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IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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WAKE UP, AMERICA!

By Mel O. Steen

Reprinted from "The Missouri Conservationist"

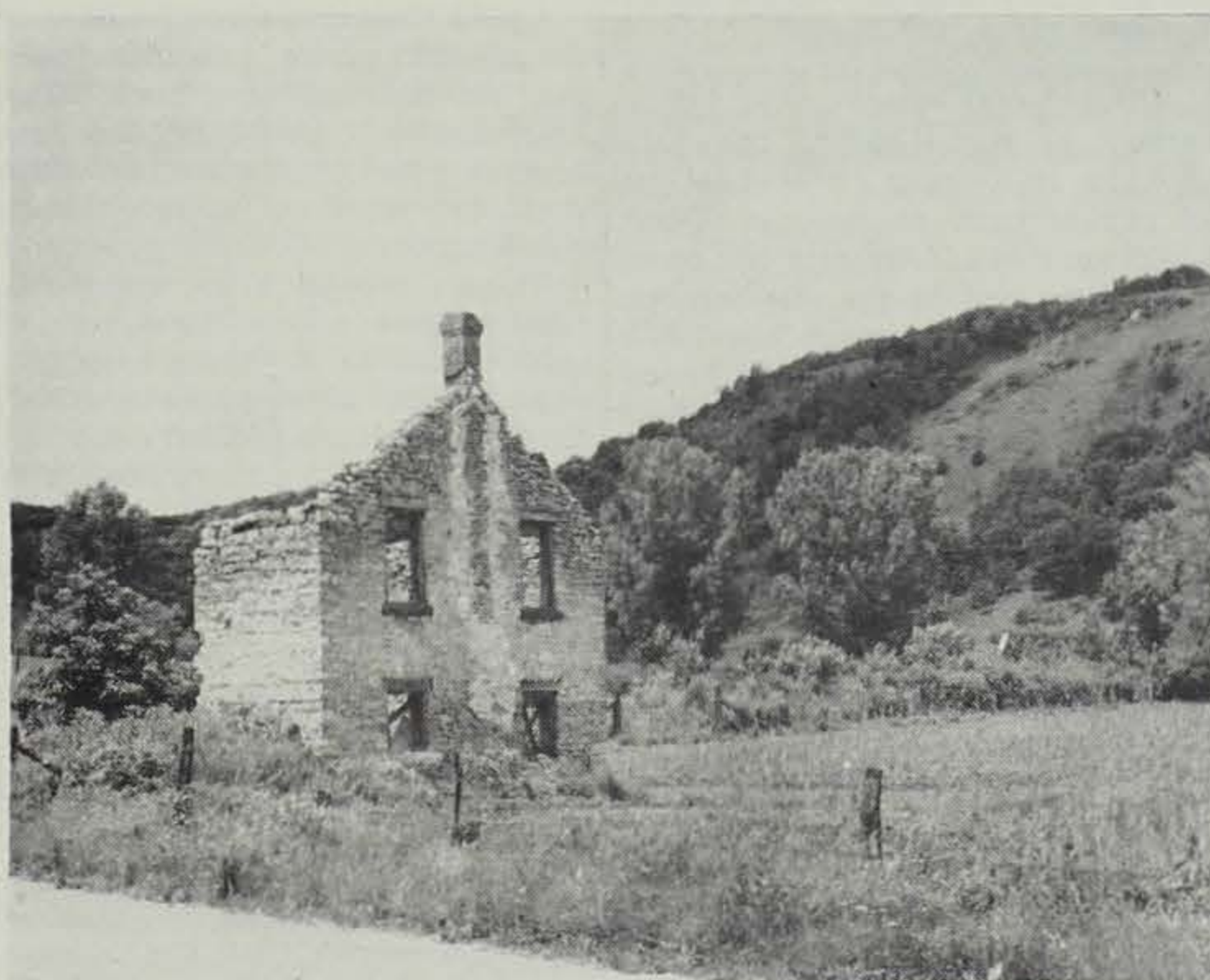
IF YOU would know the true story of Americans, their wild-life and their land, look first to history. On its pages you will find that story, revealed in the critical light of historical fact. To better understand this story, however, it is necessary to first scan the history of other men and their land. It is necessary to look at yesterday as well as today.

Look at history, and you will see nation after nation march across its pages, to rise and flourish on the rape of a fertile land, and to pass on into national decay or oblivion with the depletion of that fertility. Look at history, America. When you do, you will see that civilized man has always mis-used the land. There are many un-productive scars on old Mother Earth, starvation-ridden lands that once adequately fed great nations. Look at the history of any nation that has ever tilled the soil and you will see that man is not worthy of his stewardship of the land. He always despoils the land, and the degree of his destruction can be measured in terms of his tenure plus his so-called civilization.

When the source of man's sustenance and material glory will no longer sustain his way of life, he does one of two things; he sinks into individual and national decay, or he takes, by force of arms, more fertile land from some other nation. That is history!

Van Loon defines history in this short but tremendously significant sentence: "The history of man is the story of a hungry animal in search of food." But man is not possessed of physical hunger alone. His hunger engulfs the whole array of human desire, and he uses the land to satiate that hunger

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"You are young, America. This land has been under your control some 300 years; yet you have ruined, partially or completely, more than half the fertile topsoil you possessed. It took the Chinese ten times as long to do as much to China."

LEGISLATURE VOTES SIX NEW ARTIFICIAL LAKES

By John W. Henderson
(Iowa Daily Press Writer)

IT WILL be a matter of years before the artificial lakes voted by the present legislature will be ready for use.

The assembly set aside \$1,272,000 to create six lakes, but Conservation Commission officials say Iowans should plan their vacations elsewhere for the time being.

"If the funds were immediately available," G. L. Ziemer, State Conservation Director, said, "it would be at least a year before any contracts for work could be let."

No Assurance

There is no assurance that the funds will be available immediately. The appropriation for the lakes

has a string on it—it can't be spent until the interim committee on retrenchment and reform of the legislature says so.

Ziemer pointed out that while the committee has not yet been set up, the state's policy on other capital improvements has been to hold off construction until a more favorable time.

Although the Commission has developed fairly detailed plans for all of the lakes, Ziemer said there remains to be done "complete design studies and investigations, preparation of the plans, specifications, contracts and sundry other things which are involved in a construction project of this scope."

The Conservation Commission does not have a staff available to

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CATFISH— FIND THEM FEEDING

By Harry Harrison
Fisheries Biologist

The private life of the channel catfish is a fascinating study and one that pays dividends to the angler. Two facts of interest and importance are **where** and **when** do catfish feed.

A little catfish "book larnin'" for the beginner will set him far ahead in his fishing success compared to our present day experts who as tyros learned the **wheres** and **whens** in the long hard school of experience.

During periods of clear water, channel catfish feed largely at night, the heaviest feeding period coming with evening dusk as Mr. Catfish, hungry from a day spent in the seclusion of his favorite shelter, sallies forth in search for food. He will continue to feed intermittently and move over wide areas of the stream all night. With the coming of daylight he will again fill his belly before retiring for the day.

For the most part, feeding during the twilight hours will be confined to the channel and in deep water. But as darkness sets in, he will invade the shallower water, and individuals weighing as much as six to eight pounds may be caught feeding in water barely deep enough to cover their backs.

Daytime feeding is taboo in the best of catfish society. However, a choice bit of bait offered under a snag or in other shelters during daylight hours, frequently meets with success. Eating while in shelter area is not **customary** with catfish, but it is not unlike getting out of bed to eat a midnight snack.

Increased catfish movement invariably goes hand in hand with

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Iowa Conservationist

Published Monthly by

THE IOWA STATE CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

914 Grand Avenue—Des Moines, Iowa

ROBERT D. BLUE, Governor of Iowa

G. L. ZIEMER, Director

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MARCH COMMISSION ACTION

A MEETING of the Conservation
Commission was held at the
Commission offices, 914 Grand, Des
Moines on March 24 and 25.

Members present were: E. B.
Gaunitz, J. C. Jenson, F. W. Mat-
tes, Mrs. Addison Parker, F. J.
Poyneer, R. E. Stewart, and E. G.
Trost.

