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IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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FISH BASS IN JULY AND AUGUST

By E. B. Speaker
Superintendent of Fisheries

ANGLING for the big brothers of the sunfish family is more popular this year than ever before. Whatever the cause, the commission is receiving a constant flow of glowing reports of limit catches, and of record-breaking sizes. One old green-back from Lake Manawa holds the heavyweight record for largemouth so far this year, tipping the scales at eight and a quarter pounds.

So far the largemouth has hogged the show, but neophyte and expert alike are waiting impatiently for streams to clear to enjoy the savage strikes of the smallmouths.

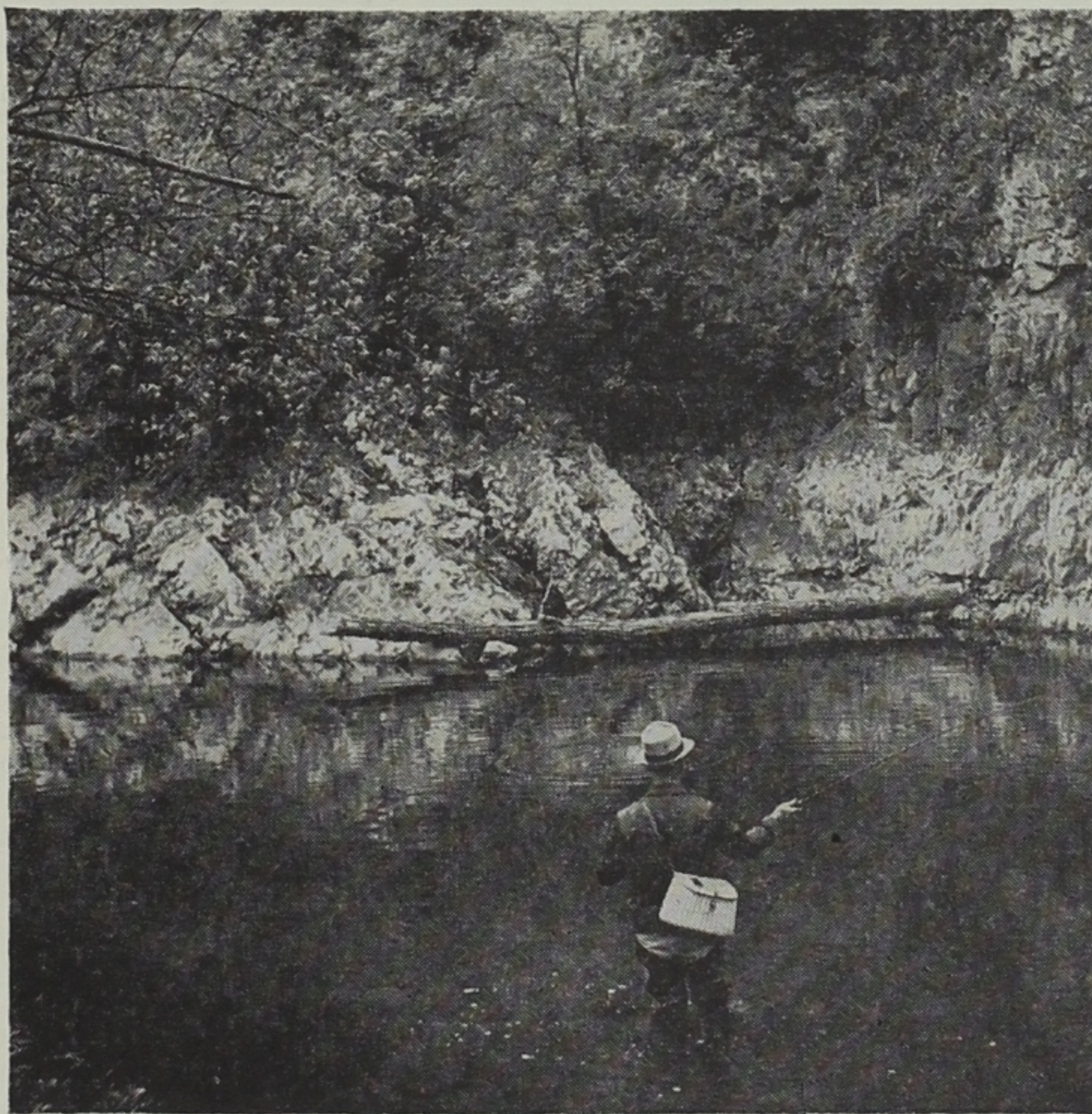
And while we are on the subject of bass, let's not forget the two true basses of Iowa, affectionately called "silvers" and "streakers," but which are correctly called white and yellow bass. These two gamey citizens have carried much of the rod pressure in several of the major fishing waters the past few years with far too little credit.

There are still many anglers who have difficulty in distinguishing the smallmouth from the largemouth and the white from the yellow bass, so a few pointers may prove helpful. The upper jaw of the smallmouth does not extend past the center of the eye, and there is no deep notch in the dorsal or top fin. The color is usually brownish or bronze, with vertical bars.

The base of the upper jaw of the largemouth nearly always extends past the center of the eye, and there is a deep notch between the soft and spiny portion of the dorsal or top fin. The color is usually dark or silvery green, with a dark stripe along the body.

One can usually tell the white from the yellow bass at a glance. The stripes running lengthwise in the white bass are narrow and

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Angling for the big brothers of the sun fish family is more popular than ever before. Many of the rocky streams of northeast Iowa provide homes for that finest of fighters, the smallmouth bass.—Jim Sherman photo.

SIXTY AND SIX—OR WHAT?

Cut in Duck Season and Bag Limit
Indicated by Fish and Wildlife
Service

SPEAKING before the summer meeting of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, in convention at Chattanooga, Tennessee, Dr. Clarence Cottam, assistant director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Survey, stated that the waterfowl population has decreased 36 per cent during the past two years, while the sale of duck stamps for wildfowl shooting has

increased almost 50 per cent in the same period.

This indicates the necessity for cutting the hunting season on wildfowl or reducing the daily bag limit and possibly both, according to Dr. Cottam. No definite decision, however, will be made concerning the new regulations until final information is secured from the breeding grounds in Canada and the northern tier of states.

There is a strong possibility that the present season of 80 days will be cut to 60 and that the daily bag limit will be set at eight, seven or even six birds, the lowest in history.

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TALL TALES ABOUT SNAKES

By Ellis A. Hicks
Cooperative Research Unit

"AND the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."

From the beginning the relationship between man and snake has been one of both veneration and fear. The Christian and Jewish religions have generally considered the snake as evil and have used it as a symbol of evil. In early religions of Egypt, India, and China the snake was revered and worshipped as an earthly medium having contact with the gods of rain, sun, and fertility of the soil.

Snake worship has gradually disappeared throughout the world. However, even today, a few scattered peoples still include snakes in their tribal ceremonies. The Hopi Indians of Arizona are famous for their snake dance.

A search is made to the north, south, east, and west. All the snakes found, including many rattlesnakes are brought to the village and given to the snake priests who wash them and place them in clay jars until the ceremonial day. On the day of the dance, the snake priests perform a strenuous circular dance to the rattles and rhythms of their orchestra.

The Hopi ceremony is supposed to bring rain, the snakes relaying the Hopi prayers and messages to the rain god living underground.

You think this belief foolish?

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Iowa Conservationist

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*Killed in action.

POLLUTION SURVEY

The State Board of Health conducted a survey of streams in the Waterloo vicinity during the past week to determine the extent of pollution and the sources.

Ben Williamson, field man who conducted the survey at the request of Black Hawk county sportsmen's groups and interested citizens, reports that several cases of industrial pollution and municipal pollution were investigated.

In every case except one the offenders agreed to take steps to eliminate the causes or abate them if complete elimination is not possible.

The exception, Williamson said, was a downtown business house which refused to cooperate, saying it was not interested in cleaning up the Cedar River.

—Milo F. Gerry, Waterloo Courier



Reports from the Fish and Wildlife Service indicate a major decline in North American waterfowl populations. Fish and Wildlife Service officials believe there must be a sharp reduction in the number of ducks and geese taken by hunters this fall. This photograph of a flock of geese settling in a Mills county corn field may become a rare sight if present trends continue.

Sixty and Six . . .

(Continued from page 49)

A graph presented by the wildfowl expert showed that from the 1944 peak of an estimated 125,350,000, the number of ducks and geese has dropped to 80,000,000 in 1946—a decrease of 36 per cent. The number of migratory waterfowl hunters, on the other hand, showed a rise of 517,006 from 1,169,362 in 1944 to 1,686,368 by March 31, 1946. This increase of 44 per cent occurred during the same two year period when ducks were declining 36 per cent.

The graph shows a steady wildfowl increase from the low ebb of 40,000,000 in 1937 to the peak of 125,350,000 in 1944. Populations in in-between years were: 1938—50,000,000; 1939—57,000,000; 1940—65,000,000; 1942—100,000,000; 1943

—120,000,000. In 1945 the population took a sudden drop to 105,500,000 and further decline to 80,000,000 at the present time.

This disturbing decline is attributed by Dr. Cottam to three major factors: drought in the northern breeding grounds, overshooting, and disease.

In a subsequent statement, Albert M. Day, director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said: "In the years immediately ahead, the wild ducks and geese of this country are going to face the greatest army of hunters in all history. A declining period in waterfowl is all too plain. Increased hunting pressure is fact and not fiction. It is going to take the best kind of management possible to prevent further cuts into the breeding stocks of waterfowl."

GUN REPAIR TIME

Now is the best time of the year to send your gun to the gunsmith for repair or adjustment. Don't put it off until next September and expect to get the favorite fowling piece back for the fall shooting. If you have a good gunsmith in your locality, take your gun to him now if it is in need of some tuning up and if you don't have such a craftsman available pack up the old fuzzle and send it back to the factory from whence it came.

