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State Conservation Commission  
10th and Mulberry Sts.  
Des Moines 8, Iowa

# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

VOLUME 5

OCTOBER 15, 1946

NUMBER 10

## The History of Stocking and Management of Ringneck Pheasants in the State of Iowa

### SPORTING ETHICS

THE ethics of sportsmanship are the unwritten code of morals which clarify the definition of a good sportsman. They apply in some form to all types of recreation and in a broader sense to the life and character of the individual. To be classed as a "good sport" or a "good sportsman" is to have been crowned with one of the highest measures of public esteem.

Ethics are a moral responsibility, and as such represent human deals and consideration carried beyond the point of legal necessity. Unfortunately our ideas of what is good and what is bad are as wide as the poles. No one can set himself up as judge of the actions of another without knowing the viewpoint of the other, and the reasons for the action. Even then it would be more charitable to withhold judgment than to assume that, from one's own standpoint, the actions of another are wrong, and so brand them.

The value of fish and game as recreational incentives is many times their worth as food. Game fish, for example, are probably worth from five to ten dollars per pound for sporting purposes; their value as food is only a small percentage of these amounts.

Game is in the same category. It is an inducement to sportsmen to take advantage of the great out-of-doors, and absorb some of its health-giving qualities it is of priceless value; reduced to possession it becomes but a prosaic part of the larder supply.

Undoubtedly, therefore, the chief interest of the sportsman in fish and game is a sporting one. His bag of game or creel of fish are

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The ring-necked pheasant is, of course, not a native game bird and occurred first in the wild in Iowa in about 1900. Since that time there has been a constant effort to increase the annual surplus. Here an employee at the old Clive Game Farm is netting wild trapped birds in a holding pen for shipment to southeastern Iowa.

### ASK THE FARMER FIRST

More hunters than ever before are taking to the fields this year in pursuit of wild game. It is well to point out that some 97 per cent of all land in Iowa is privately owned and unless the hunter is hunting on his own land it is necessary to secure permission of the owner first.

Farmers as a group want to know who is hunting on their land. They want to know that the hunter will be careful about shooting near livestock, that gates will be closed, and that property will be protected against damage. One careless act on the part of a hunter may close a farm permanently to all.

Many "No Hunting" signs have been posted. Most of the posted properties are open to hunters in whom the land-owner has confidence. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the individual sportsman to make himself welcome.

Hunters can not be urged too strongly to contact the owner of the property on which they expect to hunt and secure his permission. The importance of farmer-sportsmen relationship in Iowa can not be over-stressed.

If every hunter conducts himself as a true sportsman at all times the "No Hunting" signs will soon go the way of the dodo.

By Lester F. Faber  
Game Biologist  
(Part 1 of 8 parts)

THE ring-necked pheasant now found in Iowa has been classified as *Phasianus colchicus torquatus*. If this name were literally translated our pheasant would be a cross between two of the true Asiatic Pheasants: One, the Rion Caucasian Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus colchicus*, which is native to western Transcaucasia, and the other, the Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus torquatus torquatus*, found in eastern China and northwestern Tonkin, Indo-China.

Actually the present day pheasant is believed to have strains of many other varieties. This bird has traveled by importation to many parts of the world, to new countries, and so many crosses have been made that it is difficult to determine its true blood lines, however our pheasant has been established long enough to be classified as a distinct species and given the name, *colchicus torquatus*.

The pheasant probably got its real start as a wild bird in this state when 2,000 birds were accidentally liberated by a wind storm which blew down the fences on William Benton's Game Farm at Cedar Falls. One story has it this liberation was somewhat aided by the neighbors who felt a need for stocking the birds to the wild.

This accidental stocking occurred in 1900 or 1901. In 1904 an unsuccessful attempt was made to plant pheasants in Keokuk County. In 1907 a successful planting was made in Kossuth County and one made in 1908 in O'Brien county also proved to be successful. These early plantings were made by private parties. No doubt other similar plantings were

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COMMISSION

10th and Mulberry—Des Moines, Iowa

ROBERT D. BLUE, Governor of Iowa

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\*Killed in action.



## THE ATOMIC DOG

Picture and Verse  
By Allen Green

A crawfish said to a tiny dog,  
"What makes you so terribly small?  
If ever you get in a real dog-fight  
You won't be in it at all."

But the tiny dog gave a very loud growl,  
And his bark was a great surprise.  
"I'm a new ATOMIC DOG," he said,  
"And my bite counts more than my  
size."

America is currently tourist  
minded, and nothing short of a de-  
pression will enable those who cater  
to tourists to provide sufficient fa-  
cilities for those who flit hither and  
yon.

—Oelwein Register.



Playing the game ethically is the first requisite of good sportsmanship. The sportsman is one who carries ethics beyond the point of legal necessity.

## Sporting Ethics . . .

(Continued from page 73)

but a tribute to his skill, and as such represent a measure of success in playing the game. That last phrase embodies the whole kernel of sporting ethics.

Playing the game is the first requisite of good sportsmanship, and is intended to apply in its fullest sense. This implies a thorough knowledge of the rules which govern and a constant vigilance to see that they are observed.

The scientific development of sporting equipment has been very pronounced during the past half century. Firearms and ammunition have been so improved that it is now comparatively easy to shoot with deadly accuracy and deadly effect. In the days of the sling-shot, the bow and arrow, or the old muzzle loader the odds against the game were not so heavy. If the first shot was unsuccessful the quarry had a better than even chance of getting away. It took time to prepare the sling, fit the arrow or tamp the powder.

Today these antiquated weapons have given place to automatic firearms, pump guns, fast bolt action magazine rifles and, for greater accuracy, telescopic sights. These rapid fire weapons are deadly, and have greatly increased the advantage of the sportsman.

Keeping in mind the sporting angle, the unwritten code suggests that the sportsman handicap himself and reduce the odds against the game. The chief defense of game birds is flight, and of game animals speed. You will find your pleasure intensified if you make it a point to get your birds on the wing if possible, and your game when it is on the defensive. This may limit your take

but it will increase your pride of possession.

The lures used by the angler to inveigle his adversary into combat are many and varied. Naturally if a fish had the ability to discern it would not be fooled by juicy baits or artificial lures, and you, Mr. Angler, would not have so many pleasant experiences to relate or tall stories to tell. But this lack of discernment applies to small fish as well as large so you will frequently find yourself pulling in undersize fish.

The rules provide that such fish shall be immediately returned to the water from which they were taken, alive and uninjured. The purpose of the provision is to give the fish a chance to reproduce their kind before taking them from the water. Obviously to be of value as a conservation measure the stipulation that they be uninjured is important. Injury to small fish can happen in a number of ways, one of which is through careless handling. Don't squeeze the little fellow to death when releasing the hook; and perform the extraction with as much care as possible. In the event that it cannot be removed without injury cut the line and let the fish go with the hook still in its mouth. The hook will disintegrate in a comparatively short time, and unless otherwise injured the fish will suffer no serious consequence. The loss of the hook is a cheap price to pay for the thousands of its kind the released fish may provide.

These ethics, being part of an unwritten code and having to do with personal conduct, are the responsibility of the individual. The man who is considerate of his fellow man will in most cases carry the same sporting instincts into his recreational activities.



