

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

Volume 6

SEPTEMBER 15, 1947

Number 9

FALL FISHING IS THE BEST

ARE YOU A SPORTSMAN?

By Bill Voigt, Jr.
Western Representative
Izaak Walton League of America

TO elaborate on Ding's drawing, "Why Call Them Sportsmen?" (page 163), is like attempting to gild the lily or tint a butterfly wing. Examine the drawing carefully, ponder its implications, and answer the question sincerely to yourself, "Am I a sportsman?"

Today the word sportsman is used much too loosely. As commonly employed it is applied to every buyer of a fishing or a hunting license. I contend, and the Izaak Walton League of America certainly concurs, that too large a segment of our license buyers seem to know little and to care less about true sportsmanship.

We have all seen too much carelessness, recklessness, and lack of consideration for the landowner and for other sportsmen, as well as a woeful disregard for the welfare of fish and game.

The farmer-sportsman problem is the direct result of the lack of sportsmanship. The chief complaint against the city folks is that they disregard the rights of the landowner and in far too many cases this is true. Gates are left open when they should be closed, or vice versa. Fences are ridden down. Carelessly handled firearms pepper livestock with shot. Growing crops are trampled. Hunters fail to take the trouble to ask the landowner's permission before entering his private property.

Sometimes, too, the landowner may be charged with a lack of sportsmanship by taking the attitude that he may do as he pleases with wildlife on his premises, in season or out.

(Continued on page 163)



Not the least of fall fishing satisfaction is the noontime odor of coffee and frying fish in the crisp autumn outdoors. Jim Sherman Photo.

How Fast Do You Shoot?

By Henry P. Davis

THERE are three types of wing shots. These are the snap shot, the deliberate shot and the fellow who waits out or "points out" his shots.

Of the three, the deliberate shot will, in the long run, account for more hits, whether it be in the game fields or at the traps. The snap shot is prone to "jump" or "push" his gun at the target and frequently shoots behind it. The "spot" shooter might come under the snap shot category, but there is considerable difference between the two. The snap shot tries to shoot so quickly that very little lead is necessary and consequently generally points directly at the target. The "spot" shooter shows

very little swing in his gun pointing, does not swing by his target but rather shoots at a "spot" in front of it. This type of shooter really does swing his gun some but the swing is not very apparent. Generally an experienced "spot" shooter is a deadly marksman.

The deliberate shooter is the cnap who combines his trigger pull with the grace and rhythm of his swing. He "mounts" or places his gun to his shoulder quickly but smoothly, swings on the target, pulls past it, touches the trigger while his gun is still in motion and then follows through with his swing. All of this is done quite fast but there is deliberation in every move. Here is shown the

(Continued on page 165)

WITH the dawn of the hunting season upon us, the dyed in the wool fisherman does not need to have the blues because of the exuberant air of expectancy bubbling around the hunter, for fall fishing is best. The wise Ike is too busy enjoying his favorite sport to experience any jealousy pangs caused by the hustle and bustle of hunting preparations.

Let's have a brief peek at the fishing bill-of-fare from now till the season's close, November 30.

In the lakes of the state bass and bullhead fishing gradually is dropping off. In their place, however, crappie, perch, silver bass, bluegills, walleyed pike, northern pike are feeding voraciously, putting on a layer of fat to carry them through the long winter months.

Not only are these fish on a feeding spree that will increase the opportunity of the fall fisherman to take fish, but the multitude of aquatic insects that make up the bulk of the summer diet has diminished and the almost hourly hatch of "bugs" that occurs in the hot months has slowed down to the vanishing point; therefore, the fisherman's bait has fewer rivals and his chances of taking finnies are increased.

It is true that in the fall there is an abundance of natural food available for hungry fish but the bulk of this food is minnows and frogs. The latter are beginning to appear along the lake shores in immense numbers after leaving their summer feeding grounds in shallow sloughs and pastures.

This limit in the variety of food available to the fishes is a great asset to the fall angler, for in selecting a fish killer he merely needs to use minnows or frogs or artificial baits designed to give his hook the appearance of these natural tidbits.

(Continued on page 164)

Iowa Conservationist

Published Monthly by

THE IOWA STATE CONSERVATION
COMMISSION914 Grand Avenue—Des Moines, Iowa
(No Rights Reserved)

ROBERT D. BLUE, Governor of Iowa

G. L. ZIEMER, Director

JAMES R. HARLAN, Editor

ENID BROWN, Associate Editor

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

F. W. MATTES, Chairman.....Odebolt
MRS. ADDISON PARKER.....Des Moines
E. B. GAUNITZ.....Lansing
L. GUY YOUNG.....Bedford
E. G. TROST.....Fort Dodge
ARTHUR C. GINGERICH.....Wellman
F. J. POYNEER.....Cedar Rapids

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE.....30,000

Application for second class entry pending
at the Post Office at Des Moines, Iowa,
under the act of August 24, 1912.Subscription Rate.....40c per year
3 years for \$1.00Subscriptions received at Conservation
Commission, 914 Grand Avenue, Des
Moines, Iowa. Send coin, check or money
order.

JULY COMMISSION ACTION

A MEETING of the State Conservation Commission was held at Gull Point State Park on July 14, 15 and 16, 1947.

Members present were E. B. Gaunitz, Arthur C. Gingerich, F. W. Mattes, Mrs. Addison Parker, F. J. Poyneer, E. G. Trost, and L. Guy Young.

The Commission:

Elected E. B. Gaunitz as Chairman for the 1947-48 fiscal year.

Elected Mrs. Addison Parker Vice Chairman for the 1947-48 fiscal year.

Accepted the Allerton Reservoir tract for the sum of \$15,000 from funds provided by the 52nd General Assembly.

Approved recommendations to be made to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the 1947 waterfowl season.

Approved transfer of title to the Lakeside Laboratory in Dickinson County from the Conservation Commission to the Board of Education, subject to Executive Council approval.

Accepted the deed to the Osceola East Reservoir in Clarke County.

Authorized work be completed to preserve the water level of Rice Lake and that \$12,450 be paid the Chicago North Western Railway Company in lieu of all claims for damages now and at any future time.

Closed Lake Peosta, near the city of Dubuque, to commercial fishing.

Adopted Administrative Order No. 102 establishing the rabbit and squirrel hunting season for 1947.

Accepted the gift from Russell E. Smith of a nine-acre tract west

of Coppock along the Skunk River in Jefferson County, to be maintained as a public fishing access area.

Approved the Osmundson and Larson option on 72 acres at the outlet of Myre Slough in Winnebago County.

Approved naming the Holst area in Boone County, Holst Historical Area.

Authorized an advance deposit of \$25 to be charged when group camps are reserved.

Approved application of Wm. M. Bennett to construct a bathhouse on Lake Okoboji.

Approved application of Albert D. Smith to construct a boathouse on Okoboji Lake, provided the construction does not extend into the lake.

Denied application of Verne Walling to build a non-commercial dock on Storm Lake.

Approved applications of H. R. Moen and Wayne E. Sampson to place non-commercial docks on Blue Lake in Monona County.

Denied applications of Joe Nordquist and Roy Burrows to construct commercial docks on North Twin Lake.

Approved executing the Stone option on a tract of land in the National Monument area in Allamakee County.

Accepted the gift from Frederick G. Horn and Lee Shannon of enough land for a public walkway to Twin Lakes park in Calhoun County.

Approved installation of a new engine in the Storm Lake patrol boat.

Approved construction of a beach on Black Hawk Lake by the owner of lots on the east side of the lake at the Elms.

Meeting adjourned.