All gun manufacturers maintain custom gun repair and service departments. They have trained men who will look it over and estimate the cost of what you want done to the gun, and also they will advise you of any additional repairs or such that the gun may need.

In sending in your gun, tag it with your name and address and the model and serial number of

the gun. Pack it well in a good stout box or heavy cardboard carton. Paste or attach to the box in some manner a letter instructing them what you want done to the gun. Don't put it in the gun case as that only means an additional item for the factory to take care of and it might get lost in the shuffle. And remember, send it in or take it in now.

—Frank Powers,
Cedar Rapids Gazette

From infancy man is taught a legendary version of wildlife, handed down through the ages; and there is little hope that this teaching will not be fed to future generations. Regrettable indeed is the fact that most so-called nature writers of today are themselves ignorant of the true characters of wild creatures and can do little to enlighten the public.

—George G. Goodwin,
American Museum

There aint mennoy things much wuss kin happen to a feller then to come home after a all day's fishin' trip an' fin' out he's got company.

The man who said a feller is away from all his troubles when he's out fishin' aint never tried fishin' in a snag out of a boat with two poles when the wind's a blowin'.

I aint never molested ennybuddy when he's a fishin', but when I see a feller fishin' with his line tied ter a cane pole about three feet back from the tip I gotta watch my step.

Sooner or later every feller has ter make up his min' to be either a fisherman or a golf player. He can't be both.

Spite o' what people say I aint never heered a fisherman tell a lie. Course ther's been a powerful lot o' exaggeratin' bein' done. Reminds me, did you ever see a feller runnin' around town braggin' about the big duck he killed yistiddy?

The annual fish fry at the Dobbs Lake Fishing Club had to be put off till next Sunday. By the time the committee got down to the fish market Sattidy night they was all sold out.

GONE FISHIN'

If you can't find your man around these days chances are he is between here and the Canadian line on a fishing trip. The claim that this town has more fishermen per block than any other in the neighborhood might well be supported by fact if an examination of the subject were made.

The present rush to the fishing waters follows the war years when lack of tires and gasoline, together with the thought a fellow should stay on the job while the boys are fighting, kept everybody at home. With these restrictions removed there is a lot of catching up to do in the fishing business.

Best fish story of the week is told by Curtis Kluger. While he was fishing Monday off Big Stony on Spirit Lake with the Renn Klugers of Des Moines and the Fred Thackers, he pulled in a small piece of a metal airplane rib. The payoff on this one is that at the same spot some five or six years ago he pulled in a piece of airplane which had crashed into the lake. After his years of war service he resumes fishing, and starts pulling in airplane parts where he left off before he enlisted.

—Swea City Herald

COMMISSION ACTION JUNE 1946

THE June 3 and 4 meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Roosevelt Hotel, Cedar Rapids, June 3, and at Lake MacBride State Park near Iowa City June 4.

Members present were: E. B. Gaunitz, F. W. Mattes, Mrs. Addison Parker, F. J. Poyneer, R. E. Stewart, and E. G. Trost.

The commission:

Approved permit request of Bell Telephone Company to place submarine cable across Spirit Lake Inlet Bay.

Authorized attendance of two staff members at annual meeting of Association of Midwest Fish and Game Enforcement Officers at Itasca State Park, Minnesota, subject to Executive Council approval.

Approved three eligibility lists established at recent conservation officer's school.

Authorized issuance of scientific collector's permit to W. C. Starret, Ames, to be used for collecting fish in the Des Moines River for research purposes.

Authorized attendance of one member of the commission and one member of the staff at the National Conference on State Parks to be held in California and Oregon, subject to Executive Council approval.

Authorized attendance of two staff members at fire equipment demonstration at Roscommon, Michigan and Trout Lake, Wisconsin, subject to Executive Council approval.

Authorized expenditure of \$1,500 for cooperation with the U. S. Geological Survey in stream flow studies.

Authorized opening of the Cold

Spring Recreational Reserve for camping.

Rejected offer of L. E. Swanson of Lake City to purchase lots on North Twin Lake in Calhoun county.

Reaffirmed former negative stand in regard to the proposed Moscow Dam construction.

Authorized re-investigation of the proposed re-location of Highway 18 east of MacIntosh Woods along Clear Lake.

Authorized investigation of legal aspects of issuance of a commercial water scooter dock at Arnolds Park.

Authorized drawing of cooperative agreement between State Conservation Commission, Warren County, and certain land holders relative to road work on the east side of Lake Ahquabi State Park.

Adopted a policy relative to multiple use of certain state areas and approved the use of funds from the Fish and Game Division for game developments and the use of funds from Lands and Waters Division for forestry developments.

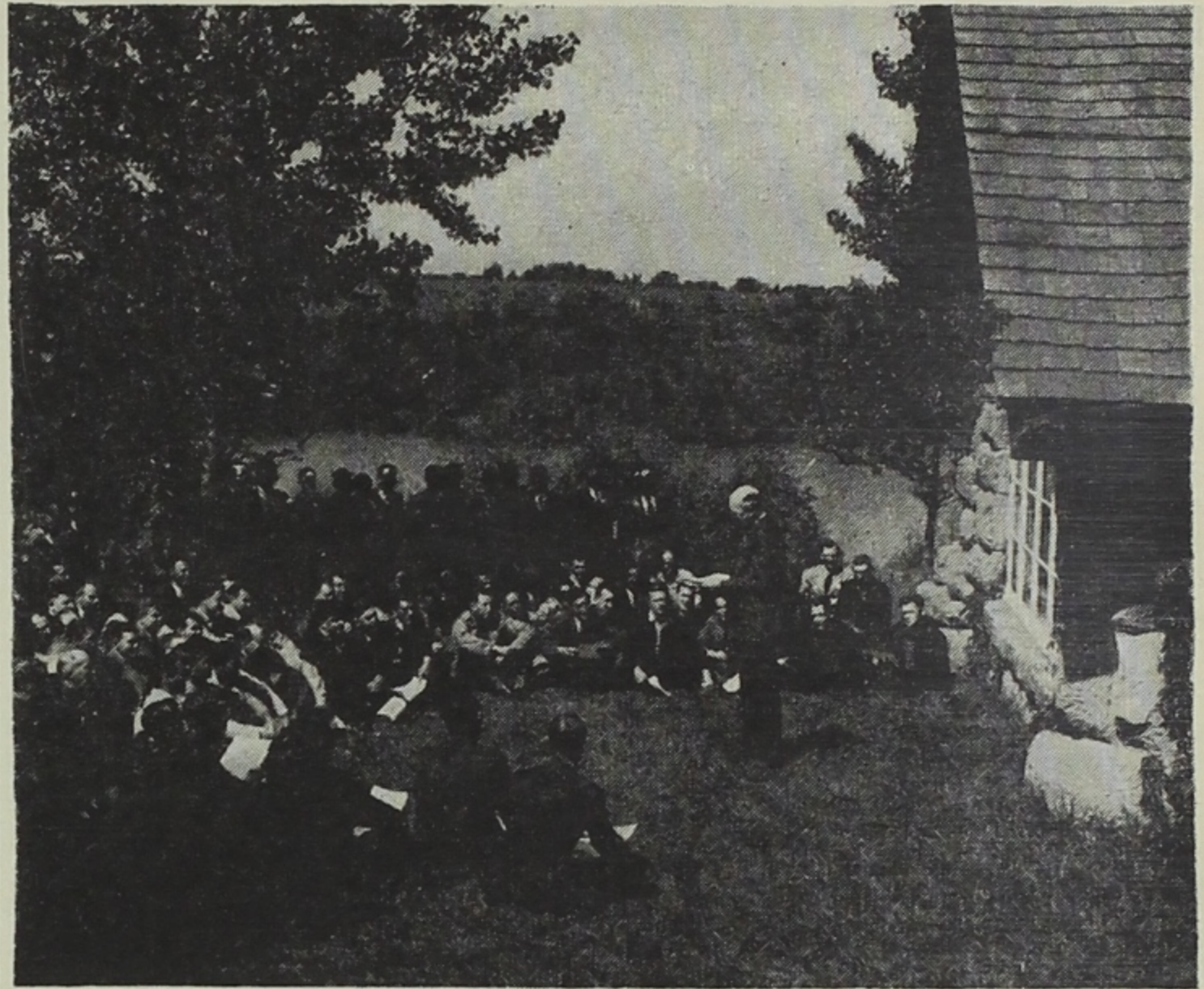
Authorized discontinuance of the Farm Forestry Program, a war project, at the end of the current fiscal year.

Rejected request of Pine Lake Wildlife Club to use Conservation Commission funds in repairing dam on the Iowa River.

Authorized cooperative arrangement with the Board of Health and Department of Agriculture in securing sprayer duster machine and equipment and authorized expenditure of not more than \$400 for such equipment and material.

Authorized employment of John Wakefield as superintendent of forestry.

Re-adopted policy, effective July



The Conservation Commission approved three eligibility lists for fish and game and lands and waters conservation officers and for lake patrolmen established at the Lake Ahquabi conservation officers examinations.—Jim Sherman photo.

1st, of mandatory old age retirement, discontinued as a war measure.

Authorized the repair of the Sixteen to One Bridge over the Des Moines River at Ledges State Park.

Requested the Attorney General's office to start proceedings against the driver of the overloaded truck which damaged the Sixteen to One Bridge.

Rejected the offer of Kenneth Sonderleiter for the loan of two black bear for the summer.

Rejected the request of the secretary of the Fort Atkinson School Board for permission to rent the James dwelling at Fort Atkinson Historical Reserve.

Approved the request of the Izaak Walton League at Keosauqua to hold a dog bench show at Lacey-Keosauqua Park June 16.

