



SPECIAL 1999 HUNTING ISSUE

FREE

IOWA

FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS

A Newsletter of the Fish and Wildlife Division, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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For Those Who Cannot Live Without Wilderness

by Kenneth Herring, DNR Wildlife Bureau

A number of years ago a wonderfully wise and now world-famous conservationist wrote these simple yet prophetic words which many hunters understand only too well. "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot," wrote Aldo Leopold. It's good to know that many who read this article are exactly the type of people whom Leopold was talking about. We are a fraternity of "those who cannot."

For thousands of outdoor-oriented Iowans, our time of year is at hand. Each morning as we rise and go about our daily lives, we find sure signs that "our time" is here. Hunters spend countless hours in preparation for the fall seasons.

Preparation for the outdoor opportunities that we enjoy so much is a year-round job for the Wildlife Bureau staff. Perhaps you haven't thought much about what goes into the hunting seasons, but preparation for the seasons you read about in the fall begins a full year or more in advance.

Take for example the deer season. Biologists across the state carefully watch and listen during the fall and winter hunting seasons.

Biologists patrol with conservation officers during the shotgun deer season and some staff assist and supervise special population control hunts in state parks or cities. Shortly thereafter, biologists and technicians take to the air flying low altitude deer surveys. These surveys must be conducted immediately following heavy snowfall and at times extremely cold and or icy conditions.

During this time, research staff are conducting harvest surveys and collecting deer/car collision data from across the state. Deer/car collision data is recorded using the cooperation of the Department of Transportation, county sheriff's offices and conservation officers. Throughout the year, two wildlife biologists are assigned the task of working with landowners across the state on deer damage and special deer population problems. These biologists collect data and manage special areas where deer populations need to be reduced. They must work with landowners next to these special areas such as state parks, refuges, cities, or private preserves where the deer

population is reliant upon securing the cooperation of adjacent landowners, cities, or park personnel.

In early January, wildlife staff from around the state meet to pull all of the technical and biological information together to discuss options for next year's hunting seasons. Forest research biologists continue to hammer out data using computer modeling to assist in the final season recommendations. Even when this is completed, the season is not yet set. The wildlife bureau recommendations face a gauntlet of administrative procedures.

Before the seasons and rules can be put into effect, they must be reviewed and approved by the Fish and Wildlife division administrator, the DNR director and the Natural Resource Commission. Then the proposed seasons and rules must be publicly announced, formally written and public meetings held to allow Iowans an opportunity to comment on the rules. After this review and an opportunity for Legislative Rules Review Committee the proposed rule goes back to the Natural Resources Commission. Upon their approval the rules and related seasons may be finalized.

While other wildlife species are a little less involved, all hunting seasons for Iowa's wildlife must go through essentially the same process.

Other duties of the wildlife bureau are maintaining lake and wetland dikes and maintaining water levels for waterfowl management; trail, parking lot and road maintainance; boundary fence and sign maintainance; seeding native grass plantings and food plots on WMAs; harvest native grass and forb seed; wetland restoration and maintainance; reforestation projects; and respond to landowners requests for enhanced wildlife management plans and wildlife damage abatement.

Your wildlife staff are preparing year-round for the needs of both wildlife and area users. It's a job they universally love and carry out with great passion. Together, the wildlife employees with your support are largely responsible for the wildlife success stories of today. As we near the year 2000, you can be proud of the DNR's track record in providing a wildlife legacy for the next millenium, where future generations of "those who cannot live without the wild things" must pick up the torch.



Roger A. Hill

Electronic Licensing Coming to Iowa

by Alan Foster, DNR Information Specialist

For the nearly 600,000 people who hunt, fish and trap in Iowa, purchasing a license may get a little easier thanks to a new electronic licensing system coming next year.

Electronic Licensing System for Iowa, or ELSI, is scheduled to debut as a pilot program in 2000 at selected locations across the state. Exactly when the pilot program will be initiated and when it will be fully functional is still being worked out.

ELSI will change the way Iowa hunters, anglers and trappers purchase licenses, making it quicker, easier and more efficient for the outdoorsperson, the license seller and the DNR as well. Better yet, ELSI will provide DNR officials with more accurate data to better manage the state's natural resources.

"Automation of the hunting and fishing licenses will have several benefits to anglers and hunters in the state," said Rich Smith, project coordinator for the DNR's electronic licensing program. "We believe the citizens of Iowa will appreciate the ease and flexibility of electronic licensing both on the purchasing and selling side of it."

For decades the DNR has issued paper licenses requiring the seller to handwrite all vital information on the license form. Although the old system served its purpose, it had its share of problems. Considering the plethora of license and stamp options available, it was necessary for vendors to keep a variety of inventory on hand to meet customer demands. Worse yet, vendors would occasionally run out of certain licenses often at the most inopportune times, like peak business hours or the night before opening day.

For hunters applying for specialty licenses, such as deer and wild turkey tags, the process was even more cumbersome.

With ELSI, all that could change. State DNR officials who have researched electronic licensing systems in other states feel the new system will make it quicker and more convenient for the outdoorsperson to purchase a license, and reduce inventory, uncertainty and mistakes for the vendor.

Arguably one of the greatest advantages will be hunters' ability to purchase many specialty licenses over the counter. In the past, nearly all deer and wild turkey licenses have been sold through an application process. While it was the most practical way to issue deer and turkey licenses, it had a few drawbacks. Inevitably, every year, a handful of hunters would be denied an opportunity to hunt deer because they forget to submit an application, returned it after the deadline or the application was lost somewhere in the process. Additionally, processing the thousands of applications returned was an extremely time consuming task, leaving some hunters wondering if they were to receive a license. These factors created apprehension among some hunters.

Many of these concerns will be eliminated through electronic licensing. Once in place, ELSI will allow hunters to purchase paid deer or turkey licenses UNRESTRICTED BY QUOTAS over the counter at licensed vendors (Seasons restricted by quotas will continue to be sold via application process). Essentially, a deer or turkey hunter could walk into a license retailer up to a specified date and walk out with

a license. DNR officials believe this benefit alone will be enough to draw approval of the system from the public.

"For the first time in history, the majority of deer and turkey hunters will be able to purchase their deer and turkey tags at a local retailer on the system," Smith noted. "This means that the hunter will no longer have to mail in an application and wait to receive their license and tag."

Even the advantages the DNR expects to see will ultimately benefit the citizens of Iowa. One of the greater benefits will be more accurate and timely license and harvest data, information which helps the department set seasons and quotas. Accurate, timely information will also aid conservation officers in their protection of Iowa's natural resources. ELSI will also give the department timely access to license revenues, money which could be put to use almost immediately to fund DNR recreational programs.

"The ELSI system will provide more accurate and accessible information to aid in conservation law," Smith said. "In addition, your license dollars will be promptly deposited into DNR accounts to fund fish and wildlife management and outdoor recreation programs."

Help TIP Stop Poachers

by Steve Dermánd, DNR Law Enforcement Bureau

Turn-In-Poachers of Iowa (TIP) is a private organization which raises money to promote the "Turn-In-Poachers" effort with a portion of those dollars going for payment of rewards to informants on successful TIP cases. TIP information is kept confidential to protect the identity of the informant (TIP caller). The private TIP organization and the Iowa DNR have maintained an excellent working relationship since the program began more than 10 years ago. The TIP Board of Directors are an active group made-up of private citizens who volunteer their time and efforts to make a good program even better. Each board member is a representative sportsman sponsored by a supporting TIP member organization. Some of these member organizations include; Izaak Walton League, Iowa Trappers Assoc., Iowa Wildlife Federation, Pheasants Forever and Iowa Bowhunters Association.

