel hunting is available to those who choose to pursue the "bushy tail."

While mallard populations are at their long-term average, certain species, such as canvasbacks (bottom) and pintails (below) have been hard hit, resulting in a closed season for canvasbacks and a reduced season and bag limit for pintails.



Ty Smedes



Ty Smedes

2002-2003 Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

	NORTH ZONE	SOUTH ZONE
Canada and White-fronted Geese and Brants	Sept. 28 - Dec. 6	Sept. 28 - Oct. 20 Nov. 9 - Dec. 25
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots (excluding pintails and canvasbacks)	Sept. 21-25 Oct. 12 - Dec. 5	Sept. 21-23 Oct. 19 - Dec. 14
Pintails	Sept. 21-25 Oct. 12 - Nov. 5	Sept. 21-23 Oct. 19 - Nov. 14
Canvasbacks	CLOSED SEASON	CLOSED SEASON
STATEWIDE		
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	Oct. 5-6	
Snow Geese (both white and blue phase) and Ross' Geese	Sept. 28 - Jan. 12, 2003	
Woodcock	Oct. 5 - Nov. 18	
Snipe	Sept. 7 - Nov. 30	
Rail (Sora and Virginia)	Sept. 7 - Nov. 15	
Spring Light Goose Season (snows, blues and Ross' geese)	Feb. 1, 2003 - April 15, 2003	additional regulations may apply

SHOOTING HOURS: One half-hour before sunrise to sunset for all species except woodcock, which is sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION* LIMITS:

Ducks: Daily limit is 6, including no more than 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 may be female), 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 black duck, 3 mottled ducks, 1 pintail and 3 scaup. **Mergansers:** Daily limit is 5, including no more than 1 hooded merganser. **Coots:** Daily limit is 15. **Geese:** Daily limit for Canada geese is 2. For other geese, the daily limit is 2 white-fronted, 2 brant and 20 aggregate light geese — both white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese. **Woodcock:** Daily limit is 3. **Snipe:** Daily limit is 8. **Rail (Sora and Virginia):** Daily limit is 12.

*Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit for all species except light geese for which there is no possession limit.

normally the peak duck hunting time across the state.

Major storms to the north in late November finally pushed a major migration of waterfowl through Iowa, and produced some spectacular duck hunting for the remainder of the season. By that time, however, most hunters had quit hunting for the year and pressure on ducks and geese was

light. Iowans harvested 249,000 ducks, 19 percent more than the previous year, indicating just how good the late season hunting was for those hunters able to take advantage of it.

The Canada goose season got off to a slow start, with many hunters commenting on low numbers of geese. A slower-paced crop harvest gave a few hunters some good opportunities early in the season, but hunting pressure appeared lighter than past years and the mild November delayed goose migrations as well as ducks. Movements of Canada geese and snow and blue geese into the state in late No-

September and early December provided some fair harvest opportunities, but hunting pressure was low late in the season and the harvest dropped 22 percent to 48,000 geese.

Best estimates at the time this article goes to press is that waterfowlers can look forward to hunting opportunities this fall similar to last year. Drought on the western prairies has intensified and wetland habitat is declining in the eastern Dakotas, Minnesota and northern Iowa as well. Duck production will be poorer than in recent years from much of the prairie pothole region and a lower fall flight of waterfowl is expected for many species.

In spite of this, breeding populations of many major waterfowl species are still in good shape. The late migration last year kept millions of ducks and geese farther north than normal all through the hunting seasons. Major southern waterfowling states like Louisiana and Arkansas, which in normal years account for two-thirds of the ducks taken in the Mississippi Flyway, had duck harvests that were reduced by 15 to 61 percent from normal. As a result, more ducks returned to the breeding grounds in 2002, and a larger fall flight than wetland conditions would otherwise dictate is expected.

Breeding populations of mallards, both species of teal, gadwall, shovelers and redheads were at or above their long-term averages; numbers of widgeon, pintails, scaup and canvasbacks were below average. Pintail numbers are very low, probably because they breed and nest in temporary wetlands that are the first to dry up when drought strikes. The mid-continent flight of mallards is expected to be 8.9 million birds, similar

to last year and at their long-term average, but numbers of other species in the fall flight will be lower.

Because most duck breeding populations are at or near average levels, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has allowed liberal hunting seasons again this year. Duck seasons will be 60 days long for most species, and bag limits will be unchanged from last year. The only exceptions are for canvasbacks (closed season) and pintails (30 day season with a daily bag limit of one bird). If production is as poor as expected and conditions remain dry on the breeding grounds, reduced duck hunting opportunities are certain to follow next year.

Geese. The status of resident and migrant goose populations important to Iowa hunters is generally good. Fall seasons will remain at 70 days again this year and a spring hunting season for light geese (snows, blues, and Ross' geese) will be held again under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The number of giant Canada geese recorded on DNR surveys in Iowa this spring was estimated at 87,000, including 36,000 goslings. Both were all-time highs. Giant Canadas are shifting their distribution within the state, however, with fairly stable numbers in northern counties but rapidly increasing numbers in central Iowa. As a result the early September

Canada goose season that had been held in northern Iowa will remain closed again this year. If populations continue to increase, however, an early season may be a reality in the near future, particularly in central and east-central Iowa.



Ty Smedes

The fall flight of Canadas from the Eastern Prairie Population that nests near Hudson Bay in Manitoba is expected to be similar or larger than last year. These are the geese that migrate through Iowa to winter in Missouri, generally appearing after most giants have migrated. They comprise a small percentage of the total geese taken in Iowa, but are a source of good late-season hunting in years when migrations are normal.

Precipitation in Iowa during the summer has been spotty and wetland conditions reflect that variability. Preseason scouting will be more important than ever to determine which wetlands have sufficient water to hunt. Hopefully, the migration patterns of ducks and geese will be more typical this year than last, giving

While mallard populations are at their long-term average, certain species, such as canvasbacks (bottom) and pintails (below) have been hard hit, resulting in a closed season for canvasbacks and a reduced season and bag limit for pintails.



Ty Smedes



Ty Smedes

2002-2003 Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

	NORTH ZONE	SOUTH ZONE
Canada and White-fronted Geese and Brants	Sept. 28 - Dec. 6	Sept. 28 - Oct. 20 Nov. 9 - Dec. 25
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots (excluding pintails and canvasbacks)	Sept. 21-25 Oct. 12 - Dec. 5	Sept. 21-23 Oct. 19 - Dec. 14
Pintails	Sept. 21-25 Oct. 12 - Nov. 5	Sept. 21-23 Oct. 19 - Nov. 14
Canvasbacks	CLOSED SEASON	CLOSED SEASON
STATEWIDE		
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	Oct. 5-6	
Snow Geese (both white and blue phase) and Ross' Geese	Sept. 28 - Jan. 12, 2003	
Woodcock	Oct. 5 - Nov. 18	
Snipe	Sept. 7 - Nov. 30	
Rail (Sora and Virginia)	Sept. 7 - Nov. 15	
Spring Light Goose Season (snows, blues and Ross' geese)	Feb. 1, 2003 - April 15, 2003	additional regulations may apply

SHOOTING HOURS: One half-hour before sunrise to sunset for all species except woodcock, which is sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION* LIMITS:

Ducks: Daily limit is 6, including no more than 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 may be female), 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 black duck, 3 mottled ducks, 1 pintail and 3 scaup. **Mergansers:** Daily limit is 5, including no more than 1 hooded merganser. **Coots:** Daily limit is 15. **Geese:** Daily limit for Canada geese is 2. For other geese, the daily limit is 2 white-fronted, 2 brant and 20 aggregate light geese — both white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese. **Woodcock:** Daily limit is 3. **Snipe:** Daily limit is 8. **Rail (Sora and Virginia):** Daily limit is 12.

**Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit for all species except light geese for which there is no possession limit.*

normally the peak duck hunting time across the state.

Major storms to the north in late November finally pushed a major migration of waterfowl through Iowa, and produced some spectacular duck hunting for the remainder of the season. By that time, however, most hunters had quit hunting for the year and pressure on ducks and geese was

light. Iowans harvested 249,000 ducks, 19 percent more than the previous year, indicating just how good the late season hunting was for those hunters able to take advantage of it.

The Canada goose season got off to a slow start, with many hunters commenting on low numbers of geese. A slower-paced crop harvest gave a few hunters some good opportunities early in the season, but hunting pressure appeared lighter than past years and the mild November delayed goose migrations as well as ducks. Movements of Canada geese and snow and blue geese into the state in late No-

limits
IE
ions
pecies
more than
cks, l
n l
nada
20
is' geese.
ginia);
here is no
00 ducks,
ious
the late
hunters
got off
ters
of geese.
gave a
unities
g pres-
st years
ed goose
Move-
now and
e No-

vember and early December provided some fair harvest opportunities, but hunting pressure was low late in the season and the harvest dropped 22 percent to 48,000 geese.

Best estimates at the time this article goes to press is that waterfowlers can look forward to hunting opportunities this fall similar to last year. Drought on the western prairies has intensified and wetland habitat is declining in the eastern Dakotas, Minnesota and northern Iowa as well. Duck production will be poorer than in recent years from much of the prairie pothole region and a lower fall flight of waterfowl is expected for many species.

In spite of this, breeding populations of many major waterfowl species are still in good shape. The late migration last year kept millions of ducks and geese farther north than normal all through the hunting seasons. Major southern waterfowling states like Louisiana and Arkansas, which in normal years account for two-thirds of the ducks taken in the Mississippi Flyway, had duck harvests that were reduced by 15 to 61 percent from normal. As a result, more ducks returned to the breeding grounds in 2002, and a larger fall flight than wetland conditions would otherwise dictate is expected.

Breeding populations of mallards, both species of teal, gadwall, shovelers and redheads were at or above their long-term averages; numbers of widgeon, pintails, scaup and canvasbacks were below average. Pintail numbers are very low, probably because they breed and nest in temporary wetlands that are the first to dry up when drought strikes. The mid-continent flight of mallards is expected to be 8.9 million birds, similar

to last year and at their long-term average, but numbers of other species in the fall flight will be lower.

Because most duck breeding populations are at or near average levels, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has allowed liberal hunting seasons again this year. Duck seasons will be 60 days long for most species, and bag limits will be unchanged from last year. The only exceptions are for canvasbacks (closed season) and pintails (30 day season with a daily bag limit of one bird). If production is as poor as expected and conditions remain dry on the breeding grounds, reduced duck hunting opportunities are certain to follow next year.

Geese. The status of resident and migrant goose populations important to Iowa hunters is generally good. Fall seasons will remain at 70 days again this year and a spring hunting season for light geese (snows, blues, and Ross' geese) will be held again under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The number of giant Canada geese recorded on DNR surveys in Iowa this spring was estimated at 87,000, including 36,000 goslings. Both were all-time highs. Giant Canadas are shifting their distribution within the state, however, with fairly stable numbers in northern counties but rapidly increasing numbers in central Iowa. As a result the early September

Canada goose season that had been held in northern Iowa will remain closed again this year. If populations continue to increase, however, an early season may be a reality in the near future, particularly in central and east-central Iowa.

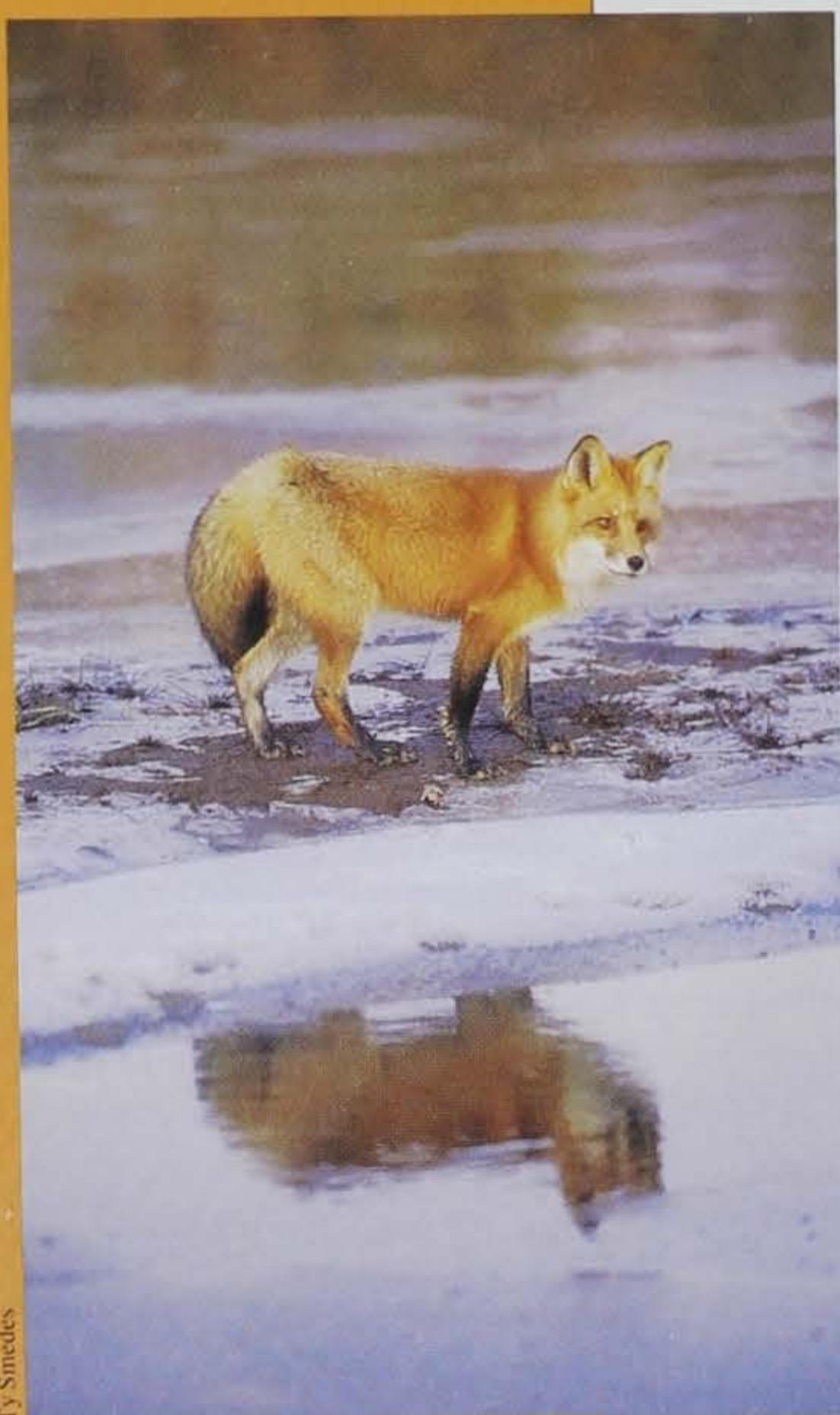


Ty Smedes

The fall flight of Canadas from the Eastern Prairie Population that nests near Hudson Bay in Manitoba is expected to be similar or larger than last year. These are the geese that migrate through Iowa to winter in Missouri, generally appearing after most giants have migrated. They comprise a small percentage of the total geese taken in Iowa, but are a source of good late-season hunting in years when migrations are normal.

Precipitation in Iowa during the summer has been spotty and wetland conditions reflect that variability. Preseason scouting will be more important than ever to determine which wetlands have sufficient water to hunt. Hopefully, the migration patterns of ducks and geese will be more typical this year than last, giving

Last year saw the lowest sales of furharvester licenses to date, despite the fact that furbearers — with the exception of red fox (below) and muskrats — have very high populations.



Ty Smedes

more hunters an opportunity to hunt them.

Swans. After nearly seven years of effort the DNR's trumpeter swan restoration program appears to be headed in a positive direction. There were 10 wild nesting trumpeter swan families this year that produced 42 cygnets, double the number of 2001. (See "Record Production Year

for Peregrines and Trumpeters" on page 32.)

The only negative aspect to the swan program has been the unexpected amount of illegal shooting of swans during waterfowl seasons. Ethical waterfowl hunters have been instrumental in apprehending the few scoff-laws that have wantonly shot low-flying trumpeters and without their help the situation could be worse. Fines for illegal shooting of a trumpeter swan will exceed \$1,500 and could result in the loss of all hunting privileges. Anyone seeing the shooting of a swan should call the DNR's Turn In Poachers number at 1-800-532-2020. All calls to the TIP line are confidential.

2002-2003 TRAPPING SEASON

SPECIES	OPENING	CLOSING
Mink, Muskrat*, Raccoon, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Badger, Opossum, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote	Nov. 2, 2002	Jan. 31, 2003
Beaver	Nov. 2, 2002	April 15, 2003
Civet Cat (Spotted Skunk), Bobcat and Otter	Continuous Closed Season	
Groundhog	June 15,	Oct. 31, 2002
ALL FURBEARER SEASONS OPEN AT 8 A.M. ON THE OPENING DATE. THERE ARE NO DAILY BAG OR POSSESSION LIMITS		
*SELECTED AREAS MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY FOR MUSKRAT TRAPPING ONLY.		

Furbearers

Poor fur prices continue to discourage much interest in fur harvesting even though most furbearers are plentiful. Just 15,000 furharvester licenses were sold last year, the lowest on record.

Fur harvest levels do not reflect the fact that populations of most furbearers except red fox and muskrat, are very high. Red fox seem to have escaped the suppressing effects of mange and are gradually increasing. Most north Iowa marshes have had high water levels the last few years and vegetation has died out to the point that muskrat numbers are reduced. The impending dry cycle that will allow wetland vegetation to be replenished will cure that problem.

In terms of the availability of animals, the outlook for furtakers this fall is very good. The fur market shows signs of some improvement, but a return to the high prices of the 1980s is unlikely any time soon. So the few furtakers that pursue their sport for the

recreation should have an excellent season with little competition from other trappers or hunters.

River otters continue their amazing spread across the state since the DNR began reintroducing them in the late 1980s. Otters have been seen in 94 of Iowa's 99 counties and young otters have been documented in 75. As a result the river otter was removed from the state's "threatened species" list this year, a major milestone in the recovery of a species essentially eliminated from the state 50 years ago.

Perhaps the most surprising development in 2002 has been the reappearance of large cats in enough numbers to generate interest from the public. Bobcats have been here in small numbers even during the early 20th century when most large predators were eliminated. They have been steadily increasing without assistance from the DNR since fur prices took a dramatic plunge in the 1980s. They have currently been seen in two-thirds of our counties, with only the lightly-forested east-central and north-central regions currently without sightings.

This fall DNR biologists and Iowa State University will undertake a bobcat research project in southern Iowa to document their survival, reproduction and movements. Information from this study will help scientists interpret the increasing number of bobcat sightings and hopefully lead to removing bobcats from the state's "threatened species" list soon.

Even more amazing has been the appearance of mountain lions in southwest Iowa. A large male lion killed in a collision with a car in Shelby County is the first documented wild mountain lion in Iowa in nearly a century. Other lions have occasionally been captured but they have all been animals that have

escaped captivity or were turned loose by an owner no longer able or willing to control them.

Since the Shelby County incident, lion tracks have been confirmed in Fremont, Ringgold, Carroll, Lyon and Allamakee counties and sightings have been reported by the public in 17 other counties,

most in the western third of the state. Whether these tracks have been made by wild or captive-released lions, and how many of the sightings from the public are actually lions and not the product of an overactive imagination is unknown. But

the presence of one wild adult cougar lends credence to the fact that there could be at least a few lions roaming Iowa's rural landscape.

Deer and Wild Turkey

White-tailed deer and wild turkey populations continue to be abundant, so hunting seasons will be nearly identical to last year. There will be some adjustments in county antlerless-only deer license quotas to adjust for minor regional deer population changes from last year. Fall turkey license quotas may increase if the expected excellent hatch is documented by DNR brood surveys. Otherwise hunters can expect more of the excellent hunting opportunities they have enjoyed for the past 20 years.

Wild turkey. Turkey populations continue to thrive statewide wherever suitable forested habitat exists. Poor weather during the nesting season last year may have reduced production somewhat, but breeding populations remain at good levels. Last fall, 6,000 hunters took 2,800 turkeys, maintain-



Roger A. Hill

ing the normal 45 percent success rate. Spring hunters in 2002 took 20,700 toms, also a typical harvest for recent years. DNR brood surveys will not be completed until early September, but with a good number of turkeys and the mild weather Iowa experienced this spring, a good hatch is expected. Hunters should look for a possible increase in license quotas after Sept. 15, once survey results are compiled.

White-tailed deer. Last year's mild weather continued throughout all but the late muzzleloader and special January seasons, and the deer harvest increased to record levels as a result. There was some grumping from early season muzzleloader and bow hunters about it being too warm, crops still in the field, and a full moon during the



More information on hunting regulations, season dates, bag limits, license quotas, hunting zones and other details can be found in the following booklets published by the DNR:

Deer and Fall Turkey
2002 Iowa Deer and Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations and License Instructions

Waterfowl, Pheasants, Quail, Partridge and Grouse
2002 Upland Game, Trapping and Waterfowl Regulations

Other General Hunting and Trapping Regulations
2002 Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regulations

These booklets are available at all license agents, from DNR offices or on the DNR's website at www.state.ia.us/wildlife/

peak hunting periods, but these are normal hunting problems. Bow hunter success declined by about 10 percent as a result, but hunters in other seasons more than made up for it. Deer hunters often complain when they do not have snow cover for tracking deer, but evidence indicates that mild weather, like last year, results in the best hunting success.

About 173,000 deer hunters purchased a record 266,390 licenses and took an all-time high 136,500 deer. The harvest in nearly every season was higher than in 2000, and the good news is that much of the increase was due to hunters taking more does. For the first time antlerless-only licenses were available in every county as well as in 20 special hunts in urban and park areas. This allowed hunters in most seasons to hunt for a trophy buck with their statewide license and still help control the deer herd by tagging an antlerless deer with a second license.

There is little to say about the upcoming season, except that it will offer more of the same. All statewide deer licenses will be valid for any deer. Antlerless-only licenses will again be offered in every county and on 19 special hunts. Antlerless-only license quotas have been reduced slightly in a few counties in northern Iowa where deer are most vulnerable to hunting, but they have been increased in selected counties in southeast Iowa where the herd seems to be increasing slightly.

All deer and wild turkey licenses may be purchased over the counter wherever hunting licenses are sold. Most licenses without quotas can be purchased through the last day of the hunting season for which a license is valid. The only exceptions are licenses for the second shotgun and late muzzleloader seasons, which must be purchased by Dec. 14.

Chronic wasting disease. The only disturbing development on the deer hunting scene is the near hysteria that has erupted over the discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the Midwest. Prior to this year, CWD was found only in a few western states. Last spring CWD was discovered in a small, localized area in southern Wisconsin. How it got there will probably never be definitively proven. One theory is that someone illegally imported a deer from a western game farm that was contaminated with CWD. The companion article "Iowa Deer Herd Healthy," on page 21, explains the precautions the DNR has taken to keep CWD out of Iowa and reasonable precautions deer hunters should take when field dressing and butchering their deer.

Hunters need to keep in mind that CWD has not been found in free-ranging white-tailed deer in the Midwest except for south-central Wisconsin. A hunter's chance of shooting a CWD-infected animal in Iowa is extremely small even if CWD existed here, and there is no evidence that it does.

Based on the best scientific evidence available, there is no known link between humans eating elk or venison and contracting CWD. CWD has been present in parts of northeast Colorado and southwest Wyoming for 40 years. During that

time hunters have shot and consumed thousands of deer and elk taken there. In spite of intensive investigation by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, no one has been found to contract CWD from consuming these animals. In fact, there is no evidence that anyone has contracted or died from CWD anywhere.

Humans, sheep, cattle and felines have their own version of CWD that occurs very rarely among them. One in one million humans contract a similar disease called Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD), but the cause of these extremely rare cases has never been related to exposure to, or from consuming, deer or elk infected with CWD. Scrapie, the form found in sheep, has been present in the U.S. for 60 years without any evidence that humans have contracted the disease by eating or handling mutton.

Could or will CWD eventually somehow mutate and become infective to humans? No one can possibly answer that question. Life is a series of risks. Humans die every day from diseases that are far more common than CWD or its human counterpart. More than 60 people a year die in the U.S. from *E. coli* poisoning, a common bacteria that can infect any meat that we consume. For me, following the precautions listed in the companion article seems to be all that a reasonable person would have to do to minimize their exposure to this extremely low-risk disease. Hopefully, DNR efforts to keep the disease out of Iowa will be successful and the concern will eventually die away.

Terry W. Little is the wildlife research supervisor for the department in Des Moines.

Truck Accessories may change, but our service will never be out of style!



OFFICIAL
PARTNER



DUCKS
UNLIMITED

The Top Line For Your Truck

Cliff's Manufacturing Outlet

3117 E. 14th St., Des Moines, IA 50316
1-800-272-2750 • 515-265-4467
cliffsmanu@prodigy.net

Fort Dodge Hitch Service

2472 Lainsen Ave. (4 mi. S. on 169)
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
(515) 972-4747

Rice Trailer Co.

North 7th Street • Denison, IA 51442
Bus.: (712) 263-5824 • Fax: (712) 263-5949
Res.: (712) 263-4278 • E-mail: rtrailer@pionet.net

The Story Behind "Big Timber Bucks"

Anyone who appreciates the work of Larry Zach knows his paintings, as meticulously detailed and impressive as they are, come with an interesting story.

Zach's latest print, "Big Timber Bucks," is no different. The print features three impressive bucks that lived in the thick timber of southeast Iowa, all within a couple miles of each other. The undertone of the painting, however, is as much about family as it is the animals. All three bucks were harvested by Zach and his two children.

On the morning of Nov. 5, 1999, Zach's 17-year-old son Chris harvested a doe from a treestand overlooking a clover field on the family's southeast Iowa farm.

Evening found the father-son team in the same tree, Chris trying to fill his statewide bow tag and Larry videotaping. A doe entered the field — followed by a 5 1/2-year-old buck. A 25-yard broadside shot ended the hunt.