I tried fishin' in Andy Gillam's place while he was in Burlington to see about the mortgage on his house, but the place where he sets on the bank jes don't seem to fit nobuddy else. Andy says that while he was in Burlington he went to see a doctor about some calluses thats been botherin' him considerable of late.

I asked old Andrew MacTavish why he never goes fishin' any more, he said: "I br-r-roke my huke."

All men are created equal; somewhar along the line sompthin happened to the feller that spits on his bait.

Fish hooks is gotta sell fer around about a dollar an' a quarter a piece before ever I put my finger in a dog fishe's mouth to unhook him.

One o' the wust things that kin happen to a feller when he's out huntin' is to bite the end c/ his pipe stem off when he's shootin' at a duck.

You kin tell a feller he's "all wet" without gittin' up a argument, if he's jes comin' in from settin' out a flock o' live deecoys.

It appears that a lot more persons are yielding to the temptation to shoulder their shotgun or rifle and have a go at the rabbits, pheasants, ducks or squirrels than before the war—or to take a can of worms and pole out along some creek in pursuit of bullheads. At any rate, some 614,751 Iowans laid enough cash on the line in the period ended last July 1 to get a license to do so. That figure on hunting and fishing licenses represented an increase of 193,865 licenses over the 1940-41 total.

—Muscatine Journal.

The eggs of the great horned owl might well be termed the first "cold storage" eggs. These birds usually nest in mid-winter but successfully keep their eggs warm in sub-zero weather.

Sound wildlife laws should contain the following kinds of thought: legal, administrative, and biological.

Such a man will not abuse his privileges or infringe upon the rights of others. He will at all times while hunting conform to the best accepted practices for safeguarding the property and lives of others. This implies incessant care in handling loaded firearms and in no circumstances taking a chance.

These little acts of conservation, consideration and courtesy, together with many others which will readily occur to the thoughtful person, are the distinguishing features of good sportsmanship.

—Ontario Dep't Game and Fish.





The second state game farm was built at Clive in Polk County in 1915. It was primarily used as a holding unit although some birds were actually raised here.

## History of Ringnecks . . .

(Continued from page 73)

made but no records are available to substantiate this point.

The first time pheasants are mentioned in the "Biennial Report of the State Fish and Game Warden" was in 1910. This statement appears in this report: "—large game farms are not the answer to stocking but the distribution of eggs among farmers and others would be most successful in introducing the pheasant." In following out this policy, "—in the spring of 1910, under the direction of the State Game Warden, George A. Lincoln, 6,265 pheasants eggs were distributed to 175 applicants in 82 of Iowa's 99 counties, together with instructions for hatching, raising the young, and liberation in the fall." It would appear from the above statements that some work with pheasants had been done prior to 1910 but probably not in amounts sufficient to mention in the biennial report.

Iowa's first policy then was the distribution of eggs to interested people.

In 1911, 4,738 pheasants and 6,000 pheasant eggs were distributed throughout the state. Official records show that this stock was purchased from game breeders in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Iowa.

### First Game Farm

The first game farm was built on a 27 acre tract on the State Fair Grounds at Des Moines in 1913. A small lamp-heated incubator and bantam hens, sometimes as many as 200, were used to hatch the pheasant eggs. The eggs were purchased from commercial game breeders.

The new State Fish and Game Warden, Mr. E. C. Henshaw, states in his biennial report in 1914, "The practice of distributing birds in small numbers has been discontinued and game preserves are established where all birds are placed in large numbers. The present indications are that a much larger per cent of increase will be realized by this method."

How large or where these preserves were is not known. It

would be interesting to know how these preserves were managed and the actual percentage of success attained. During 1914, 1,088 pheasants were distributed. One early record shows that Butler county received 500 of these birds. The distribution of eggs was not mentioned at this time.

*A change in policy, that of distributing young birds, had taken place.* This was a step to the good but, as future records show, the distribution of eggs was tried again and again until 1932, 18 years after it had been discontinued the first time.

During 1915 and 1916 an additional 10,912 pheasants were distributed.

Apparently there was still some doubt as to whether or not the ring-neck was to establish itself in Iowa. In 1916 Mr. Henshaw had this to say, "We still hear people say the pheasants are a failure and that nothing has or will come from stocking the state with these birds, but such is not a fact." He further admonishes, "Don't get discouraged because you do not see these birds often, don't keep saying that the experiment is a failure, for every time you do you are liable to cause some fellow to shoot the first one he sees on the theory that it will do no harm as they will not amount to anything, because—someone said so."

Mr. Henshaw promises, "We expect to buy a good farm and establish an up-to-date game farm and raise from 25,000 to 30,000 birds each year. In two or three years an open season can be had for male birds only, as by killing off a large percentage of male birds will be beneficial to production as too many males are not desirable."

Since a good share of the stocking was done in southern Iowa, perhaps the fact that they didn't "take" even then was the cause for doubt.

It wasn't until 1932 that serious thought was given to concentrating on maintaining pheasants in northern Iowa.

The game farm was moved from the fair grounds to Clive in Polk county in 1915 but no records are available as to its pheasant producing capacity. In the same biennial report Henshaw asks for help, "If the people will do their part by assisting us to protect and feed these birds, also assist in killing the vermin, Iowa will soon have thousands of ring-necked pheasants."

By 1918 the picture must have appeared somewhat brighter. In the biennial report covering 1917 and 1918 Mr. Henshaw reported, "The pheasant has been making progress. The last year has been a banner year. There are enough birds now that have been raised in the wilds, so that the increase has been noticeable. We have had more reports of these birds the last year than we had the entire first four years. In the next two years these birds will be in every locality in such numbers as to be appreciated." We now know that Mr. Henshaw's last statement was highly optimistic and, to date at least, the pheasant has not established itself in every part of the state in sufficient numbers to provide a shootable surplus.

Between 1915 and 1918 all northwestern Iowa counties received plantings of 200 to 800 birds and one large planting of 2,500 birds was made in Winnebago County.

Mr. W. E. Albert was appointed game warden in 1919. The pheasant is not mentioned in the biennial reports covering 1919, 1920, 1921, and 1922. However, records are available that show that in the spring of 1921, 4,170 pheasant eggs were distributed throughout the state to be raised by individuals. In addition, 166 pheasants were stocked that year. Certainly during this four year period pheasants were distributed but, judging from the 1921 records, in smaller numbers than in the past. This single record also indicates that eggs were again being distributed.

Probably the new warden was employing a combination of egg distribution (Warden Lincoln) and bird distribution (Warden Henshaw).

In the biennial report covering the years 1923 and 1924, Mr. Albert has this to say about the pheasant, "In some counties where the pheasant has become fairly numerous, complaints have been made of its preying on the farmer's crops and to some extent this may be true, though doubtless, such stories have been exaggerated." Here we find the first mention of the damage to crops by pheasants, some twenty-two years ago. The names of the counties from which these complaints originated were not stated but, from experience, we can safely assume that they were counties in the northern part of the state.