The Commission:

Authorized city of Eldora to
construct a suspension bridge
across the Iowa River at Pine
Lake State Park.

Authorized that options be taken
on 28 acres adjacent to Silver
Lake near Lake Park.

Reviewed 88 Commission poli-
cies.

Authorized support to states
opposing legislation to turn federal
owned grazing lands into private
ownership.

Adopted Administrative Order
No. 92 removing catch and posses-
sion limits on bullheads in Lost
Island Lake.

Adopted Administrative Order
No. 93 opening crappie fishing May
15 in certain lakes.

Adopted Administrative Order
No. 94 opening bullhead season in
certain artificial lakes May 1.

Adopted Administrative Order
No. 95 opening certain impounded
waters to fishing June 1.

Adopted Administrative Order
No. 96 closing Beeds Lake to all
fishing except crappies which may
be taken from June 1 to November
30.

Adopted Administrative Order
No. 97 closing the fishing season
for paddlefish and rock sturgeon
in all waters under the jurisdiction
of the state.

Closed to minnow seining 39
state owned lakes.

Authorized attendance of Direc-
tor at the Federal Inter-Agency
Sedimentation Conference at Den-



Don't scold your lad if he comes home
late from a trek along the creek and his
feet are muddy. Hold your tongue, parent.
You were young once yourself.

BROOMS OR BOYS

THIS is the time of the year
when the minds of a great lot
of others turn to fishing. Don't
scold your lad if he sets his room
with lines and hooks. Remember,
he's a boy. If he comes home late
from a trek along the creek and
his feet are wet or muddy—hold
your tongue, parent. You were
young once, too. Remember way
back there! It all reminds us of
the parable written by Ezra M.
Cox, and entitled, "Brooms or
Boys."

"And the people gathered to-
gether and said 'Go to, let us build
us a tabernacle whose equipment
shall be the latest thereof, and
whose spire shall tickle the stars.'"

"And it came to pass that they
gave great attention to the Ladies'
Aid kitchen and installed every-
thing electric.

"And when it was finished they
invited all officials of other
churches to come and behold what
they had wrought, and to eat of
the food thereof prepared in the
electric kitchen.

"Now this was before the days
of sliced bread so they bought a
mechanical breadcutter to lighten
the work of the women who served
at their banquets.

"On the night when the officials
came to behold their mighty works,
two officials chose for themselves
the demonstration of the me-
chanical bread cutter and did turn
the crank thereof.

"There drew nigh unto the place
where the officials stood with the

ver, Colorado, subject to approval
of the Executive Council.

Denied application of Franklin
County Conservation Club to con-
struct trap field in Beeds Lake
area.

Accepted Dave Evans tract of
87 acres on the Turkey River, near
Cresco.

LACEYISMS

Excerpts From Speeches of
Major John F. Lacey
Iowa Member of Congress
1889-1907

ARBOR Day celebration and the
planting of fruit and timber
trees will lead a new generation
to realize that the forest is not
the enemy of man, but his best
friend — a friend without whom
nations cannot expect to prosper.

The practical question of today
is how, as far as possible, to undo
the mistakes of the past; how to
prevent them in the future. Agita-
tion and discussion are necessary
to call the attention of the people
to the importance of maintaining,
and at least partially restoring,
some of the primitive forests of
this country. We must give up
some part to nature in order to
keep the remainder for ourselves.

I read the other day of a hunt in
the South where two prominent
gentlemen from New York killed
1,600 ducks in two days, and ge-
nerously gave them away to show
that they were not mere ordinary
pot hunters.

These sanguinary sportsmen
should have rather hired out or
volunteered to stick pigs for two
days for the meat packers, where
they might have glutted their ap-
petite for gore in a more creditable
way.

breadcutter a group of boys. They
besought the officials to let them
slice off a slice of bread. But the
officials denied them, and held on
to the breadcutter and their offi-
cial dignity.

"After the moon had waxed and
waned once more, the boys met one
night in the church to study. While
their leader tarried in coming,
they discovered that the kitchen
had been left unlocked. And the
boys went in. Lo and behold, there
was the mechanical breadcutter.
But there was no bread in the
kitchen, so they ran all of the
janitor's brooms through the slicer,
cutting each one off clear up to
the handle.

"Now when the janitor carried
the report to the officials that he
had much muss in the kitchen and
no brooms to sweep it up, there
was much wailing in the taber-
nacle. The decree went forth that
the boys be brought before their
elders for judgment.

"When the boys were assembled
the elders elected a judge, a
prosecuting attorney, a defense
lawyer, and empaneled a jury.
That night the boys were on trial
for the willful destruction of
property—four church brooms.

"When their hour of prosecution
was over, the boys went forth
never to return, and the church
had rest for a season.

"The market price for the best
brooms was seventy-five cents."

—Bellevue Leader

PHEASANTS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

IF THE spring pheasant hatch is
a "bust" again next spring —
then what?

If next spring's hatch is as poor
as it has been in 1945 and 1946
our pheasant population next fall
will be little more than half what
it was this fall. What is worse, it
will seem as if there is even less
than half as many because as
birds become scarce the difficulty
in getting them is more than pro-
portional to their decline in num-
bers.

Some people are already advo-
cating a closed season next year.
Such predictions should be limited
to those capable of predicting ex-
act weather conditions during May
and June. If the next hatch is
poor we should certainly keep our
hens on the protected list, but an
open season on cocks would have
no bad effect.

The question is, "What can we
do to stem this falling pheasant
population?" The answer is,
"Practically nothing." Attempting
to check the current decline in
birds by restricting hunting is as
feasible as holding back the seas
with a mop. No one is more
anxious than those of us who work
for the Game Department to main-
tain a good pheasant supply. It is
our bread and butter. More im-
portant, John Pheasant provides
the revenue for our South Dakota
programs of park and lake de-
velopment, forestry, engineering,
water conservation, public shooting
ground, etc. The much maligned
non-resident hunter is paying the
bill for these developments. How-
ever, when cackling cocks no
longer flush from corn fields our
Fairy Godmother will cease to
smile and, like Cinderella, we will
be running down the street in rags
at the stroke of midnight.

It can happen that fast, too. Up-
land game populations fluctuate
rapidly over the years and they
fall twice as fast as they rise. One,
or at most, two years of poor
pheasant reproduction and we will
be reaching into the old sock to
maintain the skeleton of our
present organization. Game like
grain is a crop, and crops some-
times fail. Smart farmers know
this and build up a reserve during
good years for the poor years

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The hunting season in 1947 depends
primarily on this spring's hatching success.



She perched on the fence wire and aided in the capture. Allen Green Photo.

DETECTIVE JENNY

By Allen Green

ENERGETIC Jenny Wren had recently been neglecting her detective work for the birds in her community; she had been exceptionally busy feeding her own young in the hollow post at the garden corner, therefore, she was not putting in full time as a lookout. On this particular morning she had taken a little more time than usual at catching insects, and on her return to the nest she was surprised to spy something moving about when she peered into the hole in the post. It was a snake!

She thought she had heard warning cries from the other birds while she was searching for food in a distant brush pile, but in her eagerness to supply the new members of the family, she carelessly had not heeded the call. Now it was her turn to summon aid, and it wasn't any time at all before a small army had formed to assist



On returning to the nest to feed her young, Jenny spied the murderer. Allen Green Photo.

in the fight against the common enemy.

Of course, Jenny led the attack—pecking the snake as best she could until it finally squirmed out of the hole. We heard the alarm and were promptly on the scene equipped with a hoe which luckily we had left leaning against the side of the house.

As the snake emerged from the opening we effectively swung the garden weapon, finally dispatching the robber. The birds all stayed close by—in fact Jenny perched on the wire fence, occasionally darting down in an attempt to help, but to no avail. It was too late. None of her little ones were spared. The fox snake had devoured all—not only that, but it apparently had robbed two other nests, for we found ten young birds in the stomach of this hungry thief. As near as we could identify them they were robins, mourning doves and wrens.

Pheasants . . .