On Oct. 18, 2000, Larry found himself in the same tree, this time with his 14-year-old daughter, April. It was one of only two evenings the pair would be able to hunt during the early muzzleloader season. Just after sunset, a large nontypical entered the clover field. After several tense minutes waiting for the right angle, April harvested her first buck, which netted a 161 4/8 score.

Larry didn't take long to complete the trifecta. On Oct. 26, he came face-to-face with an enormous nontypical he had videotaped in October 1999 and the summer of 2000. Amazingly, the buck had grown from a 170-plus nontypical to 240-plus — in one year.

Like the rest of the family, Zach's wife, Marcia, has harvested several does over the years. Adding a doe to the background adds to the story and gives everyone in the Zach family a deer in "Big Timber Bucks."

For those wondering what's next on the Zach canvas, his latest work offers a clue. One of the sheds from a massive nontypical discovered in southeast Iowa can be found in the background of "Big Timber Bucks." It gives a sneak peek at the main subject of the upcoming third and final print in the Big Buck series, "Big Country Bucks."



2001 R

Photos by Roger A. Hill

BOW, NON-TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 155 pts.

Name	City	County Taken	Total Score	Year
*Rick L. Dye	Knoxville	Warren	240 2/8	2000
*Jerry L. Wells	Altoona	Madison	227 3/8	2001
Danny Capper	Allison	Butler	211	2001
Rod Waschkat	Waterloo	Tama	201 5/8	2001
Jerry Foubert	North English	Iowa	201 3/8	2001
Adam W. Anglin	Dubuque	Dubuque	195	2001
Tom Bell	Lowden	Cedar	192 7/8	2000
Robert S. McCoy	Osceola	Clarke	191 6/8	2001
Brent Thie	Marshalltown	Appanoose	191 3/8	2001
Dave Messner	Maryville, MO	Page	190 1/8	2001
Matt Okland	Kelley	Story	188 2/8	2000
Michael E. Hall	Runnells	Polk	188	2001
Ben Patzner	Ryan	Clayton	187 1/8	2001
Dennis Boeding	Springville	Delaware	184 4/8	2000
Richard Peterson	Ottumwa	Wapello	183 4/8	1997
Greg McWilliams	Homestead	Jasper	183 4/8	2001
Brad Forsyth	Dallas Center	Dallas	182 5/8	2000
Dan Eastman	Marshalltown	Marshall	179 5/8	2001
Dennis D. Somers	Webb	Clay	178 3/8	2001
Dave Freihage	Pisgah	Harrison	175 4/8	2001
Ken Miller	Cedar Rapids	Linn	175 4/8	2001
Jerry Foubert	North English	Iowa	175 2/8	1999
Larry L. Kellar	Polk City	Polk	173 5/8	2001
Herbert Morley	Elkader	Clayton	173 5/8	2001
Mike Augustin	Colo	Story	172 5/8	2001
Dirk Metcalf	Douds	Van Buren	172 5/8	2001

BOW, TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 135 pts.

George W. Horst	Miles	Jackson	183 6/8	2001
Jon Behrle	Homestead	Cedar	181	1998
Jeff Tiefenthaler	Sioux Rapids	Clay	177 2/8	2001
Richard Beeson	Ottumwa	Wapello	176 5/8	2000
Jon Behrle	Homestead	Cedar	175 2/8	1996
Scott D. Geater	Independence	Clayton	174 7/8	2001
Troy Rath	Missouri Valley	Harrison	173 2/8	2001
Jerry Newman	Webster City	Hamilton	171	2001
Dan Pruett	Onawa	Monona	170 3/8	2000
Douglas Tieden	Moravia	Monroe	169 1/8	2000
Tony Pitzen	Hamburg	Fremont	169	2001
Jon Behrle	Homestead	Cedar	168 1/8	1999
Jerry Burns	Des Moines	Madison	167 2/8	2001

1 Record Racks



This is a list of the top 25 deer racks scored in each category between October 2000 and July 2001 for the Iowa trophy deer record program. A full list of the racks scored during this time period is available on the DNR website at www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/organiza/fwb/wildlife/pages/prpdeer.htm

* Denotes a new entry into the All-Time Top 10 Racks (page 20)



Name	City	County Taken	Total Score	Year
Rudy Morgan	Princeton	Clinton	167 1/8	2001
Leonard Grimes	Pella	Marion	166 4/8	2000
Rick Stanton	Sibley	Harrison	164 6/8	2000
John K Boden	Norwalk	Union	164 5/8	2001
Brandon Black	Washington	Jefferson	164 3/8	2001
Ed Ulicki	Lehigh	Webster	164 2/8	2001
Shannon F McGowan	West Point	Van Buren	163 6/8	1991
Kelly Mulvihill	Sloan	Monona	161 6/8	2001
Scott Howarth	Creston	Union	161 5/8	2001
Myron Van Ginkel	Rock Valley	Sioux	161 5/8	2000
Rick Wilberding	Waterloo	Black Hawk	161	1999
Michael Couch	Cummings	Warren	159 5/8	2001

PISTOL, TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts

*Don Walker	Burlington	Des Moines	167 4/8	1998
-------------	------------	------------	---------	------

PISTOL, NON-TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts

Name	City	County Taken	Total Score	Year
*David A. Arnold	Des Moines	Mahaska	178 7/8	2000

MUZZLELOADER, NON-TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts.

*Travis Baker	Boone	Boone	203 4/8	2000
James W Jackson	Plymouth	Cerro Gordo	188	2002
Gary Rysdam	Fairfield	Davis	174 3/8	2000

MUZZLELOADER, TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts.

Name	City	County	Total Score	Year
*Blaine Davis	Waverly	Bremer	179 1/8	2000
*Nate Ames	Keokuk	Lee	176 4/8	2001
*Joel Ash	Ann Arbor, MI	Appanoose	173 7/8	2001
Bennie Hennis	Marshalltown	Marshall	168 7/8	2001
Michael Laabs	Jamaica	Guthrie	168	2002
Todd Pennock	Elliot	Pottawattamie	160 6/8	2001
Dave Westphal	Decorah	Winnebago	160 5/8	1989
Jim Lindsey	Moravia	Appanoose	160 4/8	2001
Kevin Neal	Marysville	Taylor	159 1/8	2002
Bernie Schneider	Donnellson	Lee	157 6/8	2001
Timothy A Nuss	Fayette	Fayette	157	2001
Kevin Upton	Mystic	Appanoose	156 7/8	2000
Howard Crouse	Paullina	OBrien	156 5/8	2000
Bobbi Boze	Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	154 7/8	2000
Sherwood Lundgren	Marshalltown	Marshall	154 7/8	2000
Rick Rouse	Tipton	Cedar	154 5/8	2001
John Hohnstein	Cedar Rapids	Linn	154	2001
Mike Armstrong	Atlantic	Cass	153 6/8	2002
Mark Winnett	Coon Rapids	Guthrie	153 2/8	2000
Tyler Staggs	Seymour	Wayne	152 4/8	2001
Kevin Upton	Mystic	Appanoose	152 4/8	2001
Aaron Nord	Pleasant Hill	Madison	151 6/8	2001
Mark Current	Barnes City	Mahaska	151 3/8	2002
Rich Dobson	Nevada	Lucas	151	2001
Joe Behr	Mason City	Cerro Gordo	150 7/8	2001



What America Shoots™

For more than 80 years, sportsman have relied on the fact that, when it comes to deer hunting, NOTHING hits harder than Super-X - one of America's most recognized brands of ammunition.

Super-X® Silvertip® Centerfire Rifle Ammunition
Silvertip features a special alloy aluminum cap that protects the lead core and allows for deep penetration delivering controlled expansion.

Super-X® Power-Point® Centerfire Rifle Ammunition
Power-Point's unique soft-nosed jacketed bullet design delivers maximum energy on target. Special notches around jacket mouth improve upset and ensure uniform, rapid expansion.

SAFETY FIRST

WINCHESTER

WHAT AMERICA SHOOTS™

AN AMERICAN LEGEND FOR MORE THAN 75 YEARS

Super-X® Game Loads

By popular demand, Winchester is expanding its world famous line of Super-X® Game Loads. Now performance-minded upland game hunters have a Super-eXcellent option for every hunting season. So, when upland game is the goal, remember - nothing hits harder than Super-X.

WINCHESTER

SAFETY FIRST

Get a Rebate of up to \$20. See your local retailer for details or go to www.winchester.com

GRISWOLD
Shooters Firearms
616 Main Street
712-778-2352

RIPPEY
Brubaker Shop
223 Main Street
515-436-7691

URBANDALE
JLM Gun Shoppe
10079 Hickman Road
515-331-1577

OTTUMWA
McKee Coin
520 E. Main Street
641-684-6006

URBANDALE
Frontier Outfitting
Winchester Advisor
3009 100th Street
515-278-5500

LE MARS
Shirts 'N Shooters
Winchester Advisor
26 Plymouth Street SW
712-546-9228

AVOCA
Sieh Guns
42192 Hwy. 83
712-343-2111

CORYDON
Mike's Guns
520 E. Jefferson Street
888-872-1501

MT. PLEASANT
Guns Ltd
Winchester Advisor
217 1/2 W. Washington
319-385-4080

BETTENDORF
K&K True Value Hdw.
Winchester Advisor
1818 Grant
563-359-4473

**WORK JUST GOT
A LOT EASIER.**



FourTrax[®] Rancher[™] 4x4 ES
Recommended for use by
HSA for ages 16 and up

The Honda FourTrax Rancher 4x4 ES makes work easier. It comes with standard features like four-wheel drive and Honda's exclusive Electric Shift Program[™] (ESP[®]). And because it's a Honda, you know it's reliable.

ALGONA

Sportsmans Corner
1108 Grandview Ave.
515-295-7591

HIAWATHA

Five Seasons Motorsports, Inc.
506 North Center Point Road
800-870-4018

INDIANOLA

GP Motor Sports
1303 E. 2nd Ave.
515-961-6288

**HEAVYWEIGHT
CHAMPION.**



FourTrax[®] Foreman[®] Rubicon
Recommended for use by
HSA for ages 16 and up

Awarded "2001 Model of the Year by ATV Magazine", the Honda FourTrax Foreman Rubicon is a 600-pound, 499cc workhorse featuring the Hondamatic[™] transmission and Electric Shift Program[™] (ESP[®]) Technology. And because it's a Honda, you know it's reliable.

DES MOINES

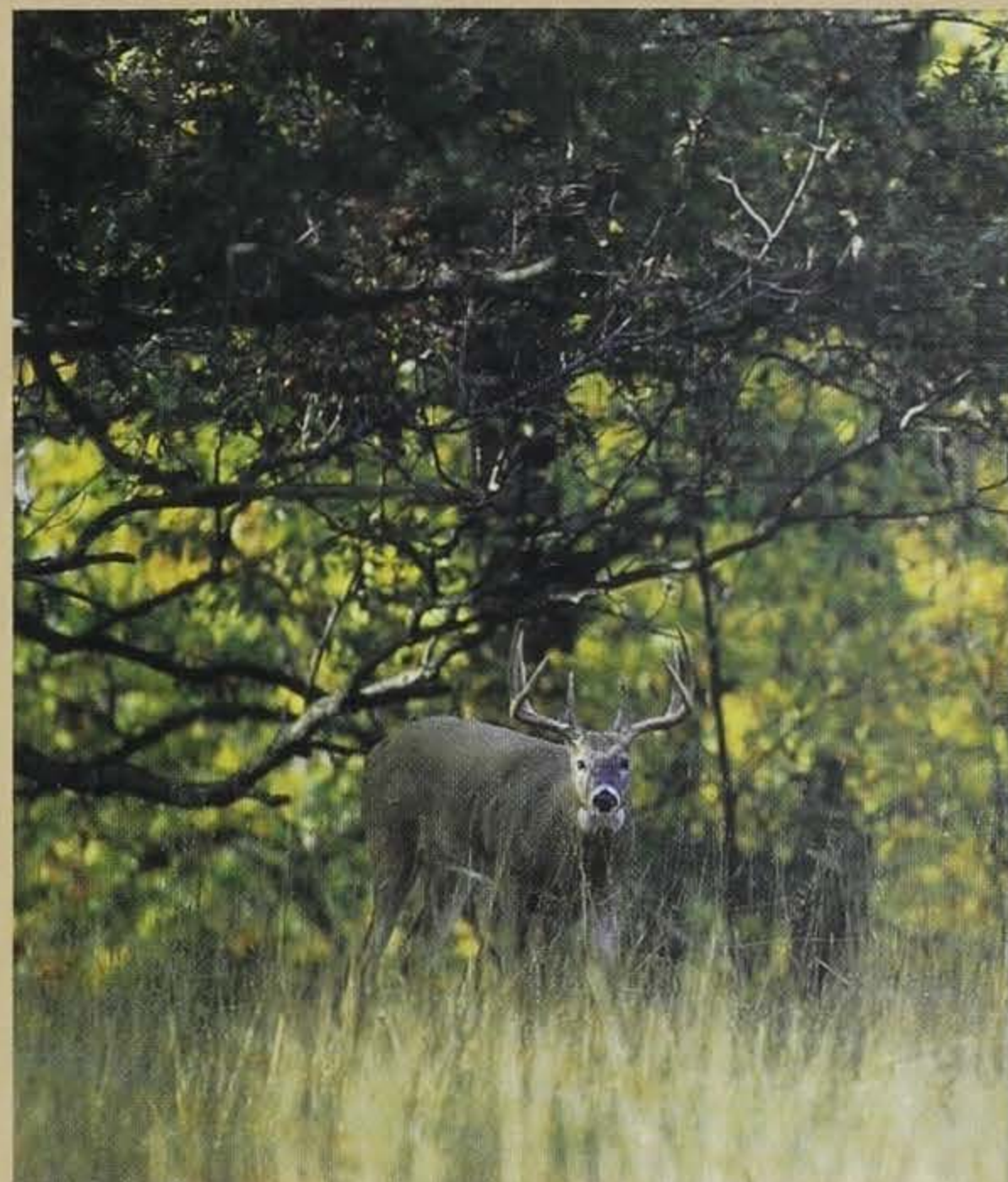
Garvis Honda
1603 Euclid
515-243-6217/800-358-5508

OTTUMWA

Ottumwa Motor Sports, Inc.
433 W. Main Street
800-684-5727

honda.com

BE A RESPONSIBLE RIDER. Remember, ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety, always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing, and never ride on paved surfaces or public roads. Keep in mind that riding doesn't mix with drugs or alcohol. Honda recommends that all ATV riders take a training course and read their owner's manual thoroughly. For safety or training information, call the ASI at 1-800-887-2887. FourTrax[®], Foreman[®], Hondamatic[™], Electric Shift Program[™], ESP[®] and Best on Earth[™] are trademarks of Honda Motor Co., Ltd.



SHOTGUN, NON-TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts.

Name	City	County Taken	Total Score	Year
Douglas W Farrell	Forest City	Van Buren	214 1/8	2001
Rod Frank	Riverside	Washington	202 4/8	2001
Matt Wilson	Des Moines	Warren	202 2/8	2001
Jesse Rebling	Brighton	Jefferson	198	2001
Bill Clark	Exline	Appanoose	197 5/8	2001
Joe Busch	Boone	Boone	195 4/8	2001
Kelly Henson	Missouri Valley	Harrison	195 3/8	1991
Jamie Keller	Chariton	Lucas	195	2000
James Smith	New Sharon	Mahaska	194 7/8	2000
Adam Jackson	Bedford	Taylor	193 6/8	2000
John E Danner Jr	Marshalltown	Marshall	192 5/8	2000
Leroy Rummelhart	Coralville	Washington	190 4/8	2001
Dan Ehlert	Onawa	Harrison	190 1/8	2000
John G Hayes	Belle Plaine	Clayton	187	2000
Steven L Erwin	Ottumwa	Wapello	187	2001
Derek Heiar	Preston	Clinton	185 7/8	2000
Craig Eggert	Decorah	Winneshiek	185	2001
Tim Folken	Springville	Linn	184 4/8	2000
Gary Puls	Jewell	Boone	184	1989
Jason W Morton	Des Moines	Dallas	183 6/8	2000
Kerry Scharf	Mechanicsville	Jones	183 1/8	2001
Jody Dykstra	Boone	Boone	183	2000
Bob Daniels	Des Moines	Clarke	182 7/8	2000
Mike Bennett	Bussey	Marion	182 6/8	2000
Larry Daniels	Newton	Wayne	181 1/8	2000

SHOTGUN, TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts.

Name	City	County Taken	Total Score	Year
Douglas M Eldridge	Seymour	Wayne	190 7/8	2000
Charles Callaway	Waterloo	Guthrie	183 5/8	2001
Les Bateman	Cedar Rapids	Monroe	182 7/8	2001
Ben Reimers	Muscatine	Louisa	177 1/8	1999
Jason Sandifer	Ottumwa	Wapello	175 4/8	2000
Richard Gaunitz	Lansing	Allamakee	173 7/8	1989
Craig Fulton	Lockridge	Jefferson	173 3/8	2000
Brent Hutchings	Estherville	Warren	173 2/8	2001
Richard Johnson	Lovilia	Marion	172 4/8	2000
Gerald R Peters	Marion	Linn	171 6/8	2001
Justin Cox	Corydon	Wayne	171 4/8	1999
Tiffany Decker	Sigourney	Keokuk	170 6/8	2000
Joe Love	Redding	Ringgold	170 4/8	2001
Dennis Christopherson	Cedar Rapids	Winneshiek	170 2/8	2000
Gary W Antinson	Denver	Allamakee	170 1/8	2000
Charles Morgan	Des Moines	Decatur	170	2000
Rick Gerstenkorn	Waterloo	Benton	168 4/8	2001
Mike Terpstra	New Sharon	Marion	168 3/8	2001
Rex Marker	Woodburn	Clarke	168 1/8	1999
Jon J Latham	Oelwein	Buchanan	168	1999
Dan Oberfoell	Dubuque	Jackson	167 6/8	2001
Steve A Glover	Knoxville	Monroe	167 2/8	2001
Brent Blakely	Richland	Keokuk	167 1/8	2001
Shane Haroldson	Wauke	Warren	166 7/8	2001
Robert Herdlicka	Cedar Rapids	Benton	166 4/8	2000

ALL-TIME TOP 10 RECORD RACKS

SHOTGUN, TYPICAL

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
Harold Dickman, Sr.	Woodbine	Harrison	1964	200 2/8
Michael A. Hinzman	Guttenburg	Clayton	2000	200
Wayne A. Bills	Des Moines	Hamilton	1974	199 5/8
Dean Wetzel	Guthrie Center	Guthrie	1998	199 3/8
Kenneth Tilford	Lamoni	Decatur	1985	198 1/8
Michael R. Edle	Danville	Des Moines	1989	196 4/8
George L. Ross	Ottumwa	Wapello	1969	195 1/8
Forest N. Richardson	New Virginia	Warren	1989	194 3/8
W Eugene Ziegrowsky	Washington	Van Buren	1997	192 7/8
John Chase	Glenwood	Mills	1997	192 2/8

SHOTGUN, NON-TYPICAL

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
Larry Raveling	Emmetsburg	Clay	1973	282
Lyle Spitznogle	Wapello	Louisa	1982	258 2/8
David Mandersheid	Welton	Jackson	1977	256 7/8
Carroll Johnson	Moorhead	Monona	1968	256 2/8
Larry J. Caldwell	Des Moines	Warren	1990	248 6/8
Don Boucher	Albion	Marshall	1961	245 3/8
Carl Wenke	Cedar Rapids	Lee	1972	245
Robert Wonderlich	Oskaloosa	Monroe	1970	244 6/8
Donny Grant	Turin	Monona	1996	240
Tony Beck	Milo	Warren	2000	236

MUZZLELOADER, TYPICAL

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
Jerry W. Conover	Sioux City	Monona	1990	182 7/8
*Blaine Davis	Waverly	Bremer	2000	179 1/8
Ron Murray	Missouri Valley	Harrison	1998	179 1/8
Clark Corbin	Minneota	Crawford	2000	178 3/8
*Nate Ames	Keokuk	Lee	2001	176 4/8
*Joel Ash	Ann Arbor, MI	Appanoose	2001	173 7/8
John Russell	Blue Grass	Muscatine	1997	172 4/8
Ric Bishop	Eldridge	Keokuk	1997	172 1/8
John S. Cook	Maquoketa	Jones	1997	170 6/8
Bruce L. Hupke	Carlisle	Warren	1994	170 3/8

MUZZLELOADER, NON-TYPICAL

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
Richard Muff	Clarinda	Taylor	2000	214 3/8
Mike Moody	Hamburg	Fremont	1990	210 2/8
Alan Funk	Scotch Grove	Van Buren	2000	209 5/8
Vincent P. Jauron	Harlan	Monona	1990	209 1/8
Daniel Kauffman	Wapello	Louisa	1984	205 3/8
Jeff Tussey	Creston	Union	1995	205
*Travis Baker	Boone	Boone	2000	203 4/8
Jeremy Williams	Clarinda	Page	1998	202 5/8
Denny Baum	Ottumwa	Wapello	1990	202 1/8
Mike Garber	Eldon	Wapello	1996	200 6/8

PISTOL, TYPICAL

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
William H. Fahrenkrog	Davenport	Scott	1998	171 4/8
*Don Walker	Burlington	Des Moines	1998	167 4/8
Dave Hotz	Cedar Rapids	Louisa	1998	161
Kendal Pommer	Otho	Webster	2000	159 4/8
Darle Meyers	Lehigh	Webster	2000	157 3/8

PISTOL, NON-TYPICAL

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
Bob C. Garside	Greenfield	Adair	1998	211 5/8
Bill Fahrenkrog	Davenport	Scott	2000	206 3/8
*David A. Arnold	Des Moines	Mahaska	2000	178 7/8
Jim C. DeFosse	Mediapolis	Des Moines	1999	170 2/8

BOW, TYPICAL

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
Lloyd Goad	Knoxville	Monroe	1962	197 6/8
Robert Miller	Wyoming	Jones	1977	194 2/8
Steven E. Tyer	North Liberty	Johnson	1994	194
Roy Allison	Knoxville	Monroe	1995	193 5/8
Jeffery L. Whisker	Clinton	Scott	1993	191
Richard B. Swin	Des Moines	Polk	1981	190 5/8
Alan Bloodgood	Prole	Warren	2000	190 1/8
Randy Petersburg	Waukon	Allamakee	1996	189 1/8
Kevin Peterson	Mediapolis	Des Moines	1989	188 1/8
Dave Zima	Blair	Monona	1996	186 4/8

BOW, NON-TYPICAL

Name	City	County Taken	Year	Total Score
Dave Gordon	Waukon	Allamakee	2000	240 4/8
*Rick L. Dye	Knoxville	Warren	2000	240 2/8
Larry V. Zach	Ankeny	Monroe	2000	237 3/8
Russ Clarken	Desoto	Dallas	1994	236 7/8
Mike Hobart	Prole	Madison	1993	229 5/8
Terry M. Long	Des Moines	Polk	1995	229 4/8
*Jerry L. Wells	Altoona	Madison	2001	227 3/8
Jack Schuler Jr.	Indianola	Decatur	1995	227
Jerry M. Monson	Clear Lake	Cerro Gordo	1977	222 1/8
Jared L. Rebling	Lockridge	Jefferson	2000	221 7/8

Iowa Deer Herd Healthy

Article and photo by
Lowell Washburn

As recently as a few months ago, most Iowans had never heard of chronic wasting disease (CWD). Today, the highly contagious, always fatal disease that attacks hoofed game species such as deer and elk — has become a household term.

Although it has not been documented in Iowa, CWD has been discovered in seven other states, including Nebraska, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In Wisconsin, efforts are underway to eradicate deer in the area where the outbreak occurred. Deer enthusiasts were disheartened when officials said the kill might reach 25,000. In other regions, elk restoration programs have been put on hold or scrapped entirely.

As Iowa hunters move closer to this year's deer seasons, CWD has become THE topic. And although DNR wildlife biologists are also understandably concerned over the appearance of the disease in other areas, they caution hunters not to

overreact to the threat of outbreaks here. Wildlife officials continue to emphasize the fact that statewide monitoring efforts are keeping the DNR, and Iowa's public, ahead of the curve on this potentially serious issue.

"During the spring and early summer, our biologists examined a total of 227 road killed deer for signs of CWD," said Dale Garner, the wildlife biologist who is coordinating efforts between the DNR and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "A total of 150 of those deer were submitted for laboratory testing, and all proved negative for CWD."

During this fall and winter, as many as 3,500 additional whitetails may receive testing. The DNR currently holds a contract with the USDA that allows the Department — free of charge — to submit up to 1,000 deer for testing. The DNR could spend up to \$30,000 for the remaining lab work if the 2,000 deer goal is reached.

"Although we'll be focusing on hunter-harvested deer from across the entire state, we hope to collect some of our largest samples from counties

bordering the Upper Mississippi river. Deer can swim, and that region is closest to the Wisconsin outbreak."

Beginning Oct. 16, the DNR will also be examining every deer that dies of natural causes or is harvested by hunters on Iowa game farms or shooting preserves. Hunters bringing in deer from other states can only transport boned-out meat, hides, and antlers. In January, the DNR will resume examining road killed deer from across the state.

"This is an important issue and we're currently doing everything that



DNR staff have collected 227 roadkilled deer this year, 150 of which have been tested for CWD.

is humanly possible to stay ahead of the curve," said Garner.

"What everyone needs to realize is that CWD is completely fatal to white-tailed deer and that deer represent a \$100 million industry in Iowa. That's not just license fees received by the DNR — it's also motels, gas stations, equipment and restaurants. It's a huge resource that has an extremely important economic and recreational impact on a lot of Iowans. We're doing everything we can to safeguard that resource."

Lowell Washburn is an information specialist with the department in Clear Lake.