Approved request of Sidney L. Stumbo of Ogden for permission to operate water pump on the Boone River for gravel operations.

Approved request of L. P. Stillman for dock construction in Tuttle Lake subject to lands and waters chief's approval.

Granted conditional dock permit on Rice Lake to Melvin McKee.

Approved request of Izaak Walton League at Emmetsburg to construct three public docks on Five Island Lake.

Disapproved application of Ludwig W. Hammer to construct dock on Swan Lake.

Authorized director to accept concession agreement with Lake View Commercial Club to hold outboard motor boat races on Black Hawk Lake.

Approved concessionaires' request to increase the charge for swimming from twenty cents to twenty-one cents, subject to OPA regulations, and to eliminate the \$1.50 per day boat charge and use the hour or half day charge at the same rates as heretofore estab-

lished. Refused request of concessionaires to eliminate checking service or to increase charge for same.

Approved applications for concession contracts at Lewis and Clark State Park, Gull Point Lake Reserve, Pine Lake Recreational Reserve, Okamanpedan Lake Reserve.

Approved application for sea plane landings on Five Island Lake during July 4th celebration, subject to approval of the Iowa Aeronautics Commission.

Disapproved commercial sea plane operations on Lake Manawa.

Denied request of Jack E. Woodward to purchase the Cold Spring Recreational Reserve.

Authorized acceptance of options on sixty acres of land adjacent Waubonsie State Park at \$20 per acre.

Held in abeyance the appointment of superintendent of game to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of Taylor Huston.

Adjourned.

Reconvened June 4.

Authorized communication to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, advising that the Conservation Commission will support their regulations for migratory waterfowl for the coming season and that the Conservation Commission has every confidence in their program.

Rejected application of E. E. Rickey of Panora for permission to remove the dam in the Raccoon River at Panora.

Approved contract with the city of Guttenberg for maintenance of public access road to Bussey Lake.

Informed the Maquoketa chapter of the Izaak Walton League that removal of size limits on fish taken from Horseshoe Pond was a function of the State Legislature.

Accepted Wolfram option for \$1000 on three and a half acres

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The Conservation Commission recently authorized the reconstruction of the conservation traveling exhibit for use by county fairs and similar organizations.—Jim Sherman photo.

TO PROTECT EAST ARM OF AHQUABI FROM FILLING UP

CO-OPERATION, with a big "C," will be the secret of the successful completion of a project to protect the east arm of Lake Ahquabi from filling with silt from the farms in its watershed.

That co-operation is coming from the farmers in the area draining into the east arm, from the federal soils conservation service, from the Warren county supervisors, the county engineer, and from the Iowa Conservation Commission. And back of it all in getting all the forces together has been the Izaak Walton League.

The Conservation Commission has already erected a silt catching dam at the south end of the lake. But here the commission controlled the land both above and below the dam. This has practically stopped siltation in the south arm of the lake. Fishermen have found it clearer this season than ever before in its history.

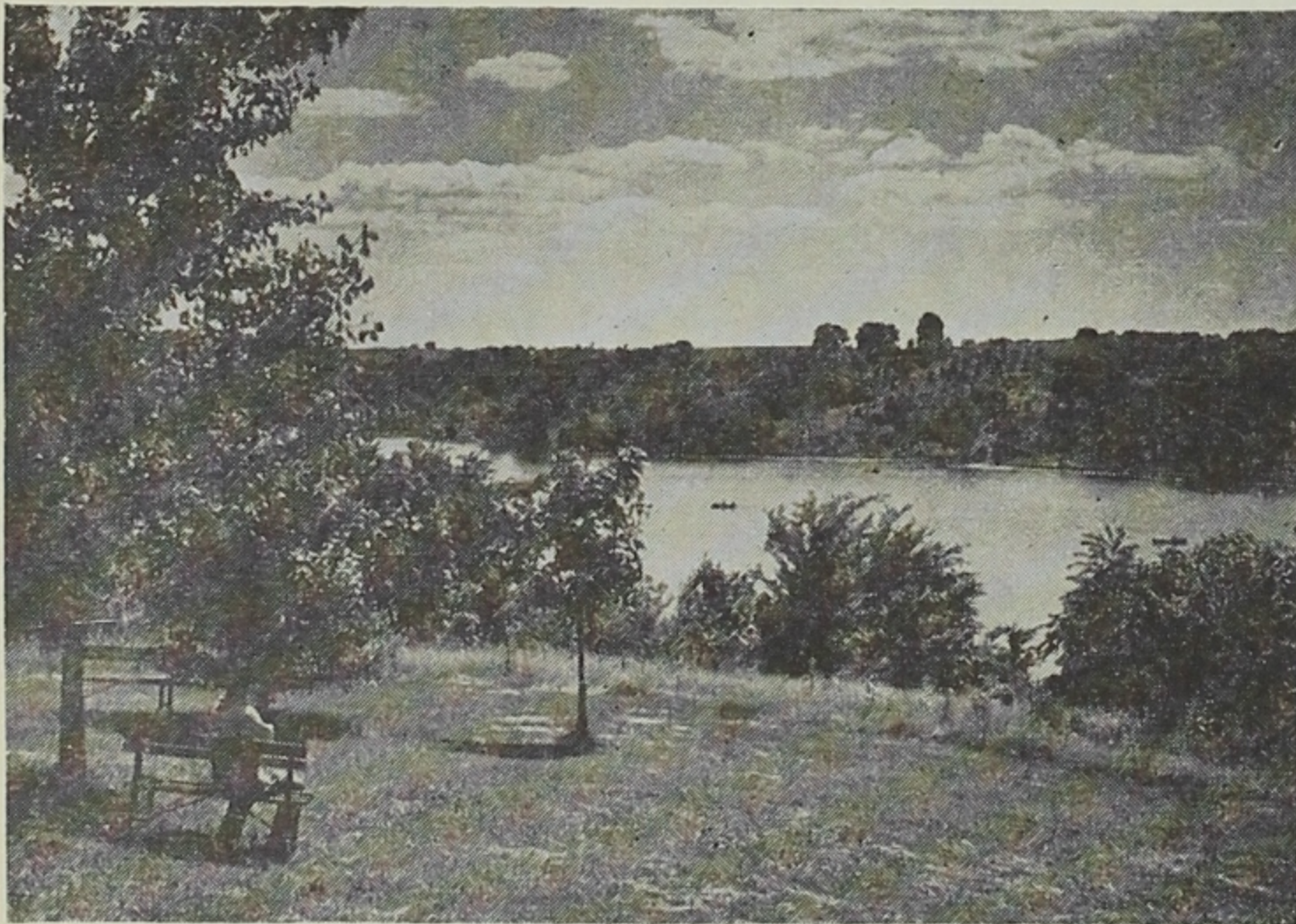
But the east arm is still muddy and filling rapidly. The park land stops at the head of the east arm at the county road. It was therefore necessary to secure the consent of the landowners above the road and the help of the county in grading it.

The plans approved call for erection of two concrete drop inlets by the Conservation Commission, which will also clear the brush from the right of way required for regrading the road.

The county will then make the fill across the two channels coming in from the Orvil Lester farm. This fill will serve both as county road and as a dam to catch the silt coming down the creeks. Under the supervision of county engineer G. N. McQuern the cuts on this road will be sloped back gradually. The commission will seed the slopes to permanent grass, so that the ditch cutting along the road will be stopped.

The soils conservation service, under B. Franklin Hull, soils supervisor for the Warren county district, and Clay Barnett, area supervisor for four counties, has made plans for conserving the soil on the farms above the lake so that the soil erosion will be held to a minimum. Barnett and Hull say they are getting excellent co-operation from the land owners and farmers. This will largely reduce the amount of silt coming down the creek. Such as does come will be mostly settled out of the water in the catch basin above the road.

—Indianola Record Herald



Soil conservation practices on private land are necessary to maintain clear water on many of the artificial lakes. At Lake Ahquabi, here seen from the south lodge overlook, cooperation between government agencies and Warren county land owners on the water shed will protect Ahquabi from silting in the future.—Jim Sherman photo.