(Continued from page 130)

which always follow. This should apply to the managers of game as well as the growers of grain.

The administrators of our game fund have a problem which is unique to South Dakota in that the revenue can fluctuate extremely rapidly. Minnesota, for example, sells roughly 500,000 fishing licenses, 200,000 small game licenses, 150,000 big game licenses, and a larger number of trapping licenses. With revenue from so many sources, the annual income remains relatively constant, in which case a large balance to carry the department over "dry" years is not essential. It is unfortunate that in South Dakota all the eggs are in one nest—the nest of Mrs. Pheasant.

But then, why be so pessimistic about the whole thing? With good hatching and rearing success next spring we can have a 25 per cent increase in pheasants followed by satisfactory hunting. However, anyone whose business depends on the non-resident hunter should be resigned to the fact that there will be "dry" years and that recovery will be less rapid than the decline. This may be only the beginning of a period of pheasant crop failures and it may be well for the managers of pheasant lodges, locker plants, and the Game Department to gird their loins. The possibility of a period of "pheasant drouth" is not remote.

—Jim Kimball, Game Technician
South Dakota Conservation Digest

DON'T PUT FISH IN WATER

Never put fish in water after they have been cleaned. Pack them in ferns or clean grass, or even wrap them in waxed paper. But keep them dry.

The earthworm feeds on earth for the organic matter it contains rather than the earth itself.

The young of an eel is an elver.

OUR GREAT OUT-OF-DOORS

A SPLENDID portfolio of cartoons is for sale by the Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America for a dollar.

The right to the use of the cartoons was made possible through the courtesy of their creator J. N. Darling.

"Ding is universally known by newspaper and magazine readers for his cartoons of people—both big and little—for his sharp pen comments on political situations, for his understanding portrayal of situations in every-day life. His genius has been recognized by two separate awards of the Pulitzer Prize for Cartooning.

"But when Darling pulls up his drawing board and goes to work on a hunting, fishing or conservation subject—that's when he works with sheer joy and delivers his greatest punch, for the great out-of-doors has been his chief hobby since boyhood.

"To outdoorsmen all over the nation he is the symbol of modern conservation. To the hunters he is the man who saved the ducks. To the fishermen he is the greatest foe of pollution.

"To Iowans Ding is the father of the non-political form of fish and game administration. To them he also is responsible for the 25 Year Iowa Conservation Plan—

since used as a model by many states.

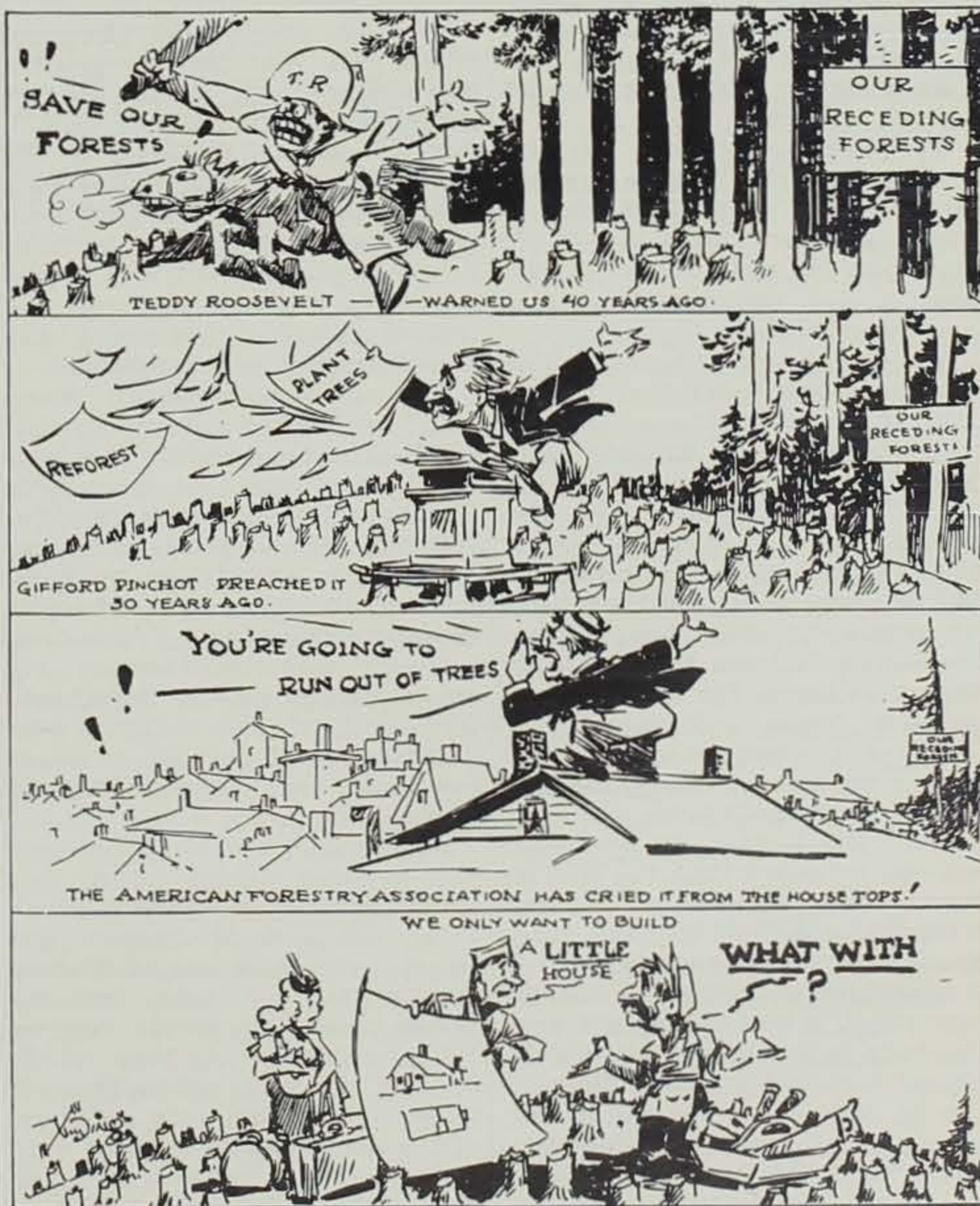
"It is for conservation's cause that Ding has made available to the Izaak Walton League, without cost, this collection of his most outstanding and entertaining cartoons concerning our great out-of-doors. Keep them, frame them, enjoy them—and learn from them."

You may contribute to the work of the Izaak Walton League by purchasing this collection in an attractive folder for one dollar from the Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, 732 Fenelon Place, Dubuque, Iowa.

The "Iowa Conservationist" will carry one of these cartoons in each issue for the next thirty months, and with future cartoons, a short essay paralleling the context of the cartoon.

1,000 NEW BENTON COUNTY SUBSCRIBERS

The largest single block of subscribers to the "Iowa Conservationist" since the birth of the magazine in 1942 has been received from Kenneth E. Shirley, Secretary of the Benton County Fish and Game Club. This livewire club, headed by President John Robison, believes in conservation through education and has provided each of its 1,021 members with a full year's subscription, beginning with this issue. Welcome to the family, fellows, and thanks!



We Never Miss The Water 'Til The Well Runs Dry



"The truth is, America, that your own land use history records you as the greatest spendthrift of all time. You have developed bigger, better, and faster ways of using up soil fertility than has any nation in all the world."

Wake Up . . .

(Continued from page 129)

without much regard for the future. Man's philosophy with respect to the land is "Rip it off the hills; gouge it out of the soil; get it into the bank in one generation if possible." His slogan is "To hell with tomorrow, I want mine today!"

These are searing words, but they are not my words. I only quote from history. These are not my words, these words are written on the sands of time; they are scrawled across the pages of history—that "story of a hungry animal in search of food."

So much for yesterday, now let us look at today.

You are young and you are strong, America. You are progressive, you are wise. Your way of life is different, your ideals are high, you will not do these things, you say. Let us look at the record—at your history.

You are young, America. This land has been under your control some three hundred years, more or less. For about one hundred years you have used it intensively. Tonnage yields to feed the world have been your goal. You have produced, but at a price. You have produced, but you have also ruined, partially or completely, more than half the fertile topsoil you possessed. It took the Chinese ten times as long to do as much to China!