CWD FACTS

- ◆ CWD is highly contagious and always fatal to deer. It is spread by prions which essentially turn good proteins into bad proteins.
- ◆ There is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted from deer to domestic livestock.
- ◆ The World Health Organization has found no evidence that CWD can be transmitted from deer to humans. But they also recommend not eating venison from any deer known to have been infected.
- ◆ Hunters are advised to wear rubber gloves when field dressing or processing deer. Avoiding spinal column tissue, brains or lymph nodes are common sense measures.

Each autumn, legions of southbound woodcock invade the secluded landscapes of extreme northeast Iowa.

Migrations are brief. The visit may last hours or, at best, a few days. For those who seek the intriguing timberdoodle, the annual passage triggers an irresistible urge to seek the solitude of *Iowa's forgotten places*.

Flight Birds

Article and photos by Lowell Washburn



THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK is the oddest bird you'll ever hunt. It is also one of the most endearing.

One of the things that makes woodcock hunting so enjoyable is the species chooses to inhabit some of the most colorful and quietly intriguing landscapes that the autumn woodlands have to offer. Mention woodcock to most Iowa enthusiasts, and their thoughts will immediately turn to the rugged woodlands of extreme northeastern Iowa. It is here, against the brilliant tapestry of crimson, orange and yellow foliage that migrating woodcock (also referred to as timberdoodles) reach their greatest densities.

It's probably no coincidence that the most productive coverts are also the most beautiful. Prime habitats usually resemble a David Maass

painting — or is it the other way around? No matter. The point is Maass has it pegged. In addition to detailed portraits of grouse and woodcock, his completed works also portray a rich mix of birch, aspen and cedar. When you tromp the woodlands for yourself, you'll discover that such areas are also heavily interspersed with near impenetrable growths of brambles, vines and deadfalls. A fragrant blanket of decaying leaf litter completes the scene, providing the necessary requirements for earthworms, which in turn attracts flights of hungry migrants.

Biologists refer to these favored habitats as "early successional growth forest." Most of us would call it just plain thick. When stem densities succeed in turning your stroll through the timber into a full blown

cardio-workout, you know you're moving in the right direction. When the ground you're treading becomes heavily pockmarked with fresh bill borings and ample amounts of telltale whitewash, then you know that birds are only footsteps away.

MOST PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED by their first encounters with this secretive shorebird of the uplands. Unlike most great gamebirds, woodcock are not cunning. In fact, they're not even wary. On a scale of one to 10, it's doubtful that even the world's smartest





woodcock could ever peg the intelligence meter beyond two or three.

If you're looking for smart, I'd recommend matching wits with things like 12-year-old Canada geese or late season, long-spurred rooster pheasants. These creatures can spot and avoid an ambush before most hunters even have a chance to set one up.

By comparison, most woodcock — especially newly arrived migrants — are tame and trusting. Bedecked in some of the most beautifully effective camo' to be found anywhere in the bird world, the timber-



An American woodcock takes a break from migration. Often referred to as "timberdoodle," the American woodcock is a fairly common, though rarely seen, migratory upland shorebird. Breeding populations reach their greatest densities in the wooded swamp lands and alder thickets of New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, Canada.

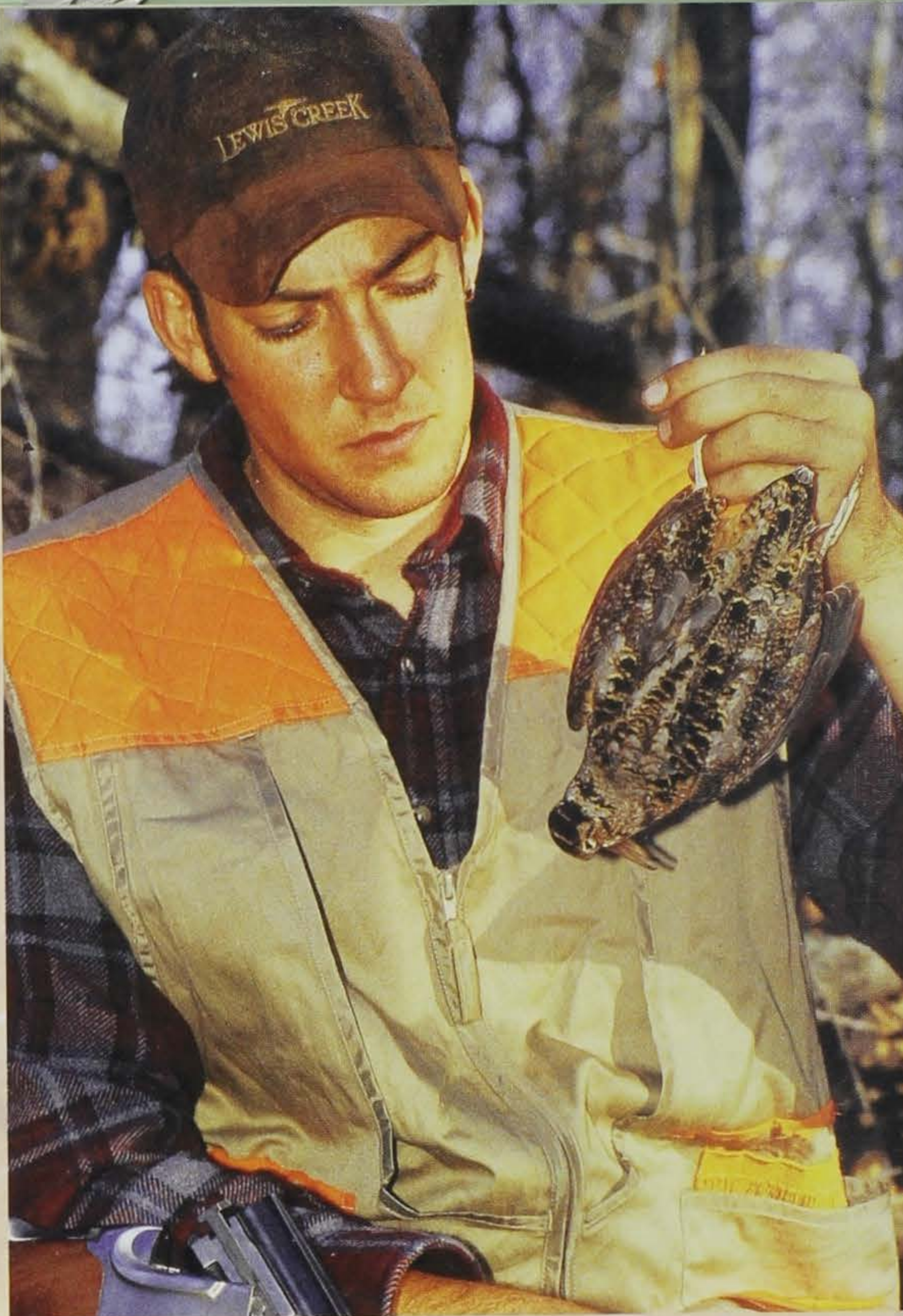
Woodcock migrate by night, and are noted for their sudden, though brief, appearances in traditional coverts. In the New England states, woodcock hunting is a time-honored tradition — much like pheasant hunting in the Midwest. The woodcock's large eyes are placed far back on the head, giving the bird a 360-degree perspective on the world, even while probing for its favorite food — earthworms.

doodle is far more preoccupied with blending in than it is with thinking things out. Even if a bird is eventually discovered, it may steadfastly decline to abandon its ruse. On at least two occasions, I've encountered birds that still pretended to be invisible even after I had lain down and practically shoved a camera lens into their faces. I suspect that most of us would be greatly surprised if we knew how many 'doodles we had nearly stepped on but had never seen.

But while the woodcock's habit of sitting tight may be good for bird hunters, it's even better for bird dogs. Although any breed of bird dog can and will point these strong-scented creatures, Brittany spaniels and English setters seem to dominate the field — at least in numbers.

When it comes to hunting ruffed grouse, most pointers achieve only fair success at best. Top notch grouse dogs are few and far between. But when it comes to tackling October woodcock, even a mediocre dog can shine. When the flight is in, a willing dog can locate and hold more woodcock in a single weekend than it could grouse during the next five seasons. Nothing builds team confidence like having a bird stay nailed down exactly where a young dog's nose says it should be.

OF COURSE, EVEN THE TAMEST OF WOODCOCK will eventually take to the air and, at least from my perspective, will do so most effectively. Even when you're expecting it, the bird's explosive, wing-whistling flush can be highly unnerving. Add thick cover and the necessity for split second shooting to



the equation, and most gunners are left in the lurch.

Of course, there are some experts who do not rate the woodcock nearly as highly as I do. Timberdoodles are easy to bag, they say. Some scoffers even go so far as to refer to the species as "flying cotton balls" or "timber moths." Most (all?) of these critics are also ardent grouse hunters. Ruffed grouse offer the most challenging wingshooting to be found anywhere in America, they claim, while woodcock pale by

comparison. I'll gladly accept the first half of that statement, but I'll also stand by my claim that the woodcock is an interesting and worthy gamebird.

I should mention that I've had at least a few opportunities to hunt with those people who downplayed the timberdoodles ability to fly. Ironically, they all happened to be having an "off day" while I was with them. The last expert I hunted with missed seven shots in a row — all at the same bird which we managed to flush four

times at point blank range. The situation was made even more hilarious due to an offhanded remark concerning "sky slugs" voiced moments before we encountered the Super Doodle.

"I just don't get it, I never miss these things," wailed the indignant expert.

I was about to fire off a comment of my own when I noticed that my companion's face was turning colors faster than a chameleon. There's a time to remain silent, and I decided that this was one of them.

THERE WERE A COUPLE OF YEARS during the mid-1970s when I became nearly obsessed with thoughts of woodcock and, of course, woodcock hunting. I climbed a lot of new ridges and

explored a lot of valleys — mainly amidst the stunning forestlands of Clayton, Allamakee and Chickasaw counties. Then, as now, I missed more birds than I hit. But for some unexplained reason, the shooting never seemed to matter — I simply went on to the next spot.

Then, one fine October morning, it struck me like a bolt from the blue. Temperatures were warming, and I had just paused to eat a sandwich and rest the dog. Sitting atop a good sized deadfall, I slowly surveyed my surroundings.

It was one of those Maass scenes again. Along the steep sidehill, clumps of slender white-barked birch reached for the sky contrasting sharply with a brilliant backdrop of red and orange under-

story. A variety of small birds foraged nearby. I heard, but didn't see, a boisterous flock of jays. There were no sounds other than those of the woods.



An English setter "locks on" to a hiding woodcock. When danger approaches, the woodcock would rather hide than fly — relying on its cryptic coloration to escape detection. The birds do give off a strong scent, however, and are readily detected by pointing dogs. Although "point blank" flushes are easily obtained, the woodcock's high speed, weaving flight pattern makes it difficult to bag.



Prime woodcock
covert in Winneshiek
County — thick cover,
plenty of earthworms.

That's when it hit
me. It wasn't really the
woodcock I sought at all.
It was the solitude. In
sharp contrast to pheas-
ant, waterfowl or deer
hunting — I had yet to
encounter so much as a
single person while
pursuing Iowa woodcock.

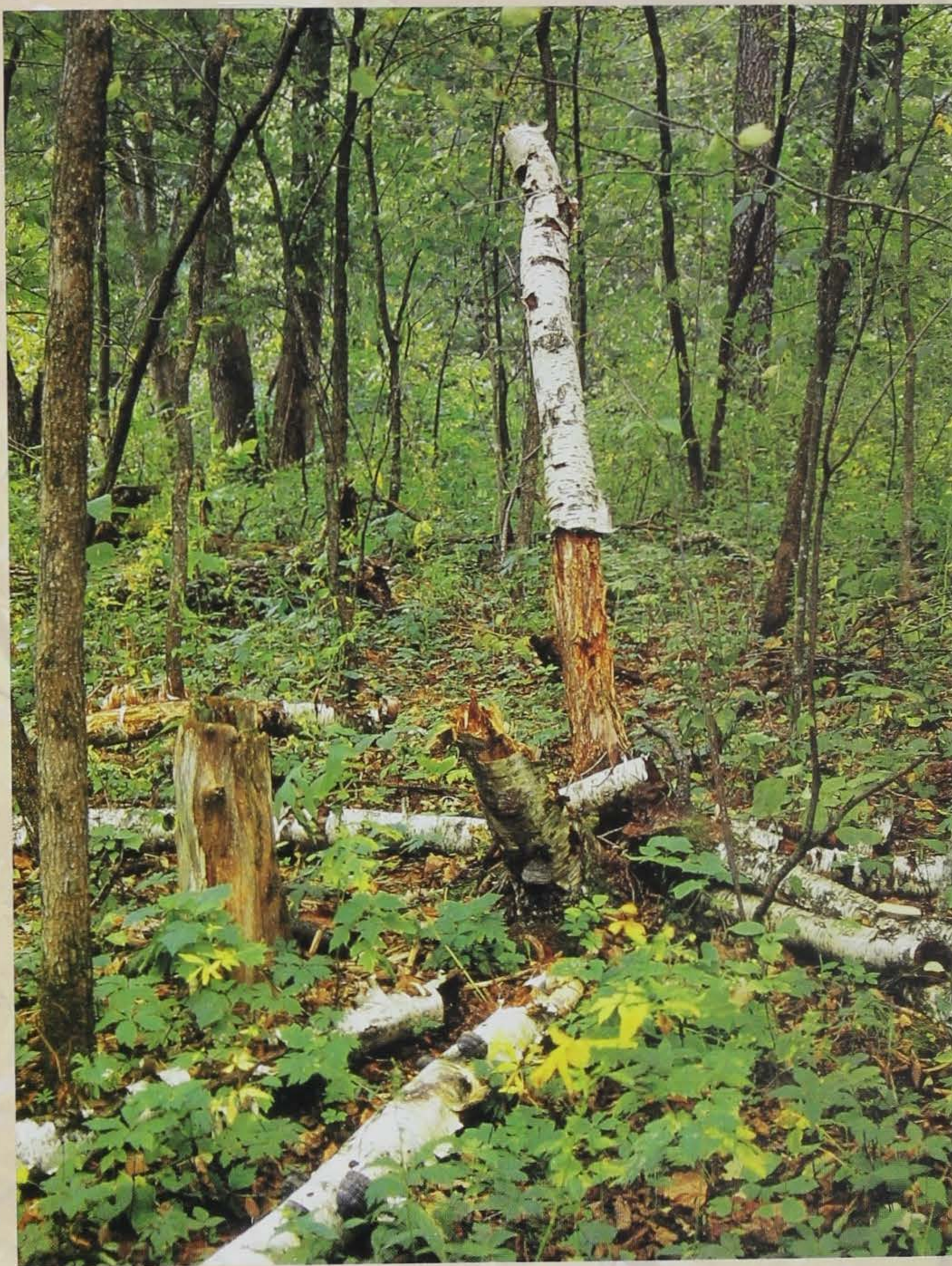
Solitude was the real
trophy. Woodcock were
just the best excuse to be
there.

BUT, OF COURSE,
NOT ALL WOOD-
COCK are found in such
classic, woodland set-
tings. Regardless of
which Iowa county you
may hunt, an odd bird or
two can unexpectedly
erupt from such unlikely
habitats as a standing
cornfield or overgrown
pasture.

One of Iowa's most
dramatic incidents of misplaced
woodcock occurred in the fall of
2000. The season had been mild, but
during the week of Oct. 24, the
weather turned downright chilly
across the woodcock's northern

range. The earthworms called it quits
and went underground. Consequently,
local woodcock populations from
Wisconsin to the far reaches of Quebec
and Ontario decided to pack their own
bags and head south.

But as the nocturnal migrants
began their forced journey, they
encountered a series of complicated
and adverse weather conditions. Fog,
heavy rainfall and nagging crosswinds
were the apparent reasons that large





Passion for woodcock and woodcock hunting is not limited to North America. Woodcock appear prominently in European art, a tradition which continues to this day as portrayed by this Model 687 EE LL Diamond Pigeon Sporting Grade Beretta (left). This engraving was done by Italy's leading engraver, Cesare Giovanelli. Photo courtesy of Beretta Firearms.

numbers of woodcock ended up far to the west of traditional stopovers. On the nights of Oct. 26 and 27, thousands — perhaps tens of thousands — of weather-weary timberdoodles arrived in northern Iowa, not the heavily wooded counties of the northeast, but rather the flat, open croplands of north-central Iowa.

It just so happened that the pheasant season was scheduled to open on Saturday, Oct. 28. The dismal weather didn't make for a great opener, and most hunters had trouble finding roosters. They were, however, downright amazed at the number of woodcock they encountered.

According to area conservation officers, nearly all parties reported seeing at least some woodcock during the weekend opener. Several groups actually saw more woodcock than

roosters. But although woodcock were legal game, many hunters failed to bag a single bird. Common excuses included, "I didn't realize what they were until it was too late" or "I was so surprised to see one that I forgot to shoot." Of course, many folks did manage to bag a bird or two. On Cerro Gordo County's Walsh Wildlife Area, for example, a visiting Minnesota hunter bagged two woodcock but only one pheasant.

SOME FRIENDS and I kicked off the pheasant opener by hunting the Ed Kotz farm near Swaledale in Cerro Gordo County. The very first bird I flushed was a timberdoodle. Although the bird erupted at close range, I never got off a shot. Like many hunters, "I was too surprised to shoot."

As we continued through a thick mix of brush, willows and canary

grass, 11 more woodcock were flushed. We only managed to flush four roosters from the same cover.

The next day, we hunted a mixture of cattails and willow slough located south of Clear Lake. For every pheasant we encountered, seven woodcock were flushed.

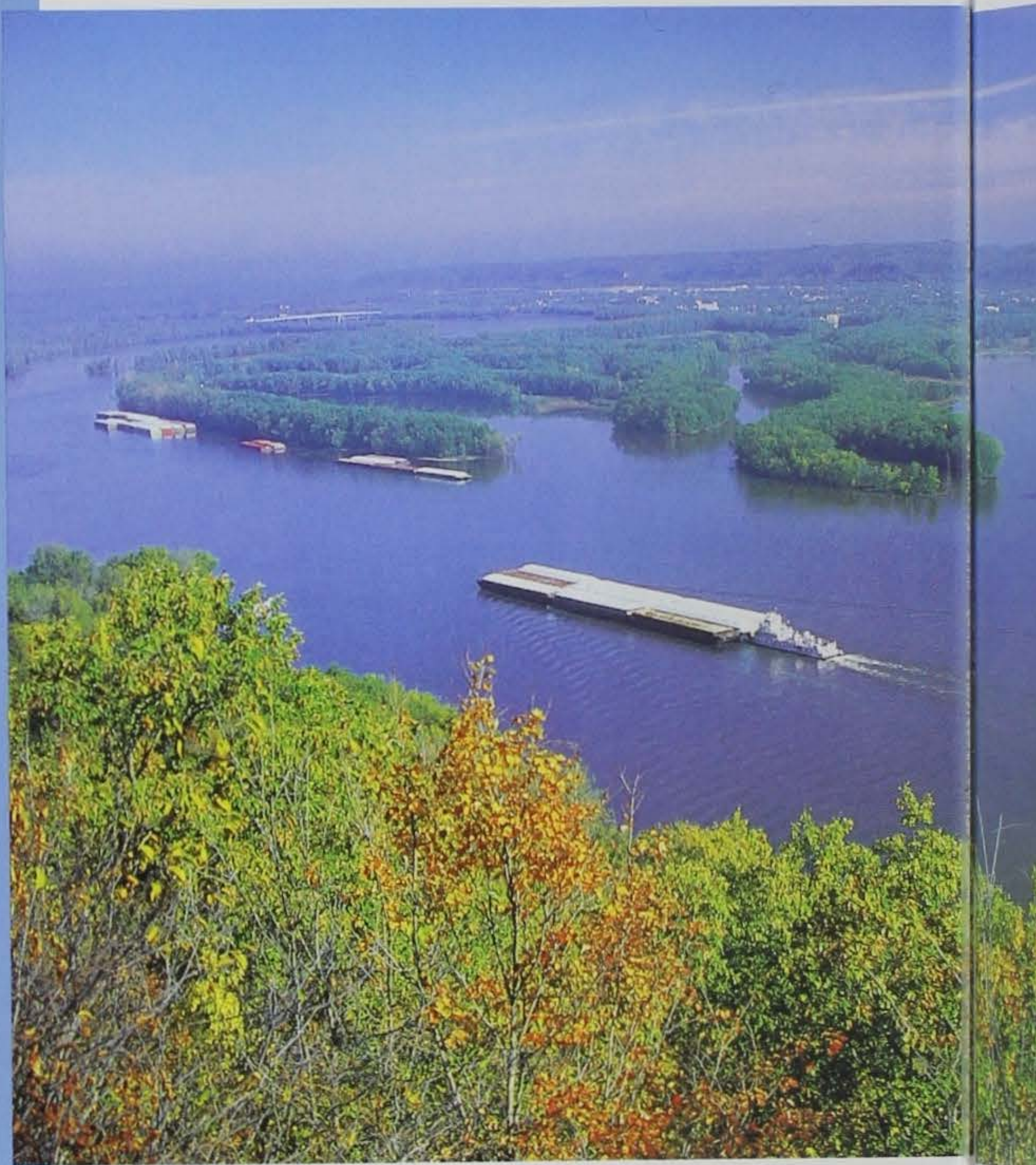
But northern Iowa's woodcock invasion was not limited to rural habitats. At a local cafe, I bumped into Roger Becker who told me he'd seen a woodcock in his Clear Lake (residential) backyard. In Hancock County, Garner's Penny Pederson did even better by spotting a pair of the birds in her backyard. She almost pulled off a close range photo before the birds took wing. In their haste to depart, one of the woodcock crashed into the side of her house. Pederson almost picked the bird up before the stunned 'doodle came to and took off for good.

Like I said, woodcock are fast but not necessarily brilliant.

MR FISH

Halts Habitat Loss on the Mississippi

by Gene Jones



One of the most common questions uttered around a boat ramp is, "How's the fishing?" It makes me chuckle, because I know the ensuing questions, "What are you using for bait?" and of course my favorite, "Where are you catching them?"

Equally amusing are the responses, especially from those quicker at wit. "In the river," or better yet, "In the corner of the mouth," are the more common. But for those with the George Washington mentality, or who at refuse to even fudge the truth a little, the

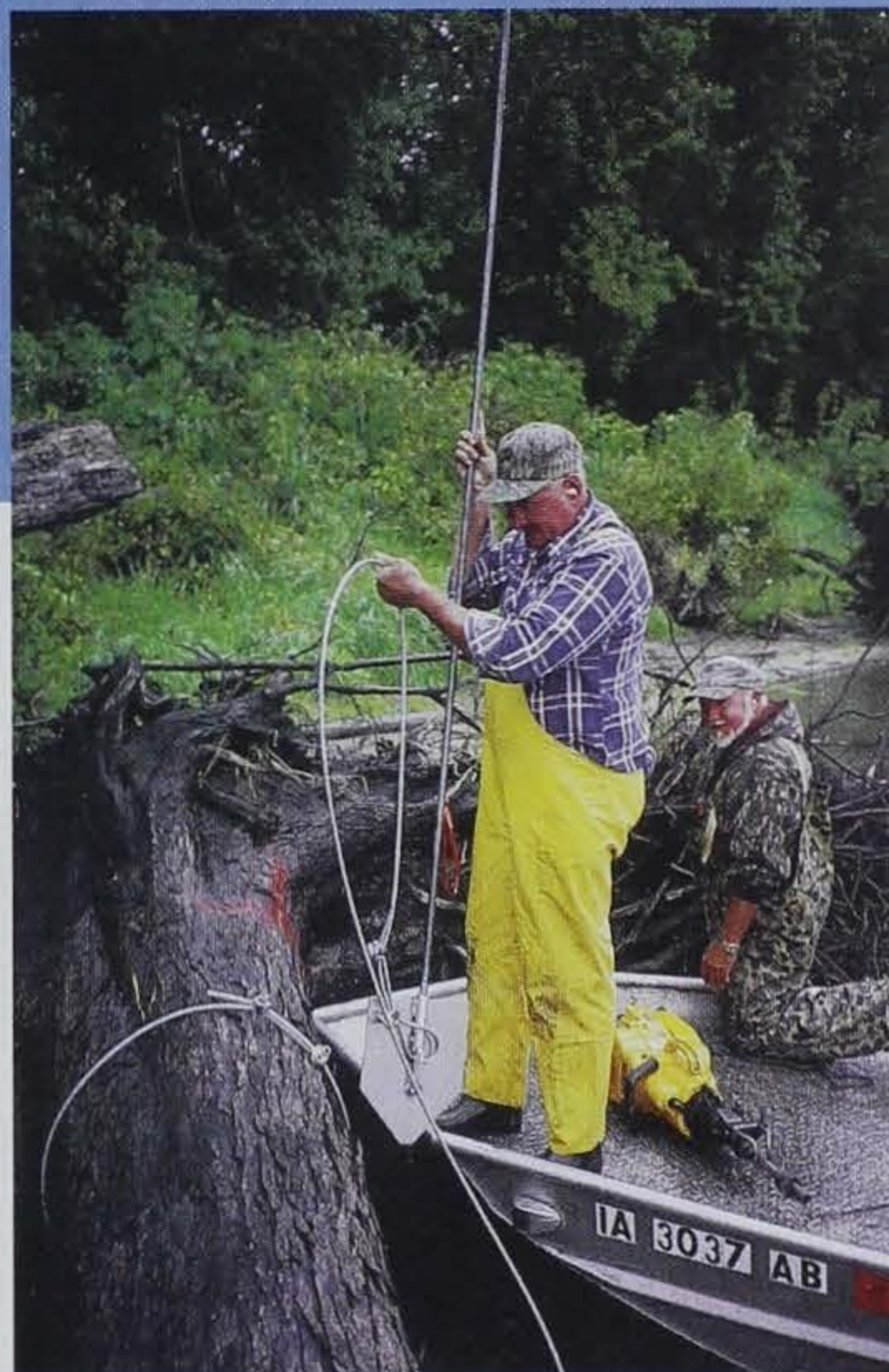
answer usually involves some kind of habitat.

