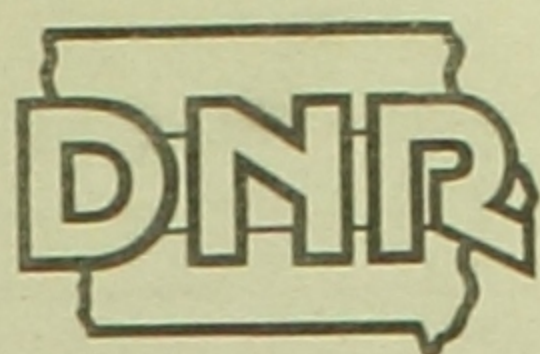


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IOWA

Special
Fall Hunting
Issue

FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FALL 1998

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FALL TURKEY HUNTING — A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

by Dale L. Garner

DNR Forest Game Research Biologist

For the hunting enthusiast, fall in Iowa offers a variety of opportunities, one of which is turkey hunting. Although spring turkey hunting is more liberal and preferred by most, fall turkey hunting offers unique opportunities not found during the spring. The air is crisp and invigorating, the foliage brilliant, most of the bugs are gone and best of all, turkeys are flocked together. In addition, the fall season provides a greater chance to bag a bird than spring because there are more turkeys available and both males and females are legal to hunt. Also, juvenile birds of either sex are somewhat more predictable in the fall and come to a call easier than spring gobblers.

Fall any-sex turkey hunting was instituted in Iowa almost two decades ago to provide additional opportunities to hunt the species. Because fall any-sex hunts are more controversial than spring male-only hunts, carefully controlled fall hunts were initiated in 1981 on an experimental basis. Unlike spring hunting, fall hunting requires more management controls simply because hens, the most important component for reproduction of the population, may be legally harvested. Since many hunters cannot distinguish the sex of turkeys during the fall, sometimes even with bird in hand, the prospect of male-only fall seasons is unrealistic.

Initially, fall hunting was only allowed in two small zones in southern Iowa that had established, stable turkey populations. However, fall turkey hunting in Iowa has changed dramatically since the initial experimental season. Currently, there are seven zones open to fall hunting, encompassing the majority of Iowa's turkey population. For fall 1998, additional acreage has been opened to turkey hunting in northeast Iowa and currently, fall turkey zones comprise almost 10 times more area than what was available in 1981.

The number of fall turkey permits issued, active hunters and turkey harvest have changed as well. In 1981, a little more than 2,100 permits, including paid-gun, archery-only and landowners, were issued for Iowa's first fall turkey season. An estimated 1,846 active turkey hunters harvested an estimated 813 wild turkeys during the initial season. As



Iowa's wild turkey population increased, the number of fall permits issued rose, reaching a peak of 14,855 permits in 1989. During that season, an estimated record 11,408 active hunters harvested an estimated record 5,276 turkeys.

Following several years of poor brood production in the early 1990s, the number of fall permits issued to Iowa hunters was reduced to protect the declining population.

However, because of improved production in the mid-90s, permit numbers have again been increased, and this fall more than 7,000 Iowans will take to the field in an attempt to harvest their Thanksgiving table fare.

As with spring seasons, Iowa's fall turkey hunters have had exceptional statewide success, averaging a near-50-percent success rate throughout the 17-year history of fall hunting. But how does one hunt turkeys in the fall? Fall turkey hunting techniques are sufficiently different from spring hunting. If anything, reliance on camouflage, sitting still and calling -- the basic spring hunting method -- may be less successful and less used than walking and flushing turkeys in the small wood lot scenarios that comprise the bulk of Iowa turkey habitat. Fall turkey hunting is synonymous with flock hunting. Finding a flock in the fall is the most difficult step to successful fall turkey hunting and often requires much time and leg work. Chances for locating a flock increase when you find food concentrations used by turkeys and locate fresh sign. Flocks, consisting mainly of family groups of hens and broods or small gangs of gobblers, are often found in hardwood stands scratching for fresh-fallen nuts or in fields devouring insects, weed seeds and waste grain.

Once a flock is located, the fall hunter deliberately scatters them, chooses a calling position close to the break point, and uses kee-kees or the lost call of a young bird and the clucks of a hen to bring back the scattered birds. Factors such as age of the birds, time of day, weather conditions and how hard the birds have been hunted affect how quickly they reassemble. Young birds scattered early in the day may begin calling and returning within minutes after the break. Yet the same birds scattered late in the day may wait until the next morning to regroup. Older birds, such as adult gobblers, may wait to regroup whenever they get around to it -- in two hours or two days.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

SHOULD IOWA HAVE A DOVE SEASON?

by Todd Bogenschutz
DNR Upland Game Research Biologist

Should Iowa have a dove season? Perhaps a more correct question would be why doesn't Iowa have a dove season.

The Iowa code lists the dove as a game bird in Iowa just as it does ducks, pheasants, rails and crows. Yet, Iowa hunters do not have the privilege to hunt doves because the DNR does not have the authority to establish a season. In order to have a dove season the Iowa legislature must add the words "mourning dove" to the list of species the DNR can set seasons for.

If the mourning dove were added to the list, the DNR could develop dove hunting guidelines based on biological principles. However, all seasons proposed by the DNR must be approved by the Natural Resource Commission (NRC). The NRC is a group of seven non-governmental Iowa citizens appointed by the governor and approved by the Senate. The Iowa code lists the NRC as the sole agency responsible for determining whether a biological balance does or does not exist based on the facts. The commission can by administrative rule extend, shorten, open or close seasons on game species in accordance with sound wildlife management principles. Thus, any seasons proposed by the DNR must ultimately be approved by the NRC. The commission bases its decisions on the advice of resource professionals and through public input.

IOWA DOVE COALITION (IDC), a grassroots movement organized last summer, is asking the Iowa Legislature to add the mourning dove to the list of species that can be hunted in Iowa. The IDC believes the decision to hunt doves in Iowa should be left to the agency designated to determine game seasons, namely the NRC. Richard Bishop, DNR wildlife bureau chief, said the bureau strongly supports the IDC and its efforts to add the mourning dove to the list of species that can be hunted in Iowa. Bishop also said the decision of whether to include the mourning dove as a game bird to be



hunted in Iowa is best left to the Iowa Natural Resource Commission and the resource professionals of the DNR.

The mourning dove is a popular game bird hunted in 80 percent of the lower 48 states, said Todd Bogenschutz, DNR upland game bird expert. An Iowa fact sheet about mourning doves and dove hunting is partly why the effort to get a dove season in Iowa has become so popular. The facts about mourning doves are:

- Mourning doves are found in every county in Iowa.
- Iowa is one of only 11 states in the lower 48 that does not allow dove hunting (see Figure).
- The mourning dove is one of America's most common and abundant birds, second only to the red-winged blackbird in its continent-wide distribution.
- The mourning dove is recognized as a game bird by both the federal government and the Iowa Legislature.
- The North American mourning dove population is estimated at 475 million birds.
- The mourning dove is the leading game bird in North America. The annual dove harvest in the lower 48 states exceeds all other migratory game bird harvests combined.

- Iowa's dove population has been estimated at 13 million birds, or three times as large as Iowa's pheasant population, and 37 times as large as Iowa's deer herd.
- An estimated 1.6 million people spent 8 million days hunting doves in the continental United States in 1996, spending an estimated \$330 to \$670 million in the process.
- If Iowa had a dove season, an estimated 42,000 Iowans might hunt doves and spend an estimated \$6 to \$11 million dollars annually in local sporting goods stores, gas stations and restaurants.