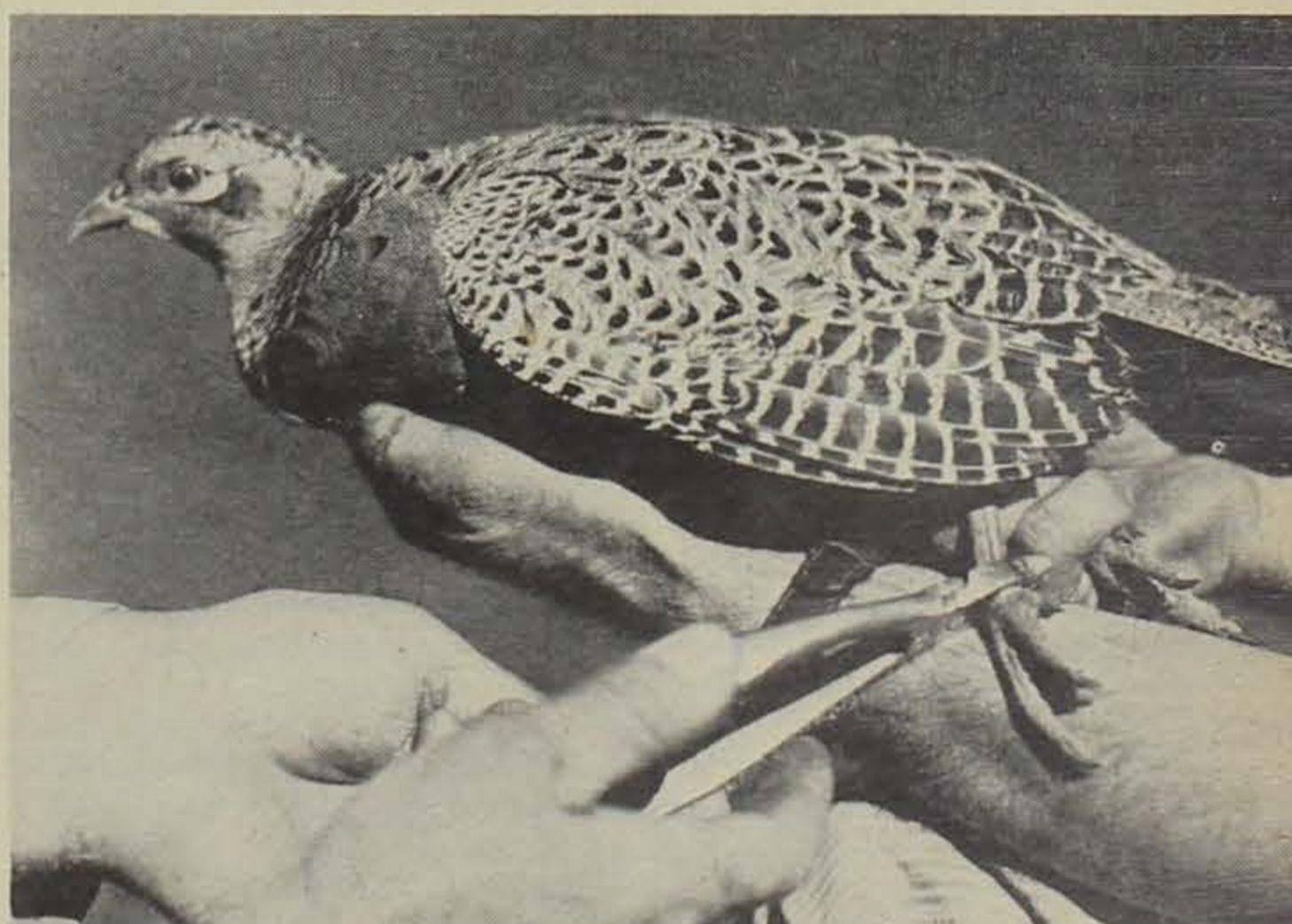
The first consideration of an open pheasant season is also indicated in this report, "During the term of the 1923-24 legislature the department favored a small bag limit of the male ring-necks in sections where the birds were most numerous, but the law makers of the state did not think that the time had arrived for this. As the bird further multiplies proper steps will be taken to regulate this in the interest of all concerned and the subject receive the consideration warranted by its importance."

### First Open Season

In 1925 the first pheasant shooting by hunters was permitted. During three one-half days in October in 13 counties three cocks per day could be taken. The methods used in choosing the 13 counties to be opened is not stated but would be an interesting item in the history of pheasant management. Mr. Albert's only comment on the first open season was that much interest had been aroused.

Again there is no mention of the number of eggs or birds distributed for the past two years. Only

(Continued on page 78)



Between 1915 and 1918 all northwestern Iowa counties received plantings of from two to eight hundred birds and one large planting of twenty-five hundred was made in Winnebago County. These birds were not banded. Records show that banding and tagging was first carried on extensively in Iowa in 1932.





Conservation Director Fred T. Schwob's resignation because of ill health was accepted, effective September 30.

## COMMISSION ACTION SEPTEMBER, 1946

THE September meeting of the State Conservation Commission was held at the Commission offices, 10th and Mulberry, Des Moines, on September 3 and 4, 1946.

Members present were E. B. Gaunitz, James C. Jenson, F. W. Mattes, F. J. Poyneer, R. E. Stewart, and Mrs. Addison Parker.

### The Commission:

Approved sending Commission's traveling exhibit to National Trail Ride at Lamoni, October 10, 11 and 12.

Instructed the Director to notify the Secretary of Interior that Iowa desires to avail itself of the benefits of Pittman-Robertson funds for the fiscal year 1947.

Authorized attendance of Assistant Director, Superintendent of Fish and Game, and Commission Chairman at International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners meeting at St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 9, 10, and 11, subject to Executive Council approval.

Authorized attendance of three members of the fisheries staff at American Fisheries Society meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 11, 12, and 13, subject to Executive Council approval.

Authorized attendance of two Commissioners and two members

of the staff to the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Commissioners meeting in the Black Hills in South Dakota in October, subject to Executive Council approval.

Transferred Dwight Morse to position as conservation officer in the Fish and Game Division from the Lands and Waters Division.

Approved agreement between the Commission and the Warren County Board of Supervisors for improvement on one and four tenths miles of county road on the east side of Lake Ahquabi State Park.

Re-affirmed opposition to construction of proposed dam and power project in the Cedar River and requested Attorney General to represent Commission in further proceedings before the Federal Power Commission.

Approved establishment of an experimental area on quail in southern Iowa at a cost not to exceed \$3,500 from Fish and Game funds.

Accepted the resignation of Director F. T. Schwob due to ill health.

Appointed Assistant Director G. L. Ziemer to the position of Director.

Appointed Bruce F. Stiles, Chief of the Fish and Game Division to the position of Assistant Director.

Appointed W. E. Albert to the position of Chief of the Fish and Game Division.

Meeting adjourned.

Reconvened September 4.

Authorized riprap work to be done on Storm Lake at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.

Authorized the placing of James R. Sherman, Photographer in the Public Relations Section, on the regular payroll, subject to approval of the Comptroller.

Authorized employment of two clerks, two stenographers, and one secretary, subject to approval of the Comptroller.

Approved subscription for membership in the International Council of Industrial Editors.

Accepted State Auditor's report of the Commission's accounts for the year ending June 30, 1945.

Approved bid from the Shur-Line Automatic Fire Protection Company for fire protection equipment on the hatchery buildings at the Orleans Station.