Fish almost always relate to structure, whether it is rock, vegetation or wood. Structure provides a potential food source, cover from predators or a break in the current. The first thing to do when fishing a new area, if you haven't been clued in by friends or the bait shop, is look for the right conditions: rocky shore, maybe a weedline, or a big snag that provides the perfect current break. In each case, habitat is the key.

The Mississippi River offers all



The Mississippi River is one of the world's largest rivers and is an important and extremely diverse natural resource.



Ty Smedes

DNR photo

types of habitat and structure. It is one of the worlds largest rivers, with a highly diverse ecosystem. Over the last century and a half, humans have tried to "tame" the river with locks and dams, smaller diverting dams (wing dams and closing dams), levees to protect both urban and agricultural areas, and dredging. The purpose was to stabilize the main channel and maintain a 9-foot depth for navigation.

Through this process, the Mississippi River has lost the ability to act as a "river." We have impeded the



DNR photo

Through the MR FISH project, area anglers are involved in saving and enhancing Mississippi River habitat. Workers prepare to drive an anchor to hold the tree (above). Close up (left) of the offset anchor.

Anchors are driven with a gas-powered jackhammer (below).

The MR FISH tree anchoring approach is much more economical than creating new islands or restructuring shorelines with riprap.



river's ability to move sediment and change its appearance through natural succession or meandering, which is how the braided backwaters and side-channels were created. Islands are disappearing due to erosion much faster than new ones are being created. We are losing the "natural" diversity along the main channel.

Likewise, the backwaters are becoming shallower with less diversity, because the river no longer has the ability to shift and clean them out.

Despite the restraining effects of the modifications, the

Mississippi River is continually trying to change. The river is a powerful system moving large volumes of water with great force. For example, when a tree falls onto the bank, through both wave erosion (created by wind and boats) and pulse erosion (high volumes of water), it is only a matter of time before it is dislodged and washed down stream.

Natural resource managers are continually trying to find alternative ways to create or stabilize structure. One way this is being accomplished is

through the Mississippi River Fishers Involved in Saving Habitat (MR FISH) project. The project was created to help save habitat, slow or prevent (shoreline) erosion and encourage area anglers to get involved in the process. The MR FISH tree anchoring approach, for example, is much more economical than creating new islands or restructuring a shoreline and placing riprap.

Through a partnership between the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the MR FISH project was initiated. Sporting groups and other volunteers were called upon to help. Time and money were donated by a number of clubs and area anglers.

Trees were anchored with a flat anchor that was designed with the same principles as a duckbill earthen anchor. When tension or pull is applied to the anchor, it offsets or tilts, making it harder to pull out.

The Anchoring Process

The anchoring process begins with selecting a site based on the presence of trees and shoreline erosion. A 3/8-inch galvanized cable is looped around the tree and secured, with the opposite end fastened to an anchor. A 5/8-inch steel rod is sleeved into a pipe on the anchor and the anchor is driven into the ground. Essentially, only the portion of the cable wrapped around the tree is visible.

During the first couple years, more than a hundred trees were



This tree rolled a few feet off the bank. The deposit of sediment downstream of the root system along the trunk will help stabilize the bank and keep the tree in place.

anchored. The trees were monitored for retention. Some trees moved into their resting spot due to slack in the cable or rolling of trees, but most trees moved less than 10 feet.



Better than 80 percent of the anchored trees remain in place. Some have survived three major floods, as well as five other "minor events." On one shoreline, for example, five trees were lost due to barges pushing onto shore, or mooring as it is known. Mooring is how barges "park" while waiting to pass through the lock chamber.

Other trees were lost to broken cables, most likely caused by the buoyancy of the log and the torque of the current. In most of the cases we found the cable on the shore broken, a testament to how well the anchors hold.

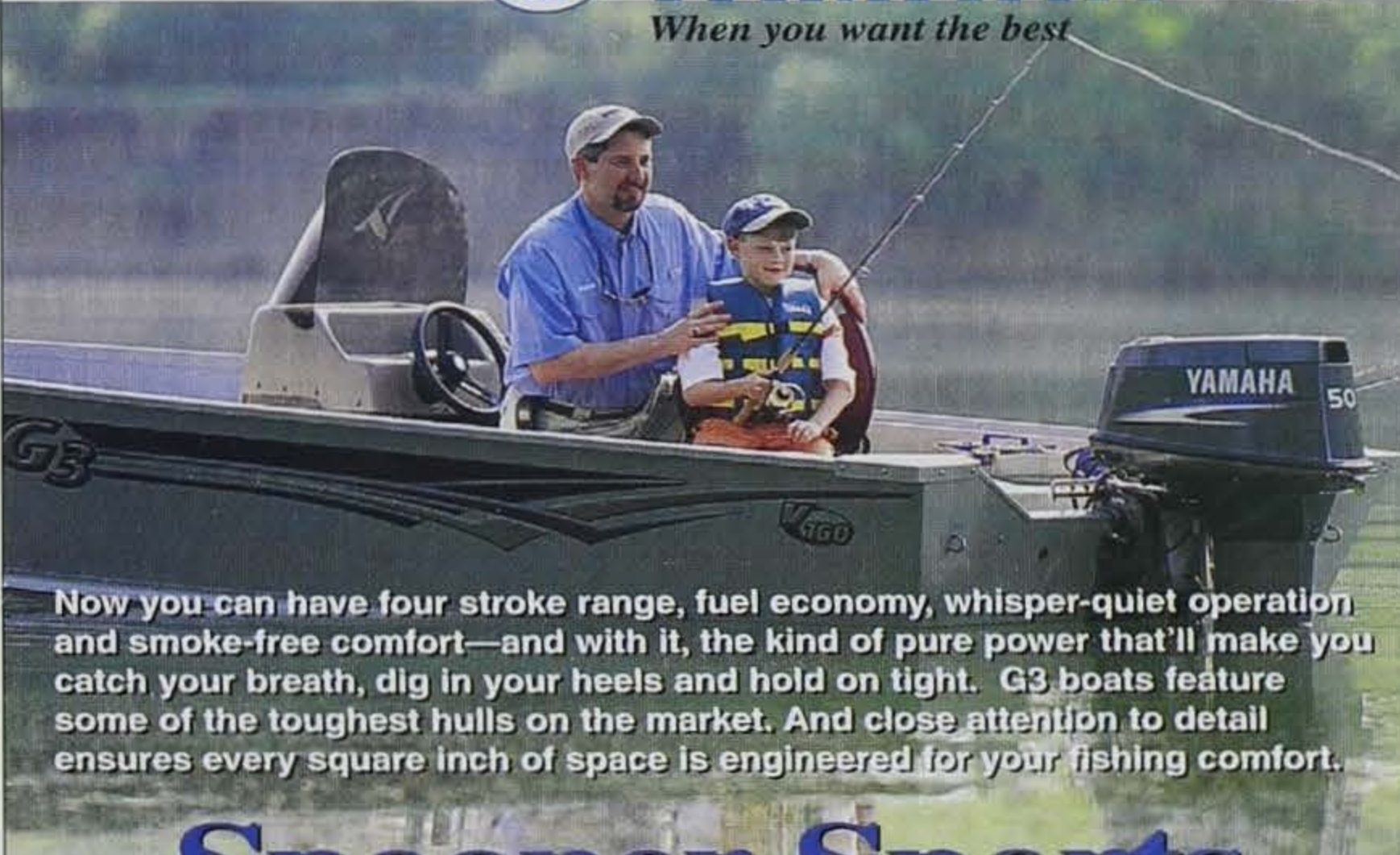
Although tree anchoring may not be the best answer to river habitat management, it does provides resource managers with another tool to enhance habitat on the Mississippi. The MR FISH project is also a good

example of how state and federal agencies and volunteers can work together for the same goal, in this case to save and enhance habitat.

Gene Jones is a natural resources technician for the department at the fisheries station in Bellevue.


YAMAHA®


When you want the best



Now you can have four stroke range, fuel economy, whisper-quiet operation and smoke-free comfort—and with it, the kind of pure power that'll make you catch your breath, dig in your heels and hold on tight. G3 boats feature some of the toughest hulls on the market. And close attention to detail ensures every square inch of space is engineered for your fishing comfort.

Spooners Sports

1004 E. 5TH ST., TAMA • 641-484-2201
www.spoonersports.com



Record Production

Article and photos by
Lowell Washburn

Peregrines & Trumpeters

Ten successful nesting attempts by free-flying trumpeter swan pairs produced 42 cygnets in 2002. Biologists predict continued growth in 2003.

An adult peregrine falcon surveys its domain from a Mississippi River cliff face (opposite page).

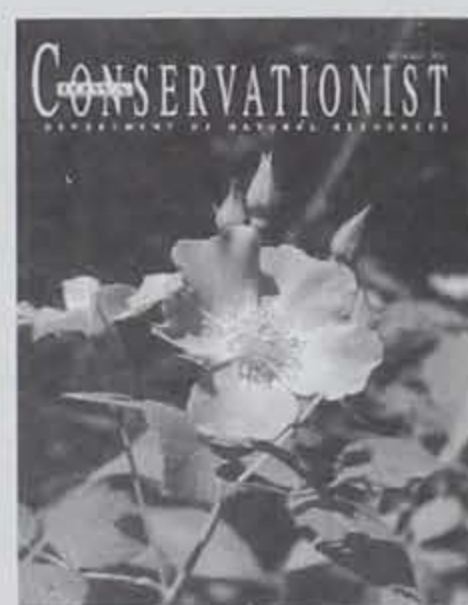
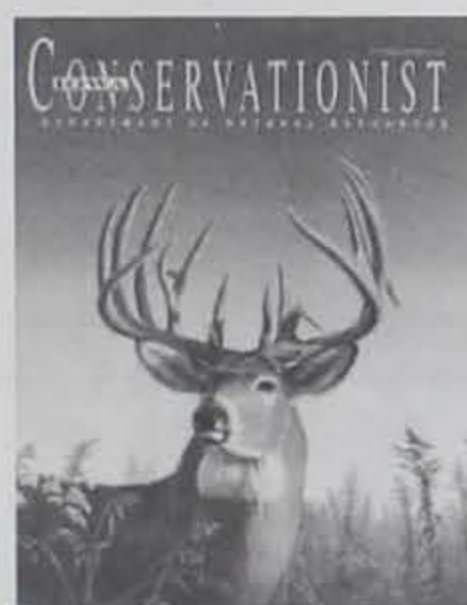
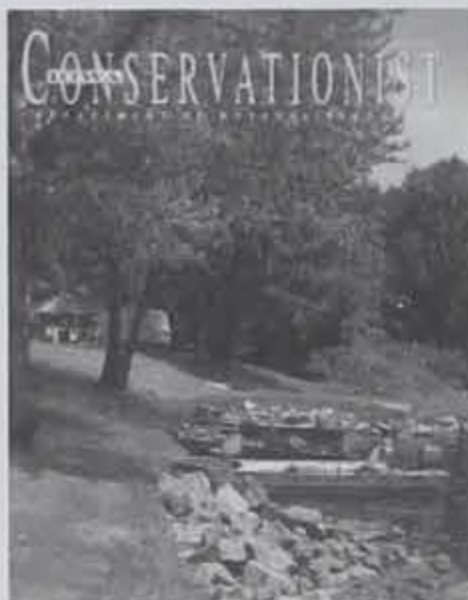
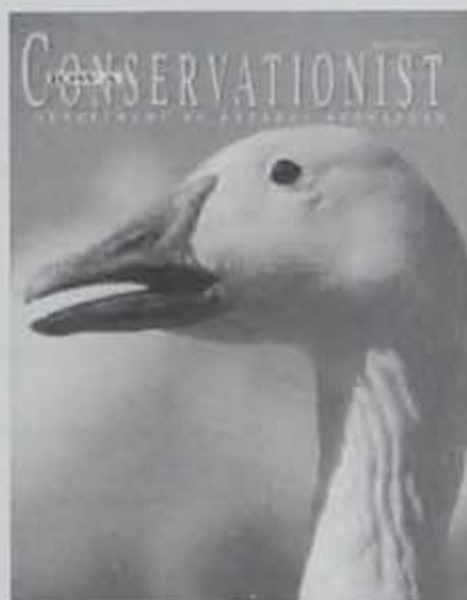
The ongoing attempt to restore peregrine falcons and trumpeter swans to their native habitats has currently become one of the most popular and best-followed wildlife programs ever initiated in the state of Iowa.

Both efforts have received exuberant levels of volunteerism, enjoyed high media profiles and have received unprecedented amounts of private sector financial aid. The achievements of both recoveries are due largely to the tireless efforts and selfless dedication of volunteer conservationists who served statewide as field monitors, peregrine hack site attendants

or private swan cooperators. Other tasks have included gathering and recording data regarding telemetry readings, swan neck collar codes and peregrine leg band observations. Because of their combined commitment, Iowans now have the unique opportunity to view these spectacular bird species in a wild environment.

Nearly four decades have passed since the last DDT-ravished peregrine falcons disappeared from their cliff ledge nest site near Lansing — an event which effectively marked the eradication of the species in an area reaching from the Mississippi River to the Atlan-

Sharing Iowa's natural beauty six times a year!



The perfect holiday gift.

achieved new, modern-day production records during the 2002 nesting season, and biologists are optimistic that the best is yet to come. The following is an update of the recovery's continuing success.

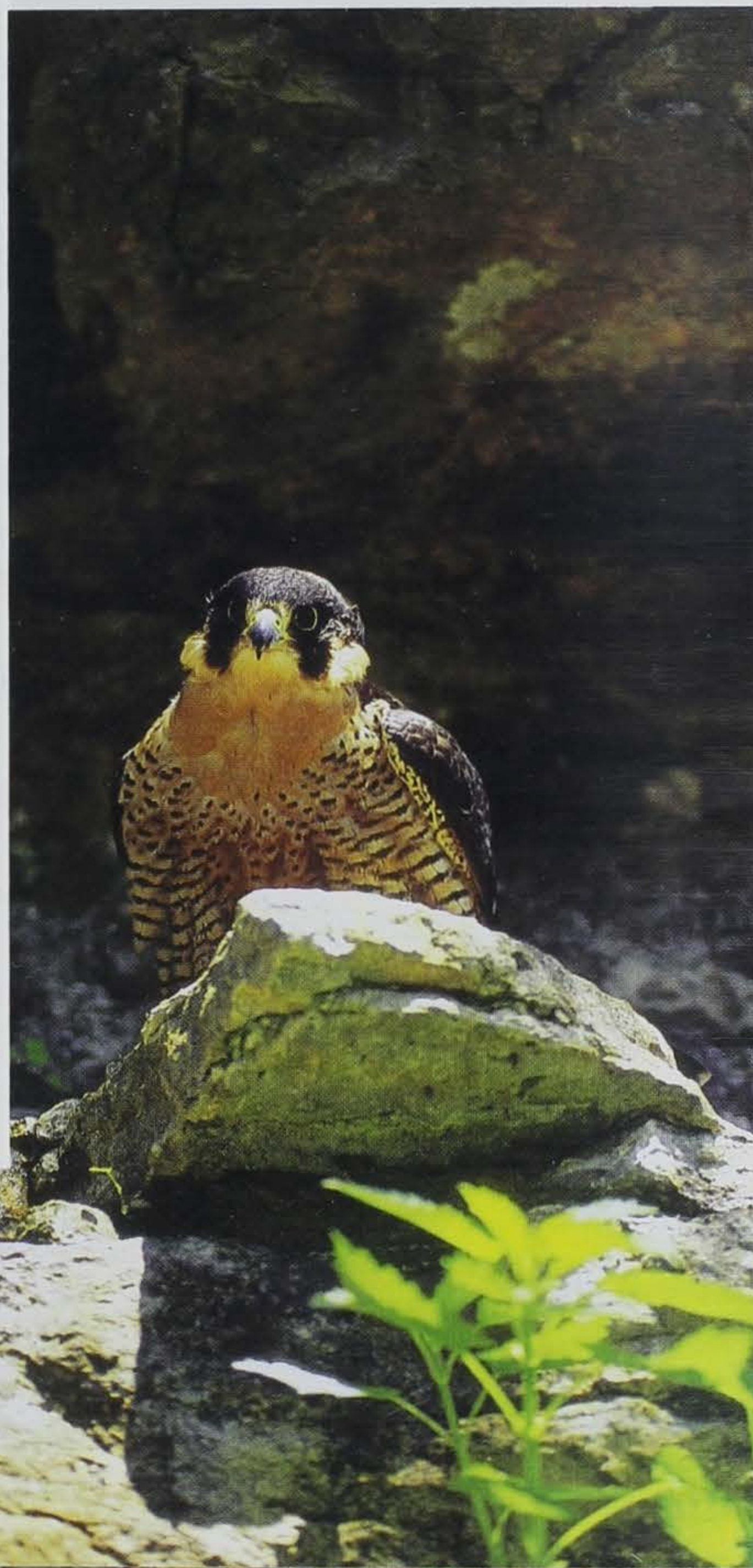
You

ou can
\$4
and-
ll be
it.

zine is
es the
EE!

anished
Duck
face
sippi.
egrine
er
ummer of
e years, 77

fledgling peregrines were released from three sites (Marquette, Davenport and Muscatine) along the upper Mississippi. Survivors of those releases have now established productive territories along the Mississippi in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.





Record 1

Article and photos by
Lowell Washburn **Peregr**

Ten successful nesting attempts by free-flying trumpeter swan pairs produced 42 cygnets in 2002. Biologists predict continued growth in 2003.

An adult peregrine falcon surveys its domain from a Mississippi River cliff face (opposite page).

The ongoing at peregrine falcons a swans to their native currently become o popular and best-fo programs ever initi of Iowa.

Both efforts ha exuberant levels of enjoyed high media have received unprececeded amounts of private sector financial aid. The achievements of both recoveries are due largely to the tireless efforts and selfless dedica-tion of volunteer conservationists who served statewide as field moni-tors, peregrine hack site attendants

SEND GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO: (please enclose \$8 for each)

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____ ZIP _____

Gift is From _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____ ZIP _____

Gift is From _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____ ZIP _____

Gift is From _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Please enter the gift subscriptions above at \$8 each.

☐ Please send renewals for these subscriptions to me.

Please enter giver information below:

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

☐ Please add me as a new subscriber.

☐ Please renew my subscription.

(Please include mailing label if possible.)

☐ Please send me _____
Iowa Conservationist 2003 Calendar(s)
at \$3 each -- in addition to the calendar received
for each subscription purchased.

☐ I have enclosed \$ _____

Offer expires December 31, 2002.

passed since the last DDT-ravished peregrine falcons disappeared from their cliff ledge nest site near Lansing — an event which effectively marked the eradication of the species in an area reaching from the Mississippi River to the Atlan-

Why is the *Iowa Conservationist* the perfect gift? You can share Iowa's natural beauty six times a year.

Just in time for the holiday gift-giving season, you can purchase a one-year subscription for only \$8. A \$4 savings. Give your friends and relatives six outstanding issues of the *Iowa Conservationist*. A card will be sent to each recipient notifying them of your gift.

Oh yes, we have one more reason why our magazine is the perfect gift . . . each gift recipient also receives the beautiful *Iowa Conservationist* Calendar — FREE! That's seven great issues at one low price.

You can order additional calendars for \$3 each.

Ordering is easy:

- Fill in the gift subscription information. Additional gift orders may be included on a separate sheet.
- Fill in your name and address.
- Mark whether you are ordering gifts and/or a new or renewal subscription for yourself.
- Mark whether you are ordering additional calendars.
- Enclose a check or money order, made out to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, for the total amount. (Credit card orders call 515-281-3887.)
- Mail today!

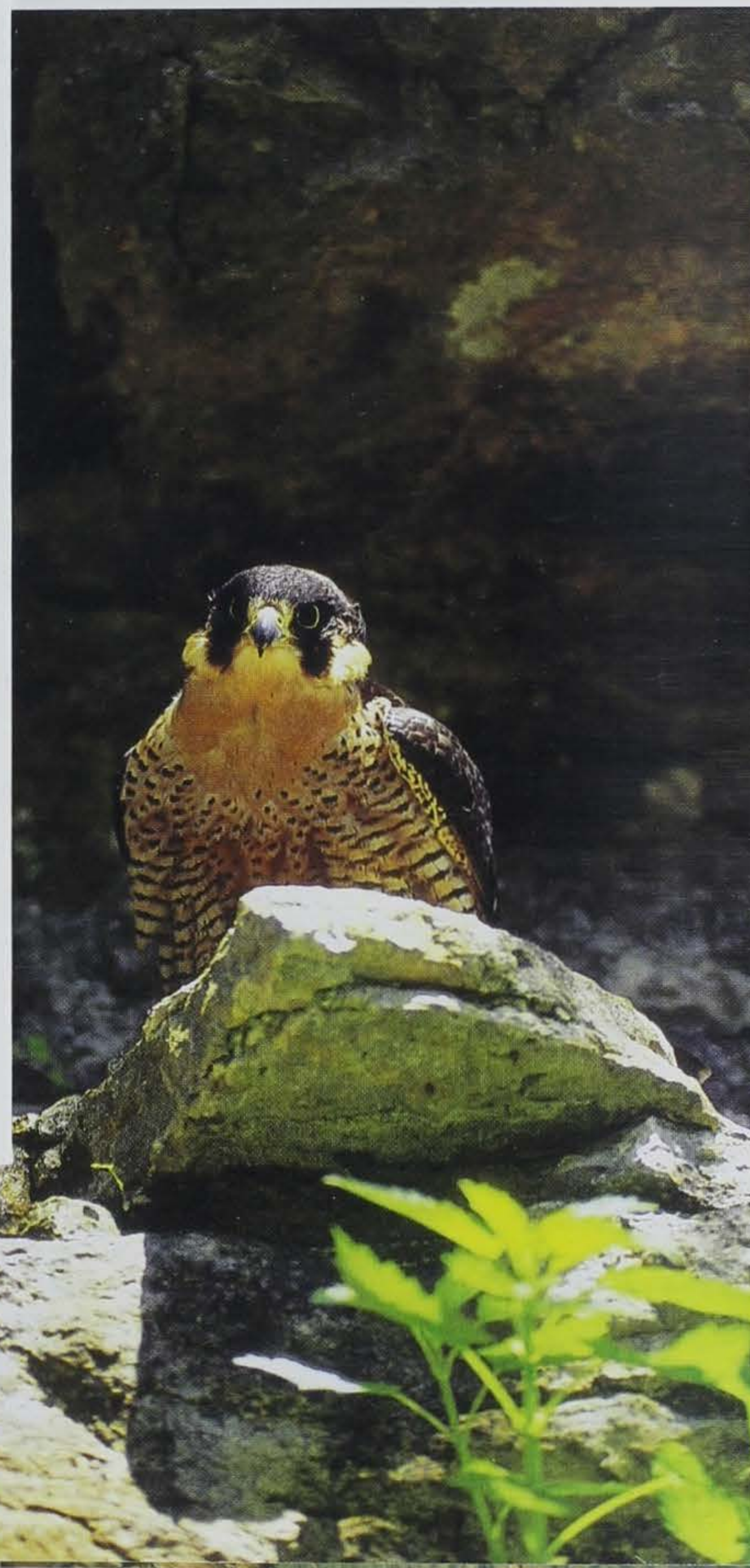
Please allow eight weeks for subscriptions to begin and to receive calendars.

Calendar quantities are limited.

Offer expires December 31, 2002.

inished
Duck
face
ssippi.
egrine
er
ummer of
e years, 77

fledgling peregrines were released from three sites (Marquette, Davenport and Muscatine) along the upper Mississippi. Survivors of those releases have now established productive territories along the Mississippi in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.



achieved new, modern-day production records during the 2002 nesting season, and biologists are optimistic that the best is yet to come. The following is an update of the recovery's continuing success.



Record Peregrine

Article and photos by
Lowell Washburn

Ten successful nesting attempts by free-flying trumpeter swan pairs produced 42 cygnets in 2002. Biologists predict continued growth in 2003.

An adult peregrine falcon surveys its domain from a Mississippi River cliff face (opposite page).

The osprey and peregrine swans to the currently popular and programs of Iowa.

Both the osprey and peregrine falcon have received unprecedented amounts of private sector financial aid. The achievements of both recoveries are due largely to the tireless efforts and selfless dedication of volunteer conservationists who served statewide as field monitors, peregrine hawk site attendants

passed since the last DDT-ravished peregrine falcons disappeared from their cliff ledge nest site near Lansing — an event which effectively marked the eradication of the species in an area reaching from the Mississippi River to the Atlan-

IOWA
CONSERVATIONIST
IOWA DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE CAPITOL
1015 E GRAND
DES MOINES, IA 50309-9656

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 781 DES MOINES, IOWA

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

FROM:

Before sealing envelope, be sure to include remittance.

PEREGRINE FALCONS

Peregrine falcon pairs made five nesting attempts in Iowa during 2002, resulting in 10 young successfully fledged.

The most exciting news on the peregrine recovery front is that falcons are continuing to colonize the historic, cliff ledge nest sites of the upper Mississippi River. Iowa has been the leader in this crucial, and now successful, endeavor.

The Mississippi River Recovery Project began in 1995 with the formation of the Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team — a group of unpaid, volunteer peregrine enthusiasts from across the state. The team's mission was to ensure the survival and growth of the state's urban peregrines (nesting in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids) and

to devise ways to restore vanished populations of "American Duck Hawks" to the historic cliff face habitats of the upper Mississippi.