You are strong, America. But may I remind you that your way of life, your institutions, and your society are builded on, sustained by, and no better than the land on which you live! I remind you that adequate nutrition requires more than mere bulk, that nutrition is a qualitative as well as a quantitative thing. I remind you that your hill-billy is a hill-billy because he grows his food on hill-billy land. In the light of present day knowledge there can be little doubt that the true hill-billy is what he is because of malnutrition; qualitative malnutrition that dulls his mind, saps his strength, and

smothers his ambition. This American is already in the process of degeneration. Do you not see him raze, and burn, and hack, and gouge the impoverished soil on which he lives, further depleting its ability to nourish him? Can you not see the vicious circle in which he lives, a circle that moves relentlessly around and around, a circle from which few escape? Must I remind you that there are other groups within your society which suffer a like fate? What are your "Tobacco Road" and your "Grapes of Wrath" if they are not symbols of this truth!

You are progressive, America. When your land fails to produce the tonnage you desire you fix things up with chemical fertilizers. But you pay no attention to the warnings of scientists whose long experience in tilling the land leads them to say that chemical fertilization is only a delusion, a stop-gap, a tonnage producer that does not restore essential, life-giving elements inherent in a fertile soil.

You are wise, America. When your overworked corn lands lost much of their fertility and their ability to produce, you came forth with hybrid corn. Your corn yields sky-rocketed, and you are still congratulating yourself on your ingenuity. But you fail to take note of one significant thing. You overlook the fact that history will record hybrid corn as being that corn which had the ability to take fertility out of the soil twice as fast as any corn that man had ever grown before!

The truth is, America, that your own land-use history records you as the greatest spendthrift of all time. You have developed bigger, better and faster ways of using up soil fertility than has any nation in all the world. You are the champion playboy of all history, and your extravagance is exceeded only by your disregard of the consequences.

"And what," you may well ask, "had all this to do with wildlife?" Simply this, that nature makes no distinction between wild and tame

life insofar as soil fertility is concerned. In Old Mother Nature's book nutrition is nutrition, and life is life. It makes no difference whether that life be wild or tame.

It is true, however, that mis-use of the land is a two-edged sword insofar as wildlife is concerned. It reduces protective cover as well as fertility. Adequate protective cover and adequate nutrition are the two big essentials of wildlife production, and both these essentials are impaired by mis-use of the land.

At the present time prices of farm products are very high and the economic incentive to squeeze every last pound of production out of the land is great. Our land is being squeezed, and protective cover is being reduced to a minimum. The immediate effect is to increase erosion and reduce wildlife, but the long time effect is to reduce land fertility and, hence, all production.

The simple truth is that man can not reduce soil fertility without all life suffering the consequences. That truth is supported by evidence which grows steadily in volume and significance. This evidence puts the emphasis on qualitative rather than quantitative nutrition. Soil fertility determines the quality and contents of foodstuffs, and the quality and contents of foodstuffs affects all life. The evidence is overwhelming. When insane men are made sane through the avenue of nutrition alone, one can no longer doubt that quality counts. Some day foodstuffs will be valued on the basis of quality, not quantity. When that day comes we may have the economic incentive that will save our soil. Until we do, we must save the land by any means we can.

The simple truth is that the growth, vigor, survival and reproduction of all life is wedded to the land by unbreakable bonds. The truth is that America should maintain, without impairment, the fer-

tility of all her lands. To do otherwise is unthinkable, and must eventually lead to disaster. It is not wildlife alone that hangs in this balance, it is America herself that is at stake.

If this be true, what are we doing to maintain the fertility of America's land? Let us look at the record. Let us look at history—today's history.

As individuals we are doing relatively little. Here and there an individual has learned that he can maintain the fertility of his farm and make more money in the long run than if he mis-used his land. But that individual is relatively rare. The masses know nothing of this. In fact, the masses, including the vast majority of those who till the land, know little or nothing of the true significance of land fertility and the real dangers of land abuse.

As a nation, we have done very little to save our agricultural lands. Our most effective governmental actions have been the establishment of the Soil Conservation Service, and the initiation of benefit payments to American farmers for soil-conserving practices. But neither of these is the result of any united desire or action of the American people. The first came into being largely because of the inspired leadership and dogged persistence of a single American citizen. The second came into being as a device to circumvent the law. Benefit payments for soil-conserving practices in America came into being by chance—they were initiated because the Supreme Court of the United States said we could not pay public money to American farmers for plowing under crops and killing little pigs. Thus was born America's principal national efforts to save her soil.

If this is not enough to convince you that America does not

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"I remind you that your hill billy is a hill billy because he grows his food on hill billy land."



Governor Robert D. Blue (seated) signs into law legislation to provide \$2,713,000 for capital improvements by the State Conservation Commission, including \$1,272,000 for artificial lakes. Legislative proponents of the measure looking on, from left to right, are Representative W. J. Kilpatrick of Randolph, Representative John W. Gannaway of Grinnell, Representative Edward J. Morrissey of Valeria, Senator Fred Maytag of Newton, Senator J. T. Dykhouse of Rock Rapids and Representative Theo Klemesrud of Thompson. I.D.P.A. Photo.

Legislature . . .

(Continued from page 129)

do the necessary engineering work, and it must be contracted to consulting firms that specialize in such projects.

The six lakes approved by the legislature are part of a long-range plan by which the Commission hopes ultimately to provide lake facilities within a maximum distance of 25 miles of every resident of Iowa. The total appropriation of the legislature for capital improvements by the Commission was \$2,713,000, part of which will go for improvements on existing lakes.

Range From 11 to 1,500 Acres

The six approved lakes range in size from an eleven-acre lagoon in the Cold Springs Recreational Reserve near Lewis in Cass County to a proposed 1,500-acre lake and dam just north of and parallel to Highway 6 in Jasper County — about 12 miles east of Newton and 6 miles west of Grinnell.

Conservation officials emphasized that present plans are tentative and that final choice of locations will depend upon fuller investigations of soil and watershed conditions. Any of the proposed locations, they said, could prove to be impracticable after complete engineering studies are made.

The Jasper County lake, for example, would be built by putting a 2,400 foot dam across Rock Creek. The resulting lake, with a maximum depth of 32 feet, would be four miles long and a mile and a half wide, draining a watershed area of 28,300 acres.

This large drainage area would present a major siltation problem, and conservation officials are co-operating with soil conservation officers in an intensive program to encourage scientific soil practices

by farmers who own the adjacent land. Otherwise, the lake might soon fill up. It will be necessary to riprap some of the shore line to prevent erosion and siltation.

Another Major Problem

Another major problem at the site is the porous nature of some of the soil, which is made up in part of alluvial and glacial drift. Test borings are being made at the present time, and these will determine how deep the foundation of the dam must go to prevent seepage.

A favorable factor at this site is that most of the surrounding area is pasture land on which erosion will be less than on cultivated land.

Estimated cost of the lake and dam is \$250,000, and an additional \$200,000 has been provided for land acquisition. Officials say most of the land to be flooded is of a character that can be purchased at relatively low cost without condemnation proceedings.

The legislature stipulated that the state must acquire a strip of at least 300 feet along the shoreline of any lakes to be built.

The Jasper County lake will be the largest artificial lake in the state and the sixth largest body of water in Iowa. As a comparison, East Okoboji, including upper and lower Gar lakes and Minnewashta Lake, contains 1,800 acres.

An estimated 102,000 Iowans live within a 25-mile radius of the Jasper site.

Program

Ultimately there will be an additional cost on all of the lakes for development as recreation areas. The Commission hopes to build bathing beaches, bath houses, boat docks, picnic grounds, and cottages and to stock the lakes with fish.

Following are preliminary data on the other five lakes:

GEODE STATE PARK—1,000-foot dam across Cedar Creek to provide 250-acre lake with 8,800-acre watershed in southeast corner of Henry County and Des Moines County. Maximum depth 55 feet. Estimated cost of lake and dam \$105,000; land acquisition \$75,000. Estimated 92,000 population within 25-mile radius.