Adopted Administrative Order No. 85, establishing waterfowl regulations in Iowa for 1946 as recommended by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Adopted Administrative Order No. 86, extending the trout season to October 1, 1946.

Denied request of Howard Graesing for a four-year leave of absence.

Authorized sale of the Fish and Game boat at East Swan Lake.

Adopted a policy prohibiting writing of columns for publication by conservation officers.

Approved and exercised Fillenworth option on Lot 143 of the Plat of Francis Sites, Dickinson County, for \$185, and the Spencer Municipal Hospital option on Lot 141, Francis Sites, for \$175, from Fish and Game funds.

Approved and exercised Rodberg option of two tracts totaling 7.23 acres adjacent to Rice Lake in Worth County for \$500 from Fish and Game funds.

Approved and exercised Aar-

smith option on approximately 15 acres known as the Soper Mills area on Skunk River in Story County at \$65 per acre from Fish and Game funds.

Approved Mason option for an Exchange of Real Estate on the shore line of Big and Little Spirit Lakes in Dickinson County.

Accepted Condemnation Jury's award in the matter of the Haustmen condemnation in the Muskrat Slough tract in Jones County.

Authorized Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the Davis County Soil Conservation District.

Approved remodeling of the outlet control structure at South Twin Lake in Calhoun County.

Authorized the placing of suitable markers to denote the open area for duck shooting on South Twin Lake in Calhoun County.

Approved bid received by the Highway Commission from Graves Brothers of Melvin, for construction of the outlet control structure at Hottes Lake in Dickinson County, to be completed by December 1, 1946.

Approved construction of a sea wall in front of the hatchery reservoirs at Clear Lake at a cost not to exceed \$1,400 from Fish and Game funds.

Authorized the printing in pamphlet form for distribution of 2,000 copies of the paper, "Conservation Factors in Flood Control Planning," by Mr. Ziemer.

Authorized purchase of 6 additional prints of the new motion picture, "Iowa's Big Five," and adopted a policy of distribution for this film.

Authorized construction of a service building in the Mt. Ayr area in Ringgold County to house fish and game equipment at an approximate cost of \$6,500 from Fish and Game funds.

Authorized riprap work to be



The Commission approved the appearance of the traveling exhibit, including the reptile display, at the National Trail Ride at Lamoni, October 10-12.—Jim Sherman Photo.





G. L. Ziemer, left, Assistant Director, was appointed Director and Bruce F. Stiles, Chief of Fish and Game, was appointed Assistant Director.—Jim Sherman Photo.

done on the north shore of Beeds Lake at an approximate cost of \$2,700.

Authorized the installation of a water system at the Lake View Hatchery at a cost of approximately \$2,500.

Authorized work to be done to alleviate the algae condition in a small state-owned lagoon adjacent to East Okoboji Lake at a cost of approximately \$400.

Authorized the sale of an island on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River near Lansing in accordance with procedure as required by law.

Approved permits to hold races and regattas on Lake Manawa, Storm Lake, and Cedar River.

Approved the name, "Effigy Mounds National Monument," proposed by the National Park Service for the National Monument in northeastern Iowa.

Approved list of conservation officers as presented by Mr. Flick-

inger and authorized the placing of an officer, W. K. Wyatt, in charge of the State Forest Nursery at Ames, and an officer at Lower Backbone State Park.

Authorized training and water safety school for lake patrolmen.

Accepted offer of citizens in the Nine Eagles Park area to transfer to the state 56 acres in the park area for a total of \$560.

Denied request of J. S. Ogilvie and H. A. Schrader of Lake View to lease a portion of the area known as Crescent Park at Black Hawk Lake to be used for a tourist camp.

Reaffirmed policy of appraising land and requesting Executive Council approval.

Granted permission to the C. B. & Q. Railway Company to change the channel of the Iowa River on state-owned land in Section 31 north of Farmington.

Meeting adjourned.

## HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN FAVOR LICENSE INCREASE

**R**ECENTLY a poll was conducted to determine the attitude of Iowa's hunters and fishermen relative to an increase in license fees. The poll was conducted by sending double post cards to some ten per cent of the combination license holders picked at random from every county in the state. Sixty-eight percent favored an increase.

Questions asked included: "Do you favor increasing fishing and hunting license fees to meet increased costs of fish and game conservation? If so, how much?" "Do you favor or disfavor equal license requirements for men and women?" "Do you favor or disfavor a state tax on fishing and hunting equipment?"

### License Questionnaire Summary

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Questionnaires Mailed Out..... | 15,000       |
| Questionnaires Returned.....   | 2,782 (18½%) |
| Favor Increase.....            | 1,891 (68%)  |
| Disfavor Increase.....         | 891 (32%)    |

### Classification of Answers On Questionnaires

|   | Total Returns (2,782) | % of Total Returns | Favorable to Increase Number | %    | Not Favorable to Increase Number | %    |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| <b>AGE GROUPS</b>                           |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| Under 35.....                               | 602                   | 21.7               | 433                          | 71.9 | 169                              | 28.1 |
| 35-50.....                                  | 1231                  | 44.3               | 909                          | 73.8 | 322                              | 26.2 |
| Over 50.....                                | 909                   | 32.7               | 537                          | 59.1 | 372                              | 40.9 |
| <b>OCCUPATION CLASSIFICATION</b>            |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| Farmer.....                                 | 654                   | 23.5               | 420                          | 64.2 | 234                              | 35.8 |
| Professional.....                           | 323                   | 12.5               | 209                          | 64.7 | 114                              | 35.3 |
| Business.....                               | 525                   | 18.9               | 428                          | 81.5 | 97                               | 18.5 |
| Labor.....                                  | 579                   | 20.8               | 356                          | 61.5 | 223                              | 38.5 |
| Miscellaneous.....                          | 552                   | 19.8               | 376                          | 68.1 | 176                              | 31.9 |
| Retired.....                                | 108                   | 3.8                | 57                           | 52.8 | 51                               | 47.2 |
| Housewife.....                              | 32                    | 1.1                | 24                           | 75.  | 8                                | 25.  |
| <b>RECOMMENDED INCREASE IN FEES TO</b>      |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| <b>Fishing License</b>                      |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| \$1.25.....                                 | 237                   | 8.5                |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 1.50.....                                   | 1048                  | 37.7               |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 2.00.....                                   | 336                   | 12.1               |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 2.50.....                                   | 20                    | .7                 |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 3.00.....                                   | 36                    | 1.3                |                              |      |                                  |      |
| Over 3.00.....                              | 7                     | .25                |                              |      |                                  |      |
| <b>Hunting License</b>                      |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| \$1.25.....                                 | 228                   | 8.2                |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 1.50.....                                   | 1043                  | 37.5               |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 2.00.....                                   | 370                   | 13.3               |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 2.50.....                                   | 25                    | .9                 |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 3.00.....                                   | 45                    | 1.6                |                              |      |                                  |      |
| Over 3.00.....                              | 9                     | .3                 |                              |      |                                  |      |
| <b>Combination License</b>                  |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| \$1.75.....                                 | 47                    | 1.7                |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 2.00.....                                   | 813                   | 29.2               |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 2.50.....                                   | 558                   | 20.6               |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 3.00.....                                   | 289                   | 10.4               |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 3.50.....                                   | 63                    | 2.3                |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 4.00.....                                   | 22                    | .8                 |                              |      |                                  |      |
| Over 4.00.....                              | 56                    | 2.                 |                              |      |                                  |      |
| <b>STATE TAX ON SPORTING EQUIPMENT</b>      |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| Yes.....                                    | 620                   | 22.3               | 492                          | 79.4 | 128                              | 20.6 |
| No.....                                     | 1939                  | 69.7               | 1266                         | 65.3 | 673                              | 34.7 |
| <b>EQUAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR WOMEN</b> |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| Yes.....                                    | 1983                  | 71.3               | 1454                         | 73.3 | 529                              | 26.7 |
| No.....                                     | 636                   | 22.8               | 351                          | 55.  | 285                              | 45.  |
| <b>REMARKS</b>                              |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| Stocking.....                               | 195                   | 7.1                | 136                          | 69.7 | 59                               | 30.3 |
| Development.....                            | 238                   | 8.6                | 172                          | 72.2 | 66                               | 27.8 |
| Enforcement.....                            | 181                   | 6.5                | 133                          | 73.5 | 48                               | 26.5 |
| Education.....                              | 21                    | .8                 | 19                           | 90.5 | 2                                | 9.5  |
| Research.....                               | 78                    | 2.8                | 37                           | 47.4 | 41                               | 52.6 |
| Miscellaneous.....                          | 812                   | 29.2               | 460                          | 56.7 | 352                              | 43.3 |
| <b>CLASSIFICATION OF AREAS OF STATE</b>     |                       |                    |                              |      |                                  |      |
| 1. Northwest Quarter.....                   | 751                   | 27.                | 503                          | 67.  | 248                              | 33.  |
| 2. Northeast Quarter.....                   | 953                   | 34.3               | 684                          | 71.8 | 269                              | 28.2 |
| 3. Southwest Quarter.....                   | 529                   | 19.                | 350                          | 66.2 | 179                              | 33.8 |
| 4. Southeast Quarter.....                   | 528                   | 18.9               | 343                          | 65.  | 185                              | 35.  |