Scientists believe turtles to be totally deaf. To compensate for the lack of this sense, however, they are especially sensitive to vibrations which they receive through their shells.

AUTUMN

(From narrative "State Park Recreation," new color motion picture of the State Conservation Commission.)

For many, autumn is the favorite season of the year. Then fall flowers break out their multi-colored pennants and all outdoors prepares for winter soon to come.

Drifting thistle down, soft as the Indian summer breeze, departs with tread of butterfly. Laggardly our state bird, the goldfinch, lays her eggs in a down-filled nest on some convenient thistle-stalk. A milkweed waves its arms to launch a thousand ships, each with some unknown destiny in the warmth of autumn skies.

Now the Ledges Park assumes the role of Cinderella and vassal oak rouges her cheeks with scarlet pigments. On luscious lips the black haw paints its hot rich red. Crowning her head is the aspen's golden diadem, ten million golden coins tinkling tribute from ten thousand up-stretched forest arms. Then wrapped in the burning mantle of all the woodland trees, our wanton Cinderella flames in breathless glory, oblivious to winter's impending fatal midnight stroke.

Iowa, land of my fathers, Iowa, beautiful land.

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

FRANK TUCKER, conservation officer of Atlantic, comes through with a true story that shows how tight nesting pheasants sit when eggs are near the hatching point. This fact is responsible for decapitation of countless numbers of hen pheasants during haying.

Tucker writes: "Johnny Kempf, who lives two miles east and a quarter north of Hamlin in Audubon County, noticed a pheasant hen regularly slipping into the edge of a neighbor's hay field across the road from his house. Mr. Kempf looked around and found the nest. Knowing that his neighbors were planning to cut the hay the next day, Johnny thought that he would lift the nest and eggs out of the way of the mower and place them in the fence row with the hope that the hen would return to the nest and hatch the eggs. Selecting a place in the fence row for the transplanted nest, he returned to where the pheasant was brooding, expecting her to leave her clutch of eggs. Making a fuss similar to that of a setting hen, the pheasant refused to move. Johnny picked up the pheasant, nest and eggs, carried them some thirty yards to the fence row and put them down. The hen still remained on the nest. Two days later, and after the hay had been cut, the transplanted hen proudly led her brood across the road into the safety of one of Johnny's cornfields." Hats off to Johnny Kempf.

Conservation Officer Harry Rector, whose favorite hair tonic is Simonize, was checking licenses along the Cedar River. He asked to see the license of an elderly

gentleman who replied, "You're not the warden in this territory. Let me see your badge." Harry then remembered having left his shield on the dressing table that morning (even the wardens do it), and insisted that he was the proper officer. The angler stubbornly repeated, "You're not the game warden in this territory. I met that guy once and he's baldheaded." Harry removed his hat and revealed his shining, hairless pate. The angler grinned sheepishly and stated, "I guess you're the warden all right, after all," and promptly produced his license for inspection. It is reported Rector is looking for a tattoo artist to emboss proper identification on his most conspicuous skin surface.

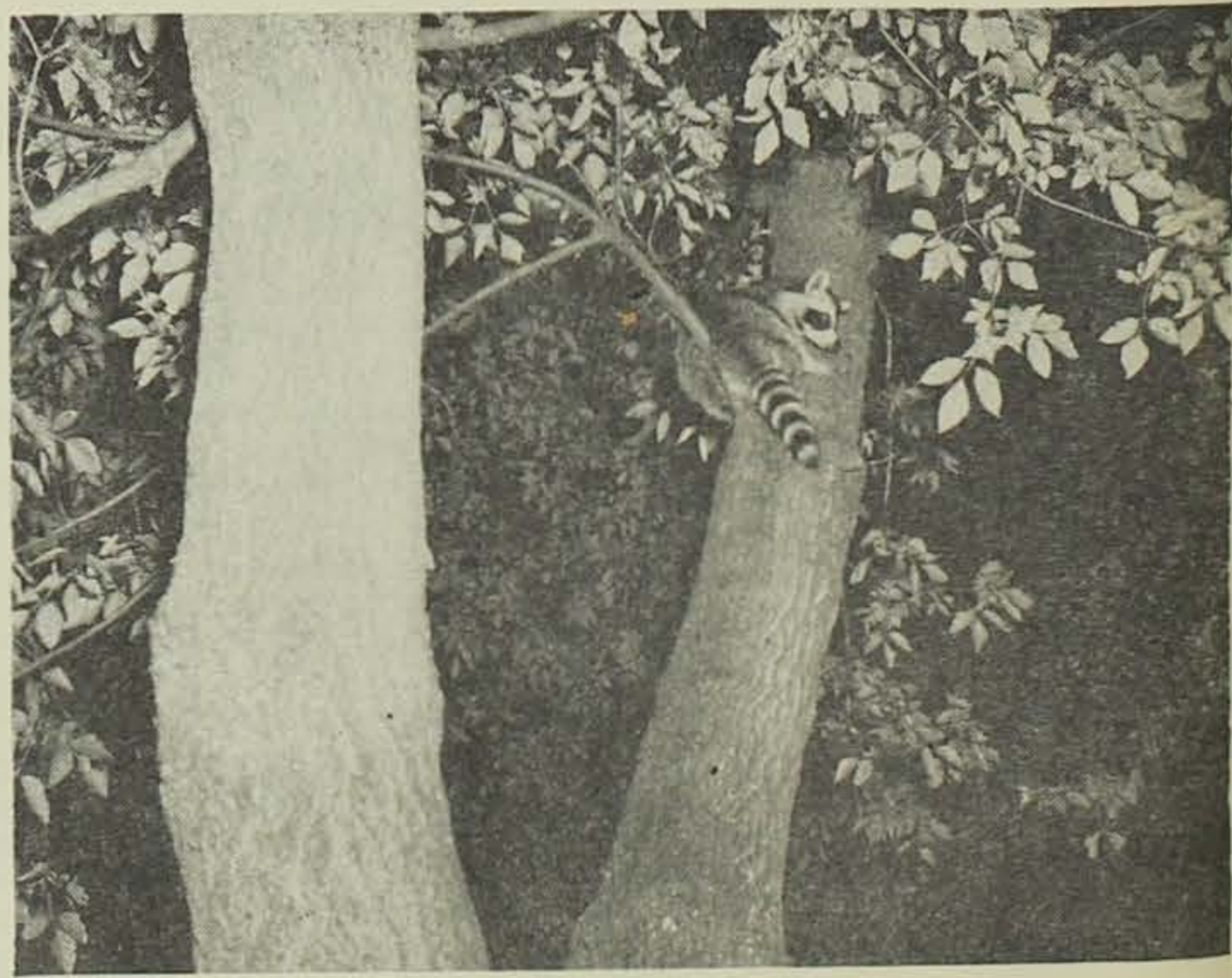
Ecil Benson, conservation officer at Fort Madison, received an anonymous letter in 1942 in which was enclosed a five dollar bill and a note in which it was stated that five years previous the writer had committed a violation of the game laws and since had been bothered by conscience. The five dollars was to make restitution. Last week Conservation Officer Benson received another letter, this time signed. The letter follows, with signature omitted:

"Mr. Iowa Game Warden Benson
Dear Sir:

A few years ago I mailed a letter of restitution with a five dollar bill in same. Not knowing whether you received it or not I take this opportunity to find out. I am sending an addressed envelope. I have been quite sick for over five years and am just recuperating. Will you answer this letter, as spiritually it has bothered me for some time. God bless you and keep you well. I will be looking for your answer soon.

Sincerely"

Benson replied that the five dollar bill had gone into the general conservation fund for wildlife purposes.