HONEY CREEK — 1,000-foot dam to provide 450-acre lake with 12,000-acre watershed in Washington County half-way between Washington and Fairfield. Maximum depth 40 feet. Estimated cost of lake and dam \$138,000; land acquisition \$103,000. Estimated 75,000 population within 25-mile radius.

INDIAN CREEK — 1,800-foot dam to provide 250-acre lake with 11,700-acre watershed in Shelby County 10 miles southeast of Harlan and just south of Highway 64. Maximum depth 30 feet. Estimated cost of lake and dam \$143,000; land acquisition \$118,000. Estimated 70,000 population within 25-mile radius.

COLD SPRINGS RESERVE — Eleven-acre lagoon to be excavated on Deep Creek one mile south of Lewis and 10 miles south of Atlantic in Cass County. Maximum depth 10 feet. Estimated cost \$40,000. State owns land. Estimated 72,000 population within 25-mile radius.

NINE EAGLES STATE PARK — 800-foot dam to provide 41-acre lake with watershed of 1,110 acres in Decatur County, two miles north of Missouri line and 3 miles east of U. S. Highway 69. Maximum depth 27 feet. Estimated cost of lake and dam \$100,000. Land is state owned. Estimated 65,000 population within 25-mile radius.

Wake Up . . .

(Continued from page 132)

know the truth, look to the seat of your government — look to Washington. There you will see your government appropriating forty-five million dollars to the Soil Conservation Service to finance their work of holding America's water where it falls and her soil where it lies, and, at the same time appropriating one hundred and eighty-five million dollars to the War Department with which to make down payments on dams designed to stop the water that doesn't linger where it falls and the soil that doesn't stay where it lies.

Forty-five million dollars to the doctors who feverishly strive to sew up your severed and gushing arteries, America — and frankly admit that they are waging a losing fight — forty-five million dollars to the doctors who feverishly strive to suture your severed and gushing arteries, and four times that sum to the tinsmiths who beat out buckets with which you propose to preserve your life's blood.

That is not—as some may assume — an indictment of tinsmiths. It is an indictment of you, America, you, who entertain and tolerate such a twisted, distorted, cockeyed concept of national values and national needs!

If you are not yet convinced that America doesn't know the truth, look again to Washington. There you will see many of your leaders and representatives sponsoring a movement to slash, by one-third, the appropriation for soil-conservation benefit payments. You will see the scalpels poised and ready to cut the heart and backbone out of America's principal effort to save her land. These men contend that you can not afford to pay for saving the soil, that you have other and better things to do with public money. You can afford, it seems, eleven billion dollars plus for national defense, but you can not afford three hundred million dollars — 2½ per cent as much—to save the very thing you propose to defend. You can afford to subsidize navigation, aviation, hydro-electric development, flood control and other special interest groups, but you can't afford to subsidize the saving of the land, in which every living American has a stake, as do all the generations yet unborn!

America, you can afford to mobilize your manhood into armies that you count by the millions, to equip them with implements of destruction that stagger the imagination, you can afford navies that swarm the seven seas, you can afford aircraft that figuratively—and literally—blot out the sun, you can afford two hundred billion dollars in the prosecution of a single war, you can afford barrels—nay rivers, of American blood; all this, and more, you can afford to save America **danger** from **without**, but a little lip service, and a token gesture here and there is all you can afford to save America **disaster** from **within**!

America, you go the way all men have gone. You are a living symbol of the truth, that history repeats itself. You are not young, you are not strong, you are not wise, you only dream these things. You live an old, deceitful dream, that blinds your eyes against the truth, that leads you down Disaster Road!

You have one chance, and only one! Wake up! Shake off this dream! Wake up! Shake off this spell, that you may see, that you may take a better road!

HOT FOX TRAPPER

One of the hottest fox trappers in the state during the past winter was Albert Holub, manager of the Holub Market in Oskaloosa, who trapped 165 during January and February. All but two of the animals were taken in Mahaska County. Al says the fox didn't pay much but "It was sure a lot of fun to see those brushy tales blowing in the wind."



The channel cat, for many years looked down upon by the angler, has gone up town, and now is the favorite fish of thousands of Iowans. Jim Sherman Photo.

Catfish . . .

(Continued from page 129)

stream rises, and fishing for them at that time usually results in better catches, for it is then that old man catfish is out hustling for food. The turbid waters that accompany floods offer a certain measure of protection from exposure to too much light. Br'er Catfish wants to be second to no neighbor when it comes to the pick of the wide variety of terrestrial delicacies that are being washed into the stream with the flood. Also, during high water, catfish are often found feeding in submerged grassy areas. These grassy areas act as a strainer, catching and holding all manner of choice bits of food to suit the epicurean fancies of the catfish.

The temperature of the water has a very far reaching effect on whether or not our friend the catfish is in the mood to take on sustenance. From the examination of more than 60 specimens taken from waters of less than 40°F. only two were found to contain food and in both cases the amount was very small. As the water temperature increased, the percentage of catfish containing food as well as the volume consumed increased until at about 70°F., 100 per cent of the catfish examined had eaten. The condition of catfish feeding in warmer water is nothing new to the catfish enthusiast who has known for a good many years that June is the best month for fishing for channel catfish. However, an explanation as to why catfishing usually slumps in July at the time when water temperatures are the highest for the year is now in order.

It so happens that July is the month that catfish spawn here in Iowa. The male prepares the nest and guards the eggs and young so long as the latter remain on the nest. During this period the male feeds very little if at all. Hence, we see that in July the catchable

population of catfish is virtually reduced by the number of males occupied with parental duties.

Also in hot weather "sour mouth" is a phrase often heard along the river bank and a reason frequently blamed for poor fishing. Actually the reddened mouth so often noticed in catfish in July and August is a condition caused by catfish probing the river bottom and brush piles in an effort to get more food. This being the case, the 64 dollar question follows, "If catfish are so blasted hungry, why don't they take that luscious gob of chicken guts that I offer them on the end of a line?"

The question is a tough one. However, there is a partial answer at least. A list of the foods eaten by catfish would number in the thousands and would include mammals, amphibians, birds, reptiles, insects, crustaceans, carrion, fruits, leaves, seeds, sand, coal, beer bottle caps, a rubber heel off an old boot, and even portions of the want ad section of the local paper. In fact, the things a catfish is known to eat would gag a hungry goat. But, even with such a versatile appetite, catfish seem to get into a habit of eating single items, and will eat very little else until seemingly tiring of that particular kind of food.

Several very good examples of whole populations of catfish eating one thing have been observed. In the spring of 1941, catfish in the Des Moines River in the vicinity of the Ledges State Park were found to be living on the seeds of the white elm to the virtual exclusion of other foods. In August of last year they were found to be gorged with filamentous algae and would not bite on a wide variety of baits or even sample a bountiful insect and forage fish population present in the stream.

In the examination of the visceral contents of more than 1,200 channel catfish very few were found to be feeding on a wide variety of foods at any one time. When they were eating insects little else was found in the stomachs. When plant materials were consumed other foods were conspicuous by their absence. When fish were eaten, plants and other animals appeared in limited amounts.

So if you fail to catch catfish on chicken guts, cheese baits, asafetida, essence of sour clam, tincture of toad, or passion bait, do not be quick to conclude that the catfish is off feed or that there are no fish in the stream. The fault may lay in the fact that old man catfish isn't eating your kind of bait that day.

In studies made up to this time we have been unable to find that such things as the direction or force of the wind, clear or cloudy weather, or moonlight or dark nights have any bearing on the feeding activities of catfish.

The information contained in this article has accumulated from the study of many hundreds of catfish over several years. Such facts that catfish feed at night unless otherwise influenced by turbid waters or that they feed heaviest in warm waters are rules of nature, but like any rule of nature there are exceptions. However, records do show that for the most part the wheres and whens of catfish feeding will be as set out above. For every catfish taken in open channels or shallow water during the daylight hours, hundreds will be taken under shelter. Most frequent success attends the fisherman's efforts on a rise, and water temperature above 60°F. will be more productive than colder water.