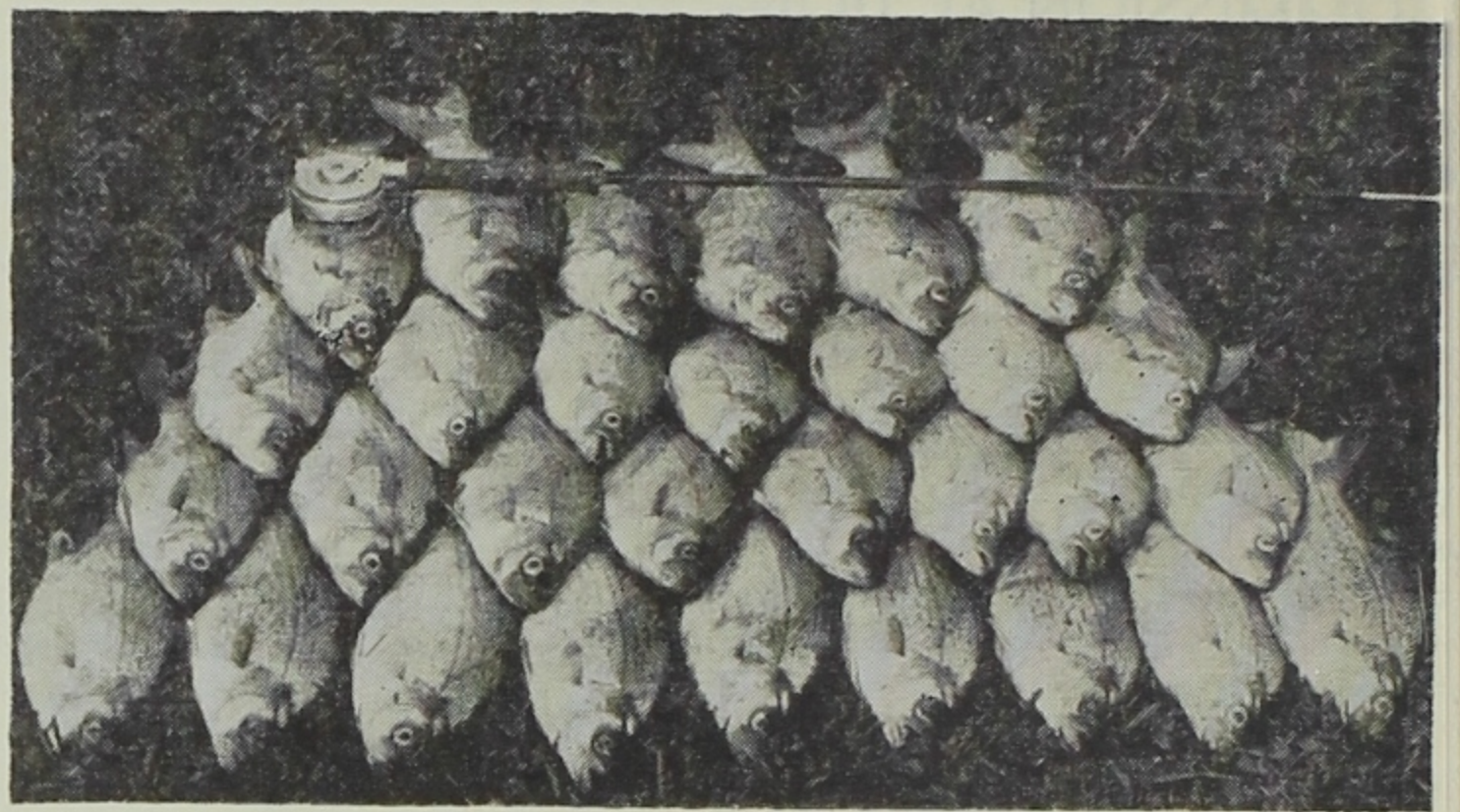
BIOLOGIST ASSIGNED TO MISSISSIPPI FUR STUDY

Edwin Snead of Mason City has been appointed biologist in charge of fur studies on the Mississippi River. The studies will be concentrated primarily on muskrat management, as part of the Upper Mississippi Conservation Survey, a cooperative operation between the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Snead, who received his masters degree from Iowa State College, will be stationed at Lansing

and will be under the direction of Dr. Paul Errington of Iowa State college, a national authority on muskrats, and Dr. Tom Scott, leader of the Iowa Cooperative Research Unit. Funds necessary to carry out the study will be allotted from the Pittman-Robertson Program revenue.

Ray Burke, Oelwein, recently sold a walker hound to Raphael Morrison, Rochester, Minnesota, for \$400.

"Most game problems, like most human problems, are a matter of enough board and room."



White bass, or as they are commonly called, "silvers," are big and gamey. They have become so abundant in Spirit Lake that they make up a major portion of the anglers' take from these waters.

Fish Bass . . .

(Continued from page 49)

usually not broken. The color is silver or whitish-gray. There are 11 or 12 soft rays in the anal fin. The three spines in the anal fin are evenly graduated.

In the yellow bass the dark stripes on the body are broader and the lines are broken, hence its specific name, *Morone interrupta*. There are 9 or 10 soft rays in the anal fin, and usually the center spine in this fin is longer than the other two. The fish has a gold or yellow cast, especially underneath.

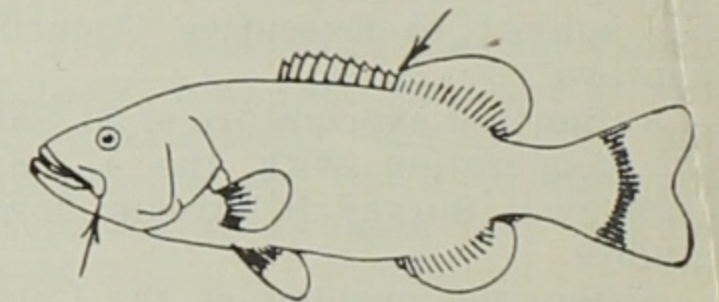
Now that we can distinguish between the fish that look somewhat alike, let's see where to catch them. There are some 15,000 miles of streams in the state. Perhaps at least 1,000 miles are bass or potential bass waters. Soil erosion and pollution has temporarily or permanently eliminated bass from parts of many streams and entirely from others.

Because of certain physiological factors not all streams are potential bass waters. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass feed by sight, hence they prefer relatively clear water. Both must have an abundant supply of food and suitable habitat to bring off and rear their young. Smallmouth prefer rocky streams and lakes; the largemouth gladly forfeits the rocks for ample weed beds.

Smallmouth bass are found principally in streams in Iowa, although they are increasing in certain of the lakes, including Spirit and the Okobojis in Dickinson county and Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo. They are also quite

numerous in some of the river-lakes behind dams in eastern Iowa.

From east to west some of the best streams for smallmouth include the Upper Iowa, Yellow, Turkey, Crane Creek, Volga, Maquoketa, Buffalo Creek, Wapsipicon, Cedar, Shellrock, parts of the Iowa, Boone, Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers. Smaller streams which deserve mention, with county in parentheses, include the Little Turkey, Little Cedar, White Water Creek (Dubuque), Bear Creek (Jones), Indian Creek (Linn), Rock and Sugar Creeks (Cedar), Bear and Lime Creeks (Benton), Otter Creek (Buchanan), Maynes, Otter and Spring Creeks (Franklin), Winnebago River, White Fox Creek

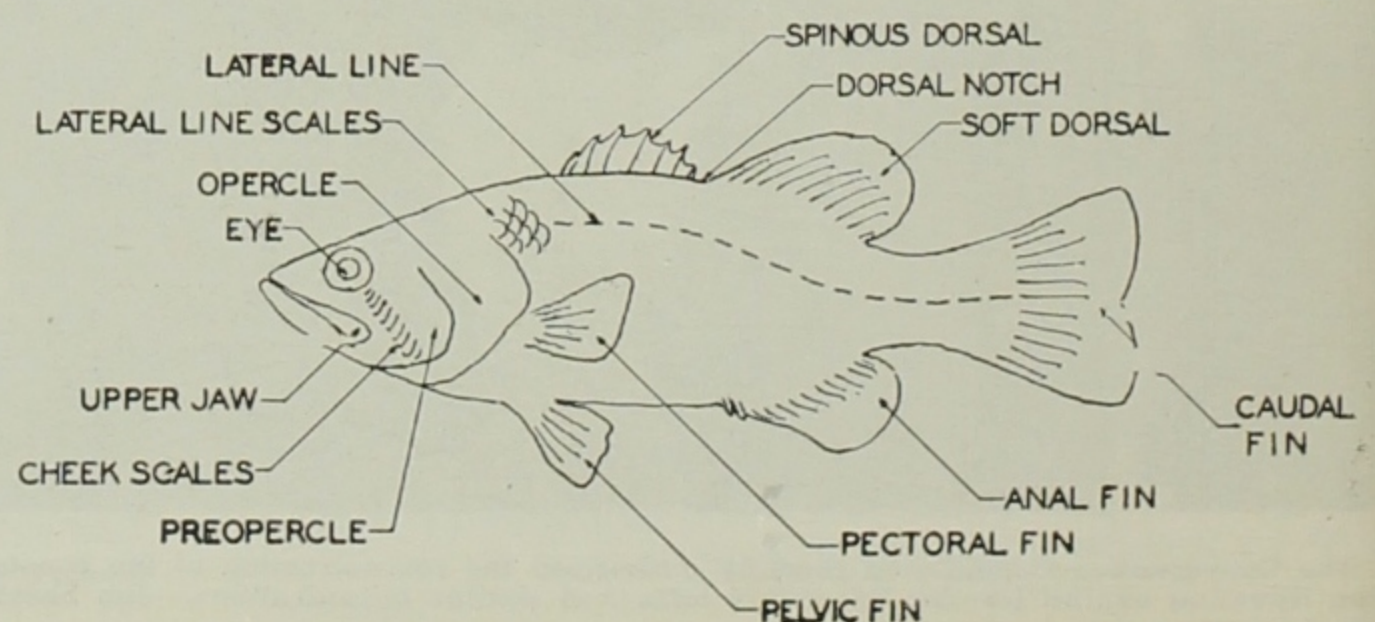


SMALLMOUTH BASS (*Micropterus Dolomieu dolomieu*)

(Wright and Hamilton), Lizzard Creek (Pocahontas and Webster), Beaver Creek (Humbolt), Deer Creek (Webster), and Camp Creek (Calhoun).

Many of these little streams not only serve as good fishing waters, but are excellent spawning areas when the main streams are turbid. In years past, the Mississippi, from Dubuque north, produced some of the best smallmouth fishing in the nation. In more recent times, however, smallmouth have given way, for the most part, to largemouth bass and other still-water species

(Continued on page 54)



Snakes . . .

(Continued from page 49)

Possibly, but no more so than many of the snake stories that are believed by the average person in Iowa.

A snake's tongue is not poisonous and it is not used as a stinger. It serves as a simple feeler, but still more important, as a help in smelling. It is not an organ of smell itself, but helps sensitive areas in the roof of the mouth to determine odors.

There is a common belief that poisonous snakes can be distinguished from non-poisonous ones by head shape, the poisonous ones having triangular heads. This is true of the pit vipers, including the rattlesnakes and copperhead, the only poisonous snakes we have in Iowa. But the coral snakes, the only representatives of the cobra family found in the United States, have slender heads very similar to many of the common harmless snakes. If this method alone were used to determine which snakes are poisonous, many of our most beneficial snakes such as the hog-nosed snake would be needlessly destroyed.