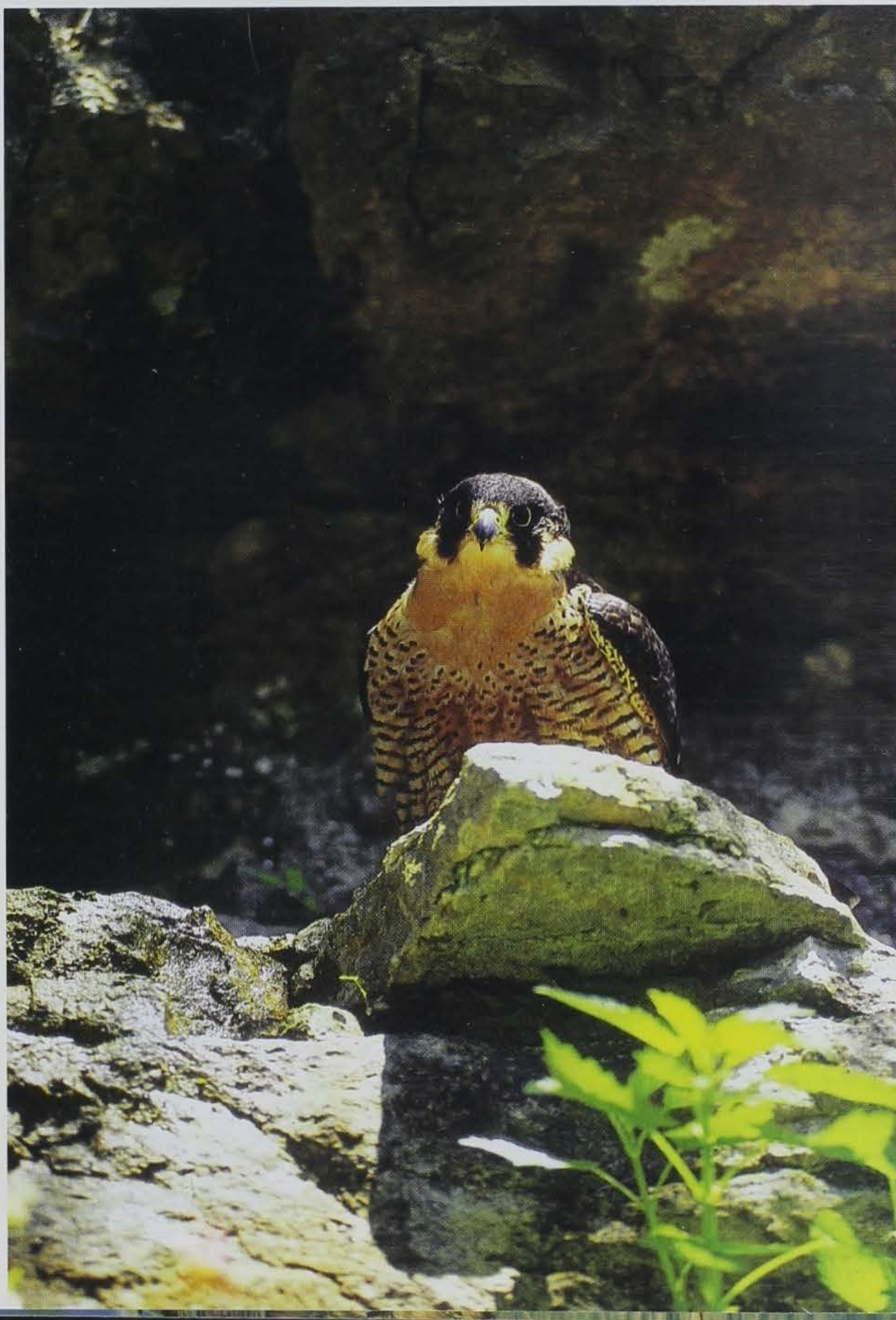
The first release of peregrine falcons into Mississippi River bluffs occurred in the summer of 1998. During the next three years, 77

fledgling peregrines were released from three sites (Marquette, Davenport and Muscatine) along the upper Mississippi. Survivors of those releases have now established productive territories along the Mississippi in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Year for mpeters

tic Ocean. Equally sobering is the fact that more than a century has passed since the resonate, haunting clamor of courting trumpeter swans has echoed across Iowa wetlands.

But those environmental wrongdoings are being corrected. Back from the very edge of the abyss, peregrines and trumpeters are returning to reclaim historic breeding grounds. Both species achieved new, modern-day production records during the 2002 nesting season, and biologists are optimistic that the best is yet to come. The following is an update of the recovery's continuing success.





A female peregrine (above) guards this year's youngsters at the Mid-American Energy Building in downtown Davenport.

The male (tiercel) peregrine stands watch over the same nest site in Davenport. Iowa-reared peregrines continue to occupy territories across an area stretching from Winnipeg to St. Louis, making Iowa a major contributor to the mid-continent recovery efforts.

Iowa Peregrine Numbers Continue to Soar

DAVENPORT—Isn't it fun whenever you bump into an old friend?

That very thing happened this past summer when Davenport fireman Tom Deckert and I visited the headquarters building of Mid-American Energy. But while we may have been delighted by the



encounter, it was painfully obvious that our friend was not. In fact, the moment he detected our presence, he did his level best to push us from the building's roof top and into the busy, downtown traffic below.

I should note that this negative response was entirely understand-

Iowa's cliff-released peregrines have gained international recognition. Collectively, the effort represents a final, and extremely critical, component of America's mid-continent peregrine recovery.

Prior to the environmentally devastating DDT era of the 1950s, the upper Mississippi held the distinction of being the very hub of mid-continent peregrine populations. And although contemporary, urban-nesting birds have certainly been valued, peregrine enthusiasts have been quick to note that natural river cliffs are where falcon populations started and is where they should return.

able. Our "old friend" was an adult, peregrine falcon, and we were currently in the process of "stealing" his babies from a nest box located on a ledge of the energy building's 16th story.

Of course, our intentions were innocent enough. And we weren't actually stealing at all. We merely wanted to "borrow" the chicks, draw some blood samples, band the babies and then return them safely to the nest. The bands would allow scientists to document the ultimate survival and dispersal of the falcons, while the blood would be used to detect the presence [or hopefully the absence] of pesticide contamination or other environmentally toxic agents such as heavy metals.

The endeavor did contain an element of irony. In July of 1999, Deckert and I had "bled and banded" this very same bird that was now trying to evict us from his office building nest site. The

The long-term survival of "city and smoke stack" birds remains largely dependent upon continued nest box maintenance and intensive site management. During the spring nesting seasons, situations often became dicey as roofing, maintenance and window-washing crews invaded peregrine territories. During the 1999 nesting season a tragic, but unavoidable, set of human interactions led to the nest failure of the Des Moines peregrines.

On the historic cliff ledge sites of the Mississippi, there are no nest box repairs, no fleeing maintenance workers, no bio-politics. Just free-flying, self-sustaining peregrines

location had been a 200-foot, limestone cliff face at Eagle Point Park which looms above the Mississippi River at Dubuque. The falcon had been a baby himself then. Now, after spending a couple of winters in South America, the peregrine had returned to Iowa to raise youngsters of his own.

It was obvious the falcon had become a competent provider. In addition to catching food for himself, he was also supplying all the provisions needed to sustain his mate and three robust, 37-ounce youngsters.

The story did have a happy ending. Deckert and I obtained our blood samples, the falcon got his babies back, and Iowa's breeding population of peregrines has increased by one successful pair.

Bumping into an old friend just doesn't get much better than that.

—LW

doing what peregrines do best — tearing up the sky and claiming the wild blufflands as their own.

As the Iowa cliff work began, professional scientists and volunteers each agreed that returning wild peregrines to their historic habitats would represent an uphill, long-term endeavor. Some experts predicted the project would be doomed to failure.

Observers were understandably astonished when five pairs of nesting peregrines appeared at Mississippi River cliffs during the summer of 2000 — just two years after the initial (Mississippi River) release of 14 fledgling falcons.

Authorities have estimated the Midwestern, pre-DDT population of peregrine falcons at 40 pairs — all nesting on cliffs adjacent to the Mississippi River and its tributaries or along the Lake Superior basin. By the end of 2001, 40 peregrine pairs were already occupying territories on Midwestern cliffs.

Unfortunately, we'll never really know how accurate those original inventories were. But according to Dr. Harrison Tordoff, who has served as field liaison and chief data collector throughout the mid-continent peregrine recovery, it appears likely the Midwest cliff population may one day exceed 60 breeding pairs.

The peregrine falcon represents the only formerly extirpated species of native wildlife whose current nesting habitat actually exceeds historic levels. As a result, an additional 100 pairs of Midwestern peregrines are successfully nesting on the office buildings, factory smoke stacks and bridges of our modern landscape. This fact alone makes the return of the peregrine one of the most remarkable chapters in the annals of wildlife conservation.

Bluffland habitat — upper Mississippi River. For the first time in nearly four decades, wild peregrines have returned to nest on the upper Mississippi.



TRUMPETER SWANS

Trumpeter swans made 10 successful nesting attempts during 2002; resulting in the production of 42 cygnets. This marks a significant increase over last year when nine swan nests produced 19 young. Volunteer cooperators produced an additional 145 young from swan pairs held in captivity. Those young will be released into Iowa wetlands in 2003.

The big news in the swan world is that this summer, for the first time in more than a century, wild trumpeters have returned to nest on the backwaters of the upper Mississippi River. According to DNR swan restoration coordinator Ron Andrews, Iowa-reared swans initiated three nesting attempts on the Mississippi. Two of those nests were located on the Wisconsin side of the channel, and all were successful — resulting in the production of eight young.

"Our recovery goal has been to have a total of 15, free-flying pairs of breeding trumpeter swans by the year 2003," said Andrews.

"Based on neck collar observations of nonbreeding, subadult birds reported during the summer, I



MORE HISTORY — An Iowa-reared trumpeter sits atop her nest in an upper Mississippi River backwater located southeast of McGregor. Hailed as a critical milestone in the nation's trumpeter recovery effort, the summer of 2002 marked the first time in more than a century that wild swans have been produced from this important ecosystem. Iowa-reared swans initiated three successful nesting attempts on the Mississippi.

think it's possible that we could have as many as five or six new pairs coming on line next year. Whether or not that happens remains to be seen, but at this point I'm highly optimistic."

Andrews noted that power line collisions and illegal shooting represents the two most common causes of swan mortality. It is likely that without those factors, the Iowa recovery would have already exceeded its 15-pair goal.

"It's really unfortunate that Iowa claims the highest incidence of illegal swan shootings of any state in the mid-continent recovery region," said Andrews.

"It should also be noted that the people who shoot swans are not hunters; they're vandals. Unfortunately, their actions give all of us who enjoy hunting — especially waterfowling — a black eye."

In an effort to reduce illegal shoot-



HUGE AND MAJESTIC — A pair of adult trumpeter swans stand watch over their brood of seven young at Mallard Marsh, located four miles southwest of Fertile in Cerro Gordo County. Trumpeter swans are listed among Iowa's rarest bird species. Only 10 pairs nest in the entire state. The Mallard Marsh birds are the first wild swans to nest anywhere in Cerro Gordo County in more than a century.

ing, the DNR has recently increased the fine for killing a wild swan from \$50 to \$1,500 plus court costs. Andrews notes, however, that the department will still rely on the public for information regarding swan shootings.

"So far, a full 75 percent of the [swan] violations we've prosecuted have come from the eyewitness reports by waterfowl hunters. It's amazing how many hunters carry their cell phones to the duck blind. In some cases, the violators have been apprehended before they leave the marsh," said Andrews.

Whenever a hunting violation is observed, an immediate call to your local conservation officer or the Turn In Poachers Hotline (1-800-532-2020) is the best course of action.

"We can't do much about power lines, but illegal shooting is something that could stop immediately."

Tragedy and Triumph at Mallard Marsh

FERTILE—A nesting season that began with tragedy has ended in triumph for Iowa's best known bird family.

For the second consecutive summer, wild trumpeter swans have successfully produced young at Cerro Gordo County's Mallard Marsh.

According to DNR swan restoration coordinator Ron Andrews, the trumpeter swan is listed among Iowa's rarest bird species. Only 10 pairs currently nest statewide.

"The Mallard Marsh birds made their first nesting attempt last year, and on June 10 [2001] they were successful in hatching five young," said Andrews.

"These were the very first wild swans to nest anywhere in Cerro Gordo County in more than a century. In terms of wildlife conservation, their return was nothing short of an historic event."

North Iowa's swan family quickly gained statewide celebrity, and became the subject of numerous newspaper and magazine articles. For area waterfowl enthusiasts, the nesting trumpeters marked the culmination of years of intensive restoration activities involving the release of young, captive-reared swans on area wetlands. The pair's adult female had been one of four young swans released at Mallard Marsh during the summer of 1997.

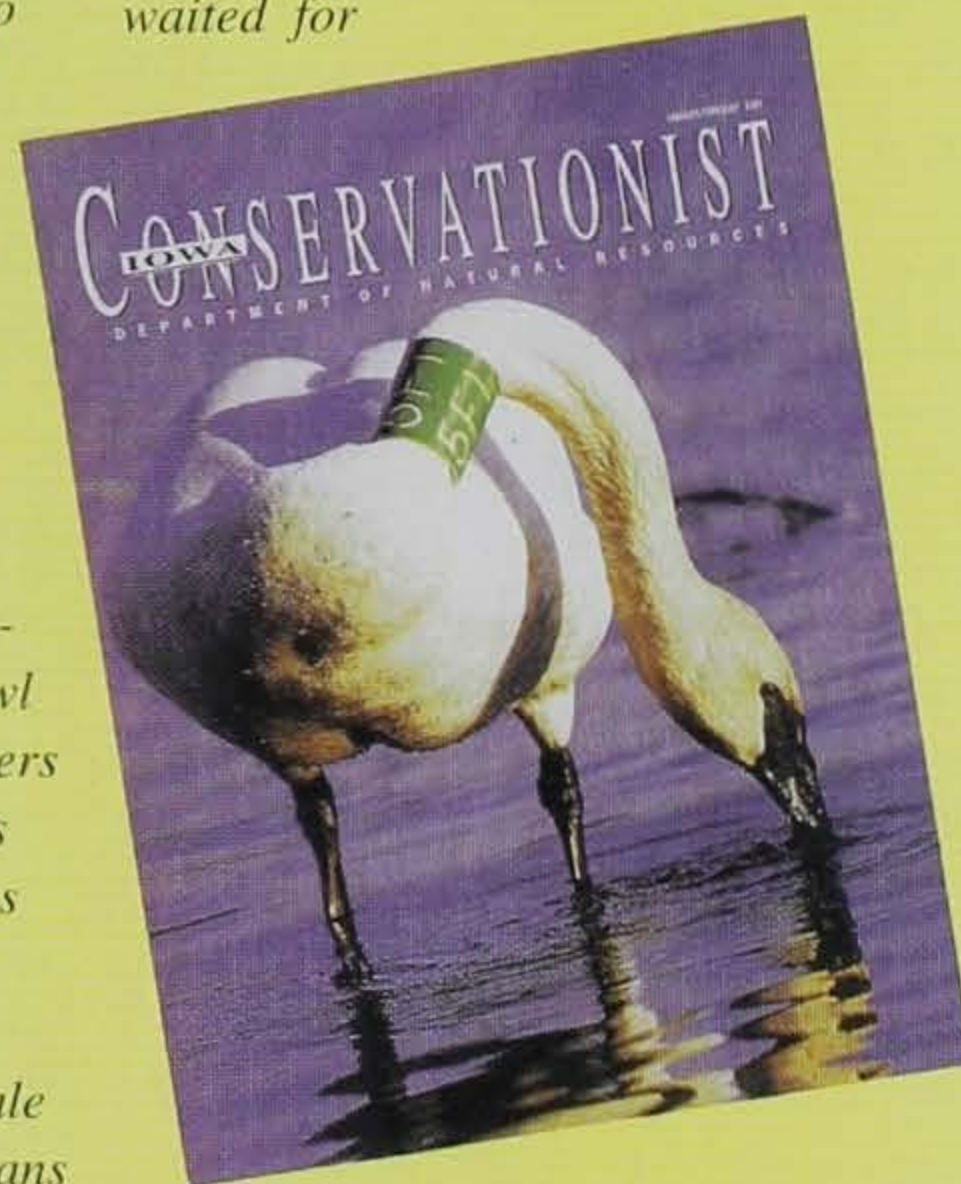
BUT THE CELEBRATION appeared to end abruptly when the pair's adult male and one of

last year's offspring were killed after colliding with power lines during this year's spring migration. Ironically, the swans were less than four miles from their Mallard Marsh nest site when the tragedy occurred.

"It's taken an incredible amount of time and energy to work our way to that current statewide nucleus of 10, free-flying breeding pairs," said Andrews.

"The loss of those [Mallard Marsh] birds was extremely frustrating, and represented a major setback in north Iowa's swan recovery. At that point there were really a lot of disappointed folks out there."

"THE DAY FOLLOWING THE ACCIDENT, I was able to locate the adult female back at Mallard Marsh. Standing alone, she waited for



a mate that would never return. The good news was that she appeared to be uninjured. Adult females are the most valuable component of any waterfowl

Trumpeter swan family in a prairie cattail marsh — Cerro Gordo County. A new chapter for Iowa's best known swan family.

population. And although the bird was now a lone survivor, she was also an unusual "best case scenario."

Wildlife populations are highly dynamic and when it comes to birdlife, the loss of a single nesting season can be catastrophic — especially in species whose numbers are very low. The worst news at Mallard Marsh was an entire production cycle had been lost — or at least that's the way it should have been.

EARLY IN THEIR CAREERS, most wildlife biologists learn to "never say never." Unpredictability is one of the things that makes wildlife observation so fascinating. The Mallard Marsh swans proved to be no exception.

Within four days, the female had been joined by a second swan, which was rather incredible considering how few trumpeters are on the landscape. The visitor sported a bright red neck collar (number PO4). The band revealed the bird was a 2-year-old, subadult male which had been produced by a pair of captive breeders held by the local conservation board at Winnebago County's Thorpe Park.

Although the collared bird represented a potential new mate, it also appeared to be too little too late. Trumpeter swans require a lengthy courtship, and most birds don't produce young until at least their third year. Although there was no possibility for production this



year, the birds would hopefully develop a strong pair bond during the summer, migrate south together this fall, and then return to northern Iowa to nest in 2003.

BUT THE SWANS HAD DIFFERENT IDEAS, and at this point the story really began to get interesting.

The extended courtship ritual, for example, seems to have proceeded a bit more rapidly than expected. By mid-May, the female had not only refurbished her former nest site, but had also produced a brand new clutch of seven shiny eggs. Of course, the eggs were most likely infertile, but it was nevertheless a good start for the new pair.


On June 12, this year's swan

chronicle reached an improbable crescendo when all seven eggs hatched into healthy baby cygnets. So much for the rule book. Like I said, the swans had ideas of their own.

"We really didn't expect this outcome. It is only the second time, in fact, that we've documented a 2-year-old bird producing young," said Andrews.

"There's no question that Iowa's trumpeter swan restoration has been a roller coaster ride with plenty of peaks and valleys. During the past year, the Mallard Marsh swans have seen both. But right now, they're back on the peak and there are a lot of happy folks out there."

—LW



Prairie Rescue Revisited

Planting trees has become synonymous with Earth Day, and on a day designed to promote a healthy environment and world peace, who can deny the suitability of such a practice.

How strange it must have sounded, though, when Iowans were asked this year to "cut a tree for Earth Day." Given the mission of Earth Day, that odd request actually couldn't have been more fitting.

The plea was part of statewide Prairie Rescue Day, an environmental restoration initiative that integrates conservation and service organizations, families and corporate sponsors, including local Coca-Cola bottlers and Fairway Stores, Inc. The focus was on removing trees and other invasive plant species that threaten the few prairie remnants in Iowa.

Event organizers from the Iowa DNR, the Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage

Article by Matthew J. Edwards
and Jeff Sing
Photos by Ty Smedes

Prairie smoke

Foundation, Iowa Prairie Network, and many other groups worked together to make the event the most successful yet. The 3rd annual Prairie Rescue Day, held April 20, involved 30 local prairie sites on

public and private lands, and more than 450 participants statewide.

Prairie Rescue Day was first established by the Audubon Society in 2000 and has grown considerably in following years. Each year participation has nearly doubled. More groups and more people are getting involved and making a difference. People in Iowa are learning to volunteer, protect, plant, educate and identify prairie.

During Prairie Rescue Day, volunteers cleared invading brush and trees from the prairie and conducted other protection activities

including burning. On-site experts provided technical guidance and prairie education for participating volunteers.

The management of prairies includes the simulation of the natural mechanisms like fire and grazing that have allowed prairies and forests to survive over time. Fire was a natural occurrence on the prairie before settlement. As is the case with forests, fire can actually rejuvenate the prairie and keep it healthy. It is one tool used today by agencies that manage native or restored prairie lands. Despite the appearance, blackened earth and scorched trees are not a sign of despair. There is a cycle in which life begins anew, and will actually come back even stronger.

Management also includes active human intervention such as domestic grazing, mowing, and haying as well as manual (chainsaws, loppers, and bow-saws), biological, and chemical means of selectively removing undesirable species. The prairie is an intricate web of living things but not all living things were originally part of the system. There are natives (naturally occurring inhabitants unique to Iowa tallgrass prairie) and there are invasives (undesirable plants and trees that take up the same precious space, sunlight and nutrients other plants need to thrive). Prairie invaders like cedar, dogwood, thistle and flowering plants adapt and choke off the original natives, thereby altering the landscape.

Prairie Rescue Day is a chance for Iowa's citizens to step in and save our resources. Motivating,



educating and involving Iowans is a paramount concern with current and future conservation initiatives.

"We know the prairie rescue helps prairie, but we hope it benefits the volunteers as well," says Mark Ackelson, executive director of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Events like this provide opportunities for families, scout troops, church and 4-H groups to make a difference and rediscover a small piece of their collective history.

The first European settlers moving westward from the forests of the eastern United States encountered the prairies, which seemed like a vast ocean of grass. The wind caused waves on the surface of the shimmering grasses. Certain wagon used by the pioneers were called "prairie schooners," a reference to a sailing vessel, further adding to the analogy of the prairie being a large inland sea of grasses. It was easy to get lost in the prairie, especially since there were few trees or other natural features to act as landmarks. Even when on horseback, it was often

impossible to see the horizon over the prairie.

When settlers first arrived in Iowa, they discovered their plows — designed for forest soils — could not cut through the dense prairie sod. Not until 1837, when John Deere invented the self-scouring, steel-bladed plow, was it possible to break the prairie sod and farm the areas on a large scale. Then, in the remarkably short period of perhaps 50 years, the vast majority of prairie in Iowa was plowed and converted to agriculture.

"The United States, particularly the Midwest's bread basket, has the most fertile soil in the world — and it came from our prairies," says Glenn Pollock of the Iowa Prairie Network.

"That soil allows us to feed ourselves with far less cost and effort than most countries require. Since humans don't know how to create new soil like prairies do, we can't afford to throw away this key resource."

As the native Iowan and great conservationist Sylvan Runkel once said, "Getting people — getting children — acquainted with what's out here will make people concerned about what is happening here. If we get acquainted with natural communities, we feel at home. Any place we feel at home, we feel like protecting."

The prairie's beauty is unrivaled by its simplicity of a majestic bloom

Continued on page 43.

April marked the second year of a dedicated Prairie Rescue Day effort at Rock Creek State Park. An emerging partnership between the Grinnell College Center for Prairie Studies and the DNR was apparent, with students returning to cut brush and burn small pieces of ground. Some students that volunteered in 2001 could see the area being transformed by their efforts — prairie grasses and forbs were becoming established. Volunteers from Rock Creek Lake Alliance, AmeriCorps and surrounding communities also participated.





DNR photo

The progressive loss of the prairie ecosystem at Waubonsie State Park.

1920s (left).



DNR photo

1940s

Prairie Past, Present and Future

by Mark Edwards

People are part of the prairie. Thousands of years ago Native Americans perpetuated prairies by purposefully setting them on fire. This management technique sustained the prairie's health. It also insured the people's health.

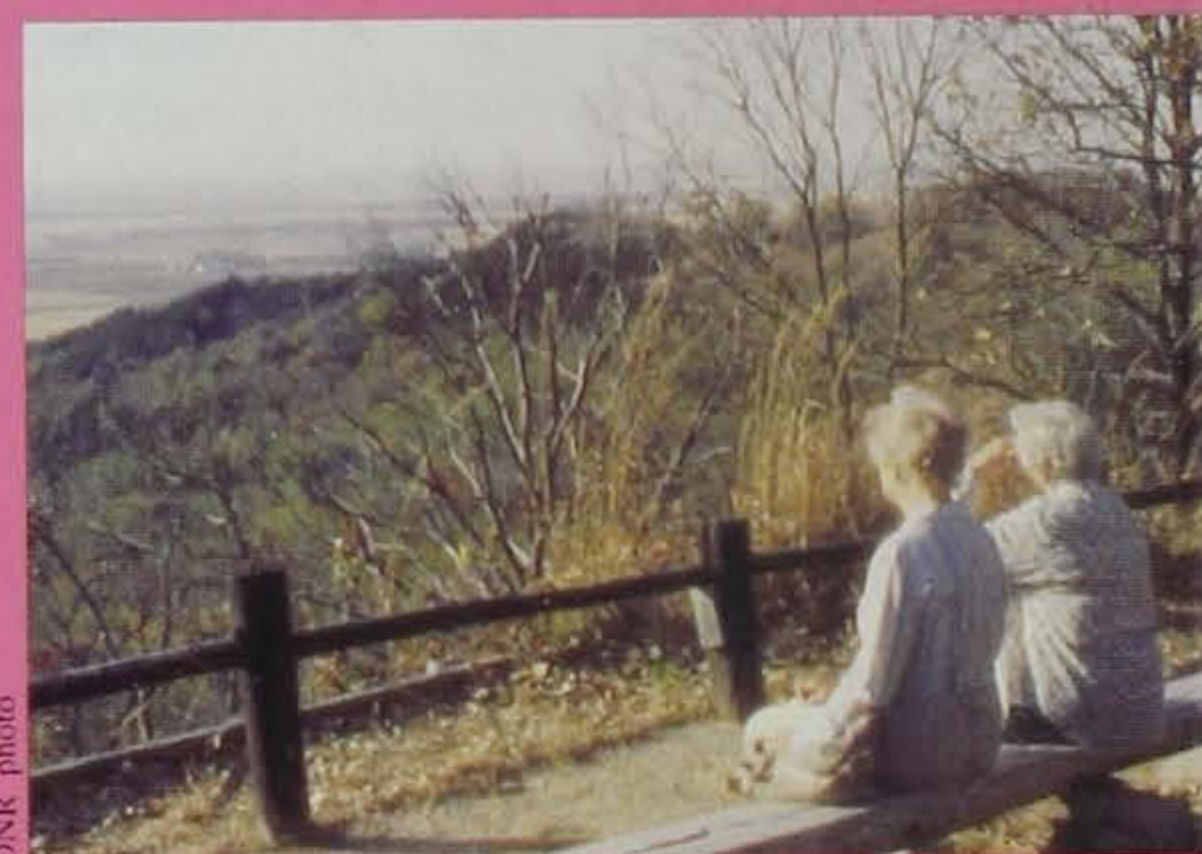
Prairie and its partner fire increased the availability of medicinal plants like pale purple cone-flower and food sources such as buffalo, prairie chicken eggs, and biscuit root. The people, plants and creatures lived together in one of the most diverse, productive and largest ecosystems in the world.

