

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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HUNTERS TO FIND RABBITS PLENTIFUL

GOOD hunting depends to a large degree upon satisfactory game populations, so it's not strange that a topic of chief interest to the average hunter is how much game is in the field. The cotton-tail rabbit is often called the big game of the small boy. It is the most important game animal in Iowa because year after year, over the state as a whole, rabbits provide hunting for more people for a longer period of time than any other of our game birds or animals.

To supply the answer to the hunter's question, "How is the rabbit population?" a series of questions were recently answered by all of Iowa's conservation officers, and for the most part answers are pleasing.

In 28 of our Iowa counties rabbits are more numerous than in 1946. In only 11 are they considered less numerous. In the remainder of the state observers believe rabbits to be in about the same numbers as in 1946. In 32 counties rabbits were believed to be abundant; in 60, fairly numerous; in only seven, scarce.

As the map shows, areas of scarcity are in the northeast part of the state and in Scott, Muscatine, and Louisa counties in the central-eastern section.

Although rabbit populations indicate that the hunter can count on good sport in most sections of the state where rabbit cover is present, the heaviest population over a large area is roughly the south-central third.

Comments from conservation officers in the various territories relative to rabbit shooting revealed considerable information of interest and all of the officers agree that throughout the state little rabbit hunting is done until after very cold weather or until occurrence of the first snow.

Several officers mention that moonlight rabbit hunting has become popular in their territories and, contrary to popular belief, this method of hunting rabbits is not illegal in Iowa so long as it is not roadside hunting with firearms

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Hotfoot, the cotton-tail rabbit, often called the big game of the small boy, is the most important game animal in the United States. Year after year the cotton-tail provides hunting for more people for a longer period of time than any other form of game.

Sportsmen Flunk Conservation

16 Million Hunters and Fishermen Fail to Act

By Glenn L. Martin

Leading Airplane Manufacturer and
President of the League of Maryland
Sportsmen, Inc.

WHEN things go wrong, and we can lay the blame on someone else, few of us advertise, or are even aware of, our own responsibility for the course of events. If our car is in collision, the driver of the other vehicle is the guilty party—not ourselves. Should we oversleep, the alarm clock is at fault, and not our failure to set it properly. And if our public servants do not carry out our desires, we berate their cussedness or their stupidity, and not our own failure to make our wishes known.

It occurs to me that the lack of more substantial progress in the preservation and restoration of our natural resources is due more to public apathy than to any other cause. Most sportsmen are far more vociferous in their criticism of constituted authority for failure to act vigorously and wisely in behalf of our woods, waters and wild-

life, than in presenting sound reasons for such action and making it crystal clear that they expect it to be taken.

Our public officials, state and national, are intensely interested in carrying out the will of the people, not only because most of them sincerely wish to do a good job, but also because it would be bad politics to do otherwise. The officeholder who consistently runs counter to the just demands of his constituents does not go far in public life.

We sportsmen just aren't playing our cards properly today. Devotees of gunning and angling are more numerous than at any time in history. Sales of hunting and fishing licenses reached an all-time high in 1946. It is conservatively estimated that at least one out of every eight Americans now finds healthful recreation with rod or gun. If no other portion of our population was concerned, the united voice of this group would

(Continued on page 174)

TRAPPING IN THE AIR

WITH the first of winter's heavy frosts, thousands of boys from farms and small towns begin to hear the call of the trap line. Already they are scanning the woods for hollow trees and dens and examining the banks of streams and shores of ponds and lakes for tracks and sign of furbearers.

The "trappers itch" is defined as the urge to outsmart the furbearing animal and exchange his glistening pelt for cash to buy a gun or a jacket or overshoes or a Christmas gift for Mom or Dad.

What the trapping season will be this fall has not yet been determined and at the present time, all over the state, experts are studying the signs just like the farm boy to determine what if any animals need the protection of a closed or shortened season.

Our fur crop each year is a big one and it is harvested much the same as any other annual crop, with the thought in mind of leaving plenty of seed to repopulate the woods and waters for the coming year. Our principal fur-bearing animals are muskrat, mink, opossum, skunk, civet cat, raccoon, foxes, weasels, wolf or coyote, badger, and rabbits.

During the 1945-46 season, \$2,630,655 worth of furbearers were transformed into guns and jackets and overshoes and gifts for Mom and Dad. During the 1946-47 season, 630,748 animals were trapped but their value decreased some \$600,000 because of the lower market price. In 1946-47 there were 18,000 licensed trappers in Iowa, plus approximately an equal number who trapped on their own land where no license is required.

Trapping is a skilled business. The trapper must know his animals if he is to meet with much success, and lucky is the farm boy who has an older brother or father who can teach him the tricks of the trade. This is especially true with skinning the animals and the preparation of pelts, for mishandled

(Continued on page 171)

Iowa Conservationist

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AUGUST COMMISSION ACTION

A MEETING of the Iowa State Conservation Commission was held in the Des Moines offices on August 18 and 19, 1947. Members present were E. B. Gaunitz, Arthur C. Gingerich, F. W. Mattes, Mrs. Addison Parker, F. J. Poyneer, and E. G. Trost.