Doyle Adams, coordinator for the IOWA DOVE COALITION, says the goal of the group is a simple one — encourage the Iowa Legislature to add the words mourning dove to the Iowa code. "All we are asking is that the Legislature allow the designated agency, the Natural Resources Commission, to make the decision on whether doves should or should not be hunted in Iowa," Adams said. "The decision to hunt doves in Iowa should be based on facts, and although we have some very gifted folks in our Legislature, they do not have the training necessary to make this decision, nor should they. The reason for a Natural Resource Commission is so legislators do not have to make these kinds of decisions."

Hunters who want more information about the IOWA DOVE COALITION can contact Adams at 3716 Ingersoll Suite E, Des Moines, Iowa 50312; phone (515) 271-5761; or E-mail: iowaikes@aol.com.

The Iowa DNR has a biological fact sheet about the mourning dove in Iowa that is available from any DNR wildlife biologist, conservation officer or by calling the DNR at (515) 281-HNTR or (515) 432-2823. Those with internet access can view the dove fact sheet on the DNR's website at: www.state.ia.us/wildlife.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTER REGISTRATION REQUIRED (HIP)

Migratory birds hunters will be required to register with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a new program designed to provide wildlife experts with better data for the management of migratory bird populations.

Effective this year, 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 birds 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-WETLAND (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 1997. At the conclusion of the recording, callers will be given a HIP registration number to be written in the designated box on their 1998 hunting license. The process takes approximately three minutes to complete.

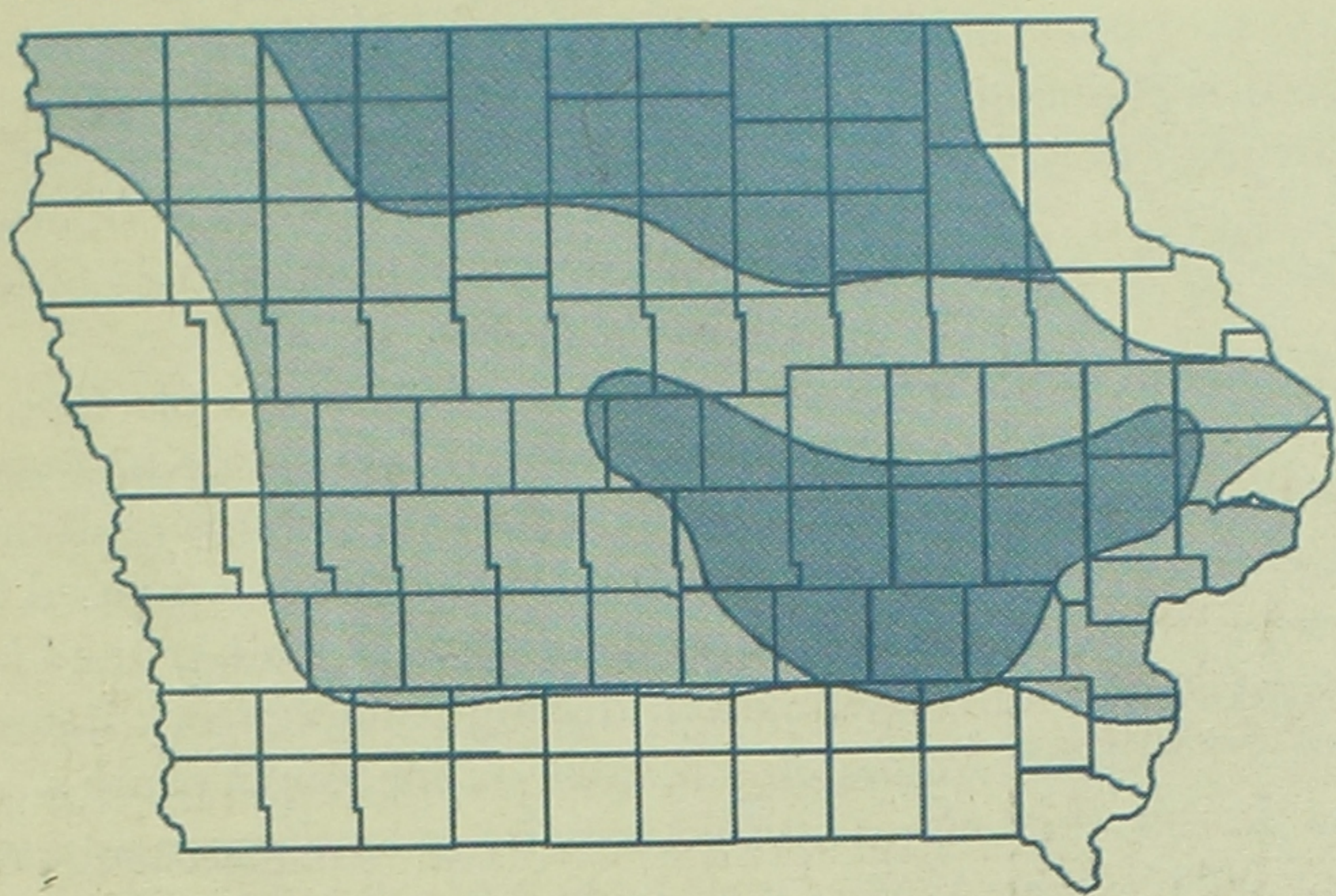
The purpose of the program is to gather more reliable data for the management of migratory bird populations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will select a sample of hunters from those registered to participate in a harvest survey following the 1998-99 hunting season. HIP will allow for more accurate harvest estimates, a cornerstone for any wildlife management program. ■