The common hog-nosed snake, known also as the puffing adder and spreading viper, has a very bad reputation but an excellent character. It is a champion bluffer in assuming the nature of a bad actor. When disturbed it begins its act by inflating its lungs, hissing loudly and striking in a vicious manner. Now a snake that intends to bite will open its jaws. Instead, the hog-nosed snake strikes with its jaws closed and, of course, its breath isn't poisonous. It has some more tricks in the bag. If persistently teased it puts on a death act with a series of writhings and contortions that end with the snake upside down, apparently lifeless. But turn it right side up and it immediately turns over on its back.

This snake is an excellent bluffer. However, it is harmless and even makes a good pet.

Many are the times when the milk snake has been accused of stealing milk from a cow in the pasture. Just reason that one out for yourself. A snake has no mouth or tongue muscles that could create suction. In the second place a snake has many needle sharp teeth, and it would be a most noble cow that would hold still for such an arrangement.

The mythical "hoop" snake causes great apprehension to many people. Stories about this terrible snake are common. It is supposed to be a most cunning snake, seizing the tip of its tail with its mouth, rolling down slopes, surprising unwary victims and stinging them to death. The believers of this tale state the poison is so deadly that a tree stung by the snake soon withers and dies. We have no tail-stinging snakes. There are the rainbow and horn snakes found in southern United States and whose tails end in a hard, pointed scale, but they secrete no poison. A horn snake will use its tail to probe a restraining hand but no harm is done.

A common childhood myth holds that a snake will not die until sun-down even though its head be cut off. No doubt this story arose from the fact that snakes, like frogs and eels, exhibit muscle twitching and body action after they are supposed to be dead. These twitches are only reflex actions originating in nerve centers located in the body and separate from the brain. Sun-down has nothing to do with a snake's dying.

Nor are the chances of receiving rain helped any by killing a snake and placing it upon its back.

It is often stated that the age of a rattlesnake can be determined by the number of rattles it has. This is true to the extent of an

(Continued on page 55)

Commission Action . . .

(Continued from page 51)

Clear Lake shore line to be purchased with fish and game funds.

Approved application of Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative for permit to construct an electric transmission line over the Klum Lake area in Louisa County.

Approved development plans for the Eldon areas in Davis county.

Rejected the Ludwig options of four tenths acres on Lake Okoboji. Meeting adjourned.

Special Commission Meeting June 17

A special meeting of the State Conservation Commission was held in the central office in Des Moines June 17.

Members present were: J. C. Jenson, R. W. Mattes, Mrs. Addison Parker, F. J. Poyneer, R. E. Stewart, and E. G. Trost.

The commission:

Authorized two fisheries trucks to go to LaCrosse, Wisconsin for trout.

Set retirement age for all conservation officers at sixty-five years.

Approved division of administration budget for \$144,300 to be provided 35 per cent from lands and waters funds and 65 per cent from fish and game funds.

Approved fish and game budget of \$927,400.

Awarded Victor Robinson concession at Lake of Three Fires.

Accepted jurisdiction from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of certain fish and wildlife lands along the Mississippi River from Muscatine to Burlington to be used as public shooting grounds.

Agreed to request the interim committee to furnish necessary funds to recondition the Gardner Sharp log cabin and area at Spirit Lake.

Approved the lands and waters division budget of \$327,341.

Approved continuing the farm forestry projects at Ames, Iowa City, and Waukon temporarily.

Approved cooperative agreement with the Geological Survey.

Authorized preparation of traveling exhibit for use at county fairs and similar shows.

Denied request of Carl Hess of Carroll for operation of motor boat on Swan Lake in Carroll county.

Authorized investigation of feasibility of erecting a dam across the Wapsipincon River at Scotts Ford south of MacIntire.

Rejected request of C. A. Molsberry for use of commission funds to repair the dam in Shellrock River at Plymouth.

Authorized acceptance of option of 1.78 acres to complete the Lakin Slough area at \$75 per acre.

Accepted the Rodberg option on two acres adjacent to Rice Lake at \$250.

Authorized the draining of Beeds Lake in Franklin county in order to destroy rough fish populations that the lake may be re-established for maximum fish production.

Re-affirmed policy of not placing conservation officers in territories where they lived prior to appointment as conservation officers.

Authorized enlargement of service building at Lewis and Clark Recreational Reserve.

Authorized Waterloo Park Board to pump 12,000 yards of sand for a fill along the Cedar River.

Granted permission to the Arnolds Park Commercial Club to hold a fireworks demonstration at Arnolds Park pier.

Authorized town of Paullina to hold fire works display at Mill Creek Recreational Reserve.

Authorized Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce to build dock on Clear Lake for Governor's Day celebration August 1 through 4.

Denied the request of Mr. Simek to remove an island in the Turkey River in Sections 29, 95, and 7 in Fayette county.

Re-affirmed present policy of rough fish removal including the use of whatever length seine was most effective.

Adjourned.

OLD ANDREW

By Carl Stempel

Old Andrew lived behind the mill;
His cottage plain and dour;
Although 'oor mon' was far from
rich,
He was by no means poor.

Old Andrew was a thrifty man;
No honest work he spurned,
And honestly he turned his tasks,
And saved whate'er he earned.

When he grew old he loved to fish;
His haunt the tranquil brook,
And many a wary fish he caught
With makeshift line and hook.

But twenty years have passed since
then;
And now the brook runs low,
And where old Andrew's cottage
stood
The johnny-jump-ups grow.

One day while walking through the
woods
I met him at the brook,
Where, tangled in the hazel brush,
He'd found a line and hook.

"Young mon," he said, "I've never
fished,
But noo I'd like to try,
If you'll just show me what to do;
I'm sure you'll not deny."

I sought and cut a willow wand,
To serve him as a rod;
I found a can and dug some worms,
Deep down beneath the sod.

I led him to a likely pool,
A few rods down the brook,
And handed him his fishing line,
Complete with baited hook.

And here beneath an ancient elm
He sat beside the brook
For season after season with
That same old line and hook.

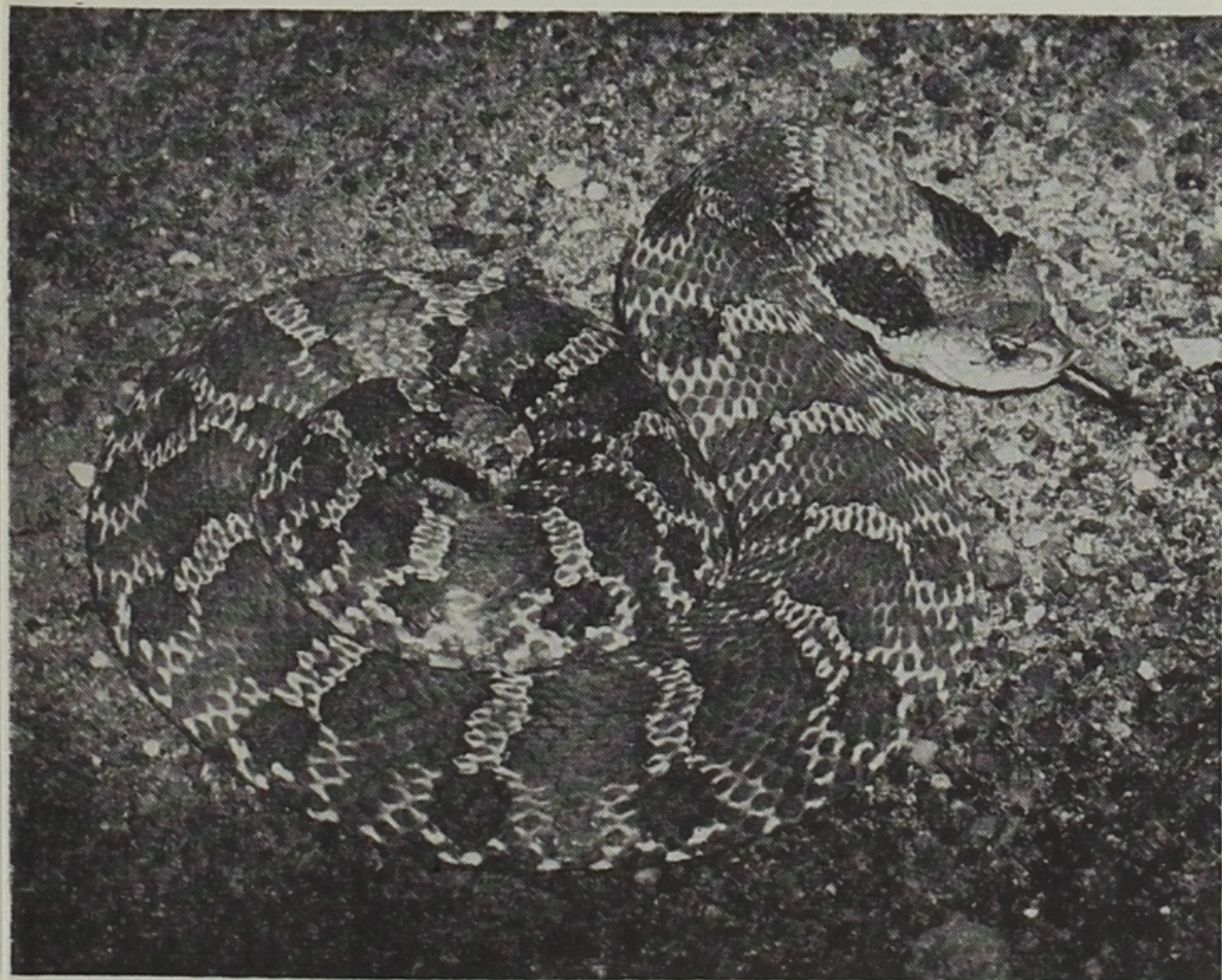
One day I missed him at the brook,
Old Andrew's haunt and mine,
But found behind his favorite tree
His pole with broken line.