The Commission:

Approved plans, specifications and estimates for development of the Mount Ayr Upland Game Area in Ringgold County for an amount of \$10,500 of Pittman-Robertson funds.

Approved purchase of ten prints of the film, "Fish Fare."

Approved construction permit for a wharf, mooring cribs and pump house on north bank of the Mississippi near Bettendorf as requested by Aluminum Company of America and approved by Army engineers.

Appointed John Bartlett to position of Supervisor of Land Acquisition.

Appointed K. M. Rooker to position of Inspector of Sand, Gravel, and Ice.

Approved necessary development of the Rice Lake area from Pittman-Robertson funds.

Authorized attendance of Chief of Division of Lands and Waters and Commissioner Parker at the National Conference on State Parks at Bear Mountain, New York, on October 7, 8, and 9, subject to Executive Council approval.

Approved additional work at the Pine Lake Spillway at a cost of \$1,500 from Lands and Waters Contingency Fund and Fish and Game, Dam Fishway and Screens Fund.

Entered into Oak Wilt Research

Agreement with the Botany Department of Iowa State College.

Approved purchase of weed spraying material in the amount of \$1,800 for spraying thistles and poison ivy in the state parks.

Approved flood damage repairs be made in the various state parks.

Approved placing a life line across the Iowa River above the dam at Steamboat Rock.

Authorized condemnation proceedings on the land to be acquired for proposed Geode artificial lake in Des Moines and Henry counties.

Approved request to Interim Committee for release of the \$103,000 allocated for land acquisition for Honey Creek Lake site in Washington County, and authorized execution of options.

Instructed Director to notify the Secretary of Interior that Iowa desires to avail itself of the benefits of Pittman-Robertson fund apportioned for the 1947-48 fiscal year.

Adopted Administrative Order No. 103 setting migratory waterfowl season and regulations.

Approved condemnation of certain tracts of land in Dunbar Slough in Greene County.

Approved construction of three deer traps for removal of surplus deer at Ledges Park, Milford, and Josh Higgins Parkway.

Authorized designation of the Des Moines River between the Scott Street dam and Center Street dam in the city of Des Moines as a fish management area and restricted to pole and line fishing only.

Denied request of city of Coggon that the Commission repair the dam in Cedar River at Coggon.

Approved the setting up and posting of Five Island Lake in Palo Alto County as an Open Water Refuge.

Meeting adjourned.

MISSOURI REMOVES LENGTH LIMITS

The Missouri Conservation Commission has announced that minimum length limits will be removed from all fish in 1948 with the exception of channel catfish taken commercially. Missouri previously had removed the minimum lengths on crappie, bluegill, white bass, and perch. During 1948 all species may be kept regardless of size, including channel cat, black bass, and walleyes.

AROUND THE HILL

Nature doesn't like square corners. Rocks and trees and birds and bugs and animals are patterned to streamline; and when man-made buildings begin to sag the trouble can always be found at the corners. Farmers are discovering, too, that straight furrows on hillsides are contrary to nature's program. Hence the modern method of contouring. You'll never see a square baseball nor a flat-nosed airplane. Nature has shown us they don't work.

—Washington Journal

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

WALT HARVEY, conservation officer at Marshalltown, tells of a Marshall County farmer who, on coming home late and going by the barn from the garage to the house, heard funny rattling noises as he passed the silo. As he listened he became convinced that a nest of rattlesnakes were shaking things up within. Going to the house, he returned with a lantern and a shotgun. Approaching the silo very carefully, he lifted the silo door, cocked the hammer, and pointed the old twelve-gauge within. He was relieved and surprised when the gleam of the lantern failed to reveal a rattlesnake cooch show, but instead a nest of money-faced or barn owls. Although barn owls sometimes sound like rattlesnakes, they are harmless to man and they are one of the most efficient and beneficial rat catchers in the business. Young barn owls are reputed to eat their weight in rats and mice every twenty-four hours.

Roy Chastain, conservation officer in charge of Pine Lake State Park, is proud of his record of four generations of the Mason family at one time in his cabins at Pine Lake in early June. Included in the quartette were Frank Mason, age 75; Chester Mason, 44; Mrs. Verle Kooistra, 22, and Hal C. Kooistra, 1 year.

Tom Johnston, conservation officer at Sigourney, Iowa, brags that his fishermen not only catch lots of fish on their hooks but other things as well.

After a hard day and part of the night on the river, he was just dozing off when awakened by a dog barking in the lot next door. The barking and howling kept up and finally Tom dressed and went downstairs with a little air rifle kept just for the purpose. "It was a bright night and I could see a black cocker spaniel making all the fuss. I also could see that he had a long cord hanging out of his mouth. As I approached he whined and I saw that the cord was a trot line with one end caught in the bushes at the other side of the lot. The poor pup had a hook caught in his upper lip and was very thankful to be released. Apparently someone who had been fishing left the trot line out to dry and the cocker had tried to eat one of the baits the careless fisherman had failed to remove."

The following morning early, a fisherman stopped, knocked at Tom's door, and advised that he had been fishing all night. Shortly after midnight he had a bite, and when he set the hook a big splashing downstream occurred. The line was retrieved and the angler brought in a beaver weighing less than ten pounds. The baby animal was caught by the tail. The hook



This coot, like many other game birds, has about one chance in three to live through its second summer. Jim Sherman photo.