1998 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

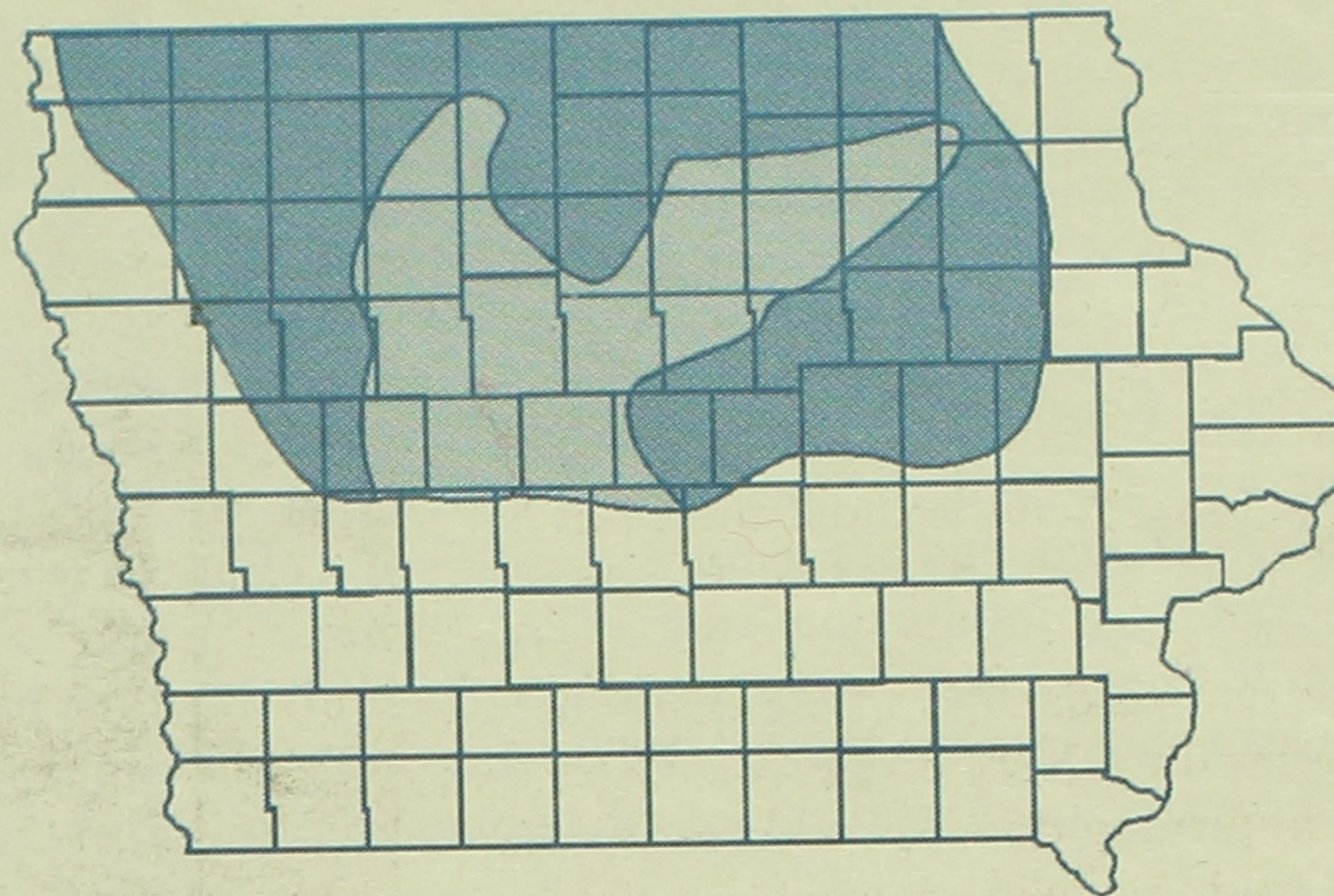
SPECIES	SEASON (dates inclusive)	AREA	BAG LIMITS		SHOOTING HOURS
			DAILY	POSSESSION	
Ducks Early season	Sept. 19-23	Statewide	6 (See 1998 hunting regulations)	12	1/2 Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset
Youth Waterfowl Day	Sept. 26	Statewide	6 ducks, 2 Canada geese, 15 coots	6 ducks, 2 Canada geese, 15 coots	
Ducks Late season	Oct. 10 - Dec. 3 Oct. 17 - Dec. 10	N. Zone S. Zone	6	12	
Canada Geese North Zone	Sept. 12-13 Oct. 3 - Oct. 31 Nov. 1 - Dec. 11	N. Zone	2 1	4 2	
Canada Geese South Zone	Oct. 3 - Oct. 11 Oct. 17 - Oct. 31 Dec. 1 - Dec. 16 Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	S. Zone	2 1	4 2	
Geese white-fronted/brant	Oct. 3 - Dec. 11 Oct. 3 - Oct. 11 Oct. 17 - Dec. 16	N. Zone S. Zone	2 white-fronted and 2 brant	4 white-fronted and 4 brant	
Snow Geese Early Season	Oct. 3 - Dec. 31	Statewide	20	Unlimited	
Snow Geese Late Season	Feb. 20 - March 10, 1999	Statewide	20	Unlimited	
Coots	Same as Ducks		15	30	
Woodcock	Oct. 3 - Nov. 16	Statewide	3	6	Sunrise to sunset