I'd visited and fished the brook
A dozen times since then,
And thought to see old Andrew, but
He never came again.

And then one day we met by chance;
He stopped me on the street;
It seemed to please this kindly man
That he and I should meet.

"I've missed you at the brook," I
said,
"When days are warm and fair;
I often sit beneath your tree;
'Tis long since you were there."

"Young mon," he said, "I'd love to go;
'Tis restful at the bruke,
But noo I canna fish no more,
Syne I hae lost my huke."



Popular knowledge of reptiles is meager, primarily because of die-hard superstitions. Here the harmless hog-nose snake (spreading viper, puffing adder) flattens his head and body into a fear-inspiring contortion. Note extended tongue.—Jim Sherman photo.

Fish Bass . . .

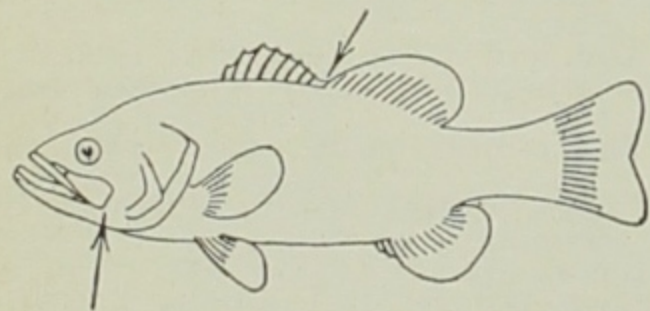
(Continued from page 52)

including the walleye, all of which can be taken with facility when the old Father of Waters is "right."

Most smallmouth fishing in Iowa is done from shore, although float trips are both interesting and productive on the larger streams. Live baits, fly and bait casting outfits are used extensively. Live bait fishermen are prone to place a silver or gold spinner (willow-leaf No. 3 is a favorite) ahead of their hair streamer flies, but some use the conventional bass fly, small metal spoons, fly rod lures and popping baits. Bait casters use all manner of baits including the spinner-fly combinations, spoons, midget plugs and surface lures of every description.

Smallmouth bass have been taken in Iowa weighing over five pounds. These, of course, are uncommon, but 2½ to 3 pounders are quite common. The average length, all waters considered, is about 10 to 14 inches.

It would be difficult to list all of the areas inhabited by largemouth bass. There are 65 natural lakes, 18 state-owned artificial lakes, and numerous city reservoirs, gravel pits, farm ponds, etc., in the state. Many of these furnish fair to excellent largemouth fishing. Of the natural lakes, perhaps the following are most reliable for largemouth: Big (Allamakee), Clear (Cerro Gordo), Lost Island (Palo Alto), Spirit, East and West Okoboji, Marble and Hottess (Dickinson), Blue (Monona), Blackhawk



LARGEMOUTH BASS (*Huro salmoides*)

(Sac), Brown's (Woodbury), and Manawa (Pottawattamie).

Artificial lakes which are stocked with bass include: Springbrook (Guthrie), Three Fires (Taylor), Ahquabi (Warren), Red Haw Hill (Lucas), Keomah (Mahaska), Wapello (Davis), Lacey-Keosauqua (Van Buren), MacBride (Johnson), Backbone (Delaware), Pine (Hardin), Beed's (Franklin), and Mill Creek (O'Brien).

It would be difficult to list all of the municipal and private lakes in the state, but those under state agreement which contain largemouth bass include: Greenfield Reservoir (Adair), Corning (Adams), Harvard, Centerville and Moulton (Appanoose), Spring Lake (Cherokee), Osceola (Clarke), Gravel Pit (Crawford), Bloomfield (Davis), Fairfield (Jefferson), Chariton (Lucas), Glenwood (Mills), Mt. Ayr (Ringgold), Davenport (Scott), Le Mars (Plymouth), Lenox (Taylor), Afton (Union), and Corydon, Harvard, Humeston, and Seymour (Wayne). It will be relatively easy to find all

of the above listed areas if you will refer to the Iowa Outdoor Map published and distributed free upon request by the Conservation Commission. If important areas have been omitted, we assure you it was unintentional.

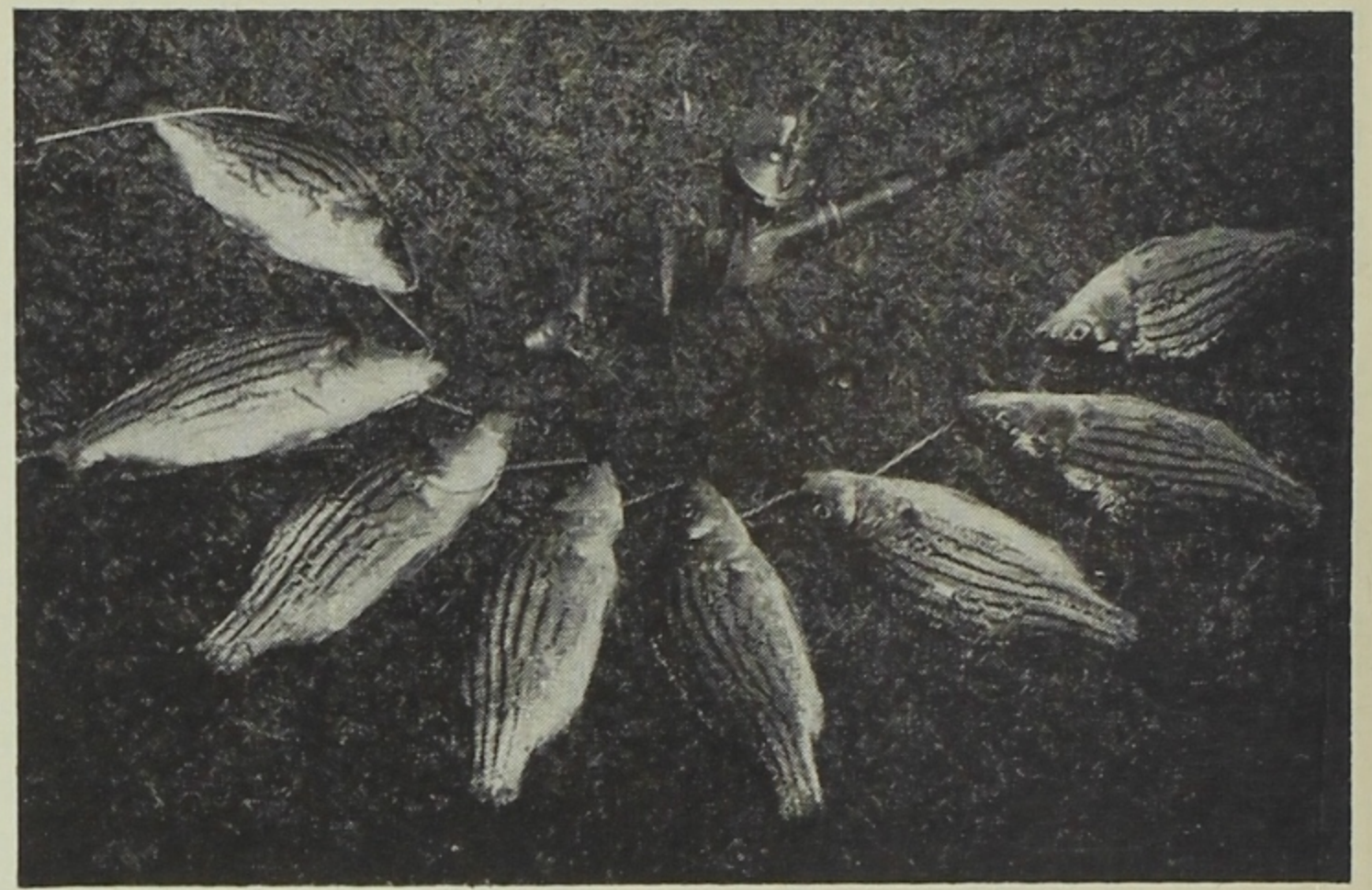
Since a good share of the largemouth bass fishing in Iowa is in lakes, both boat and shore fishing prevail. While there is some trolling and still fishing, most of it is done with bait and fly rods. Live bait fishermen prefer minnows, chubs, night crawlers, and occasionally crayfish. When bait casting is done from a boat, the anglers usually drift a reasonable casting distance from shore and cast toward the shore.

Bass are taken at all hours of the day and night, but most anglers prefer to fish from about 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., and early in the morning. Favorite under-water baits include small wooden and plastic plugs of every description, daredevil type spoons, spinner-fly combinations, etc. The new surface "plunkers," "splashers," and "poppers" are favorites, especially from dusk on in the evening and on hot, sultry days. There is no end to the bait-casters' tackle, and much of it is self-created. Some of the sportsmen of this state have attained such skill they market their prize lures at fancy prices, for they vie for honors with the finest commercial baits obtainable. Most fly fishermen are satisfied with conventional gadgets, largely using fly-spinner combinations, streamers, poppers, etc.

Largemouth have been taken in Iowa weighing nearly 10 pounds. Several this year have weighed upward to eight pounds. A five pounder, however, is still considered a good fish in any man's lake, and the average in all waters is probably from 1 to 2 pounds.

White or silver bass are found throughout the state, but are most numerous in the Mississippi River, Spirit Lake, East and West Okoboji Lakes, Clear Lake, Storm Lake, Delhi Lake, and Black Hawk Lake. They are gregarious, traveling in schools, and can be taken with facility when they choose to strike.