Traditionally, we have found that of all the TIP calls we receive during the year, 70 percent come in during October, November and December. These are the months of highest poaching activity and also the time when most legal hunters are in the field. With fall/winter months being harvest time in Iowa, many TIP calls are from farmers and other rural landowners who have either directly observed game violations or have seen signs of violations committed on their property. Such evidence left behind by

poachers may be gut-piles, animal skins/parts, boned carcasses, blood trails, drag marks, tire tracks, spent shell cases and spotlighting activity.

Perhaps the most critical aspect of a TIP call, in terms of whether or not a case can be made against the violator(s), is in the timeliness of the call itself. We have found that the highest percentage of cases which are successful (arrests made as a result of the TIP call) are those calls which are made by the informant while the violation is still in progress. Keep track of suspicious persons and/or vehicles which are observed in your area repeatedly, record license plate numbers on these vehicles if at all possible.

If you are observing what you believe to be a fish or wildlife violation in progress **GET TO A TELEPHONE** and call **1-800-532-2020**. It's a toll free call, and it may actually pay you to call the information in if the case is successful. Beginning this year TIP will be offering rewards to informants who provide information about trophy-class whitetail deer taken illegally. If a trophy deer TIP case is successful, the informant will be eligible for the standard **\$250** reward **plus** an additional **cash bonus** amount as determined by the TIP reward committee.

The TIP toll free telephone line is monitored 24-hours a day. Many public access and recreation areas have pay phones, please don't hesitate to use them. Also, cellular phones in the tree stand or duck blind have, in the past, aided in making short work of law breakers by quick-thinking sportsmen and women. Iowa's

Turn-In-Poachers program works because you and other concerned citizens care enough to call the TIP Hotline. Your active participation in our fish & wildlife law enforcement efforts make poachers think twice before they act. **REMEMBER**, you can remain anonymous and you may earn a **cash** reward. **YOU** can make the difference.

****Note**, all reward dollars are privately raised by TIP of Iowa, Inc. TIP of Iowa works in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in an effort to identify and prosecute those who would seek to exploit our state's natural resources for their own personal gain. To become an individual supporting member, send \$20.00 to: TIP of Iowa, Inc.; 2188 Illinois Drive; Pella; Iowa 50219.



Turn In Poachers

1-800-532-2020

You can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward.

Special Deer Hunts

The Department of Natural Resources has approved a number of special deer hunts to be held during the 1999-2000 deer seasons. These hunts have been aproved in order to help control deer populations in areas that are not normally open to deer hunting, or for which additional licenses were made available in order to reduce deer numbers through regulated sport hunting.

AREA	SEASON DATES	# LICENSES	WEAPON	APPLICATION PROCEDURES
Dubuque County Zone	All Seasons (except youth)	290 Antlerless 10 any-sex	Archery & Gun	Licenses available August 16 th at the Dubuque County Records Office. (First Come Basis) 150 of these licenses will be designed for the City of Dubuque Archery Hunt, special requirements involved, contact the city at 319-589-4263 or 4181.
Backbone Park	Dec. 4-5 Dec. 11-12,	60 Antlerless 60 Antlerless	Gun	Must apply in-person September 11 th at Backbone State Park. (First-come basis) Park office opens at 8:00 A.M.
Black Hawk County Zone	Oct. 4-Jan. 10	190 Antlerless 10 any-sex	Archery Only	Applications are available beginning August 1 st from the Hartman Reserve Nature Center.
Scott County Park	Dec. 4-5 Dec. 11-12	90 Antlerless Total	Gun	Applications are available beginning August 29 th and accepted through September 30 th . Applications are available at Scott Co. Park and West Lake Park. (Lottery)
Linn County Zone	All Seasons (except youth)	300 Antlerless	Archery & Gun	Licenses available August 16 th at the Linn County Records office. (First Come Basis)
Marion	Oct. 1-Jan. 10	75 Antlerless,	Archery Only	Applications available beginning September 1 st Monday through Friday 8-4 p.m. at the Marion Police Department. (First- Come Basis)
Squaw Creek Park	Oct. 1 -Jan. 10	75 Antlerless	Archery Only	Applications are available from Linn County Conservation beginning July 1 st . (Lottery)
Kent Park	Dec. 5-6 Dec. 12-13	60 Antlerless 60 Antlerless	Gun	Must apply in-person September 25 th at Kent Park youth group camp. (First-come basis) Park office opens at 8:00 A.M.
Ammunition Plant	All Seasons	400 Antlerless	Archery & Gun	Filled
Polk County Zone	Varies by Location	500 Antlerless	Archery & Gun (Varies by Location)	Licenses available August 16 th from Polk Co. Recorder, Polk Co. Conservation, Des Moines Water-works, some local sporting good stores. (First Come Basis) The City of Des Moines will be Archery Only, special requirements involved.
Elk Rock Park	Dec. 4-5	50 Antlerless	Gun	Licenses available Sept. 13 th at Elk RockPark at 8:00 A.M. (First Come Basis)
Lake Panorama	Oct. 1-Jan.10 Oct. 16-24	50 Antlerless 25 Antlerless	Archery Only Muzzleloader	Members and their guests only
Lake Manawa Park	Oct. 1-Dec.3	30 Antlerless	Archery Only	Licenses available September 1 st at the park office 8:00 A.M. (First-come basis)
Hitchcock Nature Area	Nov. 20-24 Nov. 29-Dec.3 Dec. 4-5	25 Antlerless Total 30 antlerless	Archery Only Archery Only Gun	Hitchcock Nature Center, Licenses available Nov. 6 at 8:00 A.M. at the nature center. (First Come Basis)

1998 Harvest Statistics

The main hunting seasons for 1999 are fast approaching. Harvest statistics for last year showed Iowa with the number one pheasant harvest in the nation, our highest spring turkey harvest ever, and excellent duck, Canada goose and deer seasons.

pheasant	1,237,980	quail	100,594
cottontail rabbit	255,149	squirrel	319,081
hungarian partridge	25,613	ruffed grouse	unknown
ducks	535,949	snow or blue goose	14,564
Canada goose	79,101	rails	unknown
snipe	unknown	woodcock	1,528
jackrabbit	10,008	fall turkey	3,468
spring turkey (1999)	18,290	deer	110,983

The forecast for this year looks good as well, with the exception of an expected reduced upland game harvest. Numbers of pheasants and quail are down as a result of heavy rains during the nesting season, but there should be enough birds around to provide good hunting.



Roger A. Hill

The August Roadside Survey

by Todd Bogenschutz, DNR Upland Wildlife Research Biologist

Every year the DNR conducts a survey of Iowa's upland wildlife populations called the August Roadside Survey. The survey is conducted in early morning hours state-wide by law enforcement and wildlife personnel. The survey generates data from 209 30-mile routes on ring-necked pheasants, bobwhite quail, gray partridge, cottontail rabbits and white-tailed jack rabbits.

Changes from 1998 to 1999 are based on routes directly comparable between years. Long-term trends are based on the total number of routes completed.

Pheasants

According to the 1999 August Roadside Survey, pheasant populations across Iowa declined 35 percent from last year.

This year's decline in bird numbers was caused by a combination of habitat loss and inclement weather. Iowa lost about 800,000 acres of very good nesting habitat, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands, in the fall of 1996. Our pheasant counts declined a little in 1997 and 1998, but the decline was gradual because of mild winter and spring weather. This past year saw heavy snows in parts of Iowa and rainfall totals 1-3 inches above normal during the primary nesting season. These weather factors combined with the loss of CRP habitat caused bird populations to decline. Iowa had lower winter survival and poor nest success over

many areas of the state in 1999.

The 1999 pheasant count averaged 30.1 birds per 30-mile survey route, compared to an average count of 46.0 birds per route in 1998. Regionally, counts declined across the state with no areas reporting higher bird numbers in 1999. The southwest quarter of



Ron Johnson

the state had particularly low numbers with many areas reporting all-time low counts. The northwest, central and east-central regions of Iowa will offer the better bird densities this fall. Based on past comparisons of roadside count data and harvest information, hunters should harvest approximately 1 million pheasants during the 1999-2000 hunting season. Iowa pheasant hunters

harvested 1.24 million roosters last year, leading the nation in total pheasant harvest for the fourth straight year.