The prairie was our ecological equivalent of the rain forest. In the last two hundred years this ecosystem was reduced to one of the rarest plant communities in all of North America. White settlers

found that prairie soils provided the possibility for a different kind of ecosystem.

Original estimates of Iowa's 36 million acres show more than 80 percent of our state or about 30 million acres were carpeted with prairie before homesteading by immigrants began. In the space of 75 years, at most, the prairie was plowed. Today, in Iowa, approximately 30,000 acres of original prairie remain. This is an area less than half the size of the city of Des Moines.

Today, more than 60 percent of Iowa's prairie



DNR photo

1970s



DNR photo

1990s

past is covered in only two species, corn and beans. In less than three generations we have eliminated 99.9 percent of the prairie ecosystem that produced our rich soil. Half of our original soil has disappeared in the last 150 years. The prairie soil that still remains supports our trees, supplies our agricultural products and is the foundation of our state economy.

As this transformation took place some people tried to rescue parts of the prairie in pastures and parks. The late 1890s are considered to be the beginning of the conservation movement in Iowa. In the early 1900s a state park plan was begun and by the 1930s Iowa embarked on a program that would define the park system we recognize today, except for prairie preservation.

It was not until 1945 that the Iowa Conservation Commission purchased Iowa's first prairie preserve. Today, we have approximately 5,000 acres of native prairie under protection as public land. The majority of our public prairies can be found in the Loess Hills of western Iowa.

Even these areas have been losing prairie due to invading species, fire suppression and lack of prairie management. For example, Waubonsie State Park in the Loess Hills of southwestern Iowa was established in 1927 and contained one of our largest tracts of prairie. We have lost more than 70 percent of Waubonsie's prairie since it came under public protection as a state park.

In less than a span of one generation, our perception of prairie has

changed considerably. Just a few years ago people thought of native prairie plants as nothing more than "weeds."

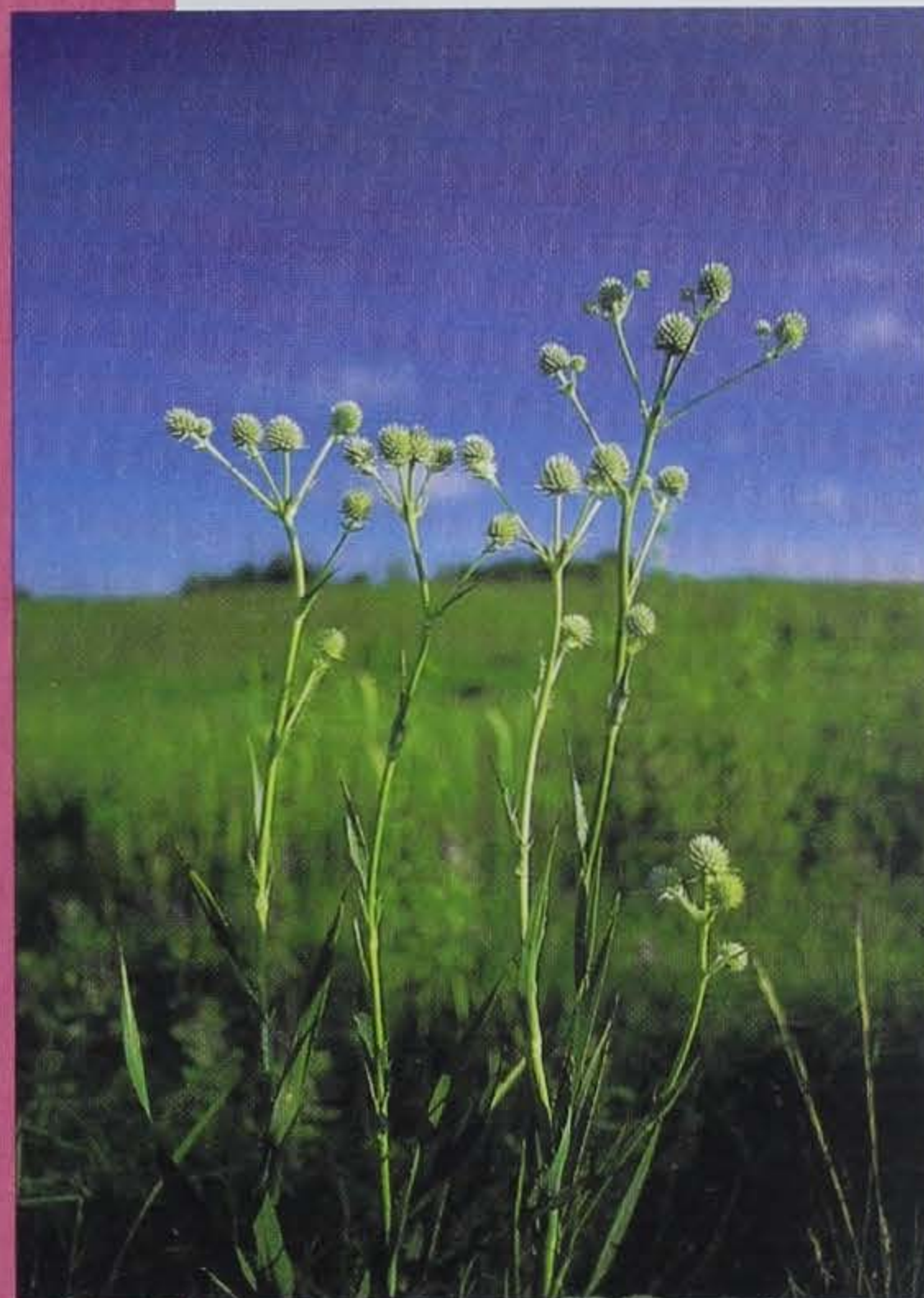
Suddenly these "weeds" have miraculously become "wildflowers." Some are being sold for medicinal purposes, some are coloring our towns and others are being planted in the road ditches of our interstate highways. People are making livings collecting seed and one of Iowa's recent tourist attractions — the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge — is based on the reconstruction of a pre-settlement prairie landscape.

Thousands of people in Iowa are volunteering to protect, plant and restore prairies. Spring prairie fires are again sending smoke signals across the plains. We are again learning about what it is to be an inhabitant of Iowa and that Iowa is prairie.

Clearly, something is changing. The prairie plants certainly aren't changing as they have been in Iowa for thousands of years. Our understanding and perception has changed. Our society, our values and the appreciation of our dwindling heritage are changing. Come be a part of the change.

Mark Edwards is a trail construction specialist for the department in Des Moines.

Rattlesnake master



and its complexity as a living organism. Scientists fear if preservation and restorative action is not taken, the genetic and biological diversity it harbors in its flora and fauna will disappear.

Some of those quiet places of beauty are no doubt already gone. Others are in peril. What's left needs our help. All Iowans have a stake in preserving resources, you just may not realize it yet.

Matthew J. Edwards is a volunteer program assistant for the department in Des Moines.

Jeff Sing is an AmeriCorps crew leader for the department.



New Safety Program Helps Iowa School Children Breathe Easier

by Brian Button

Iowa has launched a new program designed to help protect children from potentially dangerous school bus emissions. Under the Bus Emissions Education Program (BEEP) — the first voluntary testing program known to exist in the United States — all Iowa diesel school buses will be tested.

BEEP is a collaborative partnership between the Iowa Department of Education, Department of Natural Resources, School Administrators of Iowa, Iowa Pupil Transportation Association and Mirenc, Inc. Through the program, Mirenc, Inc., an Iowa-based automotive emissions control company, will conduct emissions tests on every diesel-powered school bus in Iowa. The purpose of BEEP is to identify and correct diesel-powered school buses emitting excessive smoke in an effort to reduce emissions and improve Iowa's air quality.

The Iowa Bus Emissions Education Program outlines a five year plan, during which time public and private school buses will be tested twice annually at the same time the buses are undergoing the Department of

Education's regularly scheduled school bus inspections. The first round of testing on the nearly 4,500 diesel buses was completed in July. There is no cost to Iowa schools, SAI or the State of Iowa. Donations from private companies and organizations are being raised to fund the program.

SAI Executive Director Troyce Fisher noted that taking a proactive approach at inspecting and testing buses works to preserve the environment and assures bus riders face fewer health risks.

"It's especially important for us to address these issues early," Fisher said, "because with very tight budgets, identifying maintenance areas will help avoid major engine repairs or vehicle replacements that will further stress their budgets."

The program provides data schools can use to further develop their preventive maintenance programs, potentially saving costly repairs and vehicle down time.

For more than 20 years, Dwayne Fosseen, CEO of Mirenc Inc., based in Radcliffe, has been in the business of testing and reducing vehicle emissions. BEEP incorporates the

testing capabilities and the technology developed by Mirencos to help schools keep aging buses safe for both riders and the environment.

Most of Iowa's buses are diesel-powered, so every district is participating in the program, said Terry Voy, transportation consultant at the Iowa Department of Education.

"Each bus is evaluated by Mirencos staff utilizing an EPA approved method, and recommendations are made for corrective remedies. We anticipate that improvements in tailpipe emissions can be realized through relatively simple and inexpensive measures. In extreme cases of engine deterioration, major engine work may be necessary."

The Bus Emissions Education Program also includes funding for an educational element for children, according to Mirencos CEO Dwayne Fosseen.

"We are partnering with the education community, not only to make sure Iowa has the cleanest fleet of school buses in the nation, but also to provide an opportunity for students to learn more about fossil fuels and their impact on the environment. Teaching Iowa's future leaders about tailpipe emissions prepares them to make informed decisions down the road."

BEEP is patterned after a similar project involving Mirencos and the Transit Authority of River City Louisville, Kentucky. That project has

involved the monitoring of 100 public transit buses over the past three years, during which time fleet emissions have been reduced by 80 percent.

Mirencos won the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award last year in the air quality category.

For more information contact: Erin Heiden, Mirencos, Inc. at (515) 899-2164; Tracy Harms, School Administrators of Iowa at (515) 267-1115; or Brian Button, DNR, at 515-281-7832.

Brian Button is an air quality information specialist for the department in Des Moines.



THE NEW IOWA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS GUIDE, SPONSORED BY TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® COOPERATIVES OF IOWA, IS AVAILABLE IN THE EXPLORE IOWA PARKS PACKETS OR INDIVIDUALLY BY CONTACTING THE DNR AT 515-281-5145; 502 E. 9TH ST., DES MOINES, IOWA 50319.

**Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa
promote our State Parks through the
Green Touch partnership.**

www.touchstoneenergy.com


**Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives
of Iowa**

MARKETPLACE

First Class Pheasant Hunting

Lodmel Lodge
Huron, S.D.

www.firstclasspheasanthunts.com

605-352-0635

MIDWEST TAXIDERM

Superior Quality

Big Game • Life Size • Rugs
Commercial Tanning • Birds & Fish

Roger Fiala - Taxidermist

402-630-2606 (cell) • 712-323-6297
915 17th Ave. • Council Bluffs

JIM'S GUN & PAWN SHOP

Buy • Sell • Trade • Financing Available

800 New & Used in Stock!

~Special Orders Welcome~

2814 SE 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50320

Jim
515-284-0350

Hart County Realty, Inc.

P.O. Box 456-I • Munfordville, KY 42765

95 +/- Acres - 13 Acres Pasture, Balanced Wooded Area,
Shop Building, Barn, Spring, Creek, Water, Electric - **\$79,950** -
Terms Available.

68.4 +/- Acres of Wooded Area with "End of Road Privacy" &
a Creek - **\$66,960**

CALL FOR A FREE BROCHURE

270-524-1980

www.hartcountyrealty.com

HOT, COLD, Warm, WET Weather Camouflage, plus accessories.



"It works at home
and abroad.
8 animals in 8 days."



Wildebeest, Gary, Mossy Oak, ASAT



Todd Murray, Predator Evolution

Ideally functional camouflage
since 1987. Many patterns in fleece,
Saddle Cloth, plus Wind Stop,
Insulation, Scent-Lok and cotton.

Predator, Apparition, Realtree, Mossy
Oak, Brush Country, ASAT, Everywear
West, Solid colors and Khaki for safaris.

**Contact Us For Your
Hunting Clothing Needs**

DAY ONE CAMOUFLAGE®

www.dayonecamouflage.com / gary@dayonecamouflage.com

1-800-347-2979 • FAX (303) 761-3135

3300 S. Knox Ct. IA Englewood, CO 80110

HUNTING Adventures

Future Gun Show Dates and Locations

Trade Show Production

606 South Front St. • Montezuma, Iowa 50171

Phone: (641) 623-0080 • Fax: (641) 623-5672 • Toll Free: (877) 623-9364

Web Site: www.gunshowtsp.com • E-mail: leighw@pcpartner.net

Sept. 13-15, 2002	Hawkeye Downs Cedar Rapids, IA	Nov. 8-10, 2002	Hawkeye Downs Cedar Rapids, IA
Sept. 27-29, 2002	Iowa State Fairgrounds Des Moines, IA	Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2002	Iowa State Fairgrounds Des Moines, IA
Nov. 2-3, 2002	Adventureland Des Moines, IA	Dec. 20-22, 2002	Iowa State Fairgrounds Des Moines, IA

JACK SMITH

GUN SALES

NEW & USED BOUGHT & SOLD



NW Corner of East & 29th & Hubbell
2830 Hubbell Ave. • Des Moines
515-262-7180



Where Every
Day is Like
Opening Day!

HUNT: Pheasants, Chukar,
and Quail. **SHOOT:** Skeet,
Trap, 5 Stand and Sporting
Clays! **Open Year Round!**

Lodge Available for
Overnight Accommodations,
Meetings and Parties!

www.chasetheadventure.com

Call 563-382-8012

Wild Feather Hunt

Club & Inn

Open Sept. 1 through March 31

- Daily Rates
- Dog Kennels
- Bed & Breakfast Hospitality
- Pheasant, Quail, Chukar, and Huns

10088 W. 56th Street North
Baxter, Iowa 50028

641-227-3090

Email: wildfeatherhunt@aol.com

Learn Taxidermy

7-week complete course or
weekend classes on deer, fish,
birds, and mammals.

Hutton Valley School of Taxidermy

Roger Hutton, owner/instructor

2514 Victory Lane

St. Charles, IA 50240

641-396-2760

huttontx@netins.net

Daryl's Gun Shop!

641-483-2656

www.darylsguns.com

C & J's Taxidermy

Specializing in Deer Heads & Fish Mounts
http://geocities.com/jtinger_2001/mypage.html

Lexington Hunt Club

One of Southern Iowa's Oldest and
Finest hunting establishments.
This is our 17 year to provide hunters
great habitat and wonderful lodging.

Call or write for a brochure.

LEXINGTON HUNT CLUB

Bedford, Iowa 50833 • 712-523-2177



Wildbird Ridge Hunt Club

Mount Ayr, IA

www.wildbirdridge.com
whale454@iowatelecom.net

800 Acres-New Lodge-Great Birds
PHEASANT-CHUKAR-QUAIL

Steve and Gloria Meyers

641-464-3648 or 877-wildbird



Nestled in Mt. Sterling, Iowa, just 10 miles from Keosauqua and Lake Sugema, our quiet lodge is perfect for outdoor enthusiasts. Each of our six units features a full kitchen, bath, TV, outdoor grill and plenty of sleeping for four. Community washer/dryer, ice machine, fire pit and chest freezer make your stay very comfortable.

319-494-7737

MT. STERLING, IA • VAN BUREN COUNTY



PolarKraft
Jon Boats

Mud Buddy
Marsh Motors
and Boat Blinds



Waters Edge Marine, Inc

Your Complete Duck Boat Headquarters

6060 NW Beaver ~ Johnston, IA 50131

(515) 278-8676 (888) 334-2515

On the web at: www.watersedgemarine.com

Marshall's Archery

Visit Us and Our Indoor 3D Range
For ALL Of Your Archery Needs.



Hours:

Wed. & Thurs. 6 - 9 p.m.
Fri. 1 - 9 p.m. • Sat. 1 - 5 p.m.

Numa, IA 52544

641-856-2697



**Authorized
Sales & Service
PRO SHOP**



**11897 Hwy F 62 E
Sully, IA 50251
641-594-3151**

B&B Taxidermy

Specializing in Deer Heads & Birds
319-638-4837 • Oran, IA

Moulton Locker

112 S. Main St.
Moulton, IA 52572

641-642-3422



Best Deer Summer
Sausage and Jerky
Anywhere!

Custom Butchering

Red Fox Taxidermy & Art Studio

Specializing
in Fish & Deer



Limited Edition
Wildlife Prints

MADE OVER

4,000 MOUNTS!

www.redfoxstudio.com

319-474-2596 - John

5127 26th Ave. • Vinton, IA 52349



A Steel And Clay Target
Shooting Facility
Including Southern
Iowa's Traditional
Upland Bird Hunting

FEATURING

Sporting Clays . . .

Trap . . .

Skeet . . .

Rifle/Pistol . . .

Cowboy Action . . .

Clubhouse . . .

Hunting Preserve . . .

Booking Fall Hunts Now! Pheasant, Quail, Chukar

Home of World Champion Skeet Shooter Haley Dunn

Larry, Lisa & Haley Dunn, Owners

3353 Plymouth Avenue

Eddyville, Iowa 52553

(641) 969-4387

Est. 1996



Lake Vermilion

Located 4 hours north of Minneapolis

- *Tens of thousands of unrestricted public hunting lands*
- *Record number of antlerless deer permits to be issued*
- *Easy to reach - divided highway to within 25 miles*



For more information,
or to request a
vacation guide, call

800-648-5897

or visit

www.lakevermillionresorts.com

MARKETPLACE

Lake Vermilion

Located 4 hours north of Minneapolis
1,000s of miles of groomed trails • 40,000 acres of lake to enjoy
Lodging • Dining • Gas • Ice Fishing • Casino



Snowmobile trail conditions
updated weekly on our Web site

To request a FREE area trail map
call 800-648-5897
for more information or
Visit www.lakevermillionresorts.com

FACTORY OUTLET



For all your hunting
& shooting needs.



Exit 33 on Hwy 34, Osceola • 641-342-6461

Excellent South Dakota Pheasant Hunting

Also: Sharp Tail Grouse & Prairie
Chicken, CRP & Brushy Draws, Guide
Dogs, Food, Lodging & Wild Birds.
Dick Smith, Box 56 • Vivian, SD 57576
888-225-4326 • 605-683-4836
matsmith@gwtc.net

Bromley's Gun Shop

Over 500 Firearms in Stock -
for the Hunter or Collector!
Also: Ammo, Optics,
Safes & Reloading Supplies
3620 4th SE • Mason City, IA 50401
641-424-3988

SAVE 35-70%

Sierra OUTDOORS



Save on the name brand
clothing, footwear and gear
you know and trust for all
your outdoor adventures!
Carhartt, Columbia, Walls,
Woolrich, Powell, Patagonia,
Browning, Duofold, Buck,
McAlister, Steiner, Able,
Irish Setter, Boyt, Bushnell,
10x, Stearns, Danner,
Lacrosse and more!

For a FREE catalog or to order...

Call 1-800-713-4534

Click SierraTradingPost.com

Please mention Key Code IC0902

a
SIERRA
TRADING POST
OUTLET STORE



Stockdale Gun Club



Ackley, Iowa • 641-648-4458

Modified Sporting/Hunters Clay League

Begins Tuesday, Sept. 10 • 5 p.m.

Public Welcome, Open Shooting and
Practice Trapshooting Also Available.

www.stockdalegunclub.com • 641-648-4458/fax 3056

Iowa

Archery

Authorized
Hoyt USA Dealer

★
Located @
820 North John Wayne Drive
Winterset, IA 50273

Call us at:

515-462-6788

Oakview II Hunting Club

12726 Hwy. F-70W, Runnells, IA 50237

A unique opportunity to hunt
game birds from September 1st
thru March 31st each year
with no bag limit.

Give us a call at
515-966-2095

or visit us on the web at
www.oakview2huntingclub.com

WE LET 'EM HUNT

Just 14 mi. SE of Des Moines, IA

West Fork



Retrievers

Field trial & Gun dog Training
Brick Hejlik
Box 358
Rockwell, IA 50469

641-892-4298

VAN'S TAXIDERM STUDIO

641-792-3884

NEWTON, IA

JOHN VANDER SCHEL, TAXIDERMIST
"30 YEARS EXPERIENCE"

The Bird's Nest

Pheasant Hunting at Winfred, S.D.'s Best!
Call Brian @ 605-480-5105
The-Birds-Nest.com

PROTECT YOUR DOG!

World's best hunting vest



K9 TOP COAT
Bodywear for Dogs



- Extra Durable Material
- Orange/Brown Colors
- Waterproof Exterior/Fleece Interior
- Maximum comfort
- Easy on/off

See our whole family of quality products online!
1-888-833-K9K9 www.K9TOPCOAT.com

BOONE LEDGES

Full Service Canoe Outfitters



Seven Oaks Recreation
Boone, IA 515-432-9457
SevenOaksRec.com
Redeem For \$3 Off!

LARRY STONE

Former outdoor
writer/photographer
for the Des Moines Register
presents

Listen to the Land

Outdoor and Nature Essays and Photos
\$20, tax & shipping included.
Phone: 888-807-1828



PAINE'S RV SALES & SERVICE

"The Business Service Built Since 1965"

190 PLAZA DR. • I-380 EXIT 68 • WATERLOO, IA
Bruce Paine, Owner-Dealer
Bus. 319-234-3039 • 1-800-286-3039 • www.painesrv.com

- MOTOR HOMES
- TRAILERS & 5TH WHEELS
- NEW & USED
- PARTS-HITCHES
- AIR CONDITIONERS
- AWNINGS-ETC.
- SERVICE & REPAIRS

Primitive Archery in Iowa!

James Easter Builds The

OSAGE BOW

To Your Standards!

Visit www.osagebow.com
Also visit bowstaves.com &
www.croton-iowa.com

319-835-5892



Kawasaki

FULL THROTTLE FINANCING

BIKES, 'SKIS AND ATVS

DOWN
PAYMENTS
% INTEREST
UNTIL APRIL '03

OR

DOWN
AND
2.99% APR
LOW PAYMENTS
FOR 12 MONTHS¹



©2002 Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. Offer good on any new, not previously registered Kawasaki motorcycle, ATV and PWC on your Kawasaki Good Times credit card, subject to credit approval. Offer ends 9/30/02. Finance Charges will not be imposed on these purchases and payments will not be required until April 1, 2003 if your Account is kept current. Standard Rate 16.8% APR. For Accounts not kept current, the Default Rate of 20.8% APR will be applied to all balances. Minimum Finance Charge \$1.00. Certain rules apply to the allocation of payments and finance charges on your promotional purchase if you make more than one purchase on your credit card. Call 1-888-367-4310 or review your cardholder agreement for information. ¹Reduced rate of 2.99% APR effective on these purchases for 12 months from date of purchase if your Account is kept current. A lower Minimum Monthly Payment will apply during the 12 months promotional period if your Account is kept current, thereafter the Minimum Monthly Payment will be the greater of \$15 or 2.5% of the new balance plus any insurance charges. Payment of the Minimum Monthly Payment will not pay the balance on these purchases in 12 months. At the end of the promotional period any remaining balance will be assessed Finance Charges at the Standard Rate of 16.8% APR. For Accounts not kept current, the Default Rate of 20.8% APR will be applied to all balances on your Account. Minimum Finance Charge \$1.00. Restrictions may apply. See store for details. Kawasaki ATVs are recommended for use only by persons 16 years of age or older. Kawasaki also recommends that all ATV riders take a training course. For more information, see your dealer, or call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887. Warning: ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety, always wear a helmet, eye protection, and protective clothing. Never carry a passenger. Never ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Never ride on public roads or pavement. Avoid excessive speeds and stunt driving. Be extra careful on difficult terrain.

**good times
go fast**

WINTERSET
Country Cycle
800-890-1570

WATERLOO
Leer's Cycle Center
800-870-6058

ALGONA
Miller Sports & Service
515-295-9597

DES MOINES
Struthers Brothers Kawasaki
1-88-816-FAST

TIPTON
Strackbein's Kawasaki
1-800-455-0417

HUBBARD
Hornung Cycle Center
800-383-0016

Winterset Hunt Club

Best Pheasant Hunting in Iowa!
Call Curt @ 515-462-2310

Dutch Oven Bakery

Serving Boone & Ames, IA • 515-432-9567
Homemade Pastries • Rolls
Dutch Letters • Cakes

LINDY'S GUN

817 11th Street, Boone, IA 50036
515-432-2219

Hideaway Lounge Bar & Grill

1723 Mamie Eisenhower
515-432-1077

AMES
OUTDOOR
GEAR

Central Iowa's Finest Sporting Goods Shop!