The remarks received on the returned questionnaires are many and variable. In succeeding issues of the CONSERVATIONIST we will carry a representative collection of these remarks with editorial notations or answers to specific questions when asked. A few are here given as an appetizer.

**From Western Iowa:** "I want to thank you for sending me this bit of news. I work all week long and am what you call a Sunday hunter. I don't get out as often as I would like to and I can't get any shells as the big shots get them all first and that puts the little fellow like me behind the eight ball."

**Central Iowa:** "I most certainly favor equal license fees for women.

I shoot a great deal both at the traps and in the field and have seen many fine women shooters who get their limit as easy as men."

**Northeastern Iowa:** "I am in favor of a fair increase to make it possible to provide better hunting and fishing. But I feel these increases should be used for that and not to increase the number of Conservation Officers. I find more officers now than I do game."

**Southeastern Iowa:** "Fishing and hunting to the common man is the sport that everyone can still indulge in at a minimum cost. I propose a stiff tax upon organized hunting clubs that lease or own natural breeding and feeding

(Continued on page 78)

## BIRD MIGRATION UNDER WAY

**R**ECORDED observations on bird migration go back at least 3,500 years. Exodus 16:13 and Numbers 11:31 record the arrival of quail from their winter home in Africa to their northern nesting grounds, a migration which saved the Israelites from starvation during their wanderings in the wilderness. Homer wrote, when describing the advance of the Trojans, "Like the cranes which flee from the coming winter and sudden rain, and fly with clamour towards the streams of the ocean."

It has been claimed that the Persians and Arabs compiled por-

tions of their calendar according to the regular movement of the birds, and the only mysterious part of this natural phenomenon to them was the destination of the fliers. During the earliest years of the Christian era, writers believed that swallows hibernated in hollow trees in the winter, or that they buried themselves in the mud of marshes, from which they emerged in the spring.

Bird banding has solved the riddle of where most birds winter. Many stop during the cold weather in southern United States; other species stop in Central America; and yet others fly south of the Equator, spending their winters in central South America.

—Grinnell Herald-Register.



## History of Ringnecks . . .

(Continued from page 75)

one record appears and it merely states that heavy plantings were made in 1924 and 1925.

A new method of distribution originated at this time to continue the effort to establish pheasants in southern Iowa. A campaign of gathering eggs and trapping wild birds was carried out.

This work began in Winnebago and Butler Counties in 1925. There are discrepancies between official records and local reports as to the magnitude of this work. Local residents say that 20,000 wild eggs were taken out of Winnebago County alone. Farmers who gathered them received \$1.00 a dozen. One Iowan claimed that 10,000 dozen were gathered in 1925, but this seems unreasonably high. He adds that it did not seem to reduce the birds in any way. The official records show that in 1925 from Butler and Winnebago Counties, there were 60,000 wild eggs gathered and 7,000 wild birds trapped.

Several interesting facts result from this early record. (1) It introduces a third method of propagation, that of transplanting wild birds and eggs, (2) it indicates that birds must have been extremely numerous in some of the northern counties and still, after 15 years of stocking southern Iowa, the birds did not establish themselves there, (3) the Iowan who seemed high on his estimate of the number of eggs gathered and who stated that taking such a large number didn't seem to reduce the resident stock of birds was, in effect, stating one of the modern practices now used in game management. The fact that surpluses could be removed without affecting populations in a given area was noticed by this man.

(To be continued next month)

A rat is said to do at least one dollar's worth of damage a year on the farm and twice that much in the city. The total annual damage is estimated at \$200,000,000.

A single hawk may devour hundreds of mice daily.

### THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF SAFETY

1. Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun. This is the cardinal rule of gun safety.
2. Carry only empty guns, taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp, and home.
3. Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
4. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble.
5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.
7. Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.
8. Never climb a tree or a fence with a loaded gun.
9. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water.
10. Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.



Plum Grove, Iowa City home of the first territorial governor, Robert Lucas.—Jim Sherman Photo.

## PLUM GROVE HISTORIC MONUMENT AT IOWA CITY

### DEDICATION TO TAKE PLACE NOVEMBER 2ND

PLUM GROVE was the home of Robert Lucas, first territorial governor of Iowa. Built in 1844, its federalist style of architecture is in warm harmony with the old state capitol, the courthouse at Keosauqua, and other public and private buildings of the period.

Preservation of Plum Grove as a historic monument and its restoration by the state of Iowa is more than the simple preservation and restoration of a quaint, historic homestead or a half-forgotten style of architecture. It is public recognition of the fact that unless tangible evidences of the richness of our past remain we are a poorer people.

What of the man who called Plum Grove home? Robert Lucas was born in 1781, the son of a Virginia slave holder. The family freed their slaves and moved to Ohio about the time the future territorial governor reached his majority.

Robert Lucas early entered public service. By 1818 he was a major general in the Ohio militia and recognition of his leadership was expressed in his election to the Ohio House of Representatives and later to the senate. Lucas was elected governor of Ohio by the Jacksonian Democrats in 1832, serving two terms in that capacity until 1836.

When the territory of Iowa was created in 1838, President Van Buren appointed Robert Lucas territorial governor. His three years as governor of the Iowa Territory was a stormy period for him, partly due to his stern, unyielding character. His commission as governor of Iowa Territory was re-

voked in 1841 by President Harrison.