Even the old coon in the tree had to laugh as the little yellow dog waltzed in ten minutes late and barked "Treed" to claim the \$150.00 prize.

The following yellow dog story was sent in by Conservation Officer K. M. Madden of Clinton.

A dozen dogs were lined up at the starting post at the Eastern Iowa Sports Club coon dog trials at Clinton. The temperature was a sizzling 102. The half-mile trail for the dogs to follow had been laid down by dragging a wet sack containing a coon to the finish line. The coon was then placed in the finish tree. Under the rules the \$150.00 prize was to be awarded to the first of the coon dogs to bark "treed" at the finish line. At the starter's signal the big-chested coon hounds were off in bellowing unison—all except for the yellow dog. Burning up the trail, the baying, panting dogs were soon at the finish tree in which the old coon lay partially hidden high on a limb—that is,

all except the yellow dog. The crowd grew silent with expectancy waiting for the first of the nearly exhausted racers to bellow his "I spy" at the finish tree. They waited and waited for "treed" as hot dog after hot dog slumped panting in the shade of the same tree containing the hidden coon. Soon, along came our little yellow friend, who had been left at the starting post, sometimes walking and sometimes in a slow lope. Stopping occasionally along the race trail, picking daisies or whatever dogs do, he finally approached the crowd of chagrined dog owners and laughing spectators at the finish line. Marching up to the finish tree, the dog deliberately turned and grinned at the audience, then, in a high-pitched yellow dog voice, barked "treed" for the \$150.00 prize.



(The "Iowa Conservationist" goes cost-free to more than eight thousand Iowa public schools each month)

THESE ARE THE ANSWERS YOU MAKE UP THE QUESTIONS

By John Wakefield
Superintendent of Forests

THE most common definition for conservation is the wise use and management of our natural resources.

Forestry is the science and practice of managing forests and forest products.

Forestry is directly related to conservation because forests directly affect water, wildlife, soil, and mineral conservation.

Generally speaking, most of Iowa's timberland is located in southern and eastern Iowa.

Iowa forests consist primarily of hardwood trees.

The oak tree is most common in Iowa's native timberland. There are 13 native oaks in this state, the principal ones being the red oak, white oak, and black oak.

According to U. S. Forest Service figures, Iowa produced in 1946 91,000,000 board feet of forest products, valued at \$17,000,000.

According to the original land survey started March 23, 1832, and completed August 17, 1859, by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Iowa's original forest cover consisted of 6,680,000 acres or 18 per cent of the total area of the state.

Next to fuelwood, lumber is the most important timber product in Iowa.

Mulberry is the native tree in Iowa most durable for fence posts. Osage orange, which is commonly called hedge, has proved to last longer than any other species for fence posts; however, this species is not native to Iowa.

Red Oak is the most valuable species for lumber in Iowa. It is commonly used for flooring and interior finishing.

According to the U. S. Forests and Waste Land Survey made in 1935, Iowa's timberland acreage was 2,515,752 acres.

Properly managed woodlands are kept free from livestock because livestock retards natural regeneration and production.

Much of Iowa's badly eroded and waste land could be saved and made productive by reforestation.

Surface fires are the most common type of forest fire in Iowa. These fires run rapidly across the forest floor, burning the leaf litter,

humus, small reproduction, and scarring the larger trees.

Smokers are responsible for most of the forest and grassland fires in Iowa.

Forest fires destroy game habitat and reproduction. Many of our upland birds and game are dependent upon forestry conditions for food and cover.

If proper forestry practices were employed by all timberland owners in this state, growth could be increased by twice the present rate.

Two thirds of Iowa's original timber has been cleared off for agricultural purposes.

Forestry is important and directly related to the conservation or wise use of our natural resources in Iowa.

1947 HUNTING SEASONS

RABBITS: The open season for rabbits has been set from September 1, 1947, through February 29, 1948, with a daily bag limit of ten and no possession limit.

SQUIRRELS: The season on squirrels has been set from September 1 through November 30, 1947. The daily bag limit is six with a possession limit of twelve.

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS: The season on fur-bearing animals will be established after completion of the annual fur-bearing animal census this fall.

QUAIL AND PHEASANT: The season for quail and pheasant hunting will not be named by the Conservation Commission until after the quail and pheasant census has been taken.

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL: The migratory waterfowl season, which is set by the federal government, has been shortened to 30 days, from noon, October 21, to one hour before sunset, November 19. After the opening day the season opens at sunrise and closes one hour before sunset. Bag limit on ducks is four per day with eight in possession after the first day. Only one wood duck may be taken in a daily bag limit or had in possession. The bag limit on geese is four with possession limit four. Only one of the total may be Canada, Hutchins, or white fronted geese, which in effect allows one of the above and three blue and/or snow geese.

NO SWIMMING

Country Constable: "Pardon, miss, but swimming is not allowed in this lake."

City Flapper: "Why didn't you tell me before I undressed?"

Constable: "Well, there ain't no law against undressin'."

Queer designations given animal and bird groups include: a **stand** of plovers, a **watch** of nightingales, a **chattering** of crows, a **flock** of geese, a **herd** or **bunch** of cattle, a **bevy** of quails, and a **cast** of hawks.

The whale can jump higher than any other animal. It sounds silly, doesn't it, but this mammoth animal has been known to jump as high as twenty feet. And that's a whale of a jump.



Are You . . .

(Continued from page 161)

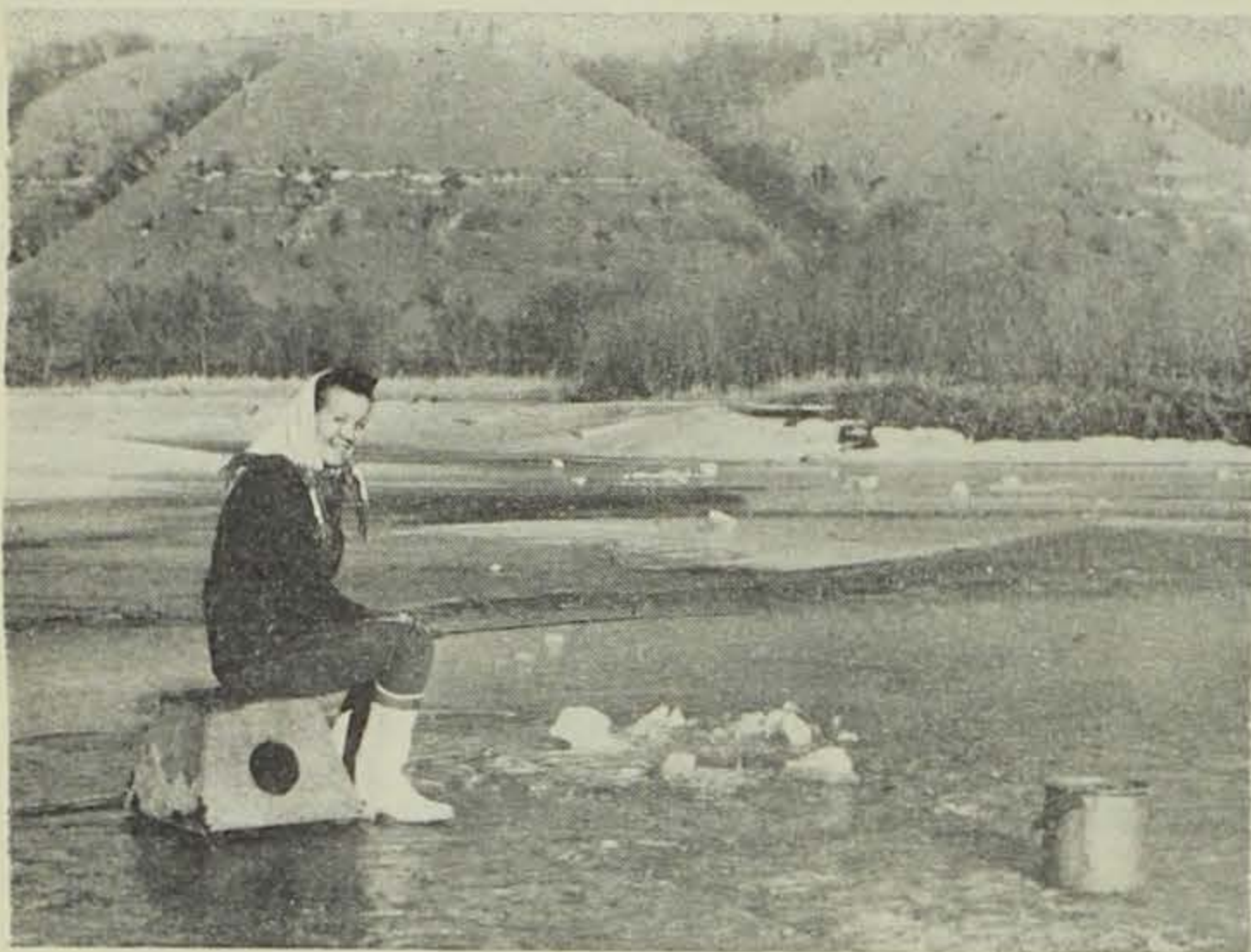
There is a burning need afield today for intelligent understanding of the farmer-sportsman relationship. This problem would vanish into thin air overnight if all concerned would be "fair and generous in sport."