Hunting • Fishing • Camping



Gear for the Outdoorsman

We Have the Brands You are Hunting For!

Browning	Remington	Bushell
Benelli	Winchester	Garmin
Flambeau	Abu Garcia	Nikon
Hunter Specialties	Berkley	Shimano
Innotek	Fenwick	
Lohman	St. Croix	

4723 West Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa
292-2276 • M-F 9-8 Sat.-Sun. 11-6

Enjoy our Features:

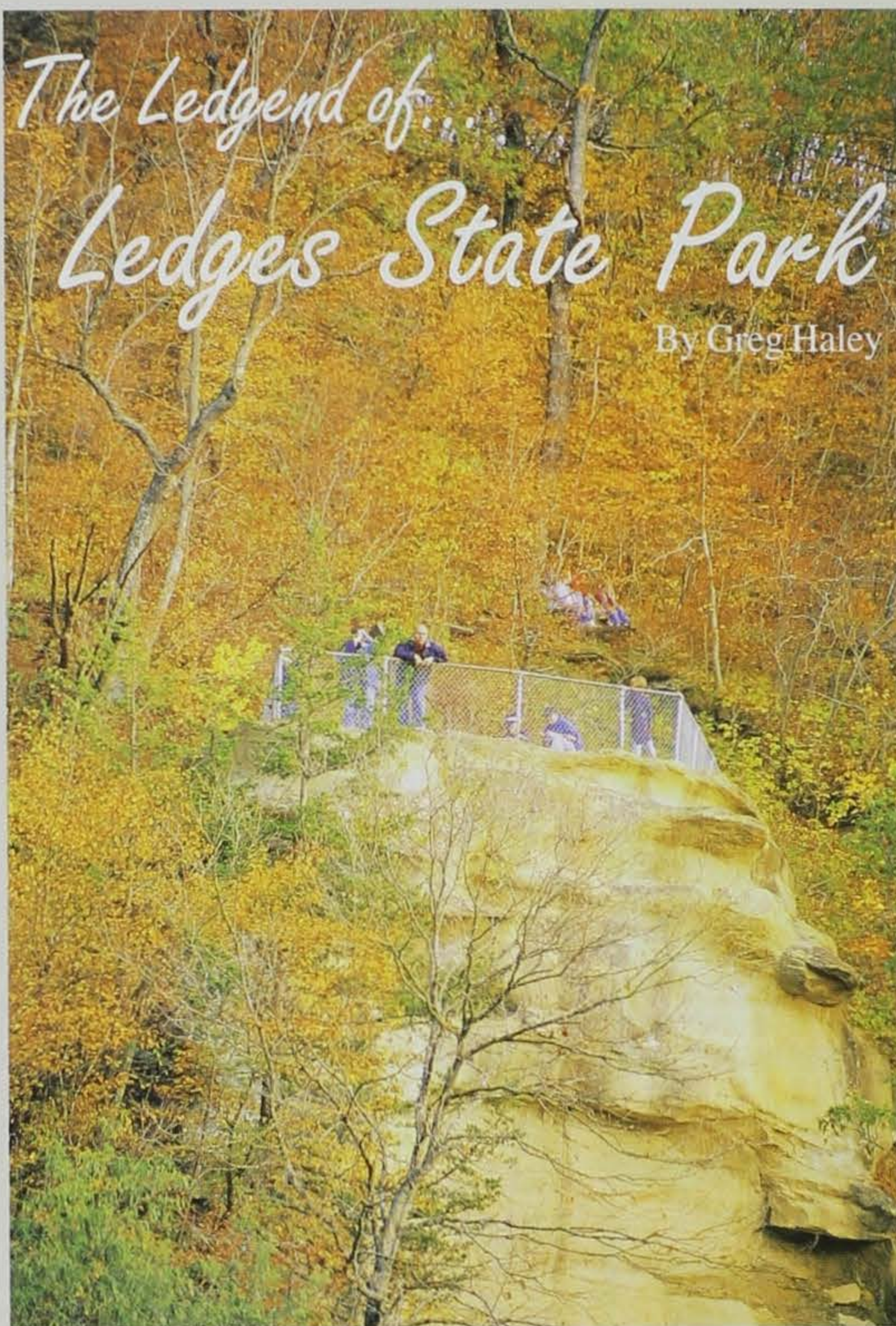
- Free Continental Breakfast
- Heated Indoor Pool
- Whirlpool & Exercise Equipment
- Whirlpool Suites & Meeting Room
- Premium Movie Channels
- Pay Per View Movies
- In-room Coffeemaker, Hairdryer, Iron & Ironing Board, Data Port

AMERIHOTEL INN & SUITES®
1745 S.E. MARSHALL
BOONE, IOWA 50036
TEL: 515-432-8168



We're Expecting You.

PARKS PROFILE



“Within the heart of Iowa, queen of the western prairies, six miles southeast of Boone, there in a valley filled with birds and sunshine, nestle the Ledges.”

— Carl Fritz Henning

That quote, from the first park custodian at Ledges State Park, conjures up visions of sculptured rocks and curiosity. Perceived by

the unknowing as a vast flatland, Iowa surely didn't have a place that deserved the name “Ledges.” But sure enough, there is, and humans have used the area for

thousands of years to gather for important functions, or relax and see the unusual sandstone formations, watch the myriad wildlife, or listen to the soothing sounds of the crystal clear creek winding through the rocks.

Ledges State Park was named, appropriately, for its unique sandstone formations whose history dates back some 300 million years when shallow seas covered much of the Midwest. The seas retreated, leaving behind limestone and shale sediment that eventually formed the bedrock for most of Iowa.

An ancient upheaval in the land, however, created a river that cut a valley into the sediment deposited by the sea. When the land settled, the river became clogged with sand. That sand was converted to sandstone — over thousands of years — by the cementing action of groundwater.

About 13,000 years ago, melt water from the Des Moines lobe of the Wisconsin glacier, rain and surface runoff cut through the sandstone canyon, forming the dramatic cliffs and canyons found at Ledges today.

There is evidence humans inhabited the Ledges area for at least 3,000 years, undoubtedly attracted by the unique geological formations in an otherwise mostly featureless landscape. Traces of campsites, villages and stone tool manufacturing sites indicate Native Americans occupied the park somewhere around 1000 B.C. Artifacts dating back to 750 A.D. point to the existence of Oneota tribes. The powerful Sac and Fox tribes also inhabited the Ledges

OPPOSITE PAGE: The hiking trails leads to several scenic overlooks.

RIGHT: The stone bridge is another popular stopping point.

BOTTOM: Carl Fritz Henning (right)

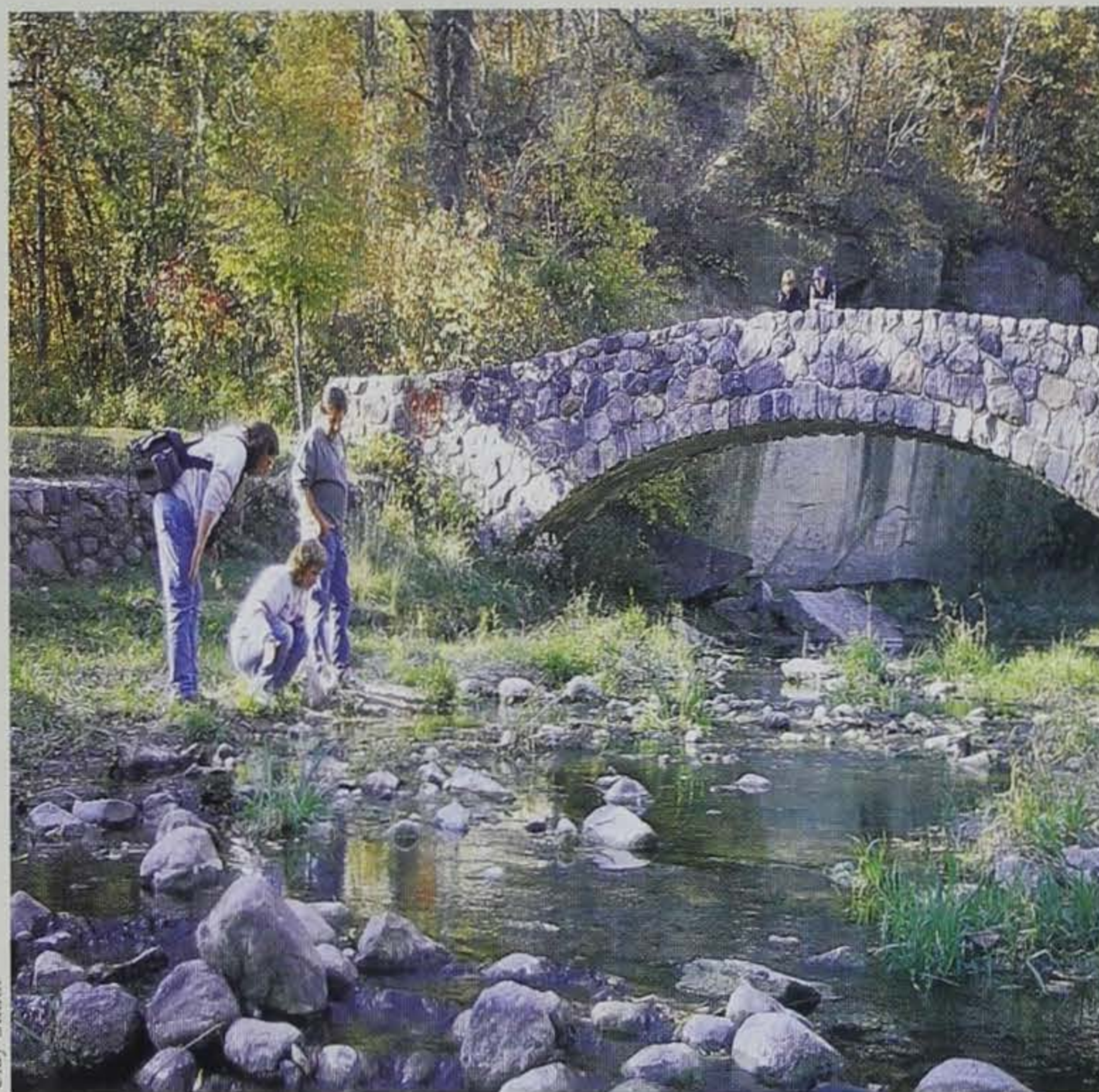
valley of central Iowa. Legend has it these Indians used the sandstone overlooks for protection from roving war tribes.

Some early visitors to the Ledges area no doubt left a lasting imprint on the area. One of the most notable was Capt. Nathan Boone (son of Daniel Boone), who in 1832 led an expedition from Old Fort Des Moines to Minnesota. Along the way he passed through the area and is believed to be the first non-Native American to marvel at the beauty of the canyon. In 1847, Boone County (the home of Ledges) was officially established.

Years later, in 1846, John Pea and James Hull settled in the area and were the first settlers to occupy Boone County. One of the two streams which flow through the Ledges canyon still bears the name "Pea's Creek."

As long ago as 1875, travelers made it a point to make the Ledges part of their route. In fact, a plat map from that era shows a stage-coach road passed through Ledges. The stage operated from Des Moines to Boone.

Ledges was a popular attraction for sightseers, picnickers and



Clay Smith

scientists long before it was a state park. When Ledges was first proposed as a state park in 1914, it was already obvious the area was going to be an extremely popular and highly used area. It was also obvious something would have to be done to protect the area from damage. Therefore, in 1921, three years before Ledges would officially become a state park, Carl Fritz Henning was appointed the first park custodian.

A gifted naturalist who conveyed his love of the park and its plants, wildlife and geological formations to virtually every visitor,



Henning was paid \$100 a month. During his nearly two-decade career, Ledges became one of Iowa's "premier" state parks. He was custodian during the New Deal era, when programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) helped shape Iowa state parks of today.

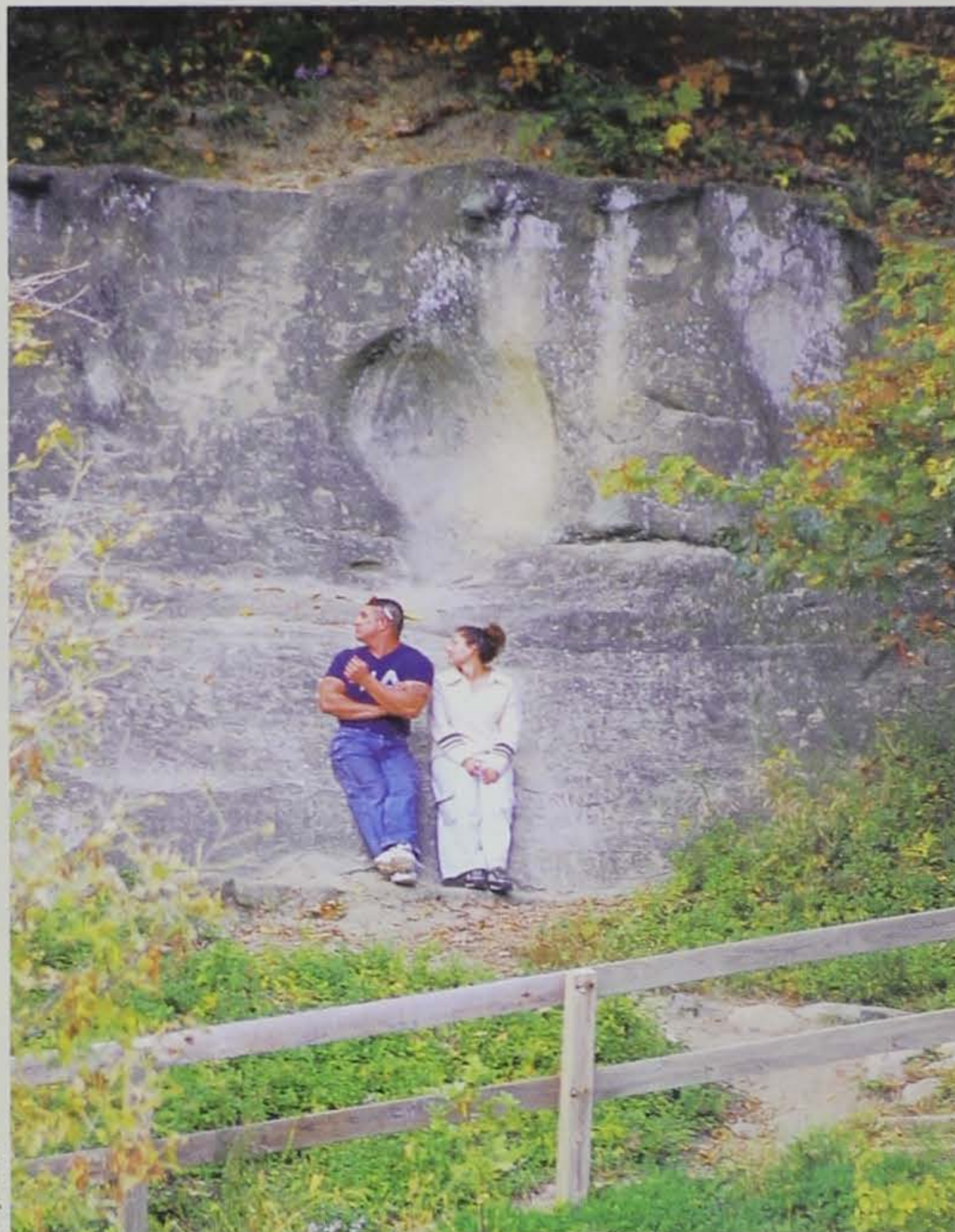
PARKS PROFILE

RIGHT: The sandstone cliffs provide a backdrop for a photo or simply a rest break.

BELOW: The Des Moines River flows through the west edge of the park, providing fishing, boating and canoeing opportunities.

It was during the CCC era that many of the shelters, bridges, entrance portals, trails, rest rooms, and other park facilities were built. Most structures were built with materials found on site, primarily fieldstone that was available in abundance. Stone was a difficult material to work with, yet the workers built glorious structures that weathered everything Mother Nature could throw at them. Their hard labor and fine craftsmanship are still visible — and heavily used — to this day.

Ledges boasts one of the finest open-air shelters in Iowa constructed during the CCC era.



Clay Smith



Clay Smith

Built in the lower Ledges, it has unfortunately been the victim of several major floods through the years. During the Flood of 1993, the shelter was under 25 feet of water for several months and sustained significant damage. Instead of repairing the shelter in the same location, in 1998 the shelter was painstakingly moved — rock by rock — and reconstructed exactly as it was before.

The shelter is now located above the floodplain to prevent future damage. It is a popular

spot for weddings, family reunions and company picnics. When the shelter was renovated and moved, it was rededicated in honor of Henning for his contributions to the park.

Over the years, Ledges has evolved into one of Iowa's most visited state parks. It offers 94 campsites, including 12 "hike-in" campsites. Approximately 1,200 acres of wildlife refuge contains mature timber and the state's first

successful restored prairie. Thirteen miles of hiking trails lead up and down steep slopes to scenic overlooks and provide access to spectacular views of Pea's Creek "canyon." While most of the trails include steep portions, a fully accessible trail around Lost Lake is located in the southern part of the park. Take time to visit the "flood pole," located in the lower area of the park, where the major flood

water levels have been recorded.

The faces of the Ledges change from hour to hour and season to season, so you never know what new beauty you will find. After a trip to this fascinating state gem, one will realize that, yes, there is a place in Iowa called "Ledges."

Greg Haley is the park manager at Ledges State Park.

LEDGES AT A GLANCE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Approximately 1,200 acres containing historic Civilian Conservation Corp facilities, scenic canyons and bluffs and diverse plant and animal life.

LOCATION: Boone is located four miles north; Ames 15 miles east; and Madrid 11 miles south

FISHING: The Des Moines River flows through the west edge of the park, offering fishing for a variety of species, boating and canoeing. Don Williams County Park is located 10 miles west and features a 160-acre lake and nine-hole public golf course.

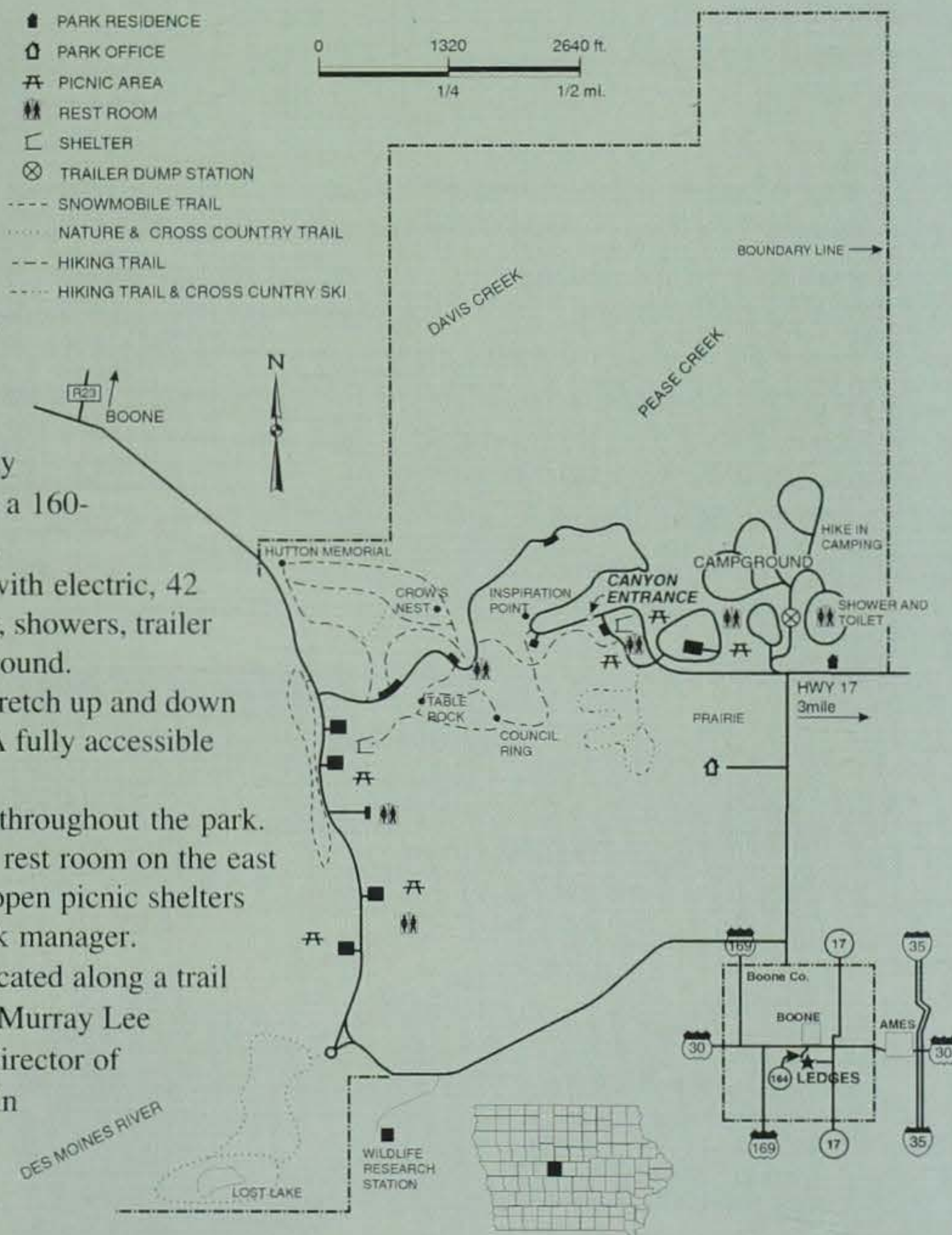
CAMPING: There are 94 campsites; 40 with electric, 42 without and 12 hike-in. Modern rest rooms, showers, trailer dump station and playground in the campground.

TRAILS: Thirteen miles of hiking trails stretch up and down steep slopes, leading to scenic overlooks. A fully accessible interpretive trail winds around Lost Lake.

PICNICKING: Picnic areas are located throughout the park. The Oak Woods picnic shelter and nearby rest room on the east side of the park are fully accessible. Two open picnic shelters may be reserved for a fee through the park manager.

FUN FACTS: The Hutton Memorial is located along a trail on the north side of the canyon. It honors Murray Lee Hutton, a strong conservationist and first director of the Iowa State Conservation Commission in 1935.

CONTACT: 515-432-1852; email at Ledges@dnr.state.ia.us



CONSERVATION 101

Creating Positive First Experiences

By A. Jay Winter

One of the greatest feelings the outdoors can offer is the satisfaction of introducing someone to hunting and fishing, especially a young person. I am in the process of introducing my own kids to the outdoors, and watching their eyes light up in amazement and appreciation is a feeling beyond description. It's one I hope everyone has a chance to share with someone.

Following are a few simple guidelines to help ensure the experience — whether it being hunting or fishing — is a positive one. Beyond that, simply let nature take its course.

◆ Don't make harvesting the biggest or the most an issue. The greatest reward is simply being in the outdoors. Many people get their first taste of hunting with deer or turkeys, but don't overlook small game. Rabbits, squir-

rels and pheasants can provide exciting, yet simple hunting and are a great way to start beginners.

◆ Set a good example. A first-timer — especially a youngster — will most likely adopt the philosophy, ethics and attitude of their mentor. Lead by your actions, not your words.

◆ Safety should be foremost. Be cautious and assertive, but on the same hand, make the learning process a comfortable one. Let the beginner handle the equipment and practice shooting before going out in the field. That helps the individual become comfortable with the firearm's (or bow's) operation and safe use. Also remember to wear eye and ear protection when practice shooting.

◆ Keep the first hunts short and active. If you are going to be in the field for an extended period, take several breaks. My father-in-law and I took my 4-year-old on an evening duck hunt last season. Along with our standard gear, we packed trucks, shovels and fishing tackle to play



Roger A. Hill

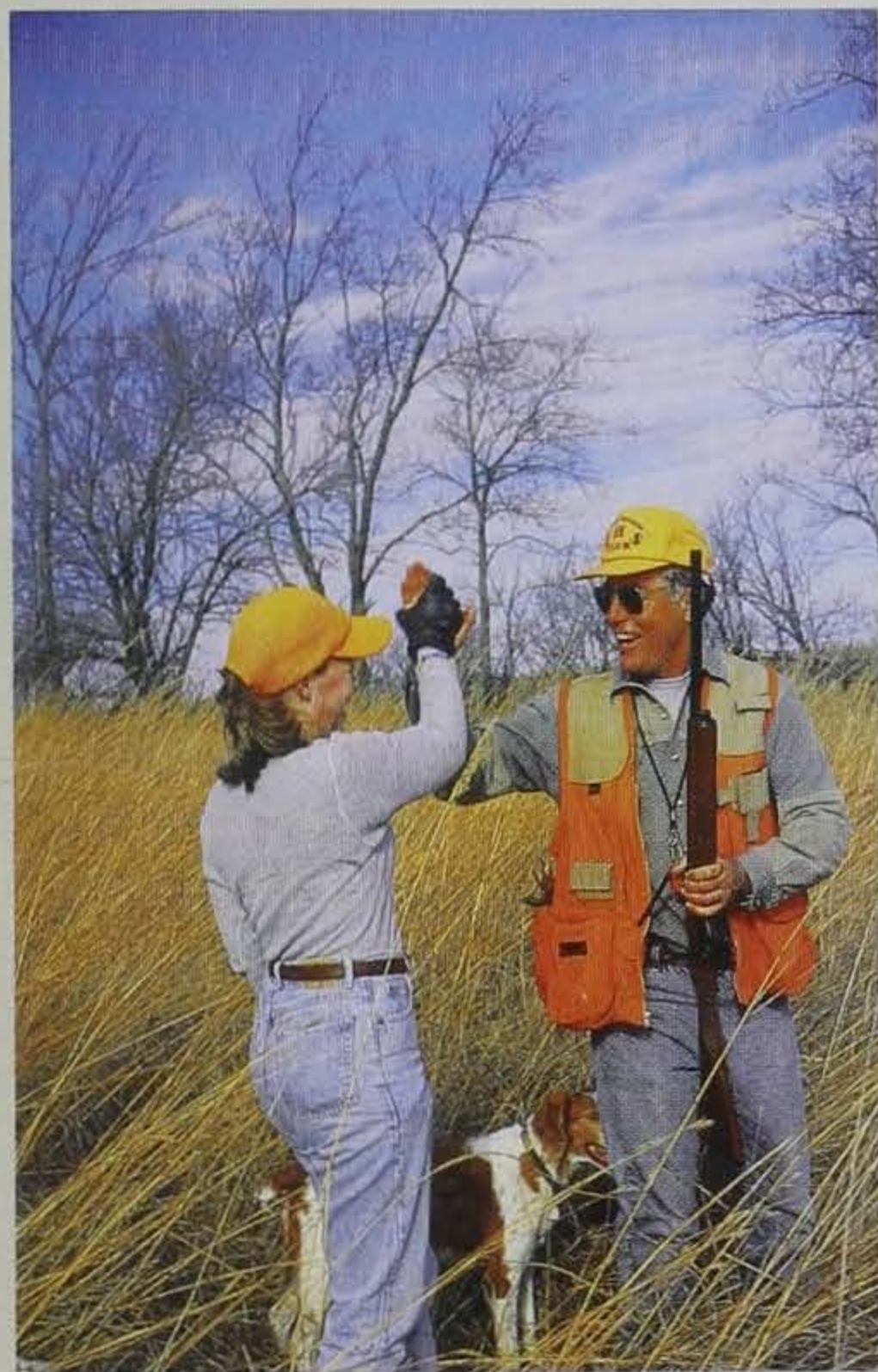
ABOVE: Squirrel and rabbit hunting are great ways to introduce newcomers to the sport. The game is plentiful and weather conditions are often more enjoyable.