FISH AND GAME DIE YOUNG

THE hunter and fisherman who doesn't bag his quarry within the first year of its life doesn't get a very promising second chance the following year. Extensive studies of wildlife mortality conducted for many years by fish and game men reveal that all animals and fishes older than one year comprise only a small part of the total population. The studies were made separately by different men in different sections of the country and their figures agreed that out of each 100 pheasants only 30 live through the second year, nine through the third year, and nearly all are dead of natural causes before they attain the age of four years.

The yearly mortality rate of adult bluegills was found to be 75 per cent with natural causes responsible for two-thirds and fishermen only one-third. The loss of wildlife from natural causes, depriving man of useful harvest, is even worse for other species. The white bass, for instance, is lucky if he is among the 21 out of every hundred that are alive at the end of their first year of existence. Only 27 out of each hundred Hungarian partridges live more than a year. Ninety-nine per cent of all the red salmon die before they can return to the sea and of this number 79 per cent die in the ocean before migration to the spawning grounds in fresh water streams begins. About one-tenth of one per cent of the progeny ever return from original eggs deposited.

—Texas Game and Fish

We wonder sometimes if the guy who thinks that all a fish needs is water and all a quail needs is a patch of buckbrush could raise a family on water and tater chips.

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

was released and the beaver jumped in the river and swam away in the darkness.



Care when skinning, stretching, and drying furs for market pays off cash dividends. Jim Sherman photo.

Trapping . . .

(Continued from page 169)

pelts in Iowa are believed by the fur experts to cut the value of Iowa's furs almost twenty-five per cent each year. This, in 1946-47, would have amounted to several hundred thousand dollars.

Preparation of the pelts is very important. The animals should be skinned soon after they're trapped. The pelts of skunks, civets, mink, muskrat, coyote, wolf, fox, weasel, and opossum should always be cased, while the pelts of raccoon and badger should be opened.



A smelly, three act drama enacted a thousand times each season has for its principal actors a trapped skunk or civet, a small boy, his school teacher and classmates.

To case pelts cut from the sole of one hind foot to the sole of the other in a line running along the rear of the hind legs beneath the tail. Cut the tail skin along the under side the entire length and remove the bone, except with animals having rat-like tails, the tails of which need not be saved. Then skin out the hind legs and feet, cutting off the feet at the last joint. The skin is then carefully worked over the body like a glove turned wrong side out.

When the front legs are reached the feet are cut off and the legs skinned out. Next, cut off the ears beneath the skin close to the skull. When the first trace of the eye appears, as the skin is being pulled

off, cut close to the skull to avoid damaging the skin around the eyes. Skin the animal completely to the very tip of the nose to assure a number one pelt.

In skinning for open pelts, cut from a point of the chin clear to the tip of the tail along the belly. Cut from the sole of each foot to the sole of the opposite foot along the under side. Then peel off the skin, using the knife as sparingly as possible.

Clean the fur of cockleburrs, blood, etc., and dry carefully before stretching. Remove surplus fat and muscle tissue from the skin with a dull knife or the edge of a square stick of hard wood, scraping from head to tail.

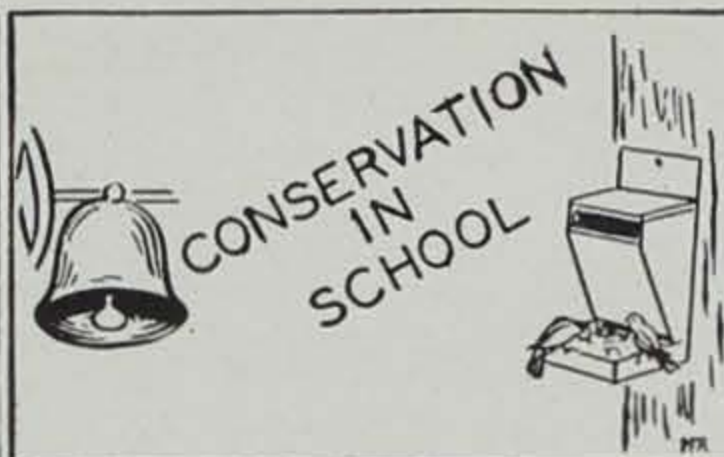
The pelt is then ready for drying. Here it is wise to guard against over-stretching. A pelt that is stretched too much will be a thin pelt and fur buyers will grade it down as such. Stretch pelts only to their natural size, making them fit the stretching board snugly. They should then be dried carefully in a cool, well-ventilated, shady place. When thoroughly dry, pelts may be removed from the stretcher and hung in a cool place until sold.

Care in skinning, stretching, and drying will pay tip-top dividends.



The "trapper's itch" is defined as an urge to outsmart fur-bearing animals and exchange their pelts for cash to buy a gun or overshoes or Christmas gift for Mom.

A fire in the forest, started "by accident" or carelessly, does just as much damage as a fire started intentionally.



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

\$250 WILDLIFE POSTER CONTEST

Two hundred fifty dollars and a trip to St. Louis accompanied by a chaperone is the first prize for the winner of this year's Conservation Poster Contest conducted by the National Wildlife Federation of Washington, D. C., which annually sponsors National Wildlife Restoration Week during the first week of spring.

