

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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THE 1953 IOWA DEER SEASON

LOST ISLAND LAKE STATE PARK

By Charles S. Gwynne
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Probably most persons would be curious as to how Lost Island Lake got its name. So also would many geologists. Of course the name suggests that there was once an island in the lake and that it disappeared. Islands do "disappear" to be sure, and so presumably could a low-lying island in an Iowa lake. This would be through erosion. The disappearing act would be brought about by wave erosion and ice push, aided by runoff from rainfall. The island would get smaller and smaller, and finally would be engulfed by the waves. It would seem likely that there would be some record of this event if it happened within historic times.

Any island thus done away with would have been composed of glacial drift. This is the familiar sub-soil of Iowa, mostly a jumbled mass of clay, silt, sand, pebbles, and larger stones. Waves, ice-push, and runoff could rather easily wipe out a low-lying island composed of this sort of material. It would be quite different if the island were made of solid rock, as are some of the islands in the lakes of northern Minnesota.

Also, consider what changing lake-level could do. Falling level in time of drought might cause a shallow portion of lake bottom to appear as an island. Given normal precipitation and rising level, and the island would disappear. A dam at the outlet raising the lake level several feet might do the same thing. However there is no record of the level of this lake having been raised artificially.

In any case, if an island did "disappear" from Lost Island Lake its location would continue as a shallow area, perhaps covered with rushes. But a survey of the lake made about 1935 shows no shallow area. The lake bottom was found to drop off from the shore rather

(Continued on page 7)



Warran Reed, Cherokee Courier Photo.
Iowa deer were large and in excellent condition. Conservation Officer Frank Starr tags a deer shot by Darryl Blankenbaker of Cherokee before its removal to a locker plant.

THE DEER SEASON AS TOLD IN THE PRESS

To the surprise of nearly everyone, Palo Alto County's first deer hunting season in 75 years yielded a big harvest of whitetails. The five-day hunt opened Thursday and closed Monday. . . . Some hunters reported the never-shot-at-deer "tame" the first day or two, offering fairly easy, close-range targets for their shotgun slugs. Later, however, they became more wary

and displayed their ability to hide in the brush right under the eyes of hunters. . . . As the deer started coming in, more and more men, both farmers and others, decided to go hunting. The demand for licenses increased and a shortage of shotgun slugs developed until finally they could hardly be found on dealers' counters in Emmets-

(Continued on page 6)

By John Madson
Education Assistant

For five days in early December, Iowans watched their first modern deer season with mixed feelings. Some were opposed to any deer season at all, while others wanted a chance at big game hunting and venison roasts.

A month later, shots from the deer season were still being heard. The Conservation Commission was the target of criticism, most of which was levelled against the legal multiple deer kill and the \$15 license fee.

To these and some other criticisms, the commission could only answer that it was Iowa's first big game season and that there had been some mistakes. To statements that Iowa's deer had been "slaughtered" and that the Iowa herd had been "wiped out," the commission strongly disagreed.

In summary of the deer season, the commission points out that probably fewer deer than the 1953 reproduction were taken during the hunting season. The census taken late last winter indicated roughly 13,000 deer in the state. The increase during the summer is believed to have been as much as 50 per cent, or 6,500 animals.

Before and during the season, 3,795 licenses were sold. Of these, 3,074 of the attached report cards have been returned by hunters, who reported killing 2,196 deer. Added to this figure is the 769 tags issued to farmers and hunters making multiple kills, bringing the present reported deer kill to 2,965 animals. Conservation officers have also estimated that 92 farmers in their territories killed deer for which neither licenses or tags were issued. The total deer kill, as estimated from hunters' reports, is 3,057.

Hunter success was extremely high. Nearly three hunters out of four, or 71 per cent, killed deer. From the early reports received by the commission, 1,097 hunters reported no kill, 1,771 reported killing one deer, 183 killed two deer, 13 killed three deer, six killed four

(Continued on page 5)

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'53 HUNTING SEASON SUMMARY

The 1953 hunting season was similar in hunting success and weather to last year's, but with one important exception: this was one of the finest goose years in history, and during the storm before Thanksgiving heavy duck flights furnished some of the best duck shooting since the Armistice Day blizzard of 1940.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of the 1953 season as seen through the eyes of some of the state conservation officers:

BOSWELL, Monroe and Appanoose:

QUAIL—A slow opening due to extremely dry weather. Improved in the middle of the season. Birds in excellent condition, and populations seem to be up slightly.

DUCKS—Very slow opening. All overflow ponds dried up, but November 15 brought good cornfield shooting.

GEESE—During a ten-day period there were at least 200 blues and snows killed, but only a few Canadas. Mostly cornfield shooting.

RABBITS—Population seems to be on the upswing.

PHEASANTS—No activity at all. Seed stock of birds in some sections of Appanoose, but practically no birds in Monroe.

BARRATT, Guthrie and Adair:

QUAIL—A little better than last year in spite of the dry weather.
DUCKS—Little shooting until the last two weeks of the season, when we had excellent hunting.

"CONSERVATIONIST" INDEX

Two years have passed since an index has been compiled for the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST. We are working on one now covering 1952-1953 and expect to have it completed about March 1. Many of our readers are planning to bind their CONSERVATIONISTS, and an index will be valuable. If you will mail us a card requesting the new index, it will be sent to you without cost when completed.



Goose hunters had the finest hunting season for many years during 1953 with large numbers of blue, snow and Canada geese coming into the state on opening day.

GEESE—Best in years. Picked fields held birds until well into November.

RABBITS—Hunting will come with snow.

SQUIRRELS—Good hunting early, but dry conditions made hunting tougher later on.

PHEASANTS—First few days were excellent, but heavy hunting pressure scattered the birds. Plenty of them left.