Gray Partridge and Quail

Similar to pheasants, gray partridge numbers also declined significantly (52 percent) in 1999, while bobwhite quail numbers remained basically unchanged from 1998. Partridge are even less successful at nesting than pheasants during wet springs. Hunters can find larger partridge populations in northern Iowa.

Quail numbers, while similar to last year, remain at historic low levels. However, hunters could still find good pockets of quail in parts of southern Iowa along the Missouri border.

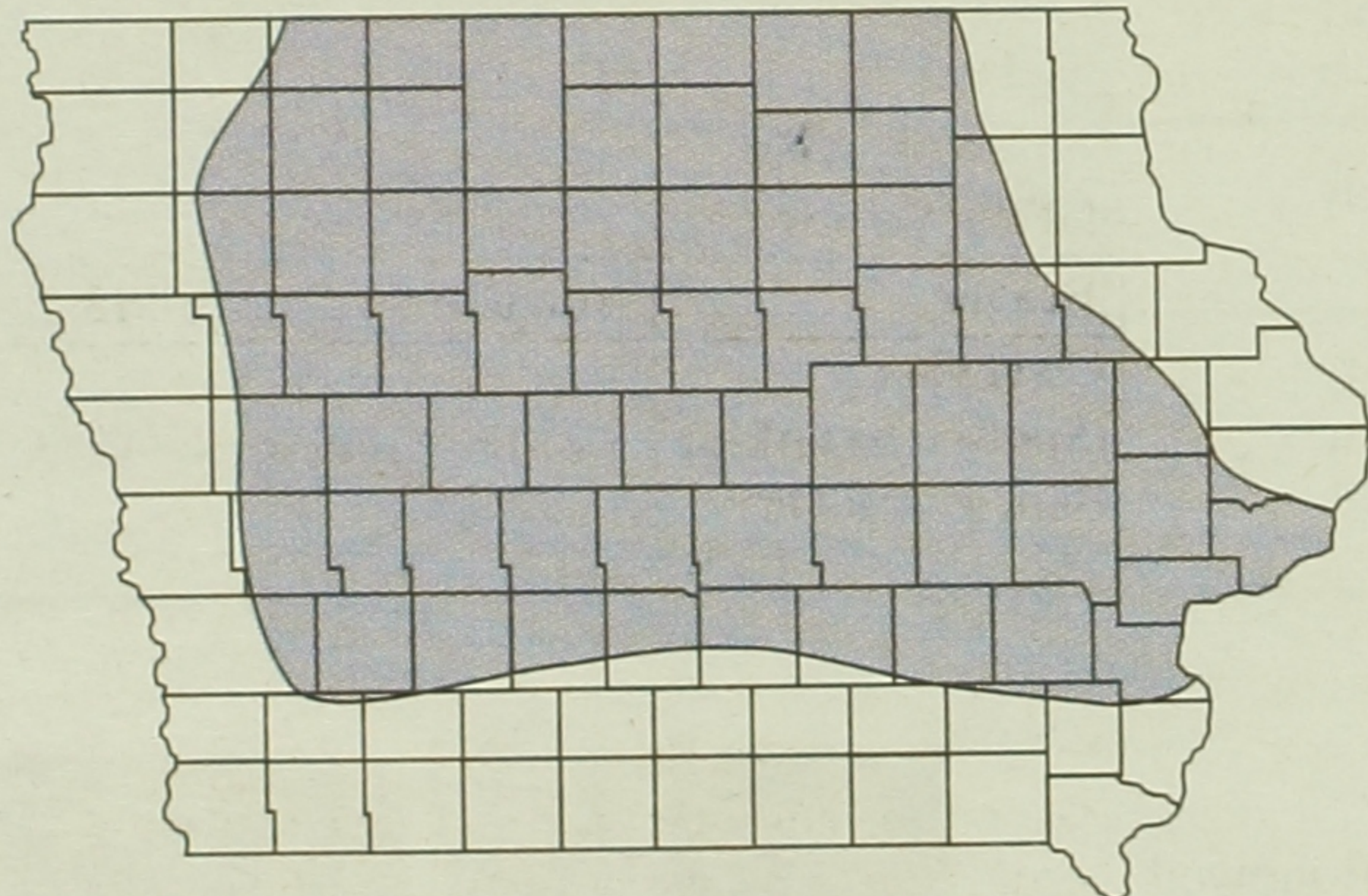
Rabbits

The bright spot for Iowa's upland wildlife species in 1999 is cottontail rabbits. Rabbits tend to flourish in years with wetter springs and 1999 reinforces this fact as rabbit numbers increased 20 percent over 1998. Rabbit hunters will find the better rabbit numbers in eastern and southern Iowa.

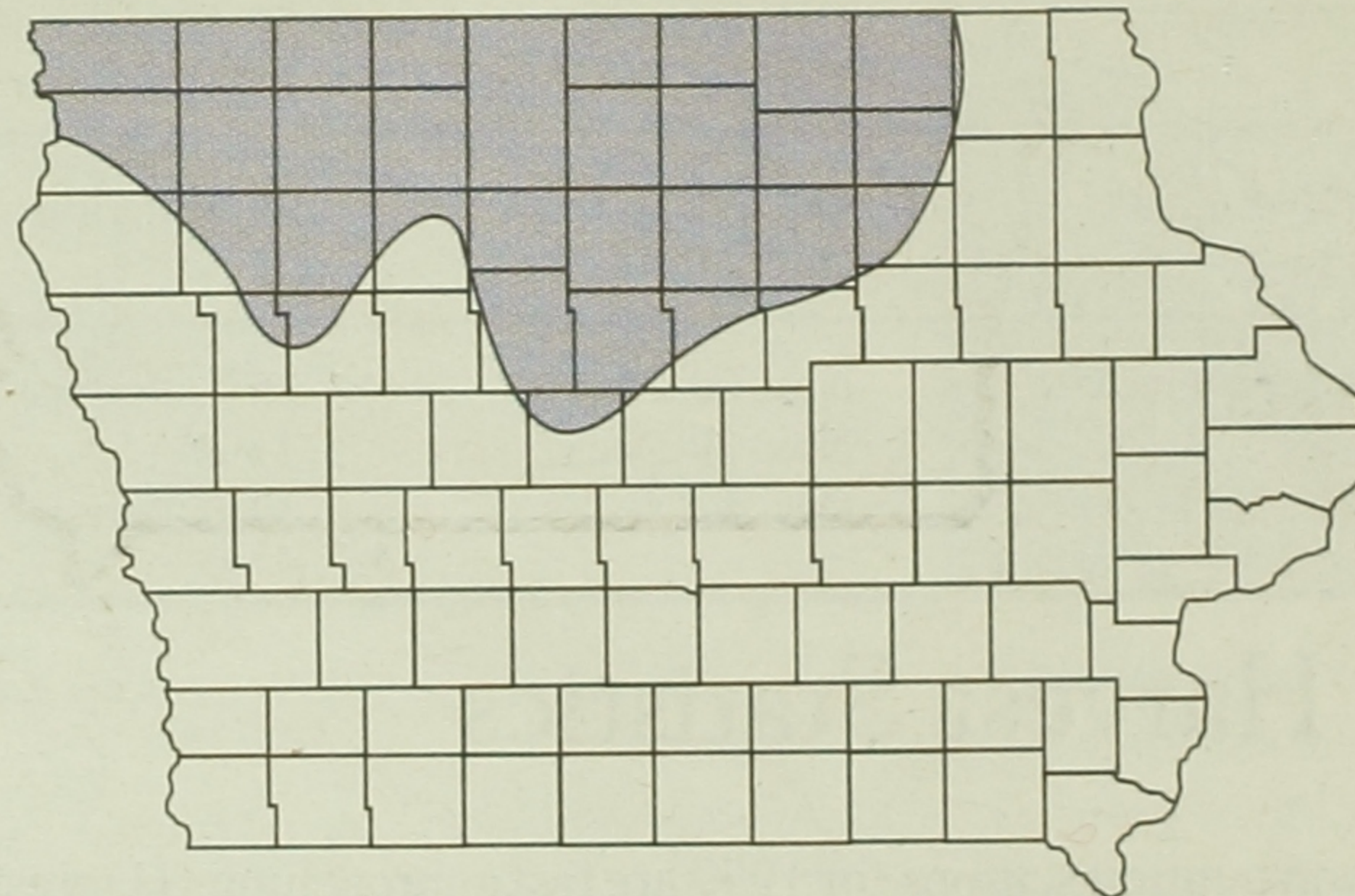
Hunters wanting more information about this year's upland survey or hunting season can call (515) 281-HNTR or visit the Iowa DNR's web site at www.state.ia.us/government/dnr.