The purpose of the contest is to develop a nationwide interest, particularly among young people, in the need for the restoration and conservation of our organic natural resources.

The contest is open to all students anywhere in the United States from the seventh grade through the last year in high school. It will be judged by nationally known people in the fields of conservation and art.

The award will be made at the 12th North American Wildlife Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 9, 1948.

Other prizes ranging from \$100 to \$25 will be awarded.

Posters may be submitted in oil, watercolor, black and white or other media, and must be sent to the National Wildlife Federation, Washington 10, D. C., to be received not later than February 1, 1948.

A copy of the rules and regula-

tions regarding the contest and further detailed information may be secured by writing the Servicing Division of the Federation, 20 Spruce Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

SOUND EDUCATION

It's pretty difficult to get people individually concerned over problems involved in conserving our natural resources. At least in part this is because of the mistaken assumption that conservation practices profit only future generations. That is an idea that should have vanished in the dust bowl era, but it is obvious that millions of persons do not realize that they themselves pay—and quickly—for unplanned, reckless exploitation of resources.

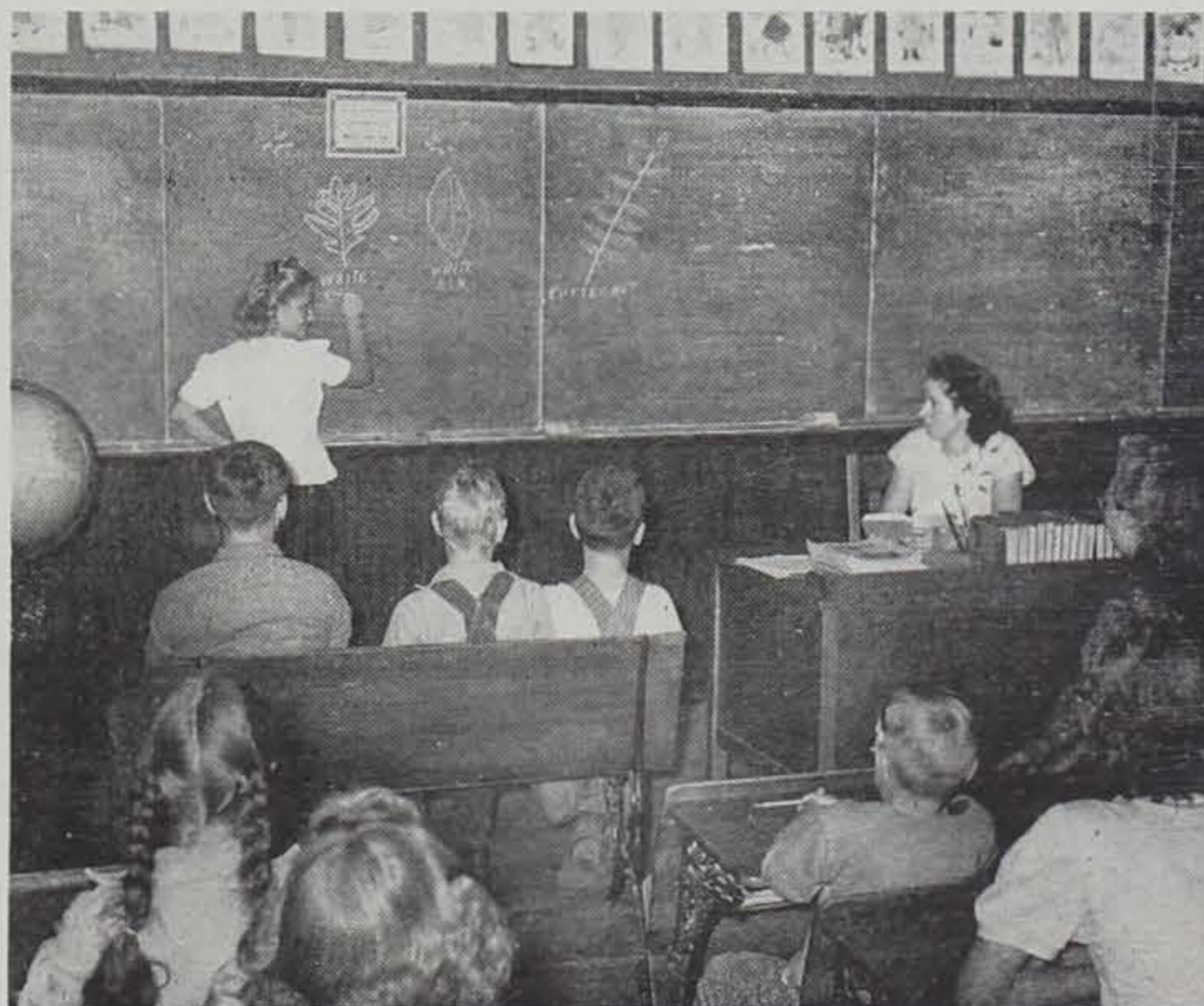
A number of states have sought to do something about this by requiring the teaching of conservation in the schools. Too often this has been done feebly by teachers who themselves know little about the matter.