Many men afield today do not make sure their target is within range when shooting. Consequently many birds or animals are crippled and are easy prey for predators or die in some distant marsh or woodland—a waste and

cruelty. Long careful search must be made for each bird knocked down. Failure to do so is unsportsmanlike and cannot be too strongly condemned. To kill quickly or miss completely is more than just an empty phrase, it is common sense and the essence of conservation in the harvest of our wildlife surplus—when we have a surplus.

It is the sportsmanlike thing to recognize limitations when natural conditions have brought about a reduction in game populations and to be satisfied with less than the law allows. In the sportsman's

(Continued on page 164)



Fishing through the ice is legal in Iowa through November 30. Perch and walleyes in particular are active feeders after the ice freezes.

Fall Fishing . . .

(Continued from page 161)

Generally speaking, in the autumn months the natural foods are in the shallows, the minnows having been chased in from deeper pools by the hungry fishes. The frogs making an occasional sally from shore into the shallow water to wet their skin add to the teeming off-shore bait swarms. Thus the fisherman's best bet in fall fishing is in the shallows not too far from shore, for where there is an abundance of food, here too is the bulk of the hungry fish.

Angling for most fish is best in early evening and the fore part of the night. This, however, does not hold true for the perch which may be feeding voraciously all day or during several periods of daylight hours, but cease to bite vigorously at night.

Perch often bite and are taken along with their finny first cousins the walleyed pike, through holes cut in the ice; and ice fishing is

legal in Iowa until after the close of the season, November 30.

We must not overlook stream fishing in late fall. Throughout the state the ever popular catfish will take bait even after the water is so cold that its jaws can scarcely close on the angler's offering. Particularly in northeast and north central Iowa, may be found the fish so aptly described as, "Ounce for ounce, pound for pound, the gamest fish the world around," the fabulous smallmouth black bass; and fall smallmouth fishing is the real smallmouth fishing. Also in many stretches of our streams are found great walleyes and northerns.

For the stream fisherman, almost the universal bait is the big-mouth chub or large live minnows. These, fished with very little or no weight, are sure fish takers, and in waters in which all four of the fish mentioned are present the angler's thrill is magnified by the fact that when a terrific surge is felt on the line his catch may be

any one of the four. Flies, and fly-spinner combinations, as well as some of the smaller plugs are effective for walleyes, northerns, and smallmouths. Catfish in fall occasionally strike spinner flies in true game fish fashion.

So here's to ferocious fat fish and frosted feet and fingers for all you piscatorial prevaricators. The season is open till November 30 and fall fishing is best.

Are You . . .

(Continued from page 163)

mind the limit is a point beyond which no one ventures and not a goal to be attained.

When game populations are down, as they are in many areas this year, the sportsman supports with word and deed his harassed fish and game authorities who are trying to perpetuate this sport by reducing game bags and the length of hunting seasons. They are endeavoring to guarantee that sports afield will be maintained for our children's children and for generations yet unborn.

In the Izaak Walton League of America there is a well defined movement afoot to deny membership to any known deliberate violator and to the game and fish hog, as well as to all who refuse to abide by the rules of moderation, of consideration for his fellow man, of fairness and mercy for the game and fish.

Izaak Walton, for whom this great organization was named, in the quaint language of his day revealed the very soul of sportsmanship in his words, "Thus use your frog: put your hook through

his mouth and out at his gills, and then tie the frog's leg above the upper joint to the armed wire; and in so doing use him as though you loved him."

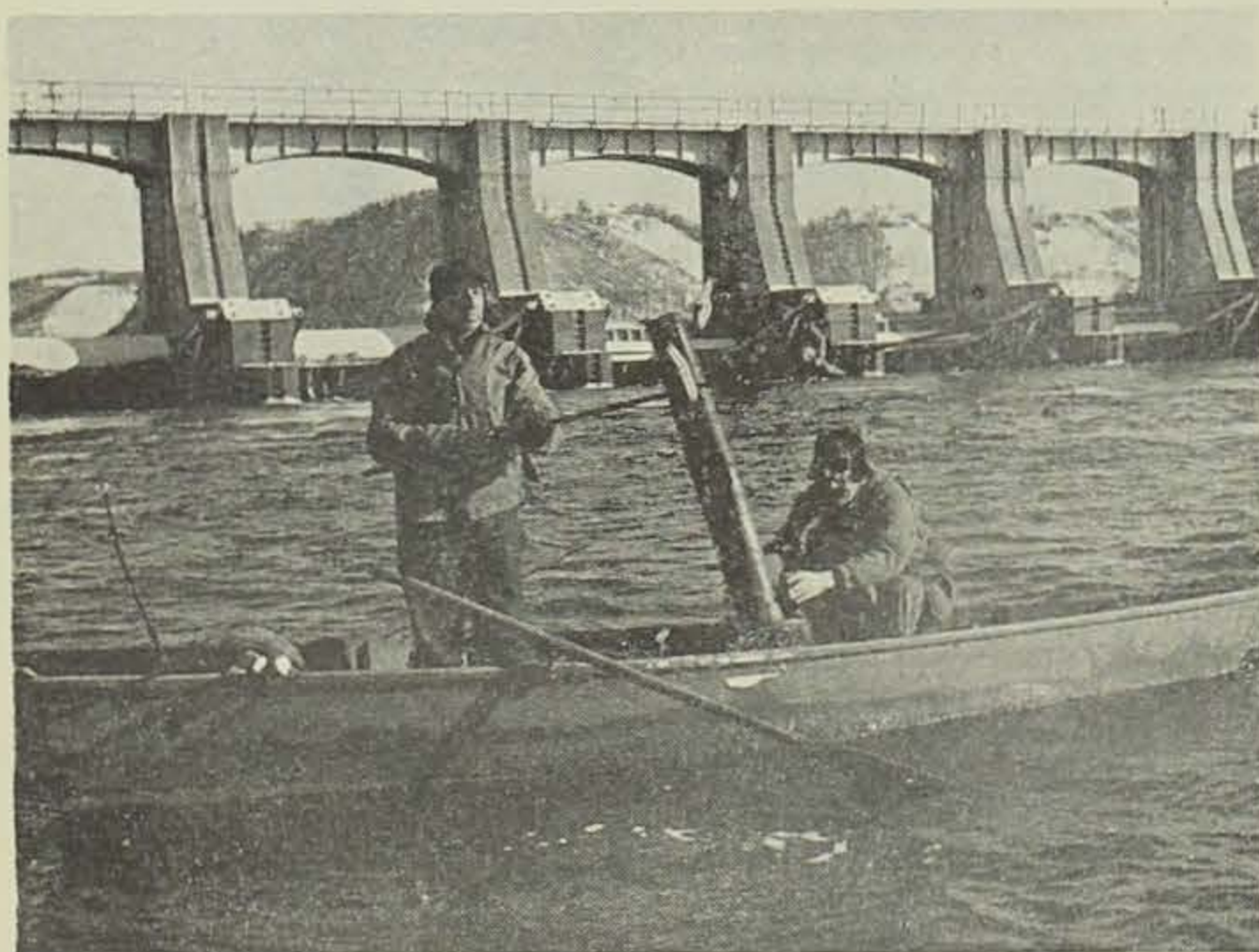
Fishing on our American waters and hunting in our American woods and fields provide the finest