1999 GAME DISTRIBUTION

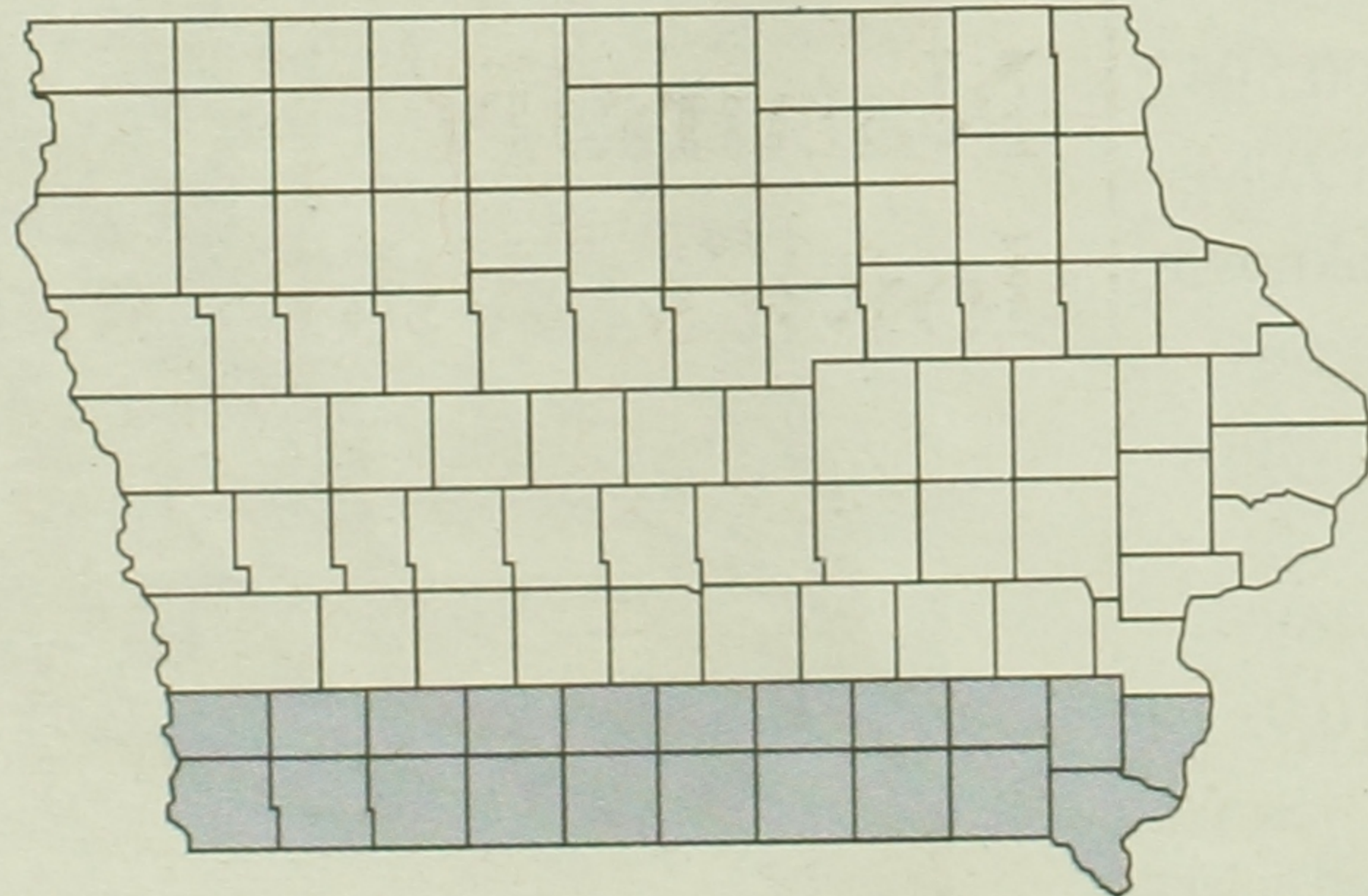
PHEASANTS



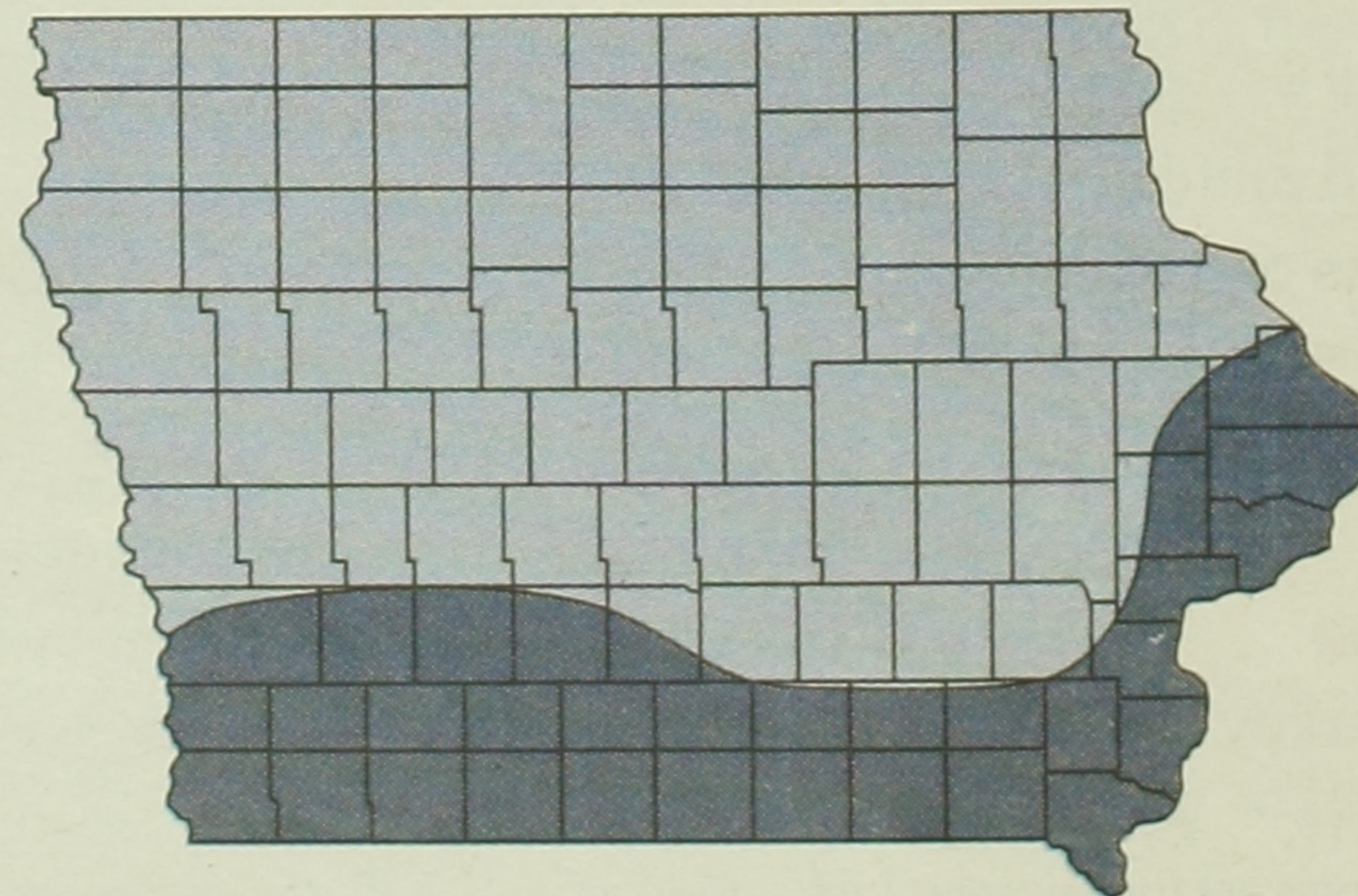
GRAY PARTRIDGE



QUAIL



RABBIT



GOOD



FAIR



POOR

IOWA 1999-2000 HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

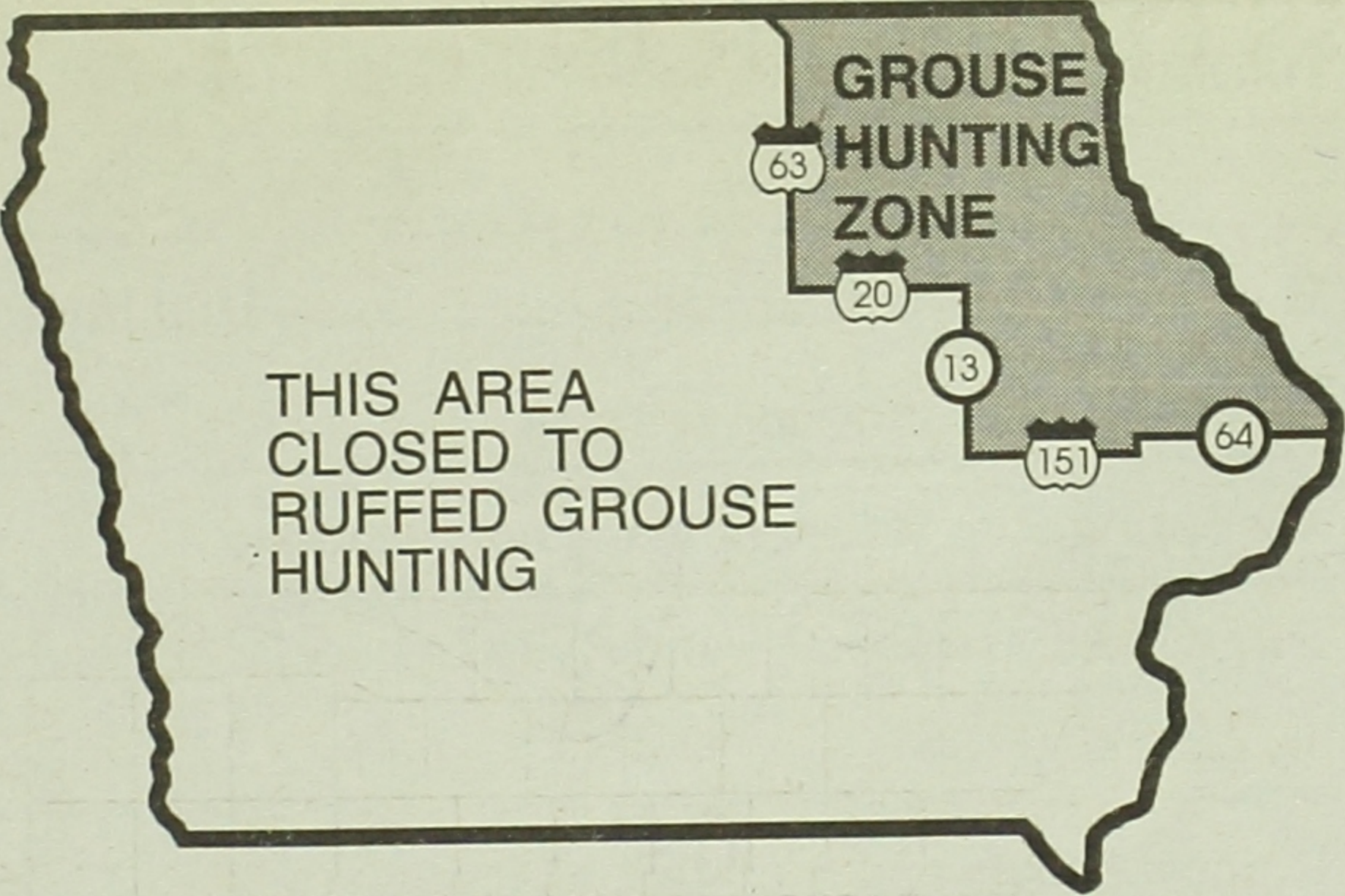
SPECIES	SEASON	SHOOTING HOURS	BAG LIMITS	
			DAILY	POSSESSION
Youth Rooster Pheasant (age 15 or younger)**	Oct. 23-24	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	1	2
Rooster Pheasant	Oct. 30 - Jan. 10, 2000		3	12
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 30 - Jan. 31, 2000		8	16
Gray Partridge	Oct. 9 - Jan. 31, 2000		8	16
Turkey (Gun)*	Oct. 11 - Nov. 30	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset	One Turkey Per License	One Turkey Per License
Turkey (Bow Only)*	Oct. 1 - Dec. 3 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 10, 2000	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to One-half Hour After Sunset		
Deer (Bow)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 3 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 10, 2000			
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Oct. 16 - Oct. 24* (early) or Dec. 20 - Jan. 10, 2000 (late)			
Deer -- Youth (age 12-15) and Severely Disabled	Sept. 18 - Oct. 3			
Deer (Special Bonus Late Season)	Jan. 11 - Jan. 17, 2000			
Deer (Shotgun)	Dec. 4 - Dec. 8 (first) or Dec. 11 - Dec. 19 (second)			
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 2 - Jan. 31, 2000	Sunrise to Sunset	3	6
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28, 2000		10	20
Rabbit (Jack)	Oct. 30 - Dec. 1		2	4
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, 2000	None	6	12
Groundhog	June. 15 - Oct. 31		None	None
Crow	Oct. 15 - Nov. 30 and Jan. 14 - March 31, 2000			
Pigeon**	Oct. 1 - March 31, 2000			
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 6 - Jan. 31, 2000	None		
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 6 - Jan. 31, 2000	None		
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

The ruffed grouse hunting zone is that portion of northeast Iowa bordered by US Highway 60, 20 and 151, and Iowa Highways 13 and 64.



ZONE 1 is all units of Stephens State Forest west of U.S. Highway 65 in Lucas and Clarke counties.

ZONE 2 is all units of Shimek State Forest in Lee and van Buren counties.

ZONE 3 is units of Yellow River in Allamakee County.