The time-honored method of trolling with spinner and minnow from a boat is still very effective, but some fishermen prefer to cast for them either from a boat or wading from shore. All manner of equipment is used in the pursuit of white bass. Some prefer the fly rod, others the bait casting outfit, and many simply troll with spinner and minnow until they locate the "schools," then drop anchor and still fish with live minnows. Ambitious anglers work the shores at night, either from boats or wading, knowing the fish will come into the shallow waters to feed sometime between dusk and midnight. On a quiet night the popping noise of feeding silvers can be heard for a considerable distance. One must work fast, however, since these gallant fighters are frequently "in" for only a short period of time.



Yellow bass, or "streaker," while smaller than the "silver" is a gamey fighter and is an excellent pan fish. Yellow bass are abundant in Clear Lake and are an important part of the catch at this popular lake.

They commonly weigh up to three pounds, and put up a terrific fight when hooked.

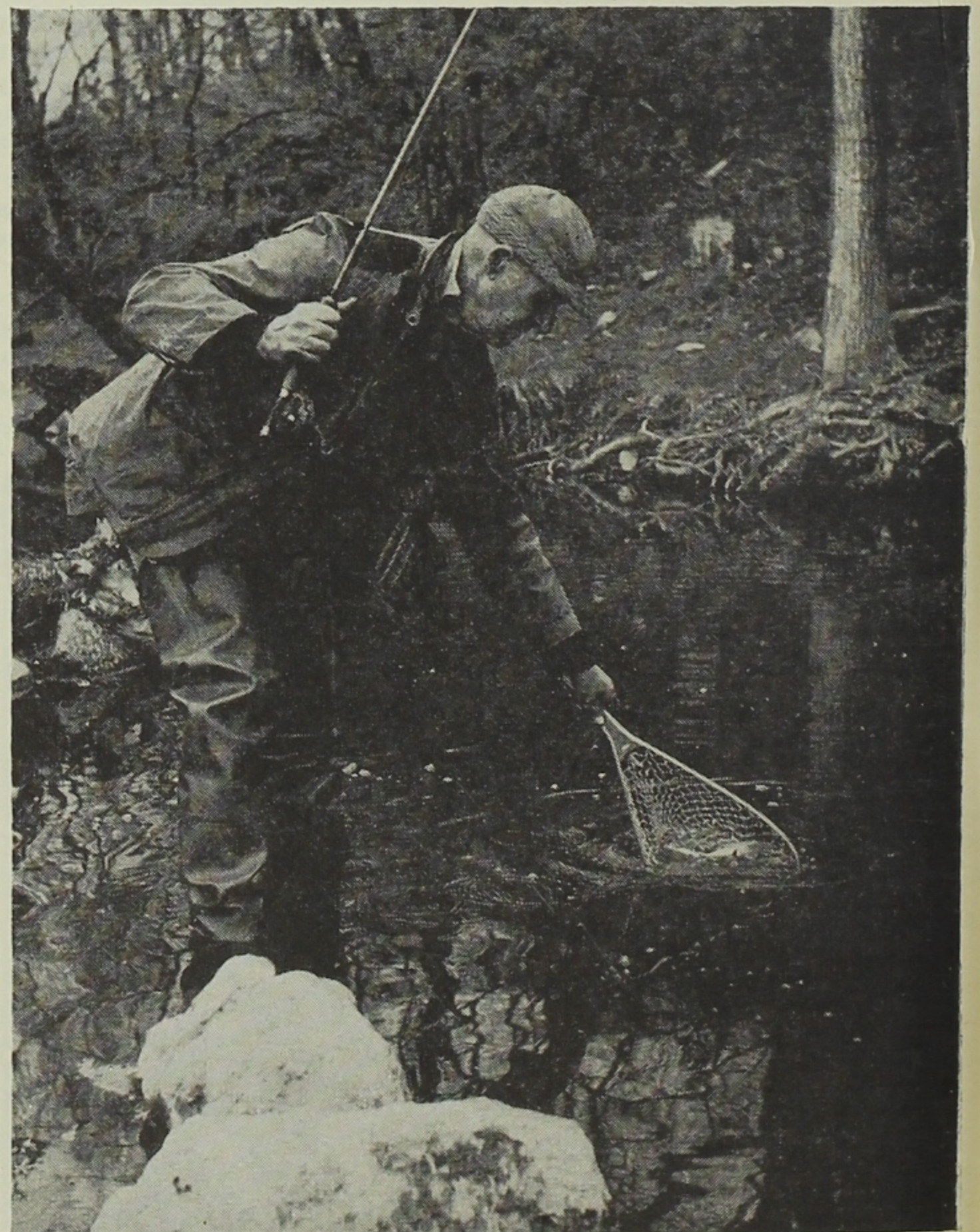
Favorite baits include the popular No. 2 or No. 3 spinner and white bucktail streamer fly. Some anglers attach a narrow strip of fly-size pork rind to the hook, Dare-devil type spoons, small wood and plastic plugs, and midget popping baits are all very effective.

Yellow bass are less common in most Iowa waters. Although smaller than the white bass, they are superior in flavor. They are found

in large numbers in Clear Lake, Delhi Lake, the Mississippi River, and to a less extent in Pine Lake. The feeding habits are quite similar to the white bass. They are taken on live minnows still fishing, by trolling with spinner and minnows, or "cut" bait, and with very small artificial baits. Tiny fly-rod metal dare-devil type spoons, midget plugs, and fly and spinner combinations are most frequently used.

A common sight on Clear Lake is the large rafts of row boats

(Continued on page 55)



Many of the smaller streams in the trout territory not only serve as good fishing waters for smallmouth bass, but provide excellent spawning areas for this fish when the main streams are turbid.—Jim Sherman photo.



Snake eggs and pigeon milk are two expressions that mean what they say. Pigeon milk is the partially digested content of the pigeon's crop regurgitated to feed the young birds. These are fox snake eggs. Seeing is believing.

Snakes . . .

(Continued from page 53)

approximation. If a person considers two rattles as representing one year's growth, he may come close to the snake's correct age. One year for each rattle is by no means reliable. Usually a snake acquires a new rattle each time it sheds its skin. This occurs on an average of twice each year. Some snakes are known to shed more often, occasionally acquiring two rattles at one moult, and often losing rattles by accident.

Here is the \$64 question. Do snakes swallow their young? From a very few reliable sources have come detailed descriptions of mother snakes swallowing their young to protect them from danger. However, most snake men are inclined to disbelieve such an occurrence. Here are some reasons why such action is considered unlikely.

Snakes are greatly lacking in parental instincts. The egg-layers usually don't see their offspring unless by accident. It is a rare instance when a mother snake shows any interest in either eggs or young. Young snakes do not need protection. They are able to care for themselves. Young rattlesnakes are fully equipped with poison when they are born.

The digestive system of a snake is very active. The juices are powerful and work quickly. Any young snake that remained inside its parent's stomach any length of time would find itself being digested.

Since cannibal snakes are common, a person could be misled, upon finding a snake in the act of swallowing another, into thinking the

larger snake was swallowing the smaller one to protect it.

Some of our common snakes such as the garter snake give birth to living young rather than laying eggs. If such a snake full of unborn young were cut open, a person with an active imagination might assume that the young had been swallowed by the adult for protection.

Most of the spectacular snake stories are fiction and constitute an interesting part of the tall-tale department. With a few, it is difficult to separate truth from fiction.

VACATIONERS URGED TO USE CAUTION IN WATER RECREATION

Iowa lakes and streams furnish recreation for thousands of fishermen, boatmen, and swimmers, but they are also the scene of almost daily drownings, mostly caused by carelessness.

The American Red Cross suggests the following hints on water safety: Wait an hour or two after eating before going swimming. Don't stay in water after becoming tired. Swim only in supervised swimming places. Don't overestimate the distance you are able to swim. River currents are dangerous; don't try to buck them. Use the safest method possible to rescue a person in trouble in the water; use a boat or throw some floating object if possible. When a person accidentally falls into the water, he should remove clothing before attempting to swim out.

There are more than 10,000 pleasure boats on Iowa's inland waters, and a few simple safety rules governing their use will prevent many tragedies. Iowa laws require that all boats for hire must pass an annual inspection. All inspected boats have a small metal tag attached stating the passenger capacity of the boat. Under no condition exceed the passenger capacity of the craft. Do not use an unseaworthy boat. Do not go on the water when a storm is approaching or when the water is rough. Don't wear boots or other hampering clothing when in a boat. Do not purposely rock a boat or permit any horseplay by other boat occupants.

If you are unfortunate enough to capsize, stay with the boat. Secure a firm handhold and wait for help or drift ashore with the craft. If there are two persons when the boat capsizes, hold hands across the bottom of the boat. If you lose an oar do not jump overboard to retrieve it without first dropping the anchor. The boat may drift away faster than you can swim. Never stand up in the boat to hoist anchor. Do not put a large motor on a small boat.

There are no finer sports than swimming, boating, and fishing, and everyone can enjoy these pleasures safely if good judgment is exercised.

William E. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was born 100 years ago in Scott County, Iowa.

AN EXPERIENCE IN BIRD HIKING

Dr. J. Harold Ennis

Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa

UNDER the leadership of conservation officer Harry Rector and Mr. Leo Hamman, president of the Vinton Fish and Game Club, a wildlife school for teen-age boys was held near Vinton, Iowa, May 17, 18, and 19. A varied program was presented during those three days covering soil and wildlife conservation, gun safety, water safety, and the sports of fishing and bird hiking. The more than sixty boys from over Benton County proclaimed it an entertaining and worthwhile weekend.

Part of the program included a bird hike on Sunday morning after religious services. The boys who had been in attendance throughout the weekend were joined on that morning by eighteen other boys from the Vinton State School for the Blind. Fourteen of the boys had only partial vision and four were sightless, consequently bird identification for this group was possible by bird song study only.