For this reason, we like the report on the conservation-teaching activities of Miss Ivah Green, supervisor of rural education in the Iowa public schools. After years of experiment, she has instituted in the state's grade schools a three-year course in conservation.

The program stresses just what ought to be stressed—actual observation by the children of damage done by wind and water erosion. The youngsters see for themselves that a lot of precious productive soil can be lost in a short time through failure to take suitable preventive measures and they gain a new respect for modern farming practices.

This is sound education any way you look at it. Miss Green's common-sense methods might profitably be adopted throughout the land.

—Davenport Democrat



After year's of experiment, Miss Ivah Green, Supervisor of Rural Education in the Iowa public schools, has instituted a three-year course in conservation in the state's grade schools. Jim Sherman photo.

UNDER THE SKY

By LeRoy Pistorius

NEVER will forget that spindly legged, towheaded, little kid. He was a mass of bundles with two arms and legs sticking out, as he perched precariously on the luggage rack of a bicycle built for one. His big brother was pedaling him down the old Augusta road to scout camp. Alongside trotted his dog, part collie and the rest purebred mongrel. A happy trio, that!

The kid, hot, dusty and already a little home-sick, was safely deposited at the little camp down on the Skunk River. Outdoor life began in earnest. He did his K.P., he learned woodcraft, he crept, shivering, to his cot after a ghost story session around the campfire and he sat alone in the woods at midnight, with a sack, as the guest of honor on a snipe hunt.

The man that he was to be was slowly taking shape but nobody seemed to be able to do anything about it. He was proud, that little feller, he floundered out with the advanced swimmers and promptly caused two first class scouts to win their life saving merit badges. They took him into shallow water and worked long and hard with him on the rudiments of making like a duck.

Quick to catch on was that little feller. He listened well and thrashed about gaining coordination and confidence in big batches. Back out with the advanced swimmers he went, and two more life savers were born.

But the kid kept after it and finally learned that making a bottom survey was not an essential part of swimming. And so was spent a deliriously happy summer, an irreplaceable experience to the little squirt.

No, sir! I never will forget that



"Never will I forget that spindly-legged, towheaded, little kid. The man he was to be was slowly taking shape but no one seemed to be able to do anything about it."



The Indian who first occupied this land was but a wanderer. The present occupants of Iowa have fixed themselves in the soil and have come to stay.

LACEYISMS

Excerpts From Speeches of
Major John F. Lacey
Iowa Member of Congress
1880-1907

THE Mississippi Valley is the future center of power and wealth. This vast basin, drained by a single stream with its affluents, is the richest tract of soil upon the planet. With coal, iron, lead, zinc, silver, gold, and many other minerals, it contains a great range of climate and soil and is the granary and cotton producer of the world.

And though we may complain of the winds and the rain, the heat and the cold, Iowa is the most favored of all the states. Look to the north of us and the best part of Minnesota lies next to Iowa. On the east the best of Wisconsin is its southwesterly portion. Illinois is a favored state, but its finest land is its northwestern part, next to our state. North Missouri is the best part of our neighbor on the south.

Northeastern Kansas is the most fertile part of the Sunflower state. Eastern Nebraska is the richest part of that state, and southeastern Dakota is the best and most fertile of that commonwealth.

I live in and have the honor to represent a congressional district about the size of Delaware, that does not have a yard of navigable water in it. It is covered with the richest soil on the face of the earth and, in fact, if it were proposed to dig a canal through that district as wide and as deep as the one proposed by you, the people would hesitate about spoiling so much good land. At a banquet a few years ago in the little city of Pella, a gentleman was called upon to give a toast to the town. He said, "Here's to Pella; she spoils a good farm."

spindly legged, towheaded, little kid. 'Cause why? 'Cause he was me—that's why!

—Burlington Sports Herald

The ownership of the soil should be in the tillers of the soil, and to the wide distribution of our farming lands among the people is to be attributed much that is good in our state.

When I see one of the gigantic boulders from Hudson Bay lying imbedded in the soil, where the ice laid it so many ages ago, I always feel like taking off my hat, for he is the real old settler.

Every country looks back to its first settlers. The Indian who first occupied this land was but a wanderer. He lived upon the soil but did not occupy it; of necessity his occupation was but temporary. But the present occupants of Iowa have fixed themselves in the soil; they have come to stay.

CHANGING FARM STYLES

Is a new era beginning for agricultural wildlife? There are good reasons for thinking so, according to Arnold L. Nelson, Fish and Wildlife Service biologist in charge of the Patuxent Research Refuge at Laurel, Maryland. The last time something similar happened, says Nelson, was when woven wire replaced rail fences and clean farming became popular.

The current trend is more promising, however. It is toward more wildlife cover on the farm instead of less. Conservationists say that something good must result from the vast program of hedges, windbreaks, field borders, living fences, farm ponds, and woodland plantings being promoted by the Soil Conservation Service and other land-use planning agencies. Fertile soils produce more and better wildlife along with other land crops. Moreover, modern rotation and tillage practices give primary consideration to increasing the farmer's capital stock in the form of healthier, more productive soils.

Just how game, songbirds, and fur animals will be affected by the measures used in various regions is still largely a matter of guesswork. Wildlife biologists agree that finding this out is one of our most pressing problems. The nationwide

shift to better land-use methods provides a means of giving wildlife management a boost that it has never had before—if we only had the answers.