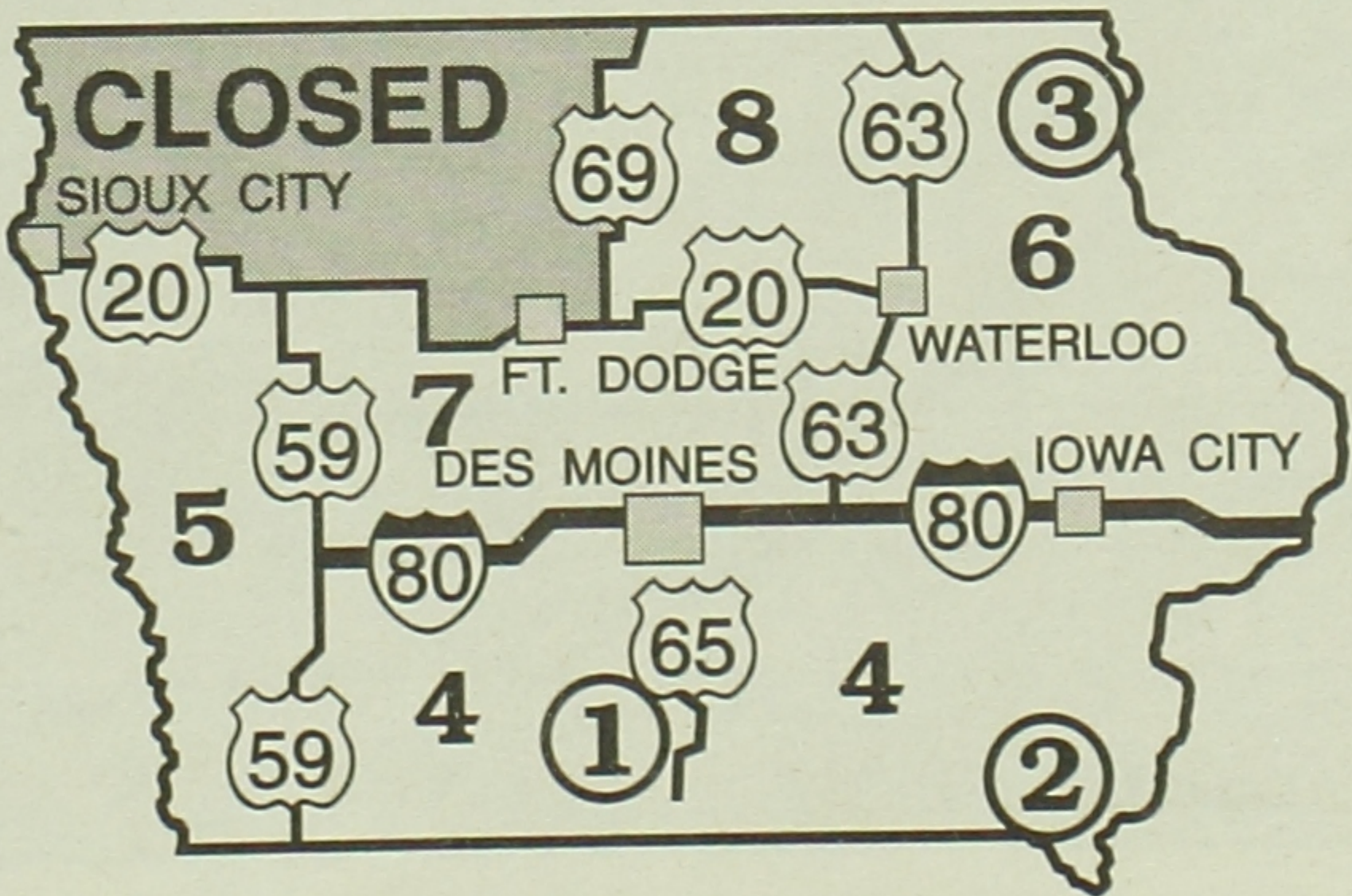
BOW-ONLY fall turkey licenses are valid statewide.

Fall turkey season is closed to nonresidents in 1999.

Fall Turkey License Quotas

- ZONE 1: 50
- ZONE 2: 50
- ZONE 3: 50
- ZONE 4: 2,500
- ZONE 5: 300
- ZONE 6: 3,000
- ZONE 7: 200
- ZONE 8: 75

1999 Fall Turkey Zones



1999-2000 TRAPPING SEASON

SPECIES	OPENING	CLOSING
Mink, Muskrat*, Raccoon, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Badger, Opossum, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote	Nov. 6, 1999	Jan. 31, 2000
Beaver	Nov. 6, 1999	April 15, 2000
Civet Cat (Spotted Skunk), Bobcat and Otter	Continuous Closed Season	
Groundhog	June 15, 1999	Oct. 31, 1999
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.		

Naturally Iowa's Wildlife is on the Web!

www.state.ia.us/wildlife

Nontoxic Shot Required on Many North Iowa Public Hunting Areas

By James Zohrer
DNR Wildlife Bureau

Again this year, non-toxic shot must be used for most shooting activities on many public hunting areas in northern Iowa. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires the use of nontoxic shot for all hunting (except deer and turkey) on all federally owned Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) to reduce lead poisoning of waterfowl and other wildlife.

In Iowa, thousands of acres of federally owned WPAs have been purchased in the last ten years in north-central and northwest Iowa. Most of these are managed by the DNR along with many thousands of acres of state-owned wildlife management areas. State and federal lands are often adjacent to each other. In order to keep confusion to a minimum and to protect our waterfowl species from lead poisoning all federal and most state public hunting areas in the prairie pothole region of Iowa have been designated as "nontoxic shot only" areas. Those areas and exemptions for the nontoxic shot requirement are listed below.

Specifically, the rule reads "Hunters may not possess any shot other than approved nontoxic shot (steel, nickel-plated steel shot, copper-plated steel shot, tungsten-iron, tungsten polymer or bismuth-tin shot) while hunting any migratory game bird, resident game bird, game animal or furbearer (except deer and wild turkey) on designated Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). The Fish and Wildlife Service has also granted temporary approval for the use of tungsten-matrix and tin shots during the 1999-2000 hunting season. Target shooting with a shotgun using any shot other than approved nontoxic shot is also prohibited on these areas." Hunting or target shooting with a rifle or



Roger A. Hill

handgun is legal if shot is not being used and if the area is open for these uses.

Public hunting areas owned or managed by county conservation boards may or may not require nontoxic shot use. Check with the local conservation board for specific regulations.

IOWA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS REQUIRING NONTOXIC SHOT

County	Wildlife Management Area
Boone County	Harrier Marsh WMA.
Buena Vista County	all state and federal areas except Bluebird Access
Cerro Gordo County	all state and federal area
Clay County	all state and federal areas except Burr Access, Dry Mud Lake, Little Sioux, Highbridge and Fen Valley WMAs, and the Ocheyedan WMA target shooting ranging
Dickinson County	all state and federal areas except the Spring Run WMA target shooting area
Emmet County	all state and federal areas except Birge Lake, Grass Lake and Ryan Lake WMAs, and the East Des Moines River Access
Greene County	all state and federal areas except Rippey Access and Mc Mahon Access
Guthrie County	McCord Pond, Lakin Slough and Bays Branch WMAs, excluding the target shooting range at Bays Branch WMA
Hamilton County	Little Wall Lake, Gordon Marsh and Bauer Slugh WMAs
Hancock County	all state and federal areas except Schuldt and Goodell WMAs
Humboldt County	all state and federal areas except Bradgate Access and Willows Access
Kossuth County	all state and federal areas except Seneca Access
Osceola County	all state and federal areas;
Palo Alto County	all state and federal areas
Pocahontas County	all state and federal areas except Kalsow Prairie
Polk County	Paul Errington Marsh WMA
Sac County	all state and federal areas except White Horse Access and Sac City Access
Winnebago County	all state and federal areas
Worth County	all state and federal areas except Brights Lake WMA,
Wright County	all state and federal areas except White Tail Flats WMA.

1999-2000 WATERFOWL SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

STATEWIDE		
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	Sept. 18-22	
	Oct. 16 - Dec. 9	
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day	Oct. 9	
Snow Geese	Oct. 2 - Dec. 26	
	Feb. 19 - March 10, 2000	
Woodcock	Oct. 2 - Nov. 15	
Snipe	Sept. 4 - Nov. 30	
Rail (Sora and Virginia)	Sept. 4 - Nov. 12	
NORTH ZONE		SOUTH ZONE
Special Canada Goose Zone	Sept. 11 - 12 ¹	NO SEASON
Canada, White-fronted	Oct. 2 - Dec. 10	Oct. 2 - Oct. 10
and Brant geese		Oct. 16 - Dec. 15

¹ In that portion of the north zone west of Iowa Highway 63, excluding the Big Marsh Wildlife Area (see map below).