Bill Voigt, Jr. Koehne Photo.

public outdoor sport known to man the world around. Pursued properly it is clean, manly and health-giving. It stimulates that which is best within us. Let us keep it that way by being all that the definition of sportsman implies. Not only will we as individuals benefit, but we will thus help to assure that Americans of tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrows will have the outdoor benefits that we today enjoy.

Be fair and generous in sport.



Midwinter walleye fishing below the dams on the Mississippi has become a favorite sport with those Iowans boasting Eskimo blood. The season on walleyed pike on the Mississippi River is closed only during the months of March and April. Jim Sherman Photo.



LACEYISMS

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

IN IOWA some of the most beautiful of the little lakes have been drained and turned into fertile fields, whilst others have dwindled so as to be only a mere reminder of their former beauty. If the destruction of these bodies of water only entailed the loss of their beauty, a practical people might accept the change without any very great regret; but when the reclamation of a comparatively small area of land to cultivation imperils the water supply of thousands of surrounding farms, it is high time to call a halt and demand a restoration of these sources of water supply.

We should not mistake mere weather for climate, but in recent years there have been many indications that the destruction of our forests has wrought a change in our climate.

A few successive years of drought have tended to awaken interest in the rainmaker, and there is no rainmaker with better promise than the wooded slope of the mountain and the timbered border of the rivers.

There is an air of lusty life about the woods. The man who was blind from his birth associated the beauty of life with what he could feel in his sightless mind of the delight of the forest, and when the scales fell from his eyes he "saw men as trees walking."

The first essential to the prosperity of any country is that there should be a good title to the soil.

No one should ever begrudge a cherry to a woodpecker or a robin. He has made the cherry possible before he takes it. He has done more toward its fruition than the man who set out the tree, because he has protected it from the pests that destroy it.

The annihilation of the noblest of all the American mammals, the bison, is one of the crimes of the nineteenth century. It took millions of years to evolve and produce this splendid animal. He was especially adapted to the hard life on the arid plains of the West. The cattle of the present day turn their tails to the wind and drift hopelessly with the course of the blizzard. The buffalo turned his head to the storm and fought it out with nature, triumphing over the wind and the cold for ages upon ages, finally succumbing only to the breech-loader and the butcher-knife of the skin-hunter of the latter end of the nineteenth century.



The deliberate shot, the chap who combines his trigger pull with the grace and rhythm of his swing, will account for more hits than the "snap shot" or "spot shooter." Jim Sherman Photo.

How Fast . . .

(Continued from page 161)

perfect coordination of brain, eye and muscle.

The "pointer-outer" is the slow shooter who holds his fire until he is sure his target will be in his shot pattern. Sometimes he is cursed with the habit of flinching, which slows him up. Generally, however, his reflexes do not react as quickly as those of others, and often he waits so long that the game bird, which is his target, has reached the safety of the cover.

But just how fast do we shoot? Probably faster than we realize. Some of us, of course, shoot faster than others, but the boys of the slide rule and pencil clan, along with the assistance of electric timing devices, have it figured down to the pretty fine point. Suppose suddenly, at a distance of about 20 yards, a game bird appears flying from right to left across your front at a speed of about 60 miles an hour or 88 feet per second.

What do you do? First you estimate the range as best you can. Next you shift your feet into a fairly comfortable shooting position. Third, you "mount" your gun

and swing on the target. Fourth, you pull the trigger and then follow through.

All this sounds like it consumes a lot of time but it really doesn't. At any rate you generally do them all. The slide rule boys tell us that it takes about one-fifth of a second for the average shooter to get "set." In this split-second your bird has flown approximately 18 feet. He'll fly another 18 feet by the time you have your gun up and on him, and still another 18 feet while you're pulling the trigger. Calculating on the basis of an average shot charge velocity of 900 feet per second over your original range of 20 yards, the shot charge will require approximately one-fifteenth of a second to reach the crossing point with the path of the bird. This means the bird has flown an additional six feet, or sixty feet in all from the time you saw it until it runs into your shot pattern.

Of course you are not going to get this kind of a shot all the time, and it is used as an example only. Other types of shots may require more time and straightaway shots should require less. The human element, of course, is the determin-

ing factor, and while this seems like mighty fast shooting, the shooter with average reflexes is doing it every day.

Don't try to be a super-fast shot. Get on your target as quickly as you can, but don't crowd yourself too much. Haste makes waste in shooting more often than not. Be deliberate . . . but don't wait too long.

—Remington News Letter

BOOK ON CROW SHOOTING

Anyone who enjoys or would like to enjoy the most fascinating shooting of all, crow hunting, should read Bert Popowski's "Crow Shooting" (216 pages, \$. . . , A. S. Barnes and Company, New York). Bert is one of the best known of the regulars because of his many crow shooting stories in magazines, and he knows his business, although no other enthusiast will agree without reservations to all his conclusions. Of most interest and value to the crow hunter are the chapters on habits, wariness, calling, roosts, blinds, and decoys. Vignettes by Gordon Elliot are delightful and actually seem to capture some of the personality of this black rascal.

It is unfortunate that Popowski approaches this fine sport with a "crusading against the devil" blast. The thesis that this black Einstein kills more ducks by stealing eggs than all the duck hunters combined has an old familiar ring. Of course the crows steal eggs and young birds of all kinds when they are available—this is a law of life.

Old Corvus gets our nod. He doesn't get and doesn't need a break. Shoot him down below the capacity of his environment and he will fill it full again next year. He will continue, year in and year out, to provide gunning as exciting as that furnished by any of the pampered darlings of upland or marsh. Are you getting your share of this fun? "Crow Shooting" tells you how.

The eyes of many mammals shine at night because of a reflecting membrane in the eyes called the tapetum.

The oldest sportsmen's club in the United States was the Schuylkill Fishing Company founded in Philadelphia in 1732.

The name, woodchuck, is probably a corruption of the animal's Indian name of "Ot-chock" or "We-jael."

The ringnecked pheasant is credited with a flying speed of nearly sixty miles per hour.

The spots on white-tailed deer fawns disappear about five months after birth.