Robert Lucas failed to realize his ambition to become governor of his adopted state and died at Plum Grove in 1853, "a man of unquestioned strength and vigor, and throughout his public career dominated by a genuine patriotism and sincerity of purpose."

During the century since Governor Lucas' death Plum Grove has had a succession of owners. The house was remodeled several times and much of the simplicity of exterior line, as well as the interior richness, was lost.

It was feared by many who knew the history of the old house that it was destined to share oblivion with hundreds of price-

less landmarks of the past. A few years ago a committee composed of Mr. George D. Koser, Senator LeRoy S. Mercer, Mr. J. A. Swisher, Mr. Dugalls Swisher, and Dr. E. J. Anthony, presented a petition to the State Conservation Commission requesting that Plum Grove be acquired and established as a historic monument in the state parks system.

The petition has been granted and the dwelling restored almost to its exact original condition.

## Favor License Increase . .

(Continued from page 77)

grounds for ducks and geese."

South Central Iowa: "I believe there would be more licenses sold if the wardens were more strict."

Central Iowa: "I feel that I receive more for my money when I purchase a fishing or hunting license than anything else I buy."

Central Iowa: "There are two or three men around almost every town or community that make it a business of setting two or three hundred traps and making a lot of money. Get them some way."

Very frequently a state wildlife organization may be sized up by paying a little attention to its regular publications. During the past many of the state game and fish magazines have been especially conspicuous for advertising individuals and for building up political fences for people connected with the game departments, rather than for efforts to improve the status of wildlife. A few publications still use personal photographs and articles designed for the purpose of pleasing and helping individuals, regardless of any contribution to wildlife conservation. When such practice occurs trouble can be expected.—Ross O. Stevens, "Talk About Wildlife."

The multiple use concept is a basic principle in public forest administration. It is that all uses of forested lands shall be considered and that they be so correlated that the greatest public benefit will result.

The woodcock is the only bird in the western hemisphere whose upper bill is movable and the beak can be used like a pair of tweezers to grasp food below the surface of the ground.



It's a hen. Remember the goose and the golden egg. Remember too, it is this year's hens that make next year's hunting in Iowa.—Jim Sherman Photo.





Cool game birds as rapidly as possible and never bunch them together in a closed car trunk. A convenient snow bank is an ideal cooling system.

## Harvest Time for Surplus Game

Anna Margrethe Olsen

NO form of wildlife offers greater appeal to the Iowa hunter than the game birds. In the spring he is thrilled at the formations of ducks and geese on their northward flight and anticipates their return in prime condition in the fall. As he travels over the state in the late summer he is ever alert to judge the abundance of pheasants and quail and note the size and numbers in their broods. By the time hunting season is announced in early fall both mind and stomach are prepared to take a share of the hunting harvest.

So that the stomach may not be disappointed we pass along a few pointers on how to get the most from game bird food.

### Handling Game Birds in the Field

No game dinner is at its best in quality and flavor unless there has been teamwork between the field and the kitchen. The preparation of the bird dinner actually begins as soon as the bird is shot and in the hand. The rules for bringing home birds at their best are few and easy to follow.

Bleed each bird as soon as it is picked up by cutting or pulling off the head. Hold it by its feet to bleed thoroughly.

Eviscerate all birds as quickly as possible. Ducks and coots feed largely on plant material which spoils quickly. All viscera should be removed soon after killing to prevent any tainting and any undesirable increase in gaminess. The grains and seeds which make up a large part of the food of upland game birds, are acted upon more slowly by enzymes, bacteria and other organisms. Pheasant and quail can be cooled out and carried half a day without affecting appreciably the quality of these birds.

Remove the entrails, plucking a strip of feathers from the end of the breastbone to the vent before making the incision. The giblets are good to eat, but perishable, and should be removed and cleaned at once, then wrapped in waxed paper and chilled if they are to be used. Remove the crop and windpipe by cutting a slit along the back of the neck close to the body, thus leaving the breast whole.

Wipe the inside with a cloth or unglazed paper to remove all juices. Do not wash if the birds are to be carried around for several hours or longer; washing makes conditions more favorable for bacterial action and should be deferred until the birds are brought home.

Cool as rapidly as possible. Carry the birds on the outside while hunting and spread on the floor of the car until the body heat is dissipated. Never bunch warm birds together in the closed car trunk.

Keep the birds as cool as possible. If at camp, hang up outside in shade with free circulation of air. The feathers protect against dust, flies and insects.

If the birds are to be expressed, ice the eviscerated but not plucked birds. Consult the local express company as to the preparation of the game for shipping and laws governing same.

If birds are to be frozen before sending or taking home, pluck pheasants, quails and ducks, and skin coots; eviscerate, remove oil sacs, wash thoroughly under running water, dry and wrap in moisture-proof paper before freezing. Wrap and freeze the giblets separately. Pack the solidly frozen game in dry ice for shipping.

When frozen birds are thawed, do not refreeze them but plan to

use them as quickly as possible. Thawed game deteriorates in refrigeration more quickly than fresh game, and loses flavor and quality when refrozen.

### Handling Game Birds in the Kitchen

The preparations for and the actual cooking of ducks, coots, pheasants and quails are practically the same as for poultry. Here again there is team work between the nimrod and the cook, for no experienced hunter considers his task completed until he can deliver the birds, plucked, cleaned, "seasoned" to his liking, and checked for any possible "sour" or tainted spots. The following steps are usually taken in preparing and cooking birds.

Pluck wild ducks dry, not scalded. Follow the method used for plucking a tame duck, singe, remove the head, the feet at the first joint, and the two oil sacs at the base of the tail.

Skin coots, do not pluck them; they are full of troublesome pinfeathers. Much of the fat under the skin is also removed with the skin and the flesh is less gamy.

Pluck and do not skin pheasants and quails for maximum flavor and juiciness. Cold birds are difficult to pluck without tearing the tender skin. Immersing them first in hot water as for chickens, simplifies and hastens the process and does little if any harm to the birds.

Wash the plucked birds and the skinned coots under running water, cleaning them thoroughly and removing all dark membranes; drain and dry.

Today ripening or "seasoning" is done largely in the refrigerator, infrequently in the field. Dressed birds, wrapped in moisture-proof paper, are seasoned enough for most people when aged from 18 to 48 hours. Those who prefer meats and game well ripened or "high" may age them from 1 to 2 weeks, or even longer.

Check carcass for any spots that may be sour or stale from

contact with viscera, and cut them away. Leg and back muscles are more likely to develop off odors than breast muscles.