BIRD GOES TO SCHOOL

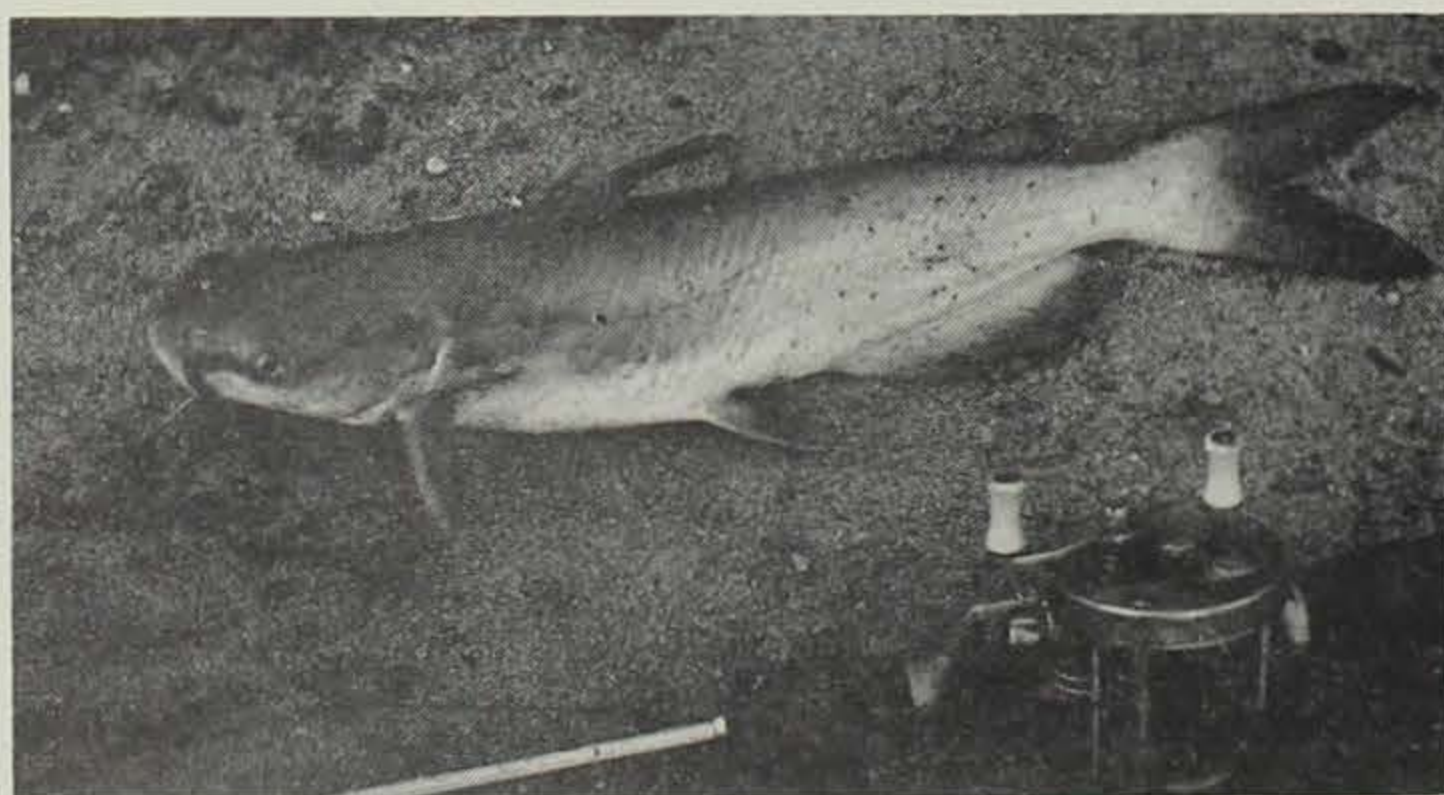
A ruby-crowned kinglet, believed to be a native of Perkins Park, has a commendable ambition for an elementary education. He has, however, the human aversion for spelling.

The bird flew into classroom 101 at Horace Mann School Thursday and perched high up on a window shade cord like a good scholar should. He sat there thoughtfully, absorbing the seventh grade book reports.

Came time for a spelling session, and the bird high-tailed it behind a picture of Sir Galahad—either for protection or for fear it would be called upon to recite.

By dismissal time the bird had had enough and tried to find an exit. Principal Fred Kamphofner was willing and let him out on time.

—Burlington Hawkeye Gazette



On examining the content of more than 1200 channel catfish, very few were found to be feeding on a wide variety of foods at any one time. Jim Sherman Photo.

Wardens' Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

WHILE on fishing patrol at Trout Run, Conservation Officer Claude Alexander of West Union, observed a fly rod fisherman downstream having a spirited fight. As he approached, the angler, knee-deep in the rocky-bottomed stream, slipped on a rock and sat down in water chest deep, but still struggled with his fighting fish. Downstream the "fish" broke water and the officer was plenty surprised to see a three-quarters grown muskrat securely hooked. The half-drowned muskrat and the half-drowned angler were both brought ashore and the hook was removed from the unfortunate fur-bearer with only minor injuries. After the ice-water was poured from the angler's boots, he too went his way with no injury except to his dignity.

Conservation Officers Garfield Harker of Maquoketa and Frank Tellier of Epworth were checking a report of illegal coon hunting and although they found lights flashing in the timber and heard voices there was no dog talk. They found a parked car, however, and each picking a comfortable spot sat down to wait. After a couple of hours Frank suddenly realized that he was face to face with a very large dog that apparently had not eaten for several days. The officer, not wishing to become involved in the animal's digestive tract, decided to move to a more healthy location. As he started to climb up on the shoulder of the road he slipped and fell. Harker, hearing the commotion, turned his light in the direction of the racket and to this day swears that his fellow officer was on his hands and knees trying to out growl the dog.

The lights in the timber proved to be a farmer and his son investigating a bovine maternity case.

Conservation Officer John Cameron of Creston writes:

"The violators in my territory are going ritzy. I was patrolling north of Creston and as I came over a hill I noticed a taxicab ahead of me. I didn't think much about it as quite frequently cabs travel between towns. As I got closer I noticed that the slowly moving cab was traveling erratically, and on the side of the road that had the most cover on it. When I eased up along side I saw the passenger sitting in the back seat with the window down and a loaded and assembled gun in his hand. Hunting quail from a taxicab may be an easy way to operate, but in court the justice pointed out that it was certainly a very expensive method."

PREPARE FOR BANNER PARK SEASON

PREPARATIONS are being made by the Conservation Commission for great increases in the number of visitors to the 86 state recreation areas. Attendance in 1946 reached more than two and one-quarter million.

Although the parks are open the year round except for short periods in the early spring when the roads are soft, heaviest park usage begins about May 15 with the opening of the concession season. Concessions are operated by private individuals under contract with the state to provide necessary merchandise, life-guard facilities,

boats, and other equipment that are used by the public.

For concession privileges the Commission has set maximum fees for the following services: boats, 25c an hour; minnows, 25c per dozen; beach fee and checking, 25c, which includes lifeguard service furnished by the concessionaire. The concessionaires also have available miscellaneous refreshments and merchandise on which the Commission does not control the price.

Bathing facilities will be open to the public about May 15, weather permitting. Most years, however, beach facilities are not in use until about the first of June.

support trout throughout the entire season. Experiments conducted parks, Ledges, Backbone, Pine Lake, Lake Wapello, Lake Ahquabi, Springbrook, Lake of Three Fires, Lacey-Keosauqua, Dolliver Memorial, and Palisades-Kepler, state-owned overnight cabins are maintained. These cabins are completely equipped, except for linens and food. Reservations for cabins must be made through the resident custodian in the park and reservations may be made for periods not to exceed two weeks. Rental rates are \$2.50 per day per cabin, \$3.00 per day Saturday or Sunday and \$12.50 per week except in Palisades-Kepler which offers larger cabins at special rates.