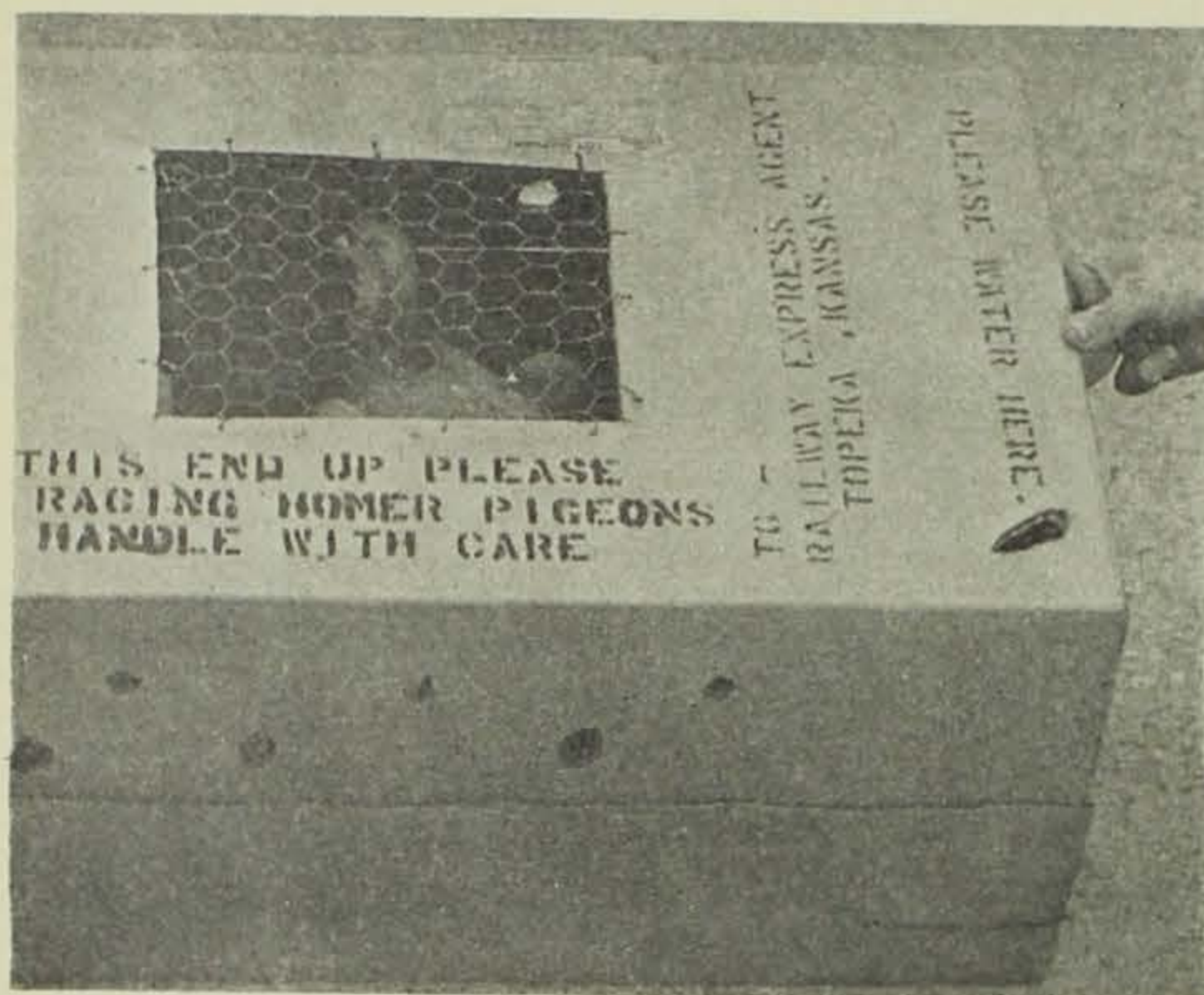
Bobwhite quail eggs are round at one end and pointed at the other.

Coyote, or coyoti, is a Mexican word which means prairie wolf.

The eggs of channel catfish hatch between the seventh and tenth day.

Channel catfish spawn in Iowa in late June and early July.

"Are these animals carnivorous?" "Sometimes when they first arrive, Mum; but we always 'as 'em dis-infected."



Light weight paper cartons are used to transport racing pigeons by air. Rene Briegel Photo.

DAVENPORTERS USE PLANE FOR RACING PIGEONS

By "Duke" Woods

The "poor man's horse racing season" is on.

Poor man's race horses, as carrier homer pigeons are often referred to in England and other countries, are being entered in races once each week by members of the Davenport Racing Pigeon club.

And two pioneering firsts have been hung up by the Davenport organization this year.

The club sponsored the first race in the middlewest where the birds were transported to the take-off point by airplane and in this event for the first time in the United States the birds were shipped in cardboard containers instead of the conventional wicker crates.

The race, flown from Topeka, Kansas, a distance of 320 miles, took place on Sunday, May 25. The birds were banded and shipped from the Moline airport at 10 a.m. the day before arriving at their destination three hours later. Released at Topeka at 6 a.m. the first two birds were clocked by Ben McAninch, Rock Island, at 1:30 p.m. With 60 birds from 12 lofts participating in the race the winning pigeon traveled 1,223.67 yards per minute or more than 40 miles an hour.

Training Problem

Rene Briegel, race secretary of the Davenport club, explained the difficult hours of training necessary to prepare a bird for racing.

"When October rolls around," he said, "the cocks and hens are separated so they may complete the all important moult easier and conserve their strength for the following year's races. Through the

winter months a heating feed, principally corn, predominates their diet and the birds are kept separated until mating time during March and April."

"After the first round of youngsters are 3 weeks old," Briegel said, "the serious training begins for the old birds (two years and over). They are tried out on distances of 20, 30, 40 and finally 50 miles before the first race which usually is held the first Sunday in May."

"The Davenport club strives for the long distance races—from 300 to 600 miles," Briegel explained. "We feel that the longer distance provides the supreme test for the condition and homing-instinct of the birds and only the really good birds can negotiate these distances."

The night before a scheduled race the birds are brought to the club headquarters, 602 West Ninth street, to be checked in and to have the race band attached before they are placed in the race baskets. On long races the birds are banded two nights before to enable the train to get them to their destination in time for the take-off hour.

Get Best of Care

The best of care is given the flyers enroute and by the station agent who liberates them. An early morning liberation is preferred, and with good weather and wind conditions speeds of over 60 miles an hour have been recorded. The station agent at the point of take-off is notified of the shipment the day before and when he releases the birds he telephones the time and weather conditions to the race secretary who in turn gives this information to each member in the race.

Clocking the exact second each bird arrives home is an interesting problem which is solved capably by the continuous running timer

or "pigeon clock" as it is called. These clocks are set with a "mother" clock the night before the race at which time each clock is sealed and one is issued to each competing number. Next morning when the birds arrive they must come in the coop where they are caught, the race band removed, placed in a capsule and then put in the clock through a small hole in the top. After the capsule falls down inside the clock the crank is turned one turn. This operation removes the capsule from view, brings another empty hole around ready for the next capsule, and stamps on a continuous roll of paper the day, hour, minute and second that the race band was placed in the clock.

When Race Ends

When a certain number of birds are home, depending on the number of starters, the race is declared over and each member brings his clock to the club headquarters where the race secretary and clock setter determine how fast or slow each clock is compared to the "mother" clock.

The clocks are opened, the race band numbers checked on the race sheet, and each bird's time is figured out. After this operation is performed the times are handed over to an appointed member who figures the speeds of each bird and determines the winner.

Each member has an airline which has been accurately figured by an engineer. This airline gives to the thousandth of a mile the distance by straight line from each station to each member's loft.

In figuring speeds the miles are broken down to yards while the time the birds flew is converted into seconds. The yards divided by the seconds give the yards per minute after multiplying by 60 and, if necessary, can be carried

out to the thousandth of a yard if the race is close.