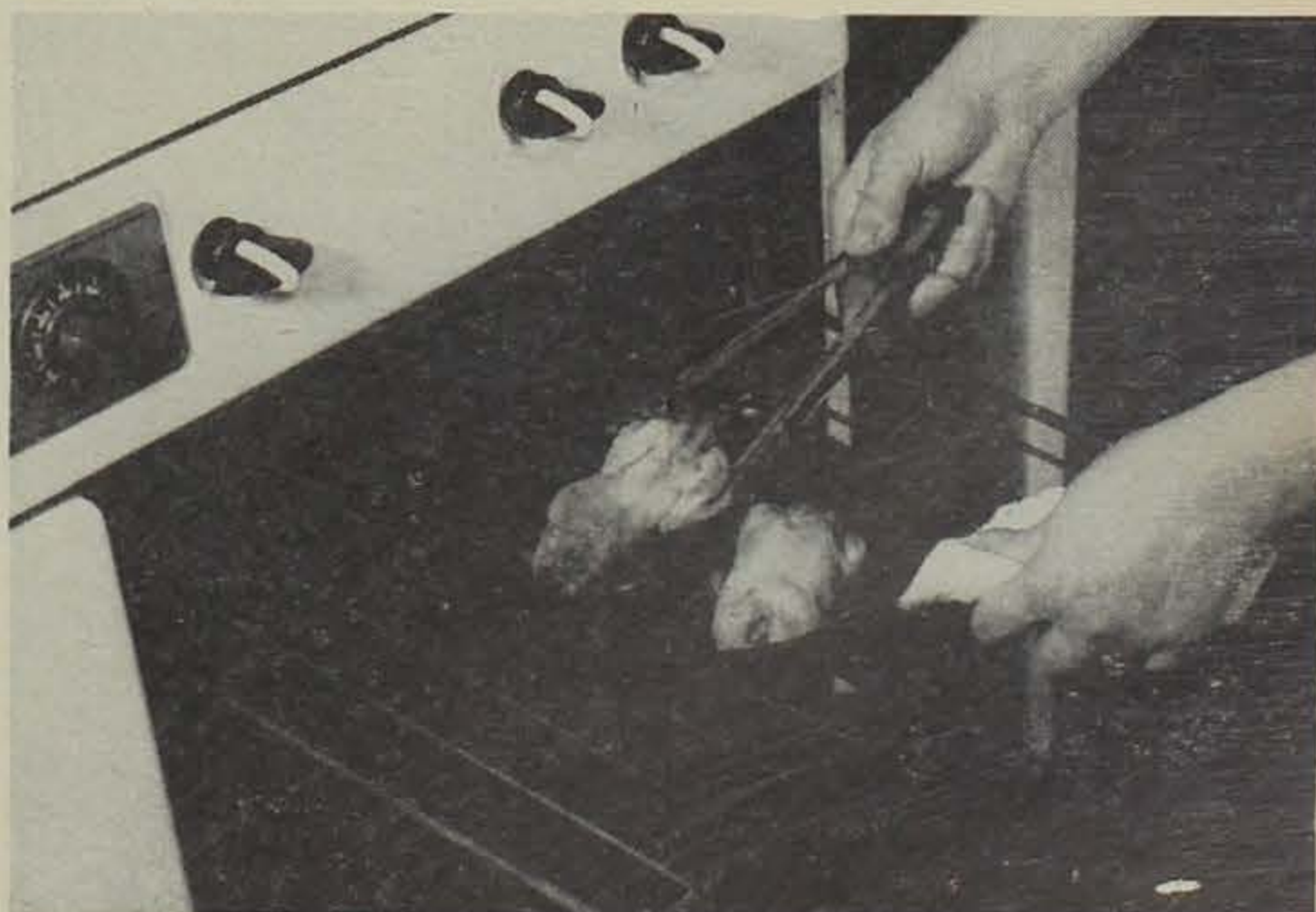
If you like game flavor do not soak birds in water, or salt or acid solutions and do not parboil them unless they are very gamy, strong, or fishy. Ducks and coots that feed on strongly flavored plants and animal life are likely to be "strong" and fishy.

Young birds are tender and older ones tough. From  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all game birds taken each year are young. The toughening of the muscles with age is even more apparent in game birds than in poultry. The hunter judges the age of a bird largely by the color and brightness of its plumage and feet, (young birds are bright in color), the firmness or rigidity of its bill, especially the lower jaw, the hardness of the covering of its feet, the size and shape of its spurs and the shape and sharpness of its claws. A young duck has pointed quill tips on its wings and flexible windpipe, breastbone, and rib ends. A young coot also has flexible windpipe, breastbone and rib ends. A young pheasant cock, less than a year old, has rounded spurs, one-half inch long or less, with a soft easily scratched covering. A quail's age is indicated by its plumage. If the coverts or small feathers lying over the base of the primaries on the wings are buff-tipped and edged, the quail is young; if the coverts are a uniform dark gray, the quail is probably two years old.

The quality of a bird is determined largely by its weight, plumpness, amount of fat, and firmness and color of muscle. Remove the fat in strong or fishy birds.

Game birds are less fat and less juicy than domestic fowl. Ducks and coots are usually fatter than the pheasant and quail. Fat in the form of butter, bacon or salt pork strips or drippings or a neutral fat, is added generously in

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No game dinner is at its best unless there has been team work between the field and the kitchen. Preparation of the game dinner actually begins in the field as soon as the birds have been shot.—State College Photo.





Beeds Lake after drainage, showing the well defined creek bed that was dammed to form the lake and the numerous excellently preserved brush shelters placed in 1937 when the lake was built to increase fish environment.—Jim Sherman Photo.

## BEEDS LAKE DRAINED

**B**EEDS Lake, a 130 acre lake built by the State Conservation Commission with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937, has been drained in an attempt to re-establish aquatic vegetation and a balance of fish populations.

Beeds Lake at one time provided excellent fishing. For the past several years it has been almost a complete "bust" from the angler's standpoint and drastic measures were deemed advisable by the Conservation Commission.

In addition to eliminating rough fish, principally carp, the drainage program is giving the Commission a chance to analyze siltation, as well as chemical changes that have taken place in the lake bottom proper.

Preliminary reports reveal surprisingly little silt has been carried into the lake. In fact, the channel of the creek that was dammed to make the lake is still sharply defined.

The ratio of game fish to rough fish was much as fisheries experts expected, with the weight of carp far over-balancing that of the game fish. Crappies, in numbers, were most abundant, however they were badly under-nourished and reflected the absence of food organisms in the water.