1998 GAME DISTRIBUTION

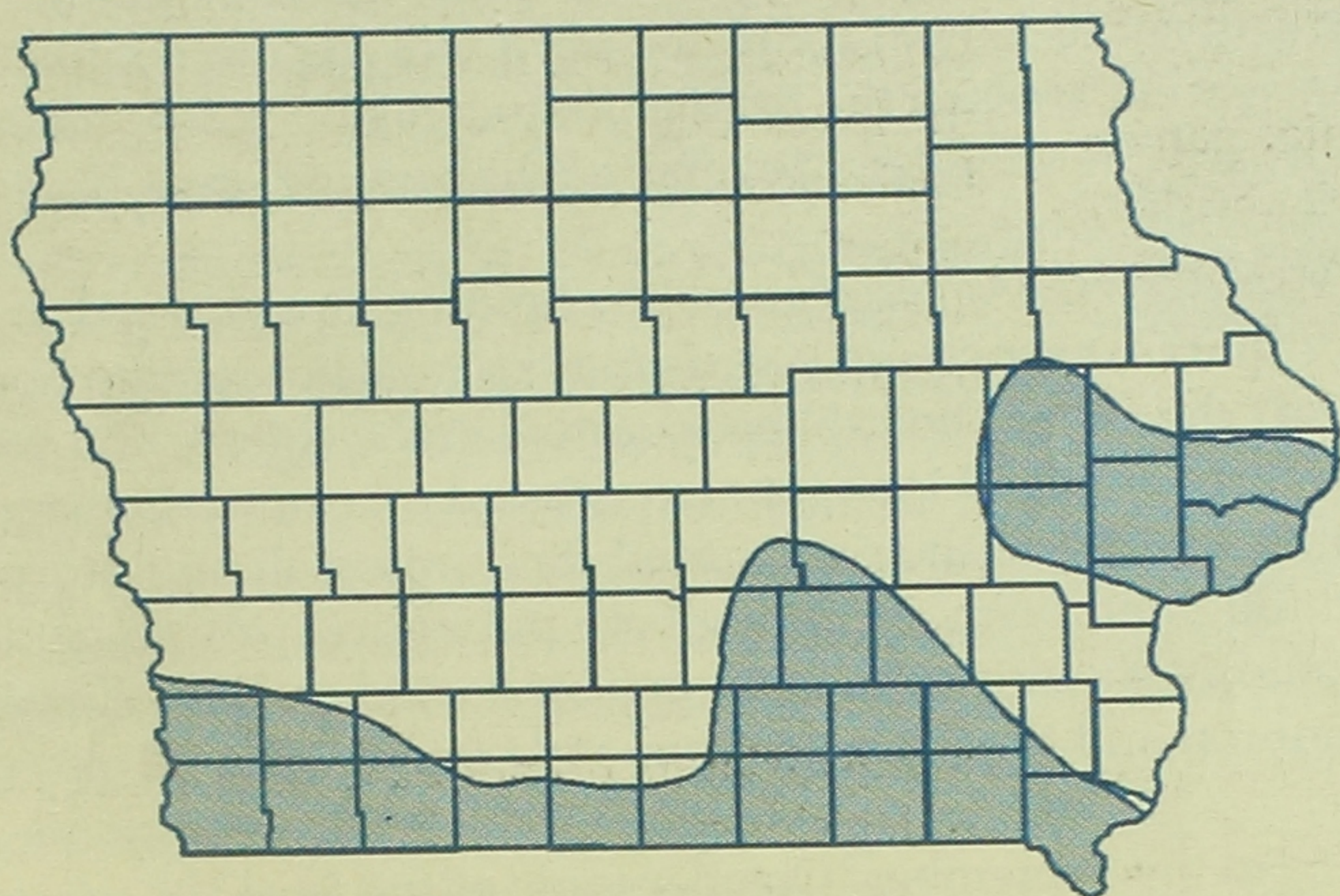
PHEASANTS



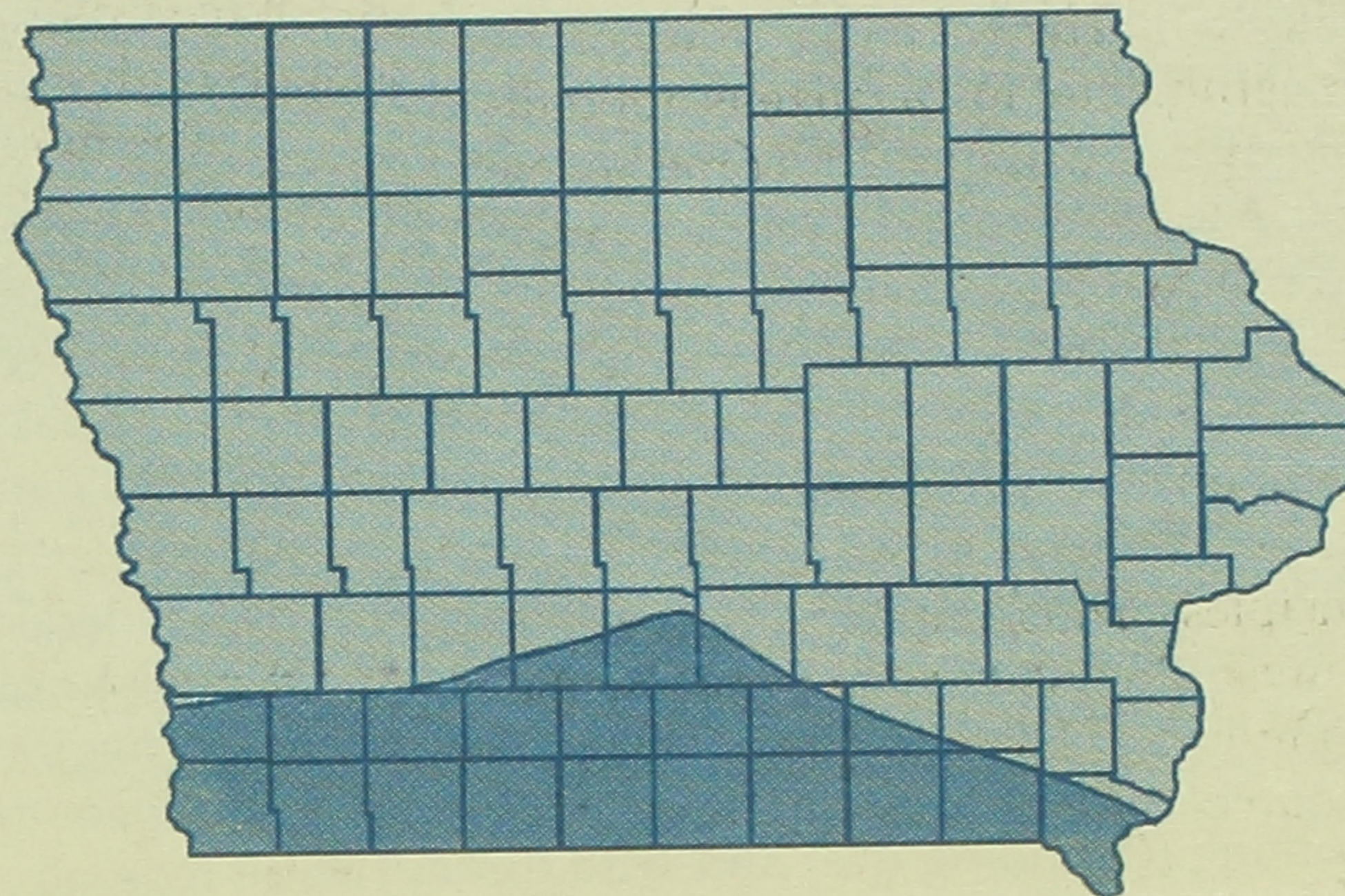
GRAY PARTRIDGE



QUAIL



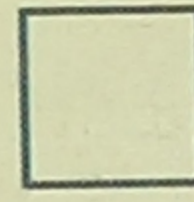
RABBIT



GOOD



FAIR



POOR

TURKEY HUNTING — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The real beauty in the fall is that most likely, more than one turkey will answer your call and work toward your position simultaneously. This offers the opportunity to be selective, and in the event that you miss a bird, you can stay put and still call additional birds to your location. Like spring hunting, patience and perseverance is the key to successful fall hunting.

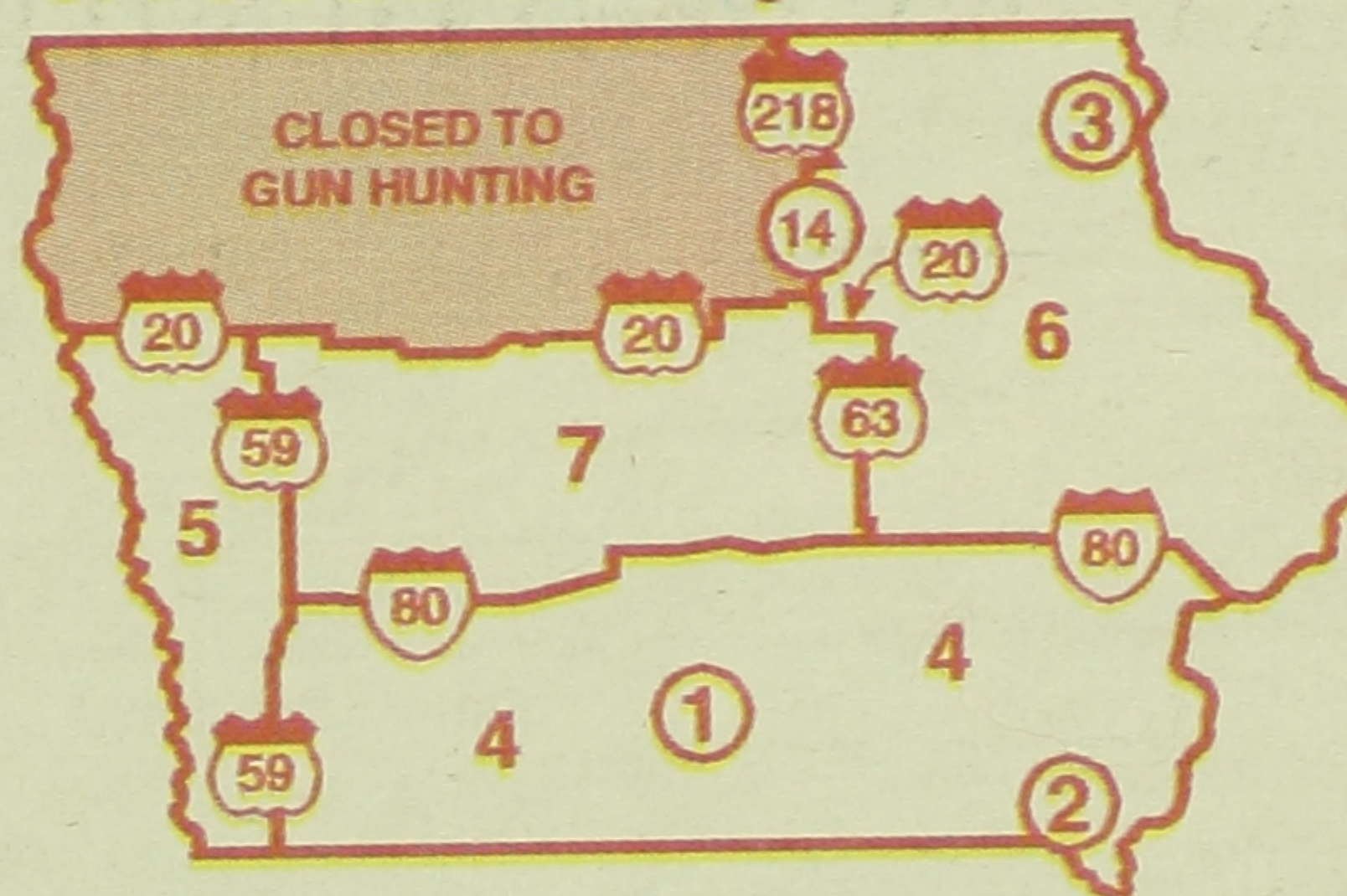
For those interested in hunting fall turkey, many of Iowa's public lands provide ample opportunity to bag a bird. In northeast Iowa, the Sny Magill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Clayton County, Volga Recreation Area in Fayette County and the French Creek and Lansing WMAs and Yellow River State Forest in Allamakee County, offer prime hunting. Turkey hunters in eastern Iowa can try White Pine Hollow State Preserve in Dubuque County. In southeast Iowa, Shimek State Forest in Lee and Van Buren counties is a good choice.