Getting the bird home from the race isn't all to this sport—the fancier must have control over his birds and be able to get them to come in to the loft immediately as seconds sometimes count in these races. In the long races the birds usually arrive a half hour or an hour apart as the distance tends to break up the flock. But in the short races the birds many times arrive in a flock and the race is very close.

For the long races—500 and 600 miles—the birds are liberated at 5 a.m. after being fed and watered by the station agent and sometimes fly for 12 to 14 hours without stopping for food, water, or rest.

—Davenport Democrat

\$40,000 IN FINES

For the twelve-month fiscal year ending June 30, 1,524 Iowans were fined \$40,396.35 for violation of the hunting and fishing laws by justice courts. The various judges also ruled that a total of 1,170 days be spent in various jails for the violations. Convictions were secured in 1,514 out of 1,524 cases brought to trial. Nine hundred thirty-one of the prosecutions were for illegal hunting, 466 for fishing, 97 for trapping, and 30 listed as miscellaneous. Under the statutes all fines assessed by the courts are turned in to the school funds by the courts in counties in which they were assessed.

Two friends, a Scotsman and an Englishman, were fishing and were "working" the local river. To make things more interesting they agreed that the one who made the first catch would give the other a drink. Ten minutes later the Scotsman drew the Englishman's attention to the fact that the Englishman had a bite. It was a very poor catch, but the Englishman kept his word and poured out a drink for his pal. "Ah, weel," said the Scotsman, wiping his lips, "I think noo I'll bait my hook."



The Davenport Racing Pigeon Club is the first in the middlewest to transport racing pigeons to the takeoff point by airplane. Rene Briegel Photo.



Squirrel hunting is one of the pleasantest of all outdoor sports. Season after season thousands of Iowans harvest the annual crop of fox and gray squirrels produced in our two and one-quarter million acres of timberland. Jim Sherman Photo.

SQUIRREL DOPE

THE squirrel season opened on September 1 and with squirrel populations good, some hunters are wondering why they find these illusive creatures more active some days than others. Here is a little squirrel hunters dope passed on by the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

There probably are as many different ways of hunting the fox squirrel as there are squirrel hunters. Each hunter knows the specific weather conditions and time of day at which he is most successful in getting his limit. One hunter states emphatically that the only time to hunt squirrels is on a damp cloudy morning when footstep sounds are dulled. Another maintains that the high visibility of a bright sunshiny morning is most important for success. The choice of optimum time, place and weather depends upon the individual hunter.

It is doubtful that there is a single neophyte in the realm of squirrel hunting. If so, he wouldn't admit it. But just in case there are a few individuals who do not maintain that they are veteran squirrel hunters, a few pointers may be welcome.

For several years field studies were conducted by Dr. Ellis Hicks of the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit concerning the relationships between fox squirrel activity and various environmental influences, chiefly those of weather. Dr. Hicks found that the fox squirrel is active, for the most part, during daylight hours only. It is especially active on clear mornings from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. It is least active during the day between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00

p.m. Partial or complete cloudiness decreases its activity.

The most congenial temperatures are those from forty to forty-nine degrees. Exceptionally low temperatures over an extended period cause the squirrel to retreat to its nest. Very high temperatures sap the squirrel's vitality and make a loafer of it. Under such conditions the squirrel tries to keep cool by sprawling on a shady limb.

Either falling rain or snow decreases activity. A snow depth of two inches or less has little effect, but snow more than two inches deep hinders the squirrel in its ground travels.

High wind velocities decrease activity noticeably. Swaying branches make a tree trip hazardous at times. Wind gusts spoil the squirrel's leaps not only in creating violent branch motion but by whipping its tail and thus destroying the squirrel's equilibrium.



Squirrel hunting success depends both on the skill of the hunter and the activity of the squirrels. The fox squirrel is especially active on clear mornings from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. Jim Sherman Photo.

POSTAL AMENDMENT FOR IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

A bill, introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman James I. Dolliver of Fort Dodge, and in the Senate by Senator George A. Wilson, to amend the postal laws to allow state conservation periodicals second class postal privileges has been signed by President Truman and become law. The bill, introduced at the request of the Iowa State Conservation Commission, was supported by conservationists throughout the United States. Application for second class postage is now pending with Post Office authorities. The new law will result in considerable reduction in postage costs on the "Iowa Conservationist" each month.

The barn owl, whose diet consists mainly of rats and mice, will eat its own weight in food in a single night.

Birds have the highest body temperatures of all creatures—104 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

THE BOY SCOUT MARKSMAN'S CODE

1. A Scout considers every gun as being loaded, even though he has personally unloaded it.

2. A Scout points the muzzle of a gun in a safe direction on picking it up.

3. A Scout opens the action of a gun immediately and makes sure that it is not loaded.

4. A Scout opens the action of the gun before he passes it to another person.

5. A Scout takes care not to heedlessly point a gun at any human being under any circumstances.

6. A Scout turns the muzzle of a firearm away from every person when loading it.

7. A Scout strives to preserve harmless animals and birds, and does not wantonly shoot or kill merely for the sake of killing.

8. A Scout takes every precaution for the safety of others before shooting in the open.

9. A Scout cares for a firearm properly before he lays it aside.

10. A Scout is sportsmanlike when engaged in contests of skill with firearms and whenever handling firearms.

GENTLEMEN IN THE FIELD

You will always have the use of a dependable quail dog and the company of a good shooting companion in the field if you will observe these simple courtesies:

Don't attempt to control or direct the other fellow's dog.

Always compliment the good; do not make any reference to any faults you see in his dog.

Man's best friend is his dog . . . criticize only upon invitation to do so.

Ask your companion from which side he prefers to shoot.

Don't shoot at birds going his way.

A THOUSAND SANDPIPERS IN ONE POND

For those who keep their eyes focused and their ears tuned for the unusual, there is that man and his wife who reported seeing a thousand sandpipers in one pond alongside the highway a short distance north of Meservey on Sunday, August 3. While they did not count them (nor could they have done so) they are certain that it was the greatest number of these long-legged wading birds they had ever seen in one flock.

Just why so many of them would congregate in one pond is a question that some better posted bird lover than we have hereabout can answer. Can it be the food they were getting was the attraction?

—Britt News Tribune

A woman went to buy a drinking trough for her dog, and the shopkeeper asked her if she would like one with the inscription "For the dog."

"It really doesn't matter," she replied. "My husband never drinks water and the dog can't read."

Visitor: "How do you tell the ganders from the geese?"

Farmer: "We don't worry about that—just turn them all out together and let them figure it out for themselves."

Don't rush out to retrieve a dead bird; let the dogs do the retrieving.

Don't claim you killed every bird that fell on the covey rise.

The real sportsman will ignore the "bird dog" during only one hunting trip; afterwards he will seek the company of another hunting companion.

Take alternate shots on singles.

At the end of the hunt, observe the Golden Rule of unselfishness while dividing the game.

One who observes these simple but necessary considerations, kindles a lasting friendship regardless of financial, educational, social, or vocational differences.

—Texas Game and Fish



You'll always have the use of a dependable quail dog and the company of a good shooting companion if you observe certain field courtesies. Jim Sherman Photo.

1947 DUCK SEASON

THE season on waterfowl in Iowa has been curtailed because of a definite decline in duck populations throughout the United States. Duck hunters are reminded to purchase a migratory bird hunting stamp from their postoffice as well as an Iowa hunting license before entering the blinds. The regulation requiring guns to be plugged so that a total of no more than three shells can be contained in the magazine and barrel is still in effect.