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, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, and 3 scaup. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Mergansers: Daily limit is 5, including no more than 1 hooded merganser. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

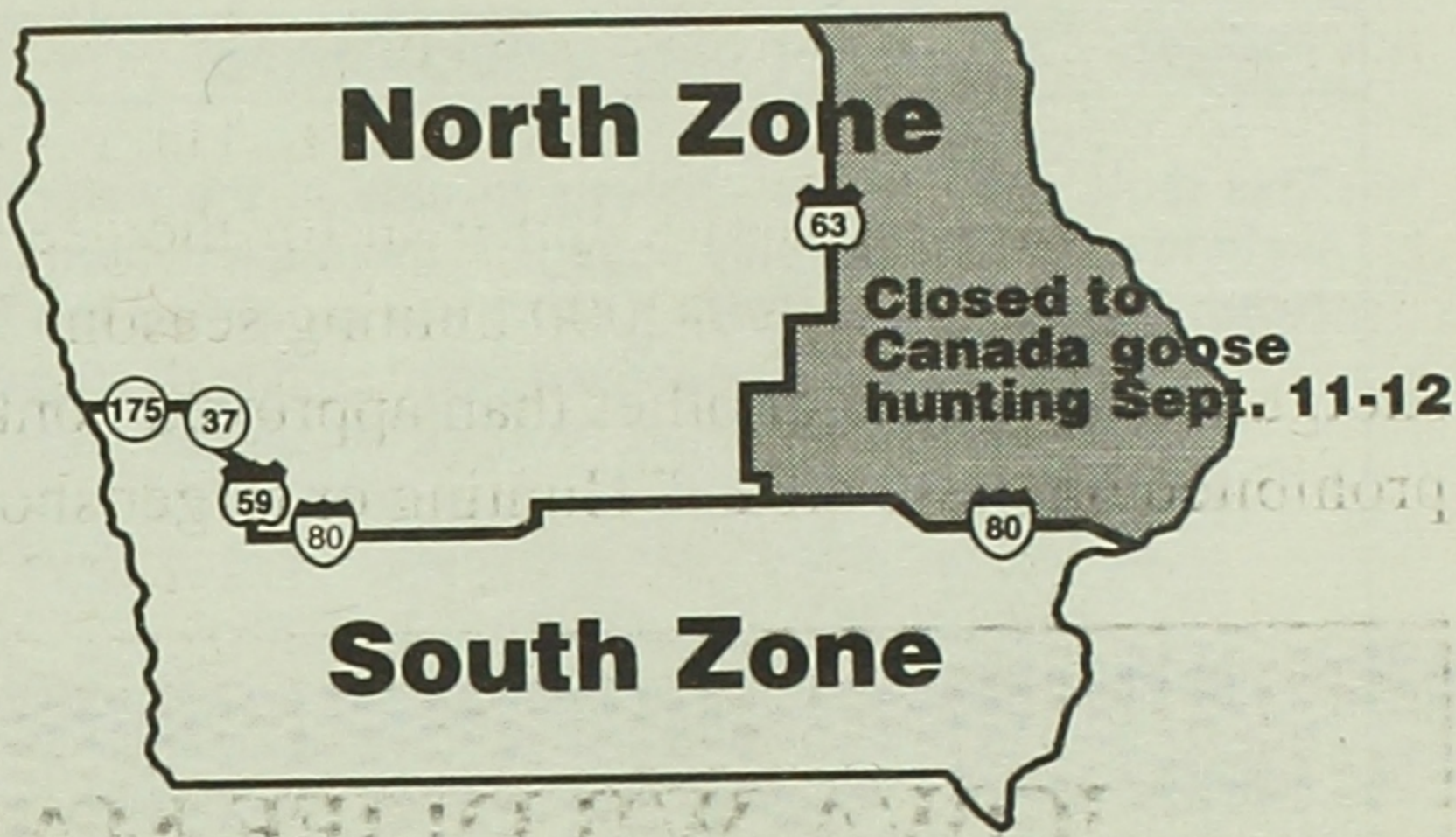
Coots: Daily limit is 15; possession limit is 30.

Geese: Daily limit for Canada geese is 2. For other geese, the daily limit is 2 white-fronted, 2 brant, and 20 snow geese. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, except for snow geese for which there is no possession limit.

Woodcock: Daily limit is 3; possession limit is 6.

Snipe: Daily limit is 8; possession limit is 16.

Rail (Sora and Virginia): Daily limit is 12; possession limit is 24.



WATERFOWL ZONE DESCRIPTION

The state will be divided by a line beginning on the Nebraska-Iowa border at State Highway 175, east to State Highway 37, south-east to U.S. Highway 59, south to I-80 and along I-80 east to the Iowa-Illinois border. A portion of the north zone east of Iowa Highway 63 will be closed to Canada goose hunting Sept. 11-12.

Migratory Bird Hunters, Register for HIP

Migratory bird hunters are again required to register with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a program designed to provide wildlife experts with better data for the management of migratory bird populations. This will be the second year in Iowa for this registration program.

Federal regulations require all migratory bird hunters to register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) before hunting. Those who fail to register or do not have proof of registration in their possession while hunting migratory birds are subject to a citation if checked by a conservation officer. Only those who hunt migratory game bird such as ducks, geese, coot, snipe, rails and woodcock, need to register. All migratory bird hunters required to have a hunting license must register annually, including those with

lifetime licenses. Hunters can register by calling 1-800-WET-LAND (938-5263) and answering a few recorded questions. General

questions will be asked, such as name, address, date of birth and the species and number of migratory birds harvested in 1998. At the conclusion of the recording, callers will be given a HIP registration number to be written in the designated box on their 1999 hunting license. The process takes approximately three minutes to complete.

The purpose of the program is to gather more reliable data for the management of migratory bird populations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will select a sample of hunters from those registered to participate in a harvest survey following the 1999-2000 hunting season. HIP will allow for more accurate harvest estimates, a cornerstone for any wildlife management program.



Roger A. Hill

CONSEP 1999 STEEL SHOT LETHALITY TABLE FOR WATERFOWL®

Proven Steel Shot Loads for Waterfowl¹
Load Velocity: 1,225 - 1,450 FPS

ACTIVITY	Typical Shooting Range of Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Steel Shot Size(s) for Activity	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (Number of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) (Given in Lead Shot Designations)
Large Geese at Long Range ² Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-65	BBB to T	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified
Large Geese Over Decoys ²	40-50	BB to BBB	1-1/8	1-2	50-55	Modified
Medium/Small Geese Long Range ² Snow, White-front, Lesser Canadas	50-65	BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys ²	40-50	2 to BB	1-1/8	1-2	60-65	Modified
Large Ducks at Long Range Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65	2 to 1	1-1/8	1-2	85-90	Full
Large Ducks Over Decoys ^{3,4}	30-45	6 to 2	1	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)
Large Ducks in Flooded Timber ^{3,4}	20-30	6 to 4	3/4	1-2	85-90	Improved Cylinder
Medium Ducks Over Decoys ^{3,4} Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	30-45	6 to 3	1	1-2	115-120	Improved Cylinder (20-35 Yards), Modified (35-45 Yards)
Small Ducks Over Decoys ^{3,4} Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	30-45	6 to 4	1	1-2	135-145	Modified (20-35 Yards), Full (35-45 Yards)
Swatter Load for Wounded Birds	20-35	7 to 5	1	1	175	Full

This table summarizes analysis to date of the waterfowl lethality data base of the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP). Responsible waterfowl hunters not only engage in thorough pattern testing and ample target practice, but also restrict shooting to ranges less than 45 yards.