To get these answers is the objective of a new program of agricultural wildlife investigations started recently by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Durward L. Allen, former Michigan game biologist, is in charge of the work. At Patuxent two experimental farms are being operated to find out how modern farming practices affect such animals as the quail, rabbit, squirrel, and songbirds. This is a cooperative project, with the Soil Conservation Service making plans, furnishing shrubs, and so forth. The Wildlife Management Institute issued a student fellowship for a study of the two areas, and the University of Michigan selected Roy A. Grizzel, graduate student in wildlife management, to do the job. This one project will not provide all the desired information, Mr. Nelson explained. Many more are needed; but, this one will be extremely helpful, since it is going—now.

DUCK STAMP STORY

The story of Federal "duck stamps" and how the revenue received from their sale to sportsmen, conservationists and philatelists, is used to aid in the development of the national wildlife refuge system is told in a new publication issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service under the title of **Federal Duck Stamps and Their Place in Waterfowl Conservation**.

The new booklet discusses the waterfowl "depression" of the early 30's, the demand for legislation which brought the stamps into existence through the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act in 1934, the beginning of the National Waterfowl Restoration Program, the annual revenue from the stamps, and the refuge areas purchased from duck stamp funds.

In addition the publication explains how the annual design for the stamp is selected and, by special permission of the Secretary of the Treasury, contains reproductions of all the stamps issued to date in this series. The name of the artist and complete philatelic data is also supplied.

Copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 15 cents per copy.

A bullet dropped from the hand and one fired from a rifle will hit the ground at the same instant provided the bore of the rifle is held parallel to the ground when it is fired. The explanation for this seemingly unbelievable fact, according to George E. Frost, technical advisor of Western Cartridge Company, is that the pull of gravity on both bullets is exactly the same. Regardless of the velocity at which the bullet may be fired from the rifle, gravity pulls it to earth at the same rate of speed, namely, 32.2 feet per second.

West Virginia has 84 of the covered bridges used during the Civil War, many of which are still in use.



Don't say it—Sign it!

Sportsmen Flunk . . .

(Continued from page 169)

have the respectful attention of every political ear.

We are also guilty of failure to bring up overwhelming reinforcements. Students of conservation and world history have submitted convincing evidence that the welfare, indeed the very existence, of our nation is dependent upon the wise administration of our natural resources. It is not alone the sportsmen's concern, it is vital to the welfare of every living American. But it is up to the sportsman to help publicize this fact.

Water and soil, prime essentials for wildlife, are likewise prime essentials for human life. Fortunately, measures to conserve these essentials, through establishment of headwater ponds, terracing of farms, and planting of soil-binding trees, shrubs, vines and grasses, are in themselves directly and immediately helpful to wildlife. Therefore, the need for such measures is naturally more evident to the sportsman than to any other group, with the possible exception of the farmer.

Consequently, we, as sportsmen, share with the farmer the prime responsibility for impressing upon our lawmakers the importance of

adequate provision for soil and water conservation, and of other measures more exclusively for the benefit of wildlife, and in enlisting the active support of thinking men in all walks of life for general conservation measures, whose value to our entire population cannot be disputed.

We are more numerous and powerful than ever before. We have a responsibility to generations yet unborn to use this power. Let us, then, be active individually and through our clubs and associations in demanding of our elected representatives and candidates for office that they commit themselves to the protection of the resources that have made our country great.

But in the use of the power that is ours, let us be sure that our demands are just—that they are in the interests of true conservation, and are not born of desire for self-indulgence detrimental to the common good.

Civilization has decreased the acreage of areas suitable for wildlife. It has given us infinitely better transportation that has brought formerly remote areas within easy reach. Our population has grown, but the numbers of our anglers and hunters have increased in far greater ratio. The

hunting and fishing pressure has risen tremendously, while the supply of many kinds of fish and game has fallen alarmingly. Let us, therefore, as good sportsmen, observe to the letter the regulations which our state and federal agencies assure us are necessary for the preservation of our fish and wildlife, even though this may involve substantial sacrifice on our part.

This is not merely good sportsmanship—it is common sense. It will demonstrate our sincerity of purpose and will assure respectful audience when we advocate sound and constructive measures for the perpetuation of fin, fur and feathers—including many that will be beneficial in the long run to every man, woman and child within our great nation.

For too long, the history of hunting and fishing in the United States—as in the history of farming, lumbering and other activities—has been one of taking away without putting back. Fortunately, this method of procedure has been undergoing a change. Various governmental agencies, including the Soil Conservation Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, are placing more and more emphasis on restoration.

In the field of private endeavor, Ducks Unlimited is engaged in the highly necessary and commendable work of restoration of the nesting grounds bringing back our waterfowl, while other conservation groups are devoting increasing effort toward restoration.

Demanding that our lawmakers sponsor favorable legislation is not enough. It is up to us to aid whole-



Glenn L. Martin

heartedly in the efforts of the aforementioned agencies and groups. Let us support Ducks Unlimited and other organizations engaged in "putting back." Let us endorse and encourage similar activities on the part of our governmental agencies. In short, let us take more of the load on our own shoulders.