South central Iowa offers good turkey hunting opportunities along the Rathbun WMA in Lucas, Wayne, Monroe and Appanoose counties; Stephens State Forest units in Clarke, Lucas and Monroe counties; Red Rock WMA in Warren and Marion counties; Sand Creek WMA in Ringold and Decatur counties; and the DeKalb WMA in Decatur County. In central Iowa, the Brushy Creek State Recreation Area in Webster County and the Boone Forks in Webster and Hamilton counties offer good hunting opportunities. Good turkey hunting can be found in western Iowa in the Loess Hills State Forest and its associated WMAs.

In addition to public lands, Iowa's private lands offer excellent turkey hunting. Many landowners will allow turkey hunting provided hunters stop and get permission first.

Fall turkey. A time to hear turkey music, and lots of it. A unique opportunity. ■

1998 Fall Turkey Zones



Zone one is all units of Stephens State Forest west of U.S. Highway 65 in Lucas and Clarke counties. Zone two is all units of Shimek State Forest in Lee and Van Buren counties. Zone three is units of Yellow River Forest in Allamakee County. Bow-only fall turkey licenses are valid statewide. Fall turkey season is closed to nonresidents.

NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED FOR HUNTING ON SOME WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

By Terry Little
DNR Wildlife Research Supervisor

Beginning Sept. 1, 1998, hunters may not possess any shot other than approved nontoxic shot (steel shot, 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). Target shooting with a shotgun with any shot other than approved nontoxic shot is also prohibited on these areas.

Consider this scenario — A party of five pheasant hunters is hunting the Spring Run Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Dickinson County. Their dogs are excited. Pheasants are obviously running ahead. As they approach a ditch, one of the hunters calls out, "The area across the ditch is a Waterfowl Production Area (WPA). Bring all of your lead shotshells over to me and we'll leave them in a pile until we come back. We can't take lead shot into the WPA." While they are gathering and regrouping, of course, the dogs push into the pheasants and flush them out of range.

Or consider this one — A party of pheasants hunters is preparing to leave the parking lot on the Crystal Hills Wildlife Management Area in Winnebago County. A conservation officer pulls into the lot and begins checking licenses. She also asks to see their shotshells. One hunter says, "Sure officer. But why? We're not duck hunting, just pheasants." The officer replies "This is a federal Waterfowl Production Area and you can't hunt anything here unless you use nontoxic shot. That sign over there says that nontoxic shot is required." The hunter responds "But we just says that nontoxic shot is required." The hunter responds "But we just hunted another public area a half-mile down the road and didn't see any signs telling us we couldn't use lead." And the officer replies "That's OK on that area. It's owned entirely by the DNR and steel shot isn't required there."

Do these sound farfetched? They wouldn't be if new federal regulations that ban all but approved nontoxic shot on WPAs were implemented without state regulations being adjusted accordingly. Beginning this year, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires the use of nontoxic shot for all hunting (excluding deer and wild turkey) on all federally owned Waterfowl Production Areas in the nation to reduce lead poison-

ing of waterfowl and other wildlife.

In Iowa, thousands of acres of federally owned WPAs have been purchased in the last decade in the prairie pothole region (roughly north of Interstate 80 and west of U. S. Highway 63). WPAs are managed by the DNR along with many more thousands of acres of state-owned land. Many WPAs are intermingled with and indistinguishable from state-owned tracts on a Wildlife Management Area, or are found nearby. WPAs are not fenced; they are identified only by federal green and white signs. Hunters using state WMAs may have difficulty determining which tracts of land are federally owned and which are state- or county-owned, unless they are very careful. Scenarios like those described above could easily become commonplace. To keep confusion to a minimum and keep hunters out of federal court, the DNR will require nontoxic shot on many state-owned areas in the prairie pothole region where federal and state lands are intermingled. Several public hunting areas isolated from WPAs will be exempt.

Special Note: WMAs or other public hunting areas owned or managed by county conservation boards may or may not require nontoxic shot. Contact the county board headquarters in the county you are hunting for information and look for signs posted on county-managed areas. Remember, nontoxic shot is required for hunting all migratory game birds throughout Iowa, including both public and private lands. Approved nontoxic shot includes steel, copper-coated and nickel-coated steel, tungsten-iron and tungsten-polymer and bismuth-tin. ■

-- Reprinted from the September/October issue of the *Iowa Conservationist*.

AREAS WHERE NONTOXIC SHOT IS REQUIRED

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

CANADA GOOSE HUNTERS FACE REGULATION CHANGES IN 1998

By Guy Zenner
DNR Waterfowl Research Biologist

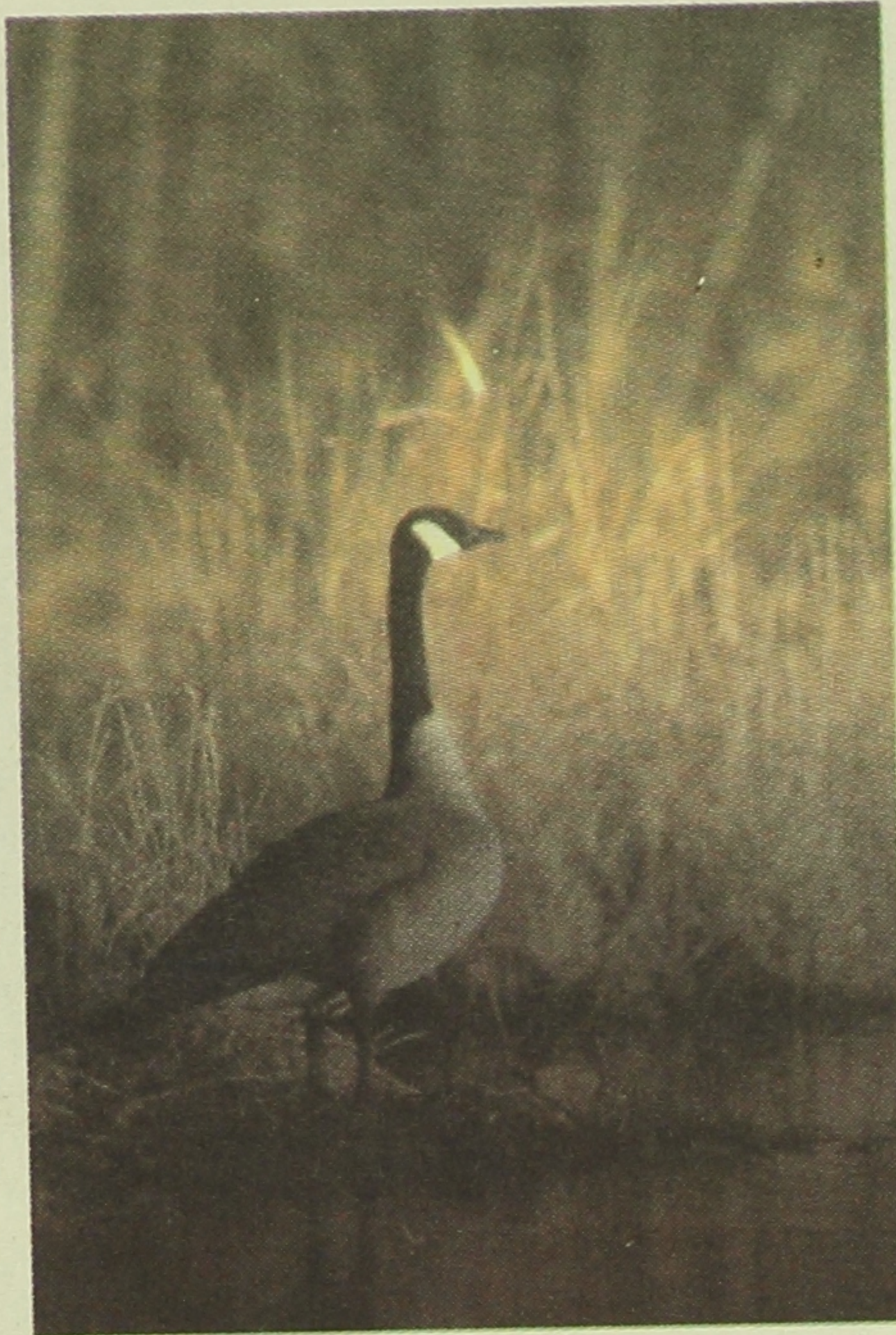
Canada goose hunters should take a close look at the regulations before they venture afield this fall. A few changes have been made that may impact where and when they hunt, as well as how many birds they take home.