Tent and trailer camping is permitted for a maximum of two weeks in Backbone, Black Hawk, A. A. Call, Clear Lake, Cold Springs, Dolliver Memorial, Farmington, Ft. Defiance, Lacey-Keosauqua, Lake Ahquabi, Lake Keosauqua, Lake Wapello, Ledges, Lost Island, McGregor, Oak Grove, Oakland Mills, Orleans Hatchery, Palisades-Kepler, Pammel, Pilot Knob, Pine Lake, Springbrook, Stone, Lake of Three Fires, Trappers Bay, Walnut Woods, Wapsipinicon, Waubonsie, and Wild Cat Den. Rates are 50c per night per unit or \$2.50 per week per unit. A unit is considered to be one tent or trailer. Overnight camping only

(Continued on page 136)

TROUT FACTS

THE Iowa trout season opened at 5:00 a.m., May 1, and closes at 9:00 p.m. on September 30. Trout may be fished each day during the open season from one hour before sunrise to 9:00 p.m. central time. The daily catch limit is eight; possession limit, sixteen. Legal length for trout in Iowa is seven inches.

Brook, or speckled, trout have been native to the streams of northeast Iowa since the earliest records of man. Other species now common there have been introduced by state and federal fish hatcheries, and the native brook

trout have given way to rainbow and brown trout because of certain physiological changes in the streams.

Trout have been cultured in Iowa since the first state fish hatchery was established at Anamosa in 1873. The Backbone Trout Hatchery was established near Strawberry Point in 1925, and the first distributions were made in 1928. At the present time all trout are hatched at the Backbone station, and a portion of the fry are transferred to Decorah and Kramers, where they are held until they reach legal size.

The policy of the Commission is to stock only such streams as will

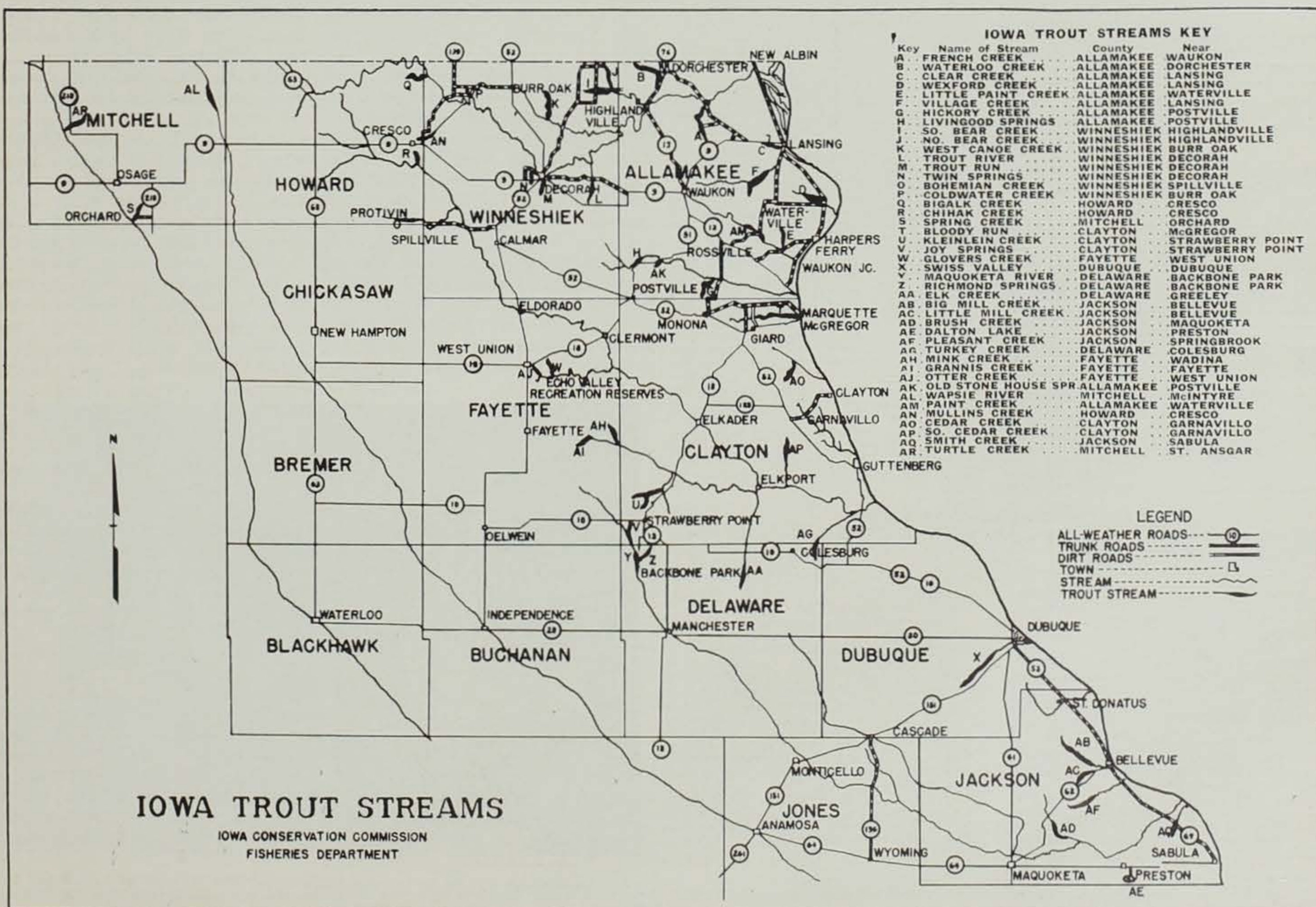
port trout throughout the entire season. Experiments conducted both in Iowa and elsewhere indicate that a water temperature higher than 75 degrees F. is generally fatal to brook trout, while brown and rainbow trout may endure water temperature as high as 80 degrees F.

There is an ample number of trout produced in our hatcheries to supply the present trout stocking requirements, but it is good business not to waste trout in areas that are unsuitable. New streams are occasionally added to the list on an experimental basis. These are usually borderline or questionable streams, which are

stocked with small numbers of trout for a period of several years to ascertain whether or not they are satisfactory.

Trout streams are stocked in advance of the open season and several times during the course of the year. The number of fish stocked and the frequency is dependent upon the classification of the stream, the existing populations and, of course, the number of trout available for distribution.

Approximately 180,000 legal size trout will be released during the open season. These trout range in size from seven to twelve or more inches in length. All of the principal trout waters will be stocked.



FISHING SEASONS FOR 1947

SCHEDULE NO. 1

(For all inland waters, except waters in Lee County, and certain impounded lakes listed in Schedule No. 2)

Kind of Fish	Open Season Dates	Size Limit	Catch Limit	Possession Limit
BASS (large, small mouth)	June 15-Nov. 30	10 in.	5	10
BASS (warmouth, rock)	June 15-Nov. 30	5"	15	30
BASS (silver, striped, yellow)	May 15-Nov. 30	7"	15	30
BLUEGILLS	June 15-Nov. 30	5"	15	30
BUFFALO	Continuous	none	none	none
BULLHEADS	Continuous	none	25	50
(No catch or possession limit on Lost Island Lake)				
CARP	Continuous	none	none	none
CATFISH	April 15-Nov. 30	12 in.	15	30
CRAPPIES (calico bass)	June 15-Nov. 30	7"	15	30
(May 15-Nov. 30 in certain lakes—see list below)				
DOGFISH	Continuous	none	none	none
GAR	Continuous	none	none	none
PADDLEFISH	Closed continuously	7 in.	15	30
PERCH (yellow)	May 15-Nov. 30	15"	8	16
PIKE (northern)	May 15-Nov. 30	12"	8	16
PIKE (wall-eyed, sand-sauger)	May 15-Nov. 30	12"	8	16
QUILLBACK	Continuous	none	none	none
REDHORSE	Continuous	none	15	30
SHEEPSHEAD	Continuous	none	none	none
STURGEON (sand)	Aug. 1-Nov. 30	Not less than 1 lb.	15	36
STURGEON (rock)	Closed continuously	none	15	30
SUCKERS	Continuous	5 in.	15	30
SUNFISH	June 15-Nov. 30	7"	8	16
TROUT (brook, brown, rainbow)	5 a.m. May 1-9 p.m. Sept. 30. From one hour before sunrise to 9 p.m. each day.	7"	8	16
FROGS	May 12-Nov. 30	none	4 doz.	8 doz.
(Bait dealers excepted)				
MINNOWS	May 12-Nov. 30	none	none	none

Open season on Crappies May 15-November 30 in the following lakes: East and West Okoboji in Dickinson county, Lake Manawa in Pottawattamie county, Storm Lake in Buena Vista county, Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo county, Black Hawk Lake in Sac county, Lake View state-owned gravel pits and Arrowhead Lake in Sac county, Hartwick Lake and Backbone Lake in Delaware county, Upper and Lower Pine Lakes in Hardin county, Blue Lake in Monona county, Brown's Lake in Woodbury county, and Noble's Lake in Harrison county.