We are the prime beneficiaries of wildlife restoration. Only by doing our part, can we hope to inspire others to maximum effort.

EDITOR PINCHED

Last week the Bulletin-Journal editor went out of his way to get his name in the paper. A front page story told how he was arrested and fined by game wardens at Clear Lake, Iowa, for fishing in a rowboat at night with an improper light. The editor pleaded guilty, paid his fine, learned a lesson and has since declined generous offers of readers for flashlights and boat lights for future fishing trips.

After reading the story one reader told the B-J editor he thought it was a newspaper man's privilege to keep out news stories which would embarrass himself or his advertisers and friends. This was our reply:

No editor likes to say "No, I'm sorry" when confronted with an earnest request to leave out a news item when it is a matter of record. But such a refusal is necessary if a newspaper is to perform faithfully the primary function for which it exists. That function is to print the news without fear or favor. . . .

The "freedom of the press" about which so much is heard these days bottoms on something more elemental than the mere right of a newspaper to print the news.

Deeper down is the right of the people to know the truth. . . .

—Independence Bulletin-Journal

Dollar . . .

(Continued from page 172)

result in more direct profit to Emmetsburg than any of us realize. Most of us are inclined to look on the dredging program from the recreational side only without taking into account the dollar value it can have if a real effort is made to keep the lake full of fish after the silt is removed.

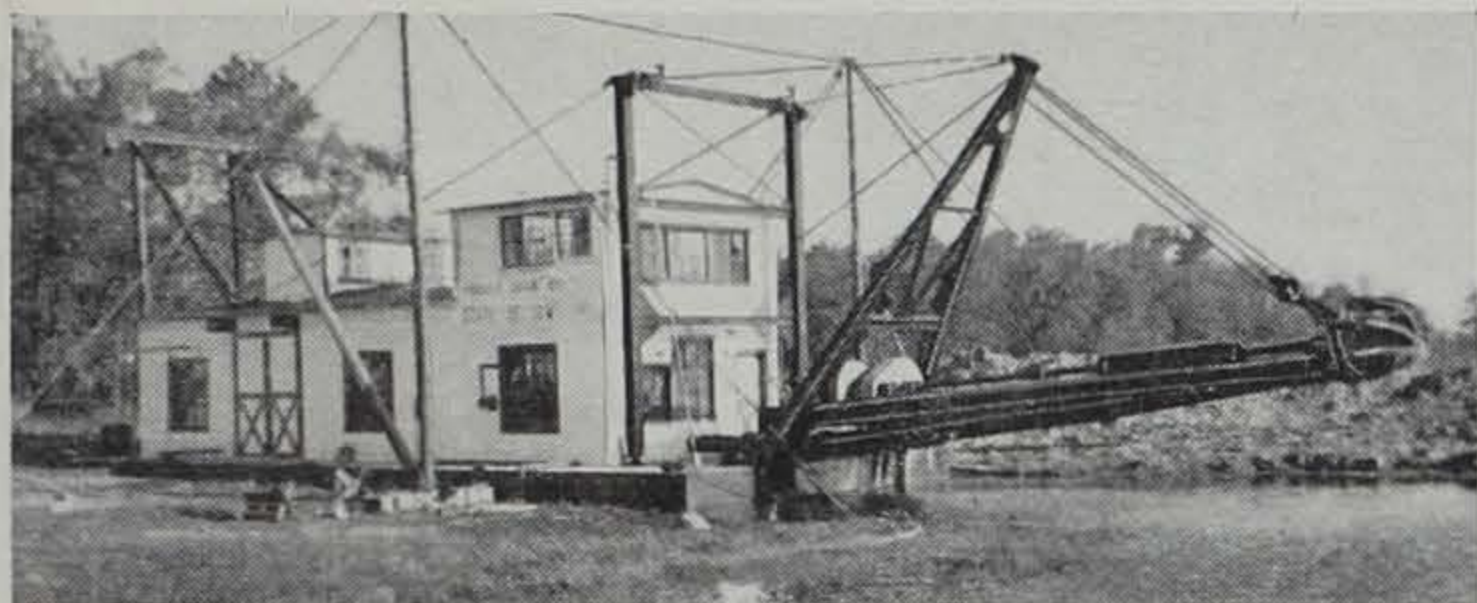
Our only objection to Carhart's exposure of fishing and hunting costs and Carl's calling it to our attention is it is sometimes more comfortable NOT to know just how much a duck or a pike costs you.

Who knows how many of us may be called up for some lengthy explanations by the non-shooting and non-fishing members of our families.

—Gib Knudson, Jr.,
Emmetsburg Democrat

COON RIVER BASS

Fisheries investigations being made on the Coon River by fisheries biologists are revealing an unusual number of young smallmouth bass, according to Chief Biologist W. W. Aitken. Test hauls being made at regular intervals on this stream produced numerous young of the year, a condition that has not existed for some time. In fact, biologists have been pessimistic over smallmouth bass reproduction in the wild for several years. The abundance of fingerlings in the Coon River means that if river conditions remain favorable that by 1950 smallmouth bass fishing in this stream will be outstanding.



Soon Old Dredger's iron proboscis will be rooting in the bottom of Five Island Lake and tons of rich silt will be moving through its complicated digestive tract on to nearby hills.