The first change involved the two-day special Canada goose season Sept. 12-13. In past years, the entire north zone was open to goose hunting during the special season. This year, however, a portion of the north zone east of Highway 63 and north of Interstate 80, including the Big Marsh Wildlife Area in Butler County, was closed to goose hunting during those two days. The closure was in response to declining goose harvests in that region, an area where biologists would like to see local goose populations firmly established before subjecting them to additional harvest outside the regular season.

The second change affecting Canada goose hunters this fall is a modification in the bag and possession limits. For nearly two decades, Canada goose hunters have been able to take two birds per day, with a possession limit of four. This fall, hunters will enjoy those same daily bag and possession limits when the season opens, but beginning Nov. 1, the limits will drop to one per day and two in possession. In the south waterfowl hunting zone, the daily bag limit will revert to two Canada geese per day and four in possession beginning Dec. 1. The reason for this reduction is a dramatic decline in the number of Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) Canada geese, the major subarctic-nesting population of Canada geese which migrates through Iowa each fall. Numbers of geese in this population dropped 37 percent from 1997 to the lowest number recorded since 1982. The 1998 EPP breeding population estimate of 161,400 barely exceeds 50 percent of the Mississippi Flyway's population goal of 300,000 birds.

More importantly, there has been a steady decline in numbers of single and paired geese observed in the surveys since 1991. Single and paired birds indicate the number of breeding geese in the population. The remainder of the population is composed of nonbreeding 1- to 3-year-old geese (most EPP geese don't nest until 4 years old). Despite an early spring in northern Manitoba, which usually results in good production, the fall flight of EPP geese is expected to be smaller than last year.

As prescribed in the Flyway's management plan for EPP geese, a plan jointly developed by U.S. states, Canadian provinces, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Canadian Wildlife Service, all jurisdictions in the Flyway with a significant harvest of EPP birds will restrict hunting opportunities this fall (hunting mortality appears to be the primary factor controlling this population). In Minnesota, for example, the



Lac Qui Parle and northwest goose zones will have 20-day seasons with daily limits of one. In Minnesota's west zone, the season will be 25 days long with a bag limit of one. Outside the primary EPP harvest areas in Minnesota, the season will be 70 days long, the same as in Iowa, but the bag limit will be only one Canada goose per day for the first 30 days.

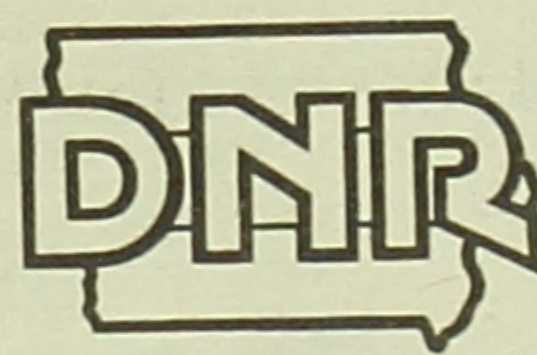
Missouri plans to close the Canada goose season entirely when the majority of EPP birds are in the state. Iowa's answer is to keep the daily bag limit at two when the season starts, but reduce it to one beginning Nov. 1. In the south zone, the daily bag limit will revert to two, with a possession limit of four, beginning Dec. 1. The reasoning behind the split limits is that most EPP geese are taken in Iowa during November. In fact, nearly half the Canada geese harvested in Iowa during November are EPP geese. After November, the harvest of EPP geese drops off significantly.

Admittedly, this is not a lot of Canada geese given that only about 30 percent of the total Canada goose harvest in most years occurs after Nov. 1.

However, all jurisdictions in the Flyway harvesting significant numbers of EPP geese are attempting to reduce harvests. The Iowa DNR is obligated to assist in this effort, not only because we agreed to but because the DNR has a responsibility to judiciously manage wildlife, migratory or residential, in a sustainable manner. This bag-limit change should permit hunters to harvest a number of local giant Canada geese, a population that is increasing, while taking the pressure off EPP birds without severely curtailing goose hunting opportunities.

The alternative — taking no action to reduce EPP harvests — could be very costly. One only has to look at the goose seasons in the eastern part of the Mississippi Flyway or the Atlantic Flyway to see what could happen if the issue is ignored. For example, the season for Atlantic Population Canada geese has been closed for the past two years and will remain closed this fall. In much of Michigan, the regular Canada goose season this fall will be 16 days long and it cannot be open after Oct. 4. These restrictions are due to declines in the Southern James Bay Population of Canada geese. Hopefully, the restrictions being implemented in Iowa and surrounding states will enable the EPP to recover so that more drastic measures are not needed in the future.

For more information about goose regulations, contact Guy Zenner, waterfowl research biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 1203 North Shore Drive, Clear Lake, Iowa 50428; or by calling 515-357-3517. ■



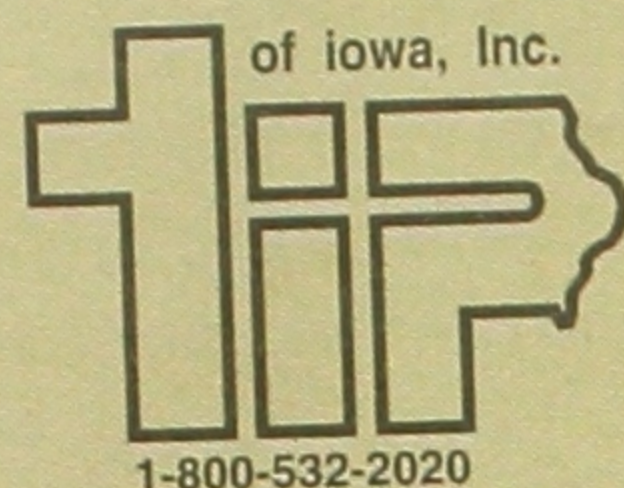
Iowa's Wildlife
on the Web!

www.state.ia.us/wildlife

TIP: MAKING POACHERS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

By Steve Dermand
DNR Law Enforcement Bureau

When people and programs run smoothly, it seems we must always make that extra effort to avoid complacency.



I believe simple human nature strives for consistency, just like deer that travel the same game trails day after day, or the ruffed grouse that use the same drumming logs year and year. Our daily routine becomes a comfortable and repetitive process on which we depend for peace of mind and physical well-being.

However, as human beings, we also welcome new challenges that give us the opportunity to improve our world. As a Turn in Poachers (TIP) member and someone who is active in fish and wildlife law enforcement, I am looking forward to future challenges involving the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the TIP organization. We are fortunate indeed to have TIP board members and DNR staff with the foresight needed to plan and initiate these new challenges for the upcoming year and into the next decade.

Iowans already familiar with the TIP program are aware that approximately one-half of the annual TIP cases the DNR investigates each year involve deer poaching. Many of the cases turn out to be violations by spotlighters and those who place a monetary value on the head and/or rack of a trophy-class whitetail deer. This commercialization of our wildlife resources will not be tolerated in Iowa: Iowa sportsmen and sportswomen deserve every opportunity possible to legally harvest a trophy-class deer during their lifetime. If left unchecked, unscrupulous hunters and poachers will rob us of that opportunity.