RIGHT: Proper firearm handling and hunting safety should be addressed long before the actual hunt takes place.



Clay Smith

Initial trips, whether hunting or fishing, should be active and short. That helps make first experiences fun and memorable.



Clay Smith

with. We didn't shoot many ducks, but we all had a great time.

◆ Involve beginners in all aspects of the hunt. My two sons come along when I seek permission to hunt, scout, maintain

equipment and hang treestands, and they eat the game I bring home. Both enjoy all aspects of the process and are actually getting better at spotting deer than I am.

◆ To be effective, firearms must fit the shooter and the shooter should be familiar with the firearm. The firearm should be sighted in, and the individual proficient at shooting it. The firearm should also be of appropriate gauge or caliber for the species hunted.

Determining correct eye domi-

nance is integral to accurate shooting. Most people have a dominant eye just like they have a dominant hand. You should always shoot a firearm using your dominate eye, regardless if it matches your hand. You can determine eye dominance by following the steps below. I have improved the shooting ability of many with this simple change.

◆ Hunting with a group of people can be overwhelming, especially for a beginner. It's best start out hunting in pairs or with a small group of friends.

Too many people never learn to appreciate the outdoors simply because no one introduced them to it. This fall and winter, make an effort to take a beginner hunting. After all, someone probably did the same for you.

A. Jay Winter is a training officer for the department at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center.

Determining Dominant Eye

Just as most people have a dominant hand, they also have a dominant eye. Usually, the dominant eye is the same side as the hand, but not always. Aiming with the dominant eye produces the best accuracy. To determine dominant eye, follow these steps:

- Hold your hands at arms length in front of you.
- Form a triangular opening with your thumbs and forefingers.
- Focus on a distant object through the hole
- Slowly bring your hands toward your face, keeping the object in focus.

The opening will naturally come to the dominant eye.



KIDS' CORNER

Be Aware of Your Energy Use

October is Energy Awareness Month. How often do you think about the energy you use and where it comes from? This October, take a few minutes to find ways to save energy in your home, in your vehicle and even at school.

Turning off the computer and lights when not in use, keeping the car tuned up, changing the air filter on your furnace, and looking for the Energy Star® symbol when buying new electronics or appliances will save money and help the environment! You can make a difference in October and every month of the year.

The following quiz comes from the U.S. Department of Energy's "Kids Zone" at www.energy.gov. Take their Home Energy Quiz on-line to see how energy efficient your home is.

1. Most of the energy we use originally came from

- a) **the sun**
- b) the air
- c) the soil
- d) the oceans

2. Electrical energy can be produced from

- a) **mechanical energy**
- b) chemical energy
- c) radiant energy
- d) All of the above

3. Which uses the most energy in American homes each year?

- a) **lighting**
- b) water heating
- c) heating and cooling rooms
- d) refrigeration

4. The U.S. consumes lots of energy. Which fuel provides the most energy?

- a) **petroleum**
- b) coal
- c) natural gas
- d) solar

5. Coal, petroleum, natural gas, and propane are fossil fuels. They are called fossil fuels because:

- a) **they are burned** to release energy and they cause air pollution
- b) they were formed from the buried remains of plants and tiny animals that lived hundred of millions of years ago
- c) they are nonrenewable and will run out
- d) they are mixed with fossils to provide energy

6. Gasoline is produced by refining which fossil fuel?

- a) **natural gas**
- b) coal
- c) petroleum
- d) propane

7. Propane is used instead of natural gas on many farms and in rural areas. Why is propane often used instead of natural gas?

- a) **it's safer**
- b) it's portable
- c) it's cleaner
- d) it's cheaper

8. What sector of the U.S. economy consumes most of the nation's petroleum?

- a) **residential**
- b) commercial
- c) industrial
- d) transportation

9. Natural gas is transported mainly by

- a) **pipelines**
- b) trucks
- c) barges
- d) all three equally

10. Global warming focuses on an increase in the level of which gas in the atmosphere?

- a) **ozone**
- b) sulfur dioxide
- c) carbon dioxide
- d) nitrous oxide

11. Solar, biomass, geothermal, wind, and hydropower energy are all renewable sources of energy. They are called renewable because they

- a) **are clean and free to use**

- b) can be converted directly into heat and electricity
- c) can be replenished by nature in a short period of time
- d) do not produce air pollution

12. Today, which renewable energy source provides the U.S. with the most energy?

- a) wind
- b) solar
- c) geothermal
- d) hydropower

13. Electricity is the movement of

- a) atoms
- b) molecules
- c) electrons
- d) neutrons

14. How much of the energy in burning coal reaches the consumer as electricity?

- a) 1/3 (one-third)
- b) 1/2 (one-half)
- c) 3/4 (three-quarters)
- d) 9/10 (nine-tenths)

15. In a nuclear power plant, uranium atoms

- a) combine and give off heat energy
- b) split and give off heat energy
- c) burn and give off heat energy
- d) split and give off electrons

- 1) A The energy in biomass, wind, solar energy, and fossil fuels originally came from the sun.
- 2) D Electrical energy can be produced from all three: mechanical energy, chemical energy, and radiant energy.
- 3) C Heating and cooling rooms consumes the most energy in the American home each year.
- 4) A Petroleum gives the U.S. most of its energy?
- 5) B They are formed from the buried remains of plants and tiny animals that lived hundreds of millions of years ago, long before the first dinosaur walked the earth.
- 6) C Petroleum
- 7) B It's portable.
- 8) D The transportation sector consumes most of the nation's petroleum.
- 9) A Pipelines transport most of the natural gas.
- 10) C Carbon dioxide given off by burning fossil fuels is focused on as a contributor to global warming.
- 11) C Renewable fuels can be replenished by nature in a short period of time.
- 12) D Hydropower provides more energy than any other renewable fuel source.
- 13) C Electrons move to provide electricity.
- 14) A 33% efficiency rating.
- 15) B Uranium atoms split and give off heat energy.



Parents and Teachers

Here are some excellent resources for easy, fun and interesting activities to help introduce your child/student to the concepts of energy efficiency and renewable energy:

U.S. Department of Energy – Kids and Educators Pages

A wealth of information and fun activities is available through the federal government. Go to: www.energy.gov and click on the “Kids Zone” or “Schools” pages.

Energy Quest

The California Energy Commission's Energy Quest page is a colorful cartoon world of educational energy information and activities. Go to: www.energyquest.ca.gov/index.html

Florida Solar Energy Center – Teacher Resources

Offering teacher resources on alternative energy and energy efficiency. Go to www.fsec.ucf.edu/ed/teachers

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Experimental Predator Introduced To Clear Lake To Reduce Rough Fish

Undesirable rough fish currently account for about half of Clear Lake's total fish population. In addition to occupying space that could be used by more popular fish, large densities of bottom feeding carp and bullheads increase turbidity, contribute to summer algae blooms and decrease water quality.

"Clear Lake has a total biological carrying capacity of around 600 pounds of fish per acre," said DNR fisheries biologist Jim Wahl. "One of our fundamental goals concerning the lake's ongoing water quality (CLEAR) project has been to define the total number of bottom feeding fish and to accurately assess the impact they're having."

Beginning in late April, DNR fisheries personnel netted, marked and released 11,000 bullheads and 1,100 carp. In July, DNR staff sampled fish populations at nearly 40 sites across the lake.

"We looked for a lot of different things, but the most important thing we did was to compare the number of recaptures (marked fish) with the total number of unmarked fish. What we found was carp and bullhead populations are currently tying up around 250 to 300 pounds of biomass per acre," about half the lake's total carrying capacity.

In an effort to reduce the number of rough fish, the DNR plans to release around 6,000 (2-inch) flathead catfish into Clear Lake later this summer. An additional 10,000 (8-inch) fingerlings will be stocked during 2003.



Lowell Washburn

Fisheries staff inventory fish populations at Clear Lake.

"Flathead catfish are extremely predacious, and we're hoping that they'll provide a biological control that will have a significant impact on future bullhead numbers."

Wahl noted the introduction of flathead catfish is highly experimental. Although they have been proven to effectively reduce bullhead populations on smaller lakes up to 300 acres in size, they have not been tried on a scale that compares to Clear Lake's 3,600 acres.

"This isn't going to be a quick fix, but it is a start," said Wahl. "Flathead catfish won't be able to reproduce naturally in Clear Lake," he added.

"If flatheads prove they can actually impact and reduce rough fish populations, we'll be looking at regular maintenance stockings to keep them here."

— Lowell Washburn

Second Annual Volunteers in Natural Resources Conference set for Nov. 22-23

The Second Annual Volunteers in Natural Resources Conference will be held Nov. 22-23 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. Volunteers are encouraged to attend the event, sponsored by the IOWATER volunteer water quality monitoring program and the DNR's Keepers of the Land program.

Workshop topics include wildlife diversity programs, IOWATER volunteer data, "snapshot" sampling of Iowa's waterways and a hands-on session on how to start a wetland project. Volunteers from both programs will be acknowledged for their service to Iowa's natural resources during an awards banquet and ceremony.

Nationally recognized volunteer Chad Pegracke of the Mississippi River Beautification and Restoration Project will be the featured speaker Friday. Pegracke will also conduct a workshop Saturday. For more information about the project, go to www.cleanrivers.com.

Registration for the event is \$30 and is due by Nov. 8. To learn more about IOWATER or Keepers of the Land, visit their respective web sites at www.iowater.net or www.keepersoftheland.org. For conference registration information, contact Stefanie Forret at (515) 281-3150 or Stefanie.Forret@dnr.state.ia.us.

Deer, Fall Turkey Licenses On Sale Now

Resident licenses for the upcoming deer and fall turkey seasons went on sale Aug. 3 and hunters should consider buying their's early to avoid late season rushes.

Licenses can be purchased at any one of approximately 900 license agents statewide or by calling 1-800-367-1188. Information on season dates and license types are available in the 2002 Iowa Deer and Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations and License Instructions booklet available at the same license agents and DNR offices across the state.

The booklet outlines what is required to hunt deer and turkey in Iowa, license buying instructions and regulations, including season dates and legal weapons. All licenses with quotas are sold first come, first served, until quotas are reached, Dec. 14, or the last day of the respective season, whichever comes first.

There are 19 special deer hunts located in urban and county areas that provide additional deer hunting opportunities. The contacts and other requirements are listed in the booklet.

A resident deer license costs

\$26 and a resident fall turkey license is \$23. The fall turkey hunting season is open to Iowa residents only. Most deer and turkey hunters are also required to have a small game hunting license and have paid the wildlife habitat fee. Exceptions are explained in the booklet.

Plenty of nonresident antlerless-only deer licenses and a handful of any-deer licenses remain. Both license types are available first come, first served until the quota is filled or the last day of the season, whichever comes first. Licenses may be purchased by calling 1-800-367-1188.

The 2002 Iowa Deer and Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations and License Instructions booklet is also available on the internet at www.state.ia.us/dnr/organiza/fwb/wildlife/pages/hunting.htm.

Some hunters may also notice a difference in this year's license. Yellow tags are being phased in to replace the standard white tag. The change is being made for safety reasons. White paper stock will continue to be used until all supplies are exhausted. Both tags will be valid for the upcoming hunting seasons.



Clay Smith

Explore Iowa Parks Promotion Nearing End

Campers participating in the DNR's Explore Iowa Parks promotion are reminded the deadline for submitting entries is Oct. 31. Registration and informational packets are available at state park campgrounds. The rules can also be found at www.exploreiowaparks.com.

The promotion is designed to entice campers to visit some of Iowa's less-used state parks. Campers who visit at least four of the 18 identified parks receive a one-year subscription to the *Iowa Conservationist* magazine. Those who camp at six or more also receive a state parks T-shirt. Those who camp at 10 or more will also be entered into a drawing for one of three grand prizes; a Palomino tent trailer donated by Herold Trailer Sales of Indianola and MidAmerican Energy, a two-person Perception kayak donated by CanoeSport Outfitters of Indianola, or seven nights of free camping at state parks of choice.

Iowa Dept of Natural Resources

Transportation Tag (Statewide Tag)

DNR # 999912363

DOB: 08/26/1956

ANN TEST

1324 75TH STREET, DES MOINES, IA 50319

G2

Enter Date of Kill: / /

201 Deer-Reg. Gun 2 \$26.00

Season: 12/14/2002 - 12/22/2002

Transect Number: 0000016 Date/Time of Issue: 08/19/2002 14:20:00

Transect Number: 00139667 Agent: 099902

The Tag above must be placed on the Deer or Turkey (and venison) until the animal has been processed for consumption. Please disregard the instructions on the back for reporting.

Turn in Poachers (T.I.P.): 1-800-532-2020

CONSERVATION UPDATE



Roger A. Hill

Winter environmental education workshop will focus on Aldo Leopold, whose ideas formed the groundwork for many conservation programs still in use today.

Environmental Workshop Set For Jan. 10-12 At Springbrook Conservation Education Center

"Leopold Legacy: Conservation Wisdom Past and Present" is the theme for this year's environmental education workshop sponsored by the Iowa Conservation Education Council.

The workshop will be held at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center Jan. 10-12. Featured speakers will be Nina Leopold Bradley, daughter of Aldo Leopold; Curt Meine of the Sandhill Crane Foundation; and singer and songwriter Joe Paulkin.

The workshop will focus on Iowa's environmental history — specifically the contributions of Iowa's most famous conservationist Aldo Leopold, who played a significant role in conserving native landscapes. Attending educators will learn how to foster curiosity and understanding of Iowa's landscape with students.

A pre-conference Leopold Education Project workshop will also be held Jan. 10.

Registration fees are \$25 for the pre-conference workshop, \$55 for the main conference and \$80 for lodging and meals. Students enrolled in a teacher education program at an Iowa college can attend for \$15, and Iowa educators can receive free graduate credit.

Partial funding for the conference was made possible through a Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program grant. For registration information, contact the Bremer County Extension Office at 319-882-4275; or by email at DSiefken@iastate.edu. Co-sponsors of the conference include ISU Extension, North Iowa Community College and the Linn County Conservation Board.

Deadline For Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Approaching

Iowa citizens, businesses and organizations have until Sept. 27 to submit applications for the 2002 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards.

The awards recognize Iowans who have developed result-oriented, sustainable strategies to address such environmental concerns as waste reduction, renewable and efficient energy sources, natural resource protection and statewide environmental education.

Communities, local governments, large and small businesses, public institutions, agriculture operations, non-profits and youth organizations that operate in Iowa are encouraged to apply, and applicants may submit an application for more than one award category.

Awards will be given in six categories during the 2002 ceremony: the environmental excellence award, a special recognition award in water quality, special recognition in waste management, special recognition in energy efficiency and renewable energy development, special recognition in air quality, and a special recognition award in habitat restoration and enhancement.

Applications may be obtained by contacting Bob Castelline at (515) 281-0879, or by e-mail at Bob.Castelline@dnr.state.ia.us. Applications are also available on the DNR's website at www.state.ia.us/dnr/award/index.htm.

Volunteering Today For A Better Iowa Tomorrow



Diane Ford-Shivvers

Sarah Dixon, third from left, celebrated a recent birthday with friends by cleaning up Southeast Riverfront Park in Des Moines. At far left is Des Moines River Water Trail activist Gerry Rowland who served as project leader.

Cleaning Up Is Dirty Work

Sarah Dixon of the State Public Policy Group decided to celebrate her June 26 birthday in a unique way. She gathered 18 of her colleagues to join her after work to clean up the Southeast Riverfront Park, located off S.E. 14th St., and the Harriet Street river access area, which is often used as an illegal dumping ground.

Dixon and her friends cleared the access area of debris, including a half submerged carpet piece and buried tires that challenged both the strength and ingenuity of the crew. The upper levels of the park were also gleaned for litter. The work pace was brisk even though the evening was steaming and the bugs biting. By the end of three short hours, an impressive heap of junk was gathered for pick up by a city crew the next morning.

Des Moines River Water Trail activist Gerry Rowland helped find the work site and served as the project leader, with the help of the DNR Keepers of the Land Volunteer program. Rowland, an avid canoeist and kayaker, often uses the access to float down to Yellow Banks Park and beyond with other river trail enthusiasts, and has organized several cleanups at this site. Des Moines Parks and Recreation staff coordinated the pick up of the trash.

For more information on the Des Moines River Water Trail, go to www.desmoinesriver.org. For information on the DNR Keepers of the Land volunteer program go to www.keepersoftheland.org.

Upcoming NRC and EPC Meetings

The dates and locations have been set for the following meetings of the Natural Resource Commission and Environmental Protection Commission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Agendas are set approximately 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting date. For additional information, contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

Natural Resource Commission:

- October 10
Carroll
- November 14
Neal Smith NWR
- December 12
Des Moines

Environmental Protection Commission:

- October 21
Des Moines
- November 18
Des Moines
- December 16
Des Moines

WARDEN'S DIARY



by Chuck Humeston

Someone once said, "The unexamined life is not worth living."

I don't necessarily agree because I can't think of anything that would make life not worth living. However, I did receive a letter in the mail recently that made me sit down under the tree on the hill overlooking the river and ponder.

The letter was in response to an earlier column I had written. From the author's comments, I felt there were some assumptions I could make regarding his feelings about the outdoors. I think we might be kindred spirits.

The column, he wrote, "reminded me of my father's and my relationship hunting west of Omaha during the depression. My first gun was one-third ownership in a single shot Winchester bolt action .22. And finally a Stevens .410/.22, all my own. If it wasn't hunting season, we plinked away with the .22. Our outings began at noon and ended at dark on Sundays."

I closed my eyes and envisioned the scene. Can you imagine three boys getting together during the depression to buy a single shot rifle. Can you imagine the joy he felt in finally owning the Stevens. Can you see and feel those Sundays hunting and plinking? Can you see the

simple pleasure he took in it? Can you understand the memories he must treasure? How many of us started that way?

As fall and the hunting seasons approach it made me think. Do we enjoy the simple pleasure of the experience in the outdoors, or has "sport" covered up the "substance," and become the desired outcome?

Webster defines "sport" as, "any activity or experience that gives enjoyment, or recreation; pastime; diversion..." Hunting and fishing definitely qualify. But I sometimes wonder when I look at sports today. You can't paint everyone with the same brush, but the trash talking, the winning-is-the-only-thing, the pressure you sometimes see are the prevailing philosophy.

And I have to look at myself. I'll be the first to admit I hope the Hawkeyes return the state to the way it should be in September. When Iowa was winning, my wife looked at my son and I and said, "Don't you get tired of winning this all the time?" We looked at each other, shook our heads, and said, "No," as if her question was some kind of joke.

"I wish it would get more competitive," she said. So once again, last year, I told her, "I hope you're happy!"

That same mentality sometimes leaks into the outdoor world. A perfect example is last fall, when pheasant counts dropped dramatically on the heels of the previous year's

Simpler Times

harsh winter and wet spring. I was often asked, "Where did the birds go?" I usually responded, "Have someone tear down your house, dump 42 inches of snow on you, and drop the temperature to 15 below with a stout wind for an extended period, and see how well you survive." My explanation was often followed with, "Yeah, I can see that, but I'm still not hunting this fall. It's not worth it."

What is not worth it? The company of good friends? The sound of leaves crunching under your feet? The dew sparkling in the morning sun? The crisp autumn breeze? Sitting on a tailgate, watching the colors change in the sky as the sun sets while you pour that last cup of steaming coffee from the thermos? The memories?

What has become the desired outcome? The limiting out? The longest tail feather? The biggest rack? "Winning" all the time?

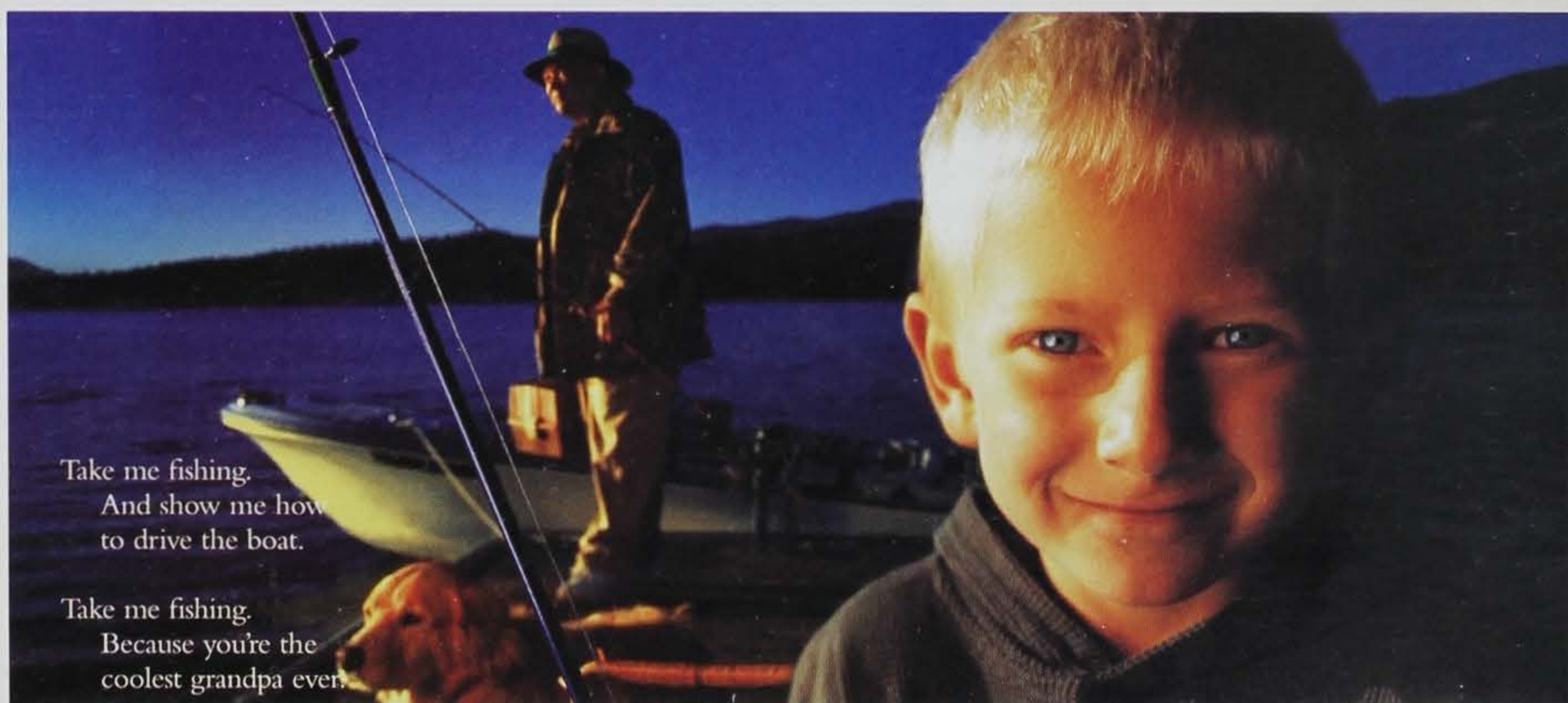
I asked myself some of those questions. Have I forgotten that first rifle long ago when dad showed me how to handle guns and how to shoot. Have I forgotten those days with friends and the BB gun, the pellet gun, the rifle, and the shotgun? Have I forgotten how it feels to explore a new field or just sit with my back next to a tree watching the breeze move the leaves, maybe not bringing home the game, but bringing home the intangible?

Thanks for the letter, sir. I can see you haven't forgotten. I don't intend to either. What about you this fall?

The Foxes and The Hounds

This 1940s-vintage photograph shows Walter Hill, left, and Jewell Hill posing with their three hounds following a successful hunt near McCallsburg. The photo was submitted by Roger A. Hill, a free-lance photographer from Roland who regularly contributes to this magazine.





Take me fishing.
And show me how
to drive the boat.

Take me fishing.
Because you're the
coolest grandpa ever.

Take me fishing.
So I'll always remember you.

Water works wonders
FOR FISHING, BOATING, AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

Enjoy Fishing in Iowa's
State Parks and Recreation Areas