The total catch of all fish excluding those having a continuous open season, on which there is no daily catch limit, shall not exceed 25 per day. It shall be unlawful for any person at any time to have in possession more than thirty (30) fish of all kinds in the aggregate, except that this aggregate possession limit shall not apply to fish on which there is no daily catch limit, or to the director and his duly authorized representatives when carrying out duties imposed by state law, or commercial fishermen, or wholesale fish markets, when operating under proper license and dealing in commercial fish.

SCHEDULE NO. 2

(For certain lakes and impounded areas as listed)

ARTIFICIAL LAKES

(Under special regulations)

Lake	County	Seasons
Ahquabi Lake	Warren	May 1-Nov. 30
Beeds Lake	Franklin	Closed during 1947 to all fishing except crappies open June 15-Nov. 30
Echo Valley Lake	Fayette	June 15-Nov. 30
Farmington Lake	Van Buren	May 1-Nov. 30
Glenwood City Lake	Mills	May 1-Nov. 30
Keomah Lake	Mahaska	May 1-Nov. 30
Lacey-Keosauqua Lake	Van Buren	May 1-Nov. 30
Loch-Ayr Lake	Ringgold	May 1-Nov. 30
Macbride Lake	Johnson	May 1-Nov. 30
Paullina Lake	O'Brien	May 1-Nov. 30
Red Haw Hill Lake	Lucas	May 1-Nov. 30
Springbrook Lake	Guthrie	May 1-Nov. 30
Swan Lake	Carroll	May 1-Nov. 30
Three Fires Lake	Taylor	May 1-Nov. 30
Upper Grove Lake	Tama	May 1-Nov. 30
Upper Pine Lake	Hardin	May 1-Nov. 30
Wapello Lake	Davis	Except crappies May 15-Nov. 30

In the above lakes fishing is permitted only between 5:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. each day. Daily catch limit twelve (12) fish in the aggregate of which not more than five (5) may be black bass and not more than seven (7) crappies. Same size limits as in other areas.

IMPOUNDED AREAS AS LISTED

Buffalo, Bullheads, Carp, Dogfish, Gar, Quillback...Continuous open season
Redhorse, Sheepshead, suckers...Continuous open season
Catfish...April 15-November 30
All other fish...June 1-November 30

Area	County	Area	County
Afton City Reservoir	Union	East and West City Reservoirs at Osceola	Clarke
Bloomfield City Reservoir (Fischer Lake)	Davis	Eldon City Reservoir	Wapello
Big City Lake at Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	No. 1 and 2 City Reservoirs at Fairfield	Jefferson
Centerville Reservoir	Appanoose	Forney's Lake	Fremont
C.B.&Q. Reservoir (Thayer Lake) at Thayer	Union	Greenfield City Reservoir	Adair
C.B.&Q. Reservoir at Van Wert	Decatur	Humeston City Reservoir	Wayne
C.R.I.&P. Reservoir at Drakesville	Davis	Klum Lake	Louisa
Chariton City Reservoir	Lucas	Lenox City Reservoir	Taylor
Clarke Reservoir at Harvard	Wayne	McKinley Lake at Creston	Union
Corning City Reservoir	Adams	*Lake Manawa	Pottawattamie
Corydon City Reservoir	Wayne	Moulton City Reservoir	Appanoose
Cottonwood Pits	Monroe	Muscataine Slough	Muscataine and Louisa
Credit Island at Davenport	Scott	Lake Odessa	Louisa
		Riverton Bayou	Fremont
		Seymour City Reservoir	Wayne

*Crappies in Lake Manawa, open season May 15-November 30.

In these areas the same size, catch and possession limits apply as in other natural streams and lakes of the state.

SCHEDULE NO. 3

(For Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and inland waters of Lee County)

Kind of Fish	Open Season Dates	Size Limit	Catch Limit	Possession Limit
BASS (large mouth, small mouth)	June 1-March 1	10 in.	5	10
BASS (warmouth, rock)	Continuous	5"	15	30
BASS (silver, striped, yellow)	Continuous	7"	15	30
BLUEGILLS	Continuous	5"	15	30
BUFFALO	Continuous	none	none	none
BULLHEADS	Continuous	none	none	none
CARP	Continuous	none	none	none
CATFISH	Continuous	12 in.	15	30
CRAPPIES	Continuous	7"	15	30
DOGFISH	Continuous	none	none	none
GAR	Continuous	none	none	none
PADDLEFISH	Closed continuously	7 in.	15	30
PERCH	Continuous	15"	15	30
PIKE (northern)	May 1-March 1	12"	8	16
PIKE (wall-eyed)	Continuous	none	none	none
QUILLBACK	Continuous	none	none	none
REDHORSE	Continuous	none	none	none
SHEEPSHEAD	Continuous	none	none	none
STURGEON (rock)	Closed continuously	Not less than 1 lb.	none	none
STURGEON (sand)	Continuous	5 in.	15	30
SUCKERS	Continuous	none	4 doz.	8 doz.
SUNFISH	Continuous	none	Bait dealers excepted	none
FROGS	May 12-Nov. 30	none	none	none
MINNOWS	Continuous	none	none	none

The total catch of all fish excluding those having a continuous open season, on which there is no daily catch limit, shall not exceed 25 per day. It shall be unlawful for any person at any time to have in possession more than thirty (30) fish of all kinds in the aggregate, except that this aggregate possession limit shall not apply to the fish named in this section on which there is no daily catch limit, or to the director and his duly authorized representatives when carrying out duties imposed by state law, or commercial fishermen, or wholesale fish markets, when operating under proper license and dealing in commercial fish.

Prepare . . .

(Continued from page 135)

is permitted in Bellevue, Gull Point, Maquoketa Caves, Mill Creek, and Mini-Wakan.

For tent or trailer camping by organized groups, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, 4-H, church groups, etc., the charges are 50c per night per unit, \$2.50 per week per unit or 10c per person per night, which ever way figures the lowest cost for the group.

Buildings and facilities for organized group camping are maintained by the Conservation Commission at Lake Ahquabi, Dolliver Memorial, and Springbrook. Cabins, cots, mattresses, mess hall, sanitary facilities, cook stoves, ice boxes, water heaters, and limited kitchen equipment are provided. Organized groups must furnish dishes, supplementary cooking utensils, cooks, and kitchen help. Charges for use of organized group camp buildings and equipment are 25c per day per person.

The Commission also offers lodges in many of its areas at very nominal sums for use by parties and large group meetings. Lodges are located in the following areas: Bellevue, A. A. Call, Clear Lake, Dolliver Memorial, Ft. Defiance, Gull Point, Heery Woods, Keomah, Lacey-Keosauqua, Lake Ahquabi, Lewis and Clark, Mill Creek, Palisades-Kepler, Pammel, Pine Lake, Stone Park, and Walnut Woods. Reservations for lodges must be made with the resident park custodian in charge of the area.

In addition to the many facilities offered at nominal charges to the public the Commission maintains free of charge the many picnic areas equipped with fireplaces and firewood; water supplies; sanitary facilities; and picnic tables. No gate or entrance charge is made at any state-owned park or recreation area and the use of roads, trails, open shelters, and picnic areas is entirely free of charge.



Bathing facilities will be open to the public about May 15, weather permitting. Most years, however, beach facilities are not in use until about the first of June. Jim Sherman Photo.