Note: To date, steel #BBB (.190") has exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") the best all-around performance for taking ducks.

1 These findings are derived from testing 3" 20-gauge and 2 3/4", 3" and 3 1/2" 12-gauge steel loads. As additional pellet sizes, load configurations, and gauges are tested and data bases completed, findings will be updated and may change.

2 Steel #F (.220") in all 12-gauge load configurations has exhibited the highest crippling rate on geese of all steel pellet sizes tested. Due to inadequate pattern density, steel #F has not proven lethal on geese beyond 55 yards.

3 Steel #4 (.130") has exhibited good all-around performance for taking small and medium-sized ducks, but has not proven lethal on large ducks beyond 45 yards.

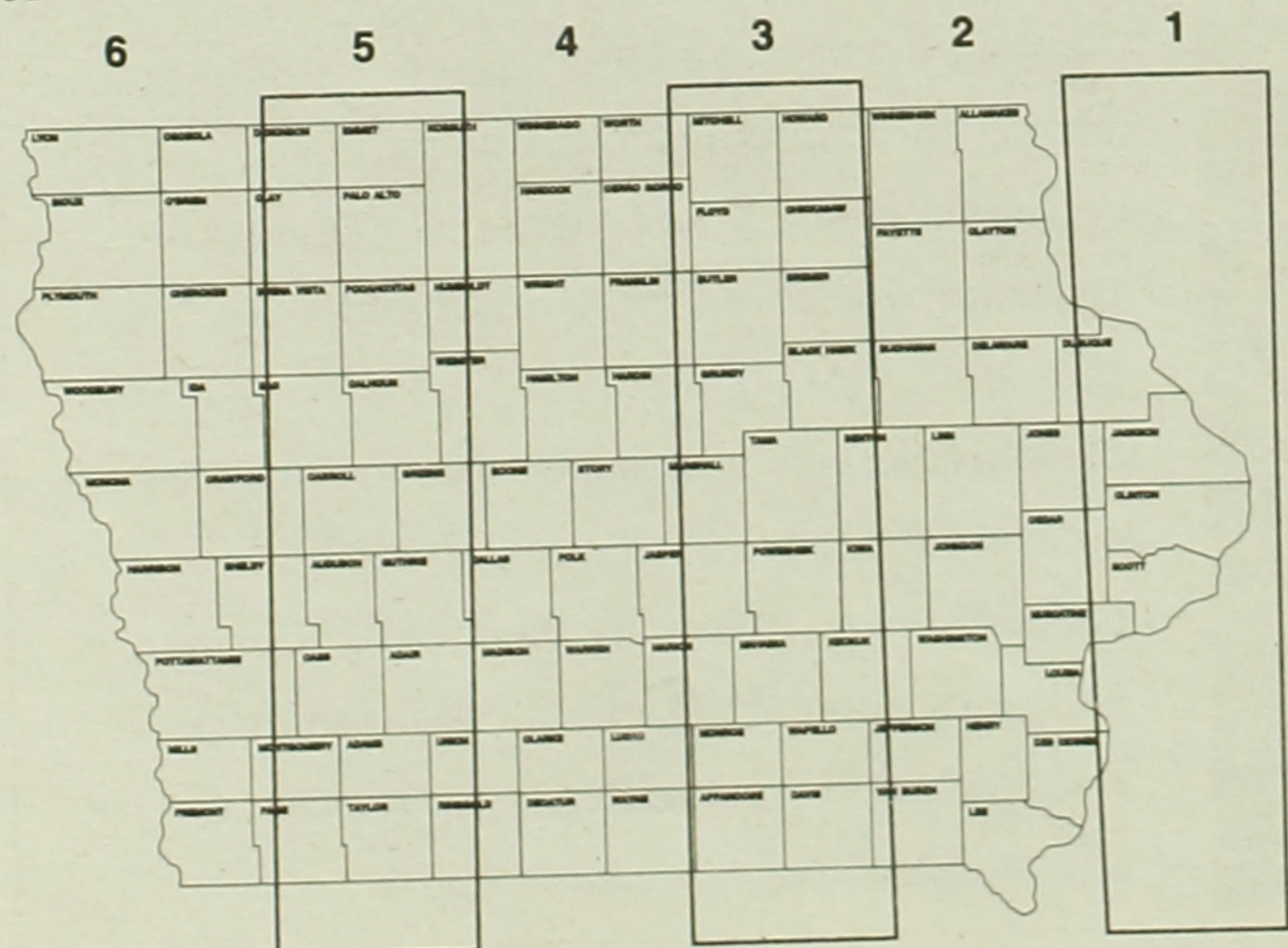
4 Steel #6 (.110") has proven lethal out to 40 yards on all ducks tested. It has proven particularly effective out to 35 yards when used with chokes no tighter than modified.

This terminal ballistics information is provided courtesy of the members of CONSEP. CONSEP is a research and information service currently funded jointly by 25 U.S. state fish and wildlife agencies; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Canadian Wildlife Service; the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC); the Office National de la Chasse, France; the Victoria Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Australia; Winchester Division/Olin Corporation; and Remington Arms Company. Contributing members include Larry Gore's Katy Prairie and Eagle Lake Outfitters, and Briley Manufacturing Company.

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SUNRISE-SUNSET SCHEDULE

Day	Jan. Rise Set	Feb. Rise Set	Mar. Rise Set	Apr. Rise Set	May Rise Set	Sept. Rise Set	Oct. Rise Set	Nov. Rise Set	Dec. Rise Set
01	7:29 4:43	7:14 5:18	6:37 5:53	5:46 6:28	4:59 7:00	5:28 6:36	5:59 5:44	6:34 4:57	7:09 4:33
02	7:29 4:44	7:13 5:19	6:36 5:54	5:44 6:29	4:58 7:01	5:29 6:34	6:00 5:43	6:35 4:56	7:10 4:33
03	7:29 4:45	7:12 5:21	6:34 5:55	5:42 6:30	4:57 7:02	5:30 6:32	6:01 5:41	6:37 4:55	7:11 4:33
04	7:29 4:46	7:11 5:22	6:32 5:56	5:41 6:31	4:56 7:03	5:31 6:31	6:02 5:39	6:38 4:54	7:12 4:33
05	7:29 4:47	7:10 5:23	6:31 5:58	5:39 6:32	4:54 7:04	5:32 6:29	6:03 5:38	6:39 4:53	7:13 4:32
06	7:29 4:48	7:09 5:25	6:29 5:59	5:37 6:33	4:53 7:05	5:33 6:27	6:04 5:36	6:40 4:51	7:14 4:32
07	7:29 4:49	7:08 5:26	6:28 6:00	5:36 6:34	4:52 7:07	5:34 6:26	6:05 5:34	6:41 4:50	7:15 4:32
08	7:29 4:50	7:07 5:27	6:26 6:01	5:34 6:35	4:51 7:08	5:35 6:24	6:07 5:33	6:43 4:49	7:16 4:32
09	7:29 4:51	7:05 5:28	6:24 6:02	5:32 6:36	4:50 7:09	5:36 6:22	6:08 5:31	6:44 4:48	7:17 4:32
10	7:28 4:52	7:04 5:30	6:23 6:03	5:31 6:37	4:49 7:10	5:37 6:20	6:09 5:29	6:45 4:47	7:18 4:32
11	7:28 4:53	7:03 5:31	6:21 6:04	5:29 6:38	4:47 7:11	5:38 6:19	6:10 5:28	6:46 4:46	7:19 4:32
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+20 min +16 min +12 min +8 min +4 min In Table

* The sunrise-sunset schedule above represents Zone 1 in extreme eastern Iowa (see map left).

* Add four minutes for each zone west of Zone 1 (see map).

* Each schedule is based on Central Standard Time.

* Add one hour for Daylight Savings Time when in effect.

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