The following hunting seasons have been set by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and concurred in by the State Conservation Commission.



This abandoned suzy has watched the waterfowl migration spring and fall for many years. But even with better eyesight than she claims, fewer ducks will be passing over this fall than any time since the "Duckless Thirties." Jim Sherman Photo.

KIND OF BIRD AND LOCALITY	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Ducks—Entire state, except American and red-breasted mergansers.	Oct. 21 to Nov. 19, both dates inclusive. Shooting allowed from sunrise to one hour before sunset, except that the hour for commencement of hunting of waterfowl and coot on first day of the season shall be 12 o'clock noon.	4 in the aggregate of all kinds except that not more than 1 wood duck shall be included in such limit.	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 wood duck may be possessed at any time.
American and red-breasted mergansers. Entire state.	Oct. 21 to Nov. 19, both dates inclusive. Shooting allowed from sunrise to one hour before sunset, except that the hour for commencement of hunting on the first day of the season shall be 12 o'clock noon.	25 singly or in the aggregate.	No limit.
Blue Geese, Snow Geese, Canada Geese, Hutchins Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese. Entire state.	Oct. 21 to Nov. 19, both dates inclusive. Shooting allowed from sunrise to one hour before sunset, except that the hour for commencement of hunting on the first day of the season shall be 12 o'clock noon.	4, except that not more than one (1) Canada goose (including Hutchins or cackling geese) or 1 white-fronted goose may be included in such limit.	One day's bag limit.
Ross' Geese. Entire state.	No open season.	None	None
Coot-mudhen. Entire state.	Oct. 21 to Nov. 19, both dates inclusive. Shooting allowed from sunrise to one hour before sunset, except that the hour for commencement of hunting on the first day of the season shall be 12 o'clock noon.	25	25
Wilson's snipe or Jacksnipe. Entire state.	No open season.	None	None
Grebe. Entire state.	No open season.	None	None
Rails (except coot) and gallinules. Entire state.	No open season.	None	None
Mourning dove. Entire state.	No open season.	None	None
Woodcock. Entire state.	No open season.	None	None
Swan. Entire state.	No open season.	None	None

IOWA SUNRISE AND ONE HOUR BEFORE SUNSET SCHEDULE

Central Standard Time

Note—The duck season opens at noon, October 21

	DAVENPORT		BURLINGTON		DUBUQUE		KEOKUK		CHARLES CITY		DES MOINES		OMAHA, NEB.		SIOUX CITY	
	Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset
Oct. 21	Noon	4:14	Noon	4:15	Noon	4:12	Noon	4:18	Noon	4:19	Noon	4:25	Noon	4:35	Noon	4:35
22	6:23	4:13	6:23	4:14	6:23	4:11	6:24	4:17	6:33	4:18	6:35	4:23	6:44	4:33	6:46	4:34
23	6:24	4:11	6:24	4:12	6:24	4:09	6:25	4:16	6:34	4:16	6:35	4:22	6:44	4:32	6:48	4:32
24	6:25	4:10	6:25	4:11	6:26	4:08	6:26	4:14	6:36	4:15	6:37	4:20	6:46	4:30	6:49	4:31
25	6:26	4:09	6:26	4:09	6:27	4:06	6:28	4:13	6:37	4:13	6:37	4:19	6:46	4:29	6:51	4:29
26	6:27	4:07	6:27	4:08	6:29	4:05	6:29	4:12	6:38	4:12	6:38	4:18	6:47	4:28	6:52	4:28
27	6:29	4:05	6:29	4:07	6:30	4:03	6:30	4:10	6:40	4:10	6:41	4:16	6:50	4:26	6:53	4:26
28	6:30	4:04	6:30	4:05	6:31	4:02	6:31	4:09	6:41	4:09	6:41	4:15	6:50	4:25	6:54	4:25
29	6:31	4:02	6:31	4:04	6:32	4:01	6:32	4:07	6:42	4:08	6:43	4:13	6:52	4:23	6:55	4:24
30	6:32	4:01	6:32	4:03	6:33	3:59	6:33	4:06	6:43	4:06	6:44	4:12	6:53	4:22	6:57	4:22
31	6:33	4:00	6:33	4:01	6:35	3:58	6:34	4:05	6:44	4:05	6:44	4:11	6:53	4:21	6:58	4:21
Nov. 1	6:34	3:58	6:35	4:00	6:36	3:57	6:35	4:04	6:46	4:04	6:47	4:09	6:56	4:19	6:58	4:20
2	6:36	3:57	6:36	3:59	6:38	3:55	6:36	4:03	6:47	4:02	6:48	4:08	6:57	4:18	7:01	4:18
3	6:37	3:56	6:37	3:58	6:39	3:54	6:38	4:02	6:49	4:01	6:49	4:07	6:58	4:17	7:02	4:17
4	6:38	3:55	6:38	3:57	6:40	3:53	6:39	4:00	6:50	4:00	6:50	4:06	6:59	4:16	7:03	4:16
5	6:39	3:54	6:39	3:56	6:41	3:52	6:40	3:59	6:51	3:58	6:51	4:05	7:00	4:15	7:04	4:15
6	6:41	3:53	6:41	3:55	6:43	3:50	6:41	3:58	6:52	3:57	6:53	4:04	7:02	4:14	7:06	4:13
7	6:42	3:51	6:42	3:53	6:44	3:49	6:42	3:58	6:53	3:56	6:54	4:02	7:03	4:12	7:07	4:12
8	6:43	3:50	6:43	3:52	6:45	3:48	6:43	3:56	6:55	3:55	6:55	4:01	7:04	4:11	7:08	4:11
9	6:44	3:49	6:44	3:51	6:46	3:47	6:45	3:55	6:56	3:54	6:56	4:00	7:05	4:10	7:09	4:10
10	6:45	3:48	6:45	3:50	6:47	3:46	6:46	3:54	6:57	3:53	6:57	3:59	7:06	4:09	7:10	4:09
11	6:46	3:47	6:46	3:50	6:49	3:45	6:47	3:53	7:00	3:51	7:00	3:57	7:09	4:07	7:13	4:07
12	6:48	3:46	6:47	3:49	6:50	3:44	6:48	3:52	7:01	3:50	7:01	3:56	7:10	4:06	7:14	4:06
13	6:49	3:45	6:49	3:48	6:51	3:43	6:49	3:51	7:02	3:49	7:02	3:56	7:11	4:06	7:15	4:05
14	6:50	3:44	6:50	3:47	6:52	3:42	6:50	3:51	7:03	3:48	7:03	3:55	7:12	4:05	7:17	4:04
15	6:51	3:43	6:51	3:46	6:54	3:41	6:51	3:50	7:04	3:47	7:04	3:54	7:13	4:04	7:18	4:03
16	6:52	3:42	6:52	3:45	6:55	3:40	6:53	3:49	7:05	3:46	7:06	3:53	7:15	4:03	7:20	4:02
17	6:54	3:42	6:53	3:44	6:57	3:39	6:54	3:48	7:07	3:45	7:07	3:52	7:16	4:02	7:21	4:01
18	6:55	3:41	6:54	3:44	6:58	3:38	6:55	3:48	7:09	3:44	7:08	3:52	7:17	4:02	7:23	4:00
19	6:56	3:40	6:56	3:43	6:59	3:37	6:56	3:47	7:10	3:44	7:09	3:52	7:18	4:02	7:24	4:00

Note: The above table has been compiled from official schedules furnished by the Weather Bureau Stations listed. A schedule from the Omaha, Nebraska, station is used because there is no station in southwestern Iowa. The difference in time between stations should be taken into consideration in figuring the exact time at your particular location.