This particular part of the program was under the supervision of the writer. While bird songs are widely studied by all ornithologists, only in rare instances do hiking groups depend on sound records alone for birding. Incidentally, one such group in which the writer has participated is the annual "bird concert" sponsored by the Davenport (Iowa) Public Museum. Much of this group's birding is conducted before sunrise where identification by sound must be used.

It is the writer's observation that although the eighteen boys were limited by a handicap that most boys do not face, they nevertheless were one of the most enthusiastic groups that he has ever led on a bird hike. Anyone watching these boys would certainly have been impressed by their intense efforts to learn.

Shortly after the hike started the attention of the boys was called to a singing rose-breasted grosbeak. The faces of the boys well reflected their concentration. Fifteen minutes later the leader was rewarded by having most of the boys exclaim, "There's a grosbeak singing!" Most adults probably would have been unable to recognize that species on the first attempt.

The hike, which lasted about an hour and a half, took place on the farm of Mr. Thorton Noble north of Vinton. Here a rather varied habitat of timber and marsh land make birding easy. The weatherman, however, hindered the trip with a heavily overcast sky. Finally a downpour of rain interrupted the hike. This had no effect on the enthusiasm of the boys, but the inclement weather undoubtedly did reduce the number of singing birds. During the hour and a half

GREATER IOWA PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

Iowa hunters and fishermen who are camera fans have a chance to combine their interests in the GREATER IOWA PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST, now being sponsored by the Iowa Development Commission. The new state promotion agency is offering prizes and salon exhibition for outstanding Iowa pictures which point up the state's recreational facilities.

Sportsmen who have traveled Iowa's by-ways know the state's scenic possibilities and can take pictures which can be used for state publicity purposes.

Complete contest rules are included in the required entry blank which can be obtained by writing to the Iowa development Commission, 708 Crocker Building, Des Moines.

fourteen species were identified by song alone. These were: chimney swift, crested flycatcher, black-capped chickadee, house wren, robin, northern yellowthroat, American redstart, English sparrow, eastern meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, dickcissel, American goldfinch.

To this list may be added the sight records of forty-one other silent species identified by Dr. Robert Vane of Cedar Rapids, leader of the other boys, and by the writer. However, the latter will venture the opinion that no fourteen kinds of birds were ever greeted with more rapt attention and breathless enthusiasm than shown by these boys from the Vinton School for the Blind.

Fish Bass . . .

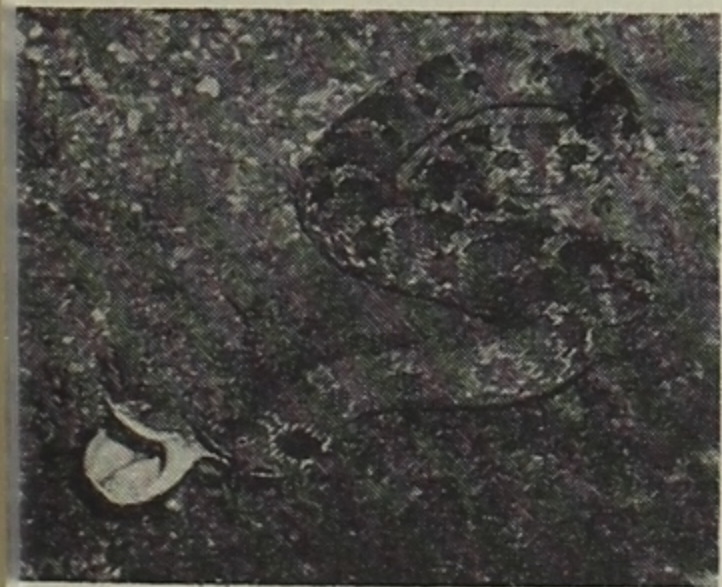
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clustered over a "bed" of feeding yellow bass. While most of the fishing for yellow bass is done in daylight, excellent fishing is to be had for the angler in the evening or early morning hours. Yellow bass usually run from 8 to 11 inches in Iowa water, but a few have been reported up to 15 inches. The fish is small but a good scrapper on light tackle, and an excellent table fish.

RECORD WALL-EYE TAKEN AT STORM LAKE

The largest wall-eye pike taken for several years in Storm Lake has been reported by conservation officer Frank Starr. The big wall-eye was taken by Clayton Daniels of Storm Lake on a "dare devil" and tipped the scales at exactly ten pounds. Wall-eye, silver bass and crappie fishing has been reported as excellent in this lake with six and seven pound wall-eyes rather common.

Almost 4,000 row boats are inspected each year by the state boat inspector and "okayed" for commercial hire.



This story and all other reputable articles on snakes state that the hog-nose snake strikes with its mouth closed. Here is the hog-nose at the end of a strike at the camera with his jaws open, proving only that even the experts have much to learn about these little known creatures. —Jim Sherman photo.

TIMBER and GAME...Twin Crops

By Harold Titus

(Continued from last month)

The quickest way to relieve troubled farmers and stock of deer browse from too much pressure was to kill a few does along with the bucks in those places where abundance had become a burden, and that is what the Pennsylvania Commission proposed. But the suggestion plunged the body into an argument that proved both tough and protracted with plenty of trimmings in the form of restraining orders from courts of law. The revival of the state's deer supply from almost nothing was attributed by many solely to the protection of does and the doe had, in consequence, become the symbol of everything desirable. Also, the public felt that if a big herd of deer was nice to have, a still bigger one would be nicer, despite occasional crop damage and food shortages in places.

As the debate went on, starvation during winter became more general. In some areas deer perished by hundreds. Furthermore, the size of trophies went down. Once bucks had averaged 150 pounds but this level fell off, slipped to a low of 115 pounds.

Not until 1928 could an antlerless deer season of any consequence be made to stick. In the next fifteen years over 700,000 does and fawns were taken legally, along with a heavy harvest of bucks in most seasons. Winter losses from starvation lessened, the average weight of specimens began to increase and forest growth, which had been so closely browsed that grouse and hares could no longer exist in sections, started its recovery and reached a point where those species reappeared.

Before long other states and

Federal agencies adopted similar measures not only to control deer herds but for elk and antelope as well. By the early forties from the lower Appalachians to beyond the Rockies, planned hunter harvests, based on censused game supplies and understanding of range limitations, were in order. The permit system was inaugurated in a half dozen states. While local herds were building toward the carrying capacity of their territory, restricted kills were the pattern; where those populations had reached a point beyond which they could not go without endangering habitat, a larger take was encouraged.

This was possible because the new science of game management was getting up on its feet. While for a full century agriculture had progressed due to careful research and planning by technicians, and while forest owners had been increasingly aware of the need of direction in their operations by men trained in the basic sciences involved, game management had been almost exclusively left in the hands of generally well-intentioned but sketchily prepared administrators.

One reason was that until the early twenties few biologists had been trained to work in the groove of sustaining wildlife populations. Most scientists who gave their attention to wild birds and animals were chiefly concerned with classification, life histories and whatnot, all important but not going far enough. The old Bureau of Biological Survey and a very few scattered states had staff men with preparation comparable to that of agricultural experiment workers



When it became necessary to kill does in Pennsylvania, the Game Commission found an argument with the uninformed bulk of sportsmen that proved both tough and protracted, with plenty of trimmings in the form of restraining orders from the courts.—Jim Sherman photo.

or professional foresters but the supply of technicians stopped there.

In many places by 1920 wildlife stocks were in a bad way. The general use of the automobile had both spread out and intensified gun pressure. In earlier decades, if game supplies dwindled near home there were generally happy hunting grounds farther on. But man's triumph over distance tapped these natural reservoirs of wildlife reserves. Something besides going more miles to hunt needed doing and all of a sudden game officials realized that their old cut-and-dried methods, their reliance on restrictive laws alone, had not panned out. They had been, one might say, relying on midwives to treat a serious ailment. Now they commenced yelling for a doctor.

The colleges responded and the output of augmented curricula was absorbed rapidly. Countless competent investigations were launched, experiments set up and programs laid out which pulled the management of game species from the realm of guesswork down toward sound and scientific procedure.

Techniques of censusing game populations were involved. It was determined how much of this or that a deer or an elk must have to eat, how much of it was available and how fast it could reproduce itself, all of which made for a clear idea of range capacities. Progress was made on the important item of desirable sex ratios, the balance between summer and winter needs of animals and a long list of other important factors.

Game-Forest Objectives Dovetail

But perhaps more significant was the demonstration that game is

not a thing apart from man's other interests nor its management an isolated endeavor. It ties in with most of the other uses of land, and that throws the game specialist into a tight company composed of agriculturalists, foresters, economists and so on.

In the management of forest-type game, professional and jurisdictional lines between game and forest specialists are already blurred and indistinct. The interests of the two groups overlap and the gears of their organizations naturally mesh. What is good for the objective of one is, in the broad sense, also good for the other.

The idea of sustained yield logging had been well and widely talked before game management had been reduced to definitions. Forest management on this basis calls for the following of one of two general programs. The first is rotation cutting, which means the periodic harvesting of timber on given plots, each of such a size that by the time the last has been covered the site of the first cutting will again be ready to yield merchantable timber. The second program is one of harvesting individual trees so that the mature and cripples are being constantly removed, thereby speeding growth of the young and healthy.

But by either method edge is constantly created. If game is in the vicinity it will find and use that edge. If game is not present and the cover is of a type which will support a given species seed stock can be introduced in a hurry because the trapping and transfer of game animals has been reduced to a simple procedure. If the edge needs help by the introduction of food plants that can be done, too.

(Continued next month)



In fifteen years after 1928 Pennsylvania hunters legally took over 700,000 does and fawns along with a heavy harvest of buck deer.