Through the generosity of well-known wildlife artist Larry Zach, TIP is able to enact changes targeting illegal trophy hunters. Zach, a dedicated sportsman himself, will be donating revenue from the sale of his "Old Rivals" print. The additional revenue will be earmarked for TIP reward payments in cases where trophy deer are illegally taken.

Zach feels the incentive of larger rewards will encourage more citizens to report these violators. We at the DNR agree wholeheartedly, and wish to extend our congratulations to him for his recent appointment as a TIP board member. Zach is joining a unique group of sportsmen and sportswomen whose individual dedication personifies the saying, "walk the walk." I am proud not only to work with these people on a professional basis, but to also share with them our common interest in Iowa's fish and wildlife resources.

Anyone can be a supporting member of TIP. Annual individual memberships are \$20 and can be mailed to TIP treasurer, 3071 Brittany Circle NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52411-9502. Working together, we can make poachers an endangered species. ■

HAVE YOUR DEER RACK MEASURED

by James Zohrer
DNR Wildlife Bureau

Iowa is quickly becoming known almost as much for deer hunting as it is pheasant hunting.

In the last few years, Iowa has ranked in the top five states for the number of trophy bucks shot with gun or bow based on entries into the Boone and Crockett or Pope and Young national records. Iowa also has a trophy deer records program using the same scoring system as the two national programs, although minimum qualifying scores for like categories may vary. Each year, official measurers for the Iowa program score more than 1,000 deer racks with about 400 meeting minimum scoring qualifications to be entered into the state record book.



There is no fee for having deer racks measured or entered in the Iowa Trophy Deer Record Book. Racks are classified as either typical (where all points come off the main beam in a typical manner) or non-typical (where points come off the main beam at an unusual location or angle and may be of non-typical shape).

Scores will be entered in one of five categories depending on the type of weapon used to take the deer, including shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun, archery or crossbow. Crossbow entries are only open to disabled individuals who meet the requirements to legally use a crossbow for taking deer in Iowa.

Information regarding hunters who take qualifying state record deer is published in the fall issue of the Iowa Conservationist. Rack owners also receive an award certificate and trophy deer shoulder patch.

Because of the varying degree of shrinkage, racks must air dry for 60 days before they can be measured. There is no time limit concerning how long ago the deer was killed for measurement purposes or for entry into the Iowa records. Hunters who want to have their deer racks officially measured should write the Iowa DNR, ATTN: Deer Antler Measurement, Wallace Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 for a list of official measurers, or view the list on the wildlife bureau Internet home page at www.state.ia.us/wildlife. Applicants can then contact the measurer nearest them to make arrangements to have the rack measured.

Hunters who shoot a big buck this year should consider having it measured to compare it with other big bucks taken in Iowa. Who knows, it may just make the state all-time top 10 list. ■

IOWA 1998-99 HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

SPECIES	SEASON (DATES INCLUSIVE)	SHOOTING HOURS	BAG LIMITS	
			DAILY	POSSESSION
Youth Rooster Pheasant (age 15 or younger)*+	Oct. 24-25	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	1	2
Rooster Pheasant	Oct. 31 - Jan. 10, 1999		3	12
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 31 - Jan. 31, 1999		8	16
Gray Partridge	Oct. 10 - Jan. 31, 1999		8	16
Rail (Sora & Virginia)	Sept. 5 - Nov. 13	1/2 Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset	12	24
Snipe	Sept. 5 - Nov. 30		8	16
Turkey (Gun)*	Oct. 12 - Nov. 30		One turkey per license	One turkey per license
Turkey (Bow Only)*	Oct. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 10, 1999			
Deer (Bow)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 10, 1999	1/2 Hour Before Sunrise to 1/2 Hour After Sunset	One deer per license	One deer per license
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Oct. 17 - Oct. 25* or Dec. 21 - Jan. 10, 1999			
Youth Deer (Age 12-15)+	Sept. 19 - Oct. 4			
Deer (Bonus Late Season)	Jan. 11 - 17, 1999			
Deer (Shotgun)	Dec. 5 - Dec. 9 or Dec. 12 - Dec. 20	Sunrise to Sunset	3 10 2 6	6 20 4 12
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 3 - Jan. 31, 1999			
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28, 1999			
Rabbit (Jack)	Oct. 31 - Dec. 1			
Squirrel (Fox & Gray)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, 1999	None		
Groundhog	June 15 - Oct. 31			
Crow	Oct. 15 - Nov. 30 and Jan. 14 - March 31, 1999			
Pigeon**	Oct. 1 - March 31, 1999			
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 7 - Jan. 31, 1999	None Open 8:00 a.m. First Day Only		None
Fox (Red & Gray)	Nov. 7 - Jan. 31, 1999			
Coyote	Continuous Open Season			

*Residents only **However, within 100 yards of buildings and bridges pigeons may be taken year round. + See regulations for all requirements.

SPECIAL DEER HUNTS HELP CONTROL EXPANDING HERDS

A number of special deer hunts are being held this fall and winter to help control local deer numbers in certain areas. Deer populations in some cities, state and county parks and the Army Ammunitions Plant at Burlington have reached unacceptably high levels. Special deer hunts are being implemented or are being continued from previous years in order to help control the expanding deer herd. When deer numbers become too high, damage to crops, gardens and tree and shrub plantings increase. Sport hunting is the primary method of control for local deer numbers, and where hunting had not been allowed in the past, deer numbers have increased substantially. Controlled hunts are being used to help reduce this increasing deer population. Local regulations and application dates vary from area to area. Hunters interested in taking part in these special deer hunts should call the phone numbers listed in the following table for more information.

1998-1999 SPECIAL DEER HUNTS

AREA	SEASON DATES	# LICENSES	WEAPON	APPLICATION PROCEDURES
Backbone	Dec. 5-6 Dec. 12-13	60 Antlerless 60 Antlerless	Gun	Must apply in-person at 8:00 A.M., September 12th Backbone State Park office. (First-come basis)
Dubuque County Zone	All Seasons (except youth)	295 Antlerless 5 Any Sex	Archery & Gun	Licenses available September 1st at the Dubuque County Records office. (First Come Basis) One hundred of these licenses will be designated for the City of Dubuque Archery Hunt, special requirements involved, contact the city at 319-589-4263 or 4181.
Black Hawk County Zone	Oct. 5-Jan. 10	190 Antlerless 10 Any Sex	Archery Only	Applications are available beginning August 1st from the Hartman Reserve Nature Center.
Scott County Park	Dec. 5-6 Dec. 7-8	120 Antlerless Total	Gun	Applications are available beginning August 29th and accepted through September 30th. 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 early August at the Linn County Records office. (First Come Basis)
Marion	Oct. 1-Jan. 10th	75 Antlerless	Archery Only	Applications available beginning September 1st Monday through Friday 8-4 p.m. at the Marion Police Department. (First- Come Basis)
Squaw Creek Park Conservation Kent Park	Oct. 1 -Jan. 10th Dec. 5-6 Dec. 12-13	75 Antlerless 75 Antlerless 75 Antlerless	Archery Only Gun	Applications are available from Linn County beginning July 1st until August 10th (Lottery) Must apply in-person September 26th at Kent Park. (First-come basis) Park office opens at 8:00 A.M.
Ammunition Plant	All Seasons	500 Antlerless	Archery & Gun	Filled
Polk County Zone	Varies by location	500 Antlerless	Archery & Gun	Licenses available September 1st at the Polk County Conservation Board, Polk County Recorder, Des Moines Water Works, and sporting good stores to be determined. (First Come Basis) Certain areas will be Archery Only, special requirements involved.
Springbrook	Dec. 5-6	50 Antlerless	Gun	Applications available September 1st at the IDNR SW District Office. Ph. 712-769-2587. Applications accepted at the park beginning October 5th (First-come basis)
Viking Lake	Dec. 5-6	40 Antlerless	Gun	Applications available September 1st at the IDNR SW District Office. Ph. 712-769-2587. Applications accepted at the park beginning October 5th (First-come basis)
Lake Panorama	Oct. 1-Dec. 4 Dec.21-Jan.10	50 Antlerless 3 Any-sex	Archery Only	Members and guest only
Lake Manawa	Oct. 1 -Dec. 4	30 Antlerless	Archery Only	Available September 1st at the park office (First-come basis)