WIND UP LAKE CORNELIA DREDGE OPERATIONS

IN the Report on the Iowa Twenty-five Year Conservation Plan it was stated that the natural lakes of Iowa constitute one of the state's most valuable assets but that they had been greatly damaged and many had lost much of their recreational value because of siltation. In the Plan, improvements on 38 of these lakes were recommended.

One of these lakes, Lake Cornelia, has had its face lifted as recommended in the Plan and now "Old Dredger" is preparing to move to Five Island to give this popular lake some of the same treatment.

The dredge was moved from North Twin Lake to Cornelia in December, 1941, and started dredging early the following spring. The heavy pumps had removed 151,000

cubic yards of mud and silt from the bottom when time was called because of Pearl Harbor.

The pumps were started again in 1946, with 400,000 cubic yards of mud removed during that year. At the end of the current year 840,000 cubic yards will have been removed. The dredged area in the 285-acre lake will total approximately 60 acres with maximum depth of 21 feet.

The Twenty-five Year Plan called for dredging 30 acres; 60 acres have been dredged. The Twenty-five Year Plan calls for removal of 300,000 cubic yards; 840,000 cubic yards have been removed.

Dredging is an expensive, long-time program. The cost of the Lake Cornelia improvement was slightly over \$200,000.



One of the needs of conservation clubs is to maintain active interest in the organization by carrying out programs and activities in which the members have an active part.

AID TO SPORTSMEN'S CLUB PROGRAMS

Alert and active sportsmen's clubs represent a potent force for conservation for they are the concentration point in the community for conservation activities. In the club sessions members discuss conservation problems that are not only vital to the members but to the citizens of their community as a whole.

One of the needs of conservation clubs is to maintain active interest in the organization by carrying out programs and activities in which the members have an active part.

This has been a serious problem to club officers.

Recognizing this need, one of the national sporting magazines, "Sports Afield," is preparing a monthly bulletin containing detailed explanations of practical conservation-restoration projects which may be undertaken by sportsmen's clubs. The monthly bulletins may be secured, cost free, by writing on club stationery to Sportsmen's Club Director, Sports Afield, 405 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Improper skinning and preparation of pelts costs trappers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.



THE SAME OLD LAD

By Allen Green

'Tis the same old stream that it used to be
When I was a toddling boy.
'Tis the same old bank that I strolled along
A-whistling notes of joy.
'Tis the same old bend; the same old point
Where I tossed my bobber out.
'Tis the same old place that a score of times
I've told the kids about.

And even today, I'm the same old lad;
Older in years—but then
I can crawl quite well on a fallen log
And throw out my line again.
The fish still bite at the same old bait,
In the same old way I've told;
And I believe I'm as happy now
As I was in the days of old.

So, come with me! Get your pole and line.
We'll sit 'neath the same old tree
And be the carefree barefoot boys
That all of us used to be.
Follow along the winding stream
Follow the same old way.
Joy is just as plentiful
As it was in the olden day.

DUCKS AT DAWN

In reed-beds are soft rustlings—
Life stirs in marsh and wood;
The sun lifts over distant hills—
Oh God!—to live is good.

—Manitoba Game and Fish



Jim Sherman photo.

HOW ABOUT IT?

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chicago, Illinois



Jim Sherman photo.

Editor, Iowa Conservationist,
914 Grand Avenue,
Des Moines, Iowa.

The duck scorecard experiment which we tried out last year for the first time brought in to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service so much information about the number of ducks bagged by hunters, the cripples lost, and how the shooting compared with the previous year that we consider it desirable to employ the same idea again this year in order to accumulate all the data we can obtain on hunting conditions throughout the country during the 1947 season. Information of the type obtained through the scorecards is most helpful to the service in its job of determining the status of migratory waterfowl.

We have worked out the attached form, very similar to the one used last year, with the hope that you may find space for it in either your November or December issue, or in both, if possible. Judging from the amount of interest generated over the idea last year, as conveyed to us in the letters received from hunters, we feel that the response this year will be even greater than it was in 1946.

We know we are asking a big favor of you but we hope that you will be able to cooperate with us again because it is so important for the Service to gain reliable data on the "annual harvest" for game management purposes. There is no better way than through outdoor publications to get our request into the hands of the real sportsmen.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Albert M. Day
Director

DUCK HUNTERS!

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is again inviting you to join them in the big job of getting the facts about migratory waterfowl hunting conditions throughout the country during the 1947 season. We want from you the same kind of frank, informative, and helpful information which you sent in to us for the 1946 season. We want reports—purely voluntary reports—again on the results of your shooting. Your views on the waterfowl situation

are invaluable to us in our job of working out fair hunting regulations.

Here's how YOU can help:

1. Keep tally of the birds you bag, cripple, and observe this fall.
2. At the end of the season, send completed score card to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

SCORECARD

How Many, What Kinds of Ducks, Geese
Bagged

Public

How Many Cripples Lost

SHOOTING GROUNDS (Check One)

Commercial

Compared with Last Year Waterfowl
Numbers Were

More

Less

Same

Private

Where you hunted _____
(State)

(County)

How many days _____

Comments:

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____