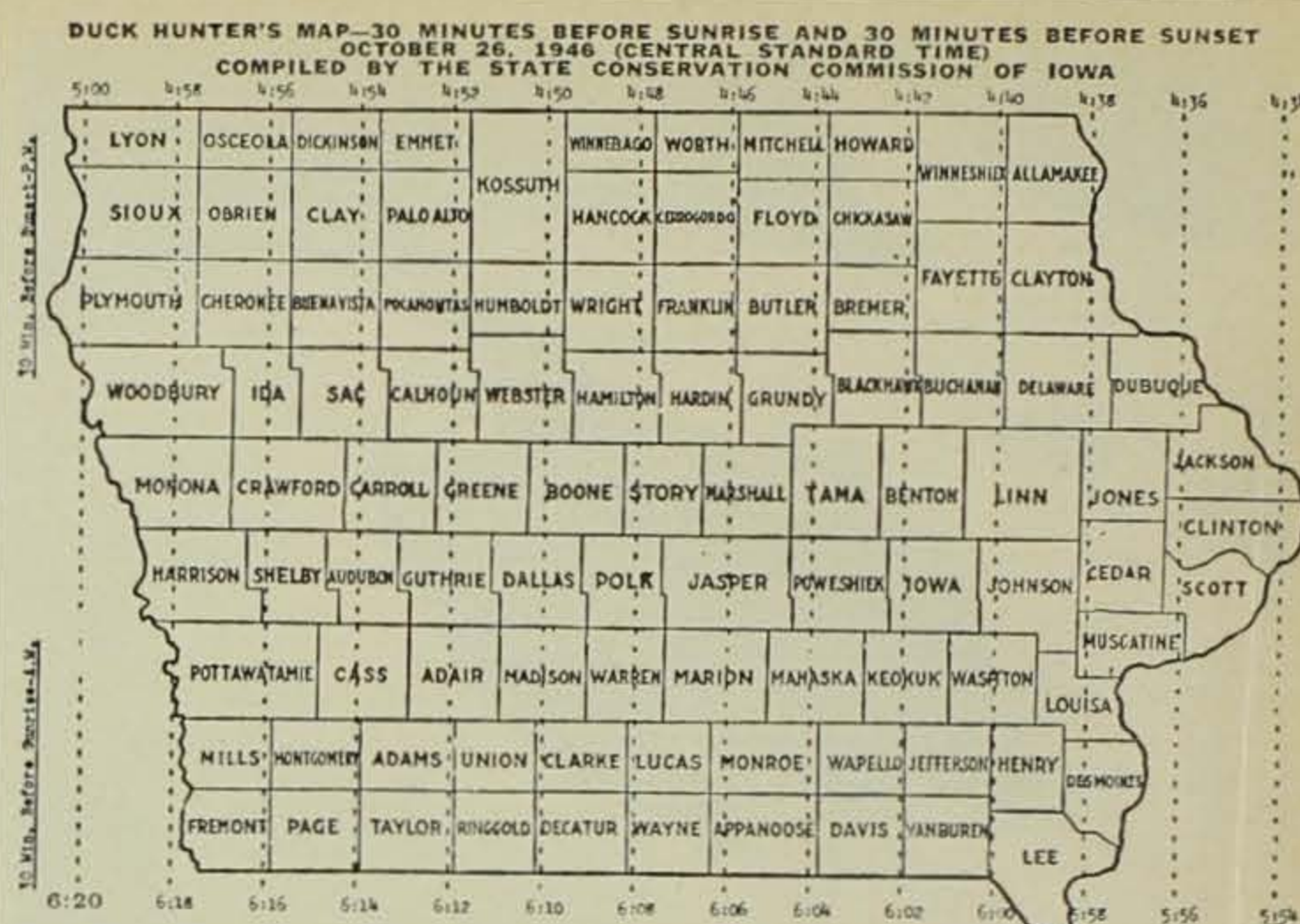
Plant life was completely lacking on the lake bottom, its absence being accounted for by the fact that the feeding habits of the abundant carp kept the water cloudy and prevented sunlight penetration which is necessary for plant growth.

All fish removed were carefully weighed and counted. The totals reveal a rough fish count of almost six to one game fish.

Before the lake is allowed to refill, all water remaining in the lake and all streams coming into it will be treated chemically to destroy fish life. The lake will then be restocked, probably with bass, bluegills, crappies, bullheads, and minnows.



Fisheries crewmen seining the last remaining pocket above the Beeds Lake dam.—Jim Sherman Photo.



THIS MAP LISTS THE CORRECT TIME AT 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE AND AT 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNSET ON OCTOBER 26, 1946, ON THE VERTICAL LINES DIVIDING THE STATE FROM EAST TO WEST. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES IT MAY BE CONSIDERED THAT 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE IS ONE MINUTE LATER AND 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNSET IS ONE AND ONE-HALF MINUTES EARLIER, EACH SUCCEEDING DAY OF THE MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASON, EXCEPT THAT AN ADDITIONAL MINUTE BE ADDED TO THIS DIFFERENCE FOR EACH SEVEN DAY PERIOD, BUT FROM DEC. 2 TO 8 THERE IS NO CHANGE IN SUNSET TIME.

## STATE OF IOWA—1946—MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

| Kind of Bird   | Open Season         | Bag Limit                     | Possession Limit            |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ducks, except American and Redbreasted Mergansers                                | Oct. 26-Dec. 9 inc. | 7 (See Footnote 14 Number 1.) | (See Footnote 15 Number 1.) |
| American and Redbreasted Mergansers  | Oct. 26-Dec. 9 inc. | 25                            | No limit                    |
| Blue Geese and Snow Geese  | Oct. 26-Dec. 9 inc. | 4                             | 4                           |
| Canada Geese, Hutchins Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese, Ross's Geese— | No open season      |                               |                             |
| Coot-Mudhen  | Oct. 26-Dec. 9 inc. | 25                            | 25                          |
| Wilson's Snipe or Jacksnipe  | No open season      |                               |                             |
| Grebe  | No open season      |                               |                             |
| Rails and Gallinules   | No open season      |                               |                             |
| Mourning Dove  | No open season      |                               |                             |
| Woodcock   | No open season      |                               |                             |
| Swan   | No open season      |                               |                             |

### Shooting Hours 30 Minutes Before Sunrise to 30 Minutes Before Sunset Central Standard Time

1. Daily bag limit on ducks is seven (7) in the aggregate of all kinds including in such limit not more than one (1) wood duck.

First open day the possession limit shall be the daily bag limit; thereafter a two-day bag limit may be held in possession, except that no more than one (1) wood duck may be possessed at any time.

On the opening day of the season no person may possess any migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit. Waterfowl legally taken during open season may be possessed for a period of 90 days only, after the close of the open season in the state where taken.

It is unlawful to use live decoys, bait, aircraft, motor or sail propelled craft, rifles, horses, cattle or mules; or any shotgun larger than No. 10 gauge, in the taking of migratory waterfowl.

Repeating or automatic shotguns of more than 3-shell capacity must be plugged to limit the combined capacity of barrel and magazine to 3 shells. Every person over 16 years of age is required to have a federal migratory bird hunting stamp, validated by his signature written across the face thereof, on his person when hunting migratory waterfowl. (Fee \$1.00—may be purchased at post offices.) Every hunter, regardless of age, must have a State hunting license on his person, except owners or tenants hunting on their own land.

## Harvest Time . . .

(Continued from page 79)

cooking to make them less dry and more juicy.

Cook young and tender game birds, well conditioned and not too gamy, by dry heat, as by broiling, grilling, frying, or roasting to preserve the natural and distinctive game flavor. Follow directions given for cooking poultry under each method.

Cook older and less tender game birds by moist heat (covered) or by a combination of dry and moist heat, as by braising, pot roasting, roasting or baking, covered, stewing, or in casserole dishes.

Game flavor may be enhanced, supplemented or modified by a wise choice of condiments, sauces, spices, herbs, and vegetables in

barbecued, braised, and baked dishes and in stews.

Some like their game rare; some, medium well done; and others, very well done. The time for cooking will vary accordingly. With few exceptions, game meat should be medium well done, flavorful and tender, not dry, tasteless and tough. In roasting game birds a greased cloth covering and frequent basting will help keep the skin or outer surface moist. For those who prefer a crisp skin, baste frequently with fat and sprinkle with flour after each basting.

Frozen pan or oven-dressed game birds need not be thawed before cooking. Simply allow additional time for thawing during the cooking process. The extra time needed will vary with the size and stiffness of the bird.