CONSEP 1998 STEEL SHOT LETHALITY TABLE FOR WATERFOWL®

Proven Steel Shot Loads for Waterfowl¹

Load Velocity: 1,225 - 1,425 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	3-4	45-50	Improved Modified
Large Geese Over Decoys ²	40-50	BB to BBB	1-1/8	3-4	45-50	Modified
Medium/Small Geese Long Range ² Snow, White-front, Lesser Canadas	50-65	BB to BBB	1-1/4	3-4	55-60	Improved Modified
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys ²	40-50	2 to BB	1-1/8	3-4	55-60	Modified
Large Ducks at Long Range Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65	2 to 1	1-1/8	2-3	80-85	Full
Large Ducks Over Decoys ^{3,4}	30-45	6 to 2	1	3-4	85	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)
Large Ducks in Flooded Timber ^{3,4}	20-30	6 to 4	3/4	4	85	Improved Cylinder
Medium Ducks Over Decoys ^{3,4} Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	30-45	6 to 3	1	4	110	Improved Cylinder (20-35 Yards), Modified (35-45 Yards)
Small Ducks Over Decoys ^{3,4} Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	30-45	6 to 4	1	3	130-140	Modified (20-35 Yards), Full (35-45 Yards)
Swatter Load for Wounded Birds	20-35	7 to 5	1	--	160	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.

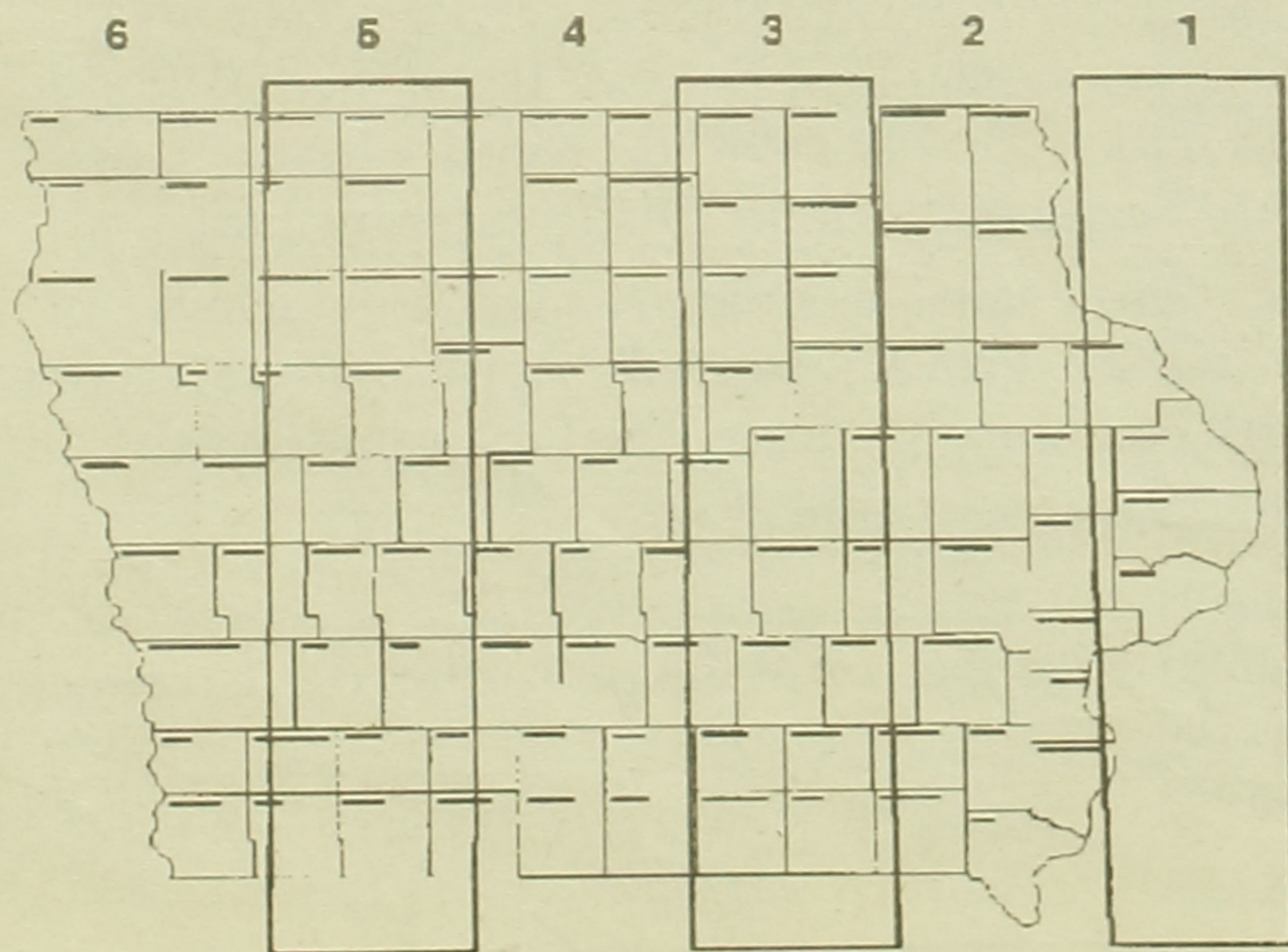
4 Steel #6 (.110") has proven lethal out to 40 yards on all ducks tested. It has proven particularly effective out to 35 yards when used with chokes no tighter than modified.

This terminal ballistics information is provided courtesy of the members of CONSEP. CONSEP is a research and information service currently funded jointly by 25 state fish and wildlife agencies; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Canadian Wildlife Service; the Victoria Department of Conservation 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 a.m. p.m.	Feb. Rise Set a.m. p.m.	Mar. Rise Set a.m. p.m.	Apr. Rise Set a.m. p.m.	May Rise Set a.m. p.m.	Sept. Rise Set a.m. p.m.	Oct. Rise Set a.m. p.m.	Nov. Rise Set a.m. p.m.	Dec. Rise Set a.m. p.m.
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
12	7:28 4:54	7:02 5:32	6:19 6:06	5:27 6:40	4:46 7:12	5:39 6:17	6:11 5:26	6:47 4:45	7:20 4:33
13	7:27 4:55	7:00 5:33	6:18 6:07	5:26 6:41	4:45 7:13	5:41 6:15	6:12 5:25	6:49 4:44	7:20 4:33
14	7:27 4:56	6:59 5:35	6:16 6:08	5:24 6:42	4:44 7:14	5:42 6:14	6:13 5:23	6:50 4:43	7:21 4:33
15	7:27 4:57	6:58 5:36	6:14 6:09	5:23 6:43	4:43 7:15	5:43 6:12	6:14 5:21	6:51 4:43	7:22 4:33
16	7:26 4:59	6:56 5:37	6:13 6:10	5:21 6:44	4:42 7:16	5:44 6:10	6:15 5:20	6:52 4:42	7:22 4:33
17	7:26 5:00	6:55 5:38	6:11 6:11	5:20 6:45	4:41 7:17	5:45 6:08	6:16 5:18	6:53 4:41	7:23 4:34
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31	7:15 5:17		5:47 6:26		4:31 7:29		6:33 4:59		7:29 4:42



* The sunrise-sunset schedule above represents Zone 1 in extreme eastern Iowa (See map at 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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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, 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, 900 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 5031900034