OLOFSON, Mahaska and Keokuk:

QUAIL—Poor start because of dry weather, but late November rains made hunting excellent. Have seen many coveys this year, more than ever before.

DUCKS—Too much bluebird weather for ducks. Goose hunting was superb, the best for years. Duck hunting picked up on November 16.

RABBITS—Some areas have rabbits, some don't. I expect better rabbit hunting this winter.

SQUIRRELS—Many squirrels taken early in season, but dry weather slowed hunting success later in season.

PHEASANTS—Hunting success spotty, and I would say it was fair to poor, considering both counties.

TUCKER, Audubon, Cass and Adams:

DUCKS—Very few ducks killed. Farm ponds have produced some, I know of about 15 geese taken.

SQUIRREL—Just fair... not bad but not above average.

PHEASANTS—First two days were mostly good. After that the birds became hard to find. Populations spotty.

ADAMSON, Scott:

DUCKS—Poor due to drought. Almost every pond and swamp dried up, and ducks were high and moving south. Scull boat hunter had good shooting on diving ducks on Mississippi.

RABBITS—Rabbit crop looked good early in fall but not many have been killed since.

SQUIRRELS—Squirrel populations were good and a good seed stock was left. Many limits were taken until it got too dry.

PHEASANTS—Many hunters out on opening day, but hunting poor. Birds scarce, and farms that had running creeks had the best hunting.

ASHBY, Dubuque:

QUAIL—Populations low.

DUCKS—Few major flights up to November 17. Hunter success poor but scull boat hunters have had some luck in the pool. These scull hunters also had good goose shooting.

RABBITS—More rabbits than for the last two years, but populations still low. Too hot and dry so far for very much hunting.

SQUIRRELS—Excellent—large populations.

PHEASANTS—Populations still very low... most hunters going further west.

HARVEY, Grundy and Marshall:

QUAIL—Not much local interest.

DUCKS—Duck hunting early in season only fair, and there were a few geese taken. Rivers and farm ponds only hunting... all pot holes and marshes dry.

RABBITS—Only fair success, but hunting started only in spite of the warm weather and no snow. Populations up from last year but still spotty.

SQUIRRELS—Good at opening and continued good through the season. With the warm weather, interest and bag limits waned later in the season. Food conditions are good and plenty of squirrels left for next year.

PHEASANTS—Many quick limits, with good hunting weather in good pheasant territory. Later in the season the birds wised up and everyone is asking "Where did they go?"

McMAHON, Carroll and Greene:

DUCKS AND GEESE—Duck hunting was slow until the last 10 or 12 days of the season. Until November 19 nothing much was taken but local ducks. Goose shooting was the best in years, with most geese being killed in fields.

SQUIRRELS—Did not come up to previous years, probably because of the weather. Hunting conditions for squirrels were never good.

PHEASANTS—About normal in Carroll County, but low in Greene County. In Carroll nearly everyone took some birds on opening day, but since then the hunting success has declined.

MEGGERS, Lyon and Osceola:

DUCKS AND GEESE—Good teal and pintail shooting early in season. Nothing much through the middle of the season, but excellent shooting in the late season; best goose shooting in years during the early part of the season.

SQUIRRELS—Too many leaves and the warm, dry fall made shooting difficult.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE—A few were seen, but none reported taken. The same applies to jacksnipe.

PHEASANTS—Good on the first day. Heavy spring rains harmed the birds. Those remaining are extremely wild.

LEMKE, Dallas and Madison:

QUAIL—Very good in southern half of Madison through most of the season. Hunters failed to get limits only because of bad shooting.

DUCKS AND GEESE—Very little duck shooting... no water. Some fair duck shooting in late November because of the storms. Good goose shooting along the Raccoon River during the first part of the season.

RABBITS—Poor populations in Dallas County. Fair in Madison County. Little rabbit hunting so far.

SQUIRRELS—Good squirrel hunting in Dallas. Many squirrels

(Continued on page 8)



In much of the state cold weather rabbit hunting was below that of the past few seasons.



The little Burrowing Owl lives principally on insects. In Iowa it is found only in the northwest. Jim Sherman Photo.

OWLS

By David H. Thompson
and Roberts Mann

The owls, of all our native birds, are least understood. Most kinds remain hidden, motionless and silent during the day and hunt only at night or in the dim twilight of morning and evening. Only a few, like our common Short-eared Owl and those big owls of the far north—the Snowy Owl, the Great Gray Owl and the Hawk Owl—habitually hunt in daytime. Because an owl's feathers are peculiarly soft and fluffy, it flies as silently as a passing shadow, swoops upon its prey unheard, and its Indian name was "hush-wing."

Since ancient times there have been many superstitions and legends about these birds. They have been regarded as the companions of sorcerers, witches, ghosts, hobgoblins and Satan himself. Their weird nocturnal hootings, gobblings and screams were and are believed to predict death, illness or disaster. Even today, in our southern states, the plaintive quavering cry of the Little Screech Owl—which they call the "Shivering" Owl—will cause some people to get out of bed and turn over their left shoe; others

to throw a nail or other iron object into the fire. To the Greeks and Romans, the owl was a symbol of wisdom and was the companion of their goddess of wisdom.

It is not true that owls are "blind" in daytime. They see very well, but most kinds see better at dusk because their eyes, adapted for night hunting, are so sensitive to light that the iris almost closes in strong light. It is supposed that they are particularly sensitive to green, yellow, orange, red, and possibly even to infrared rays which are invisible to us. In addition, like the hawk, the eye of an owl can be instantly and sharply focused to see either near or far and it is probably the most efficient organ of vision in the world. As with us humans, and unlike other birds, an owl has both eyes set in the front of its skull, but they are immovable and cannot be rolled from side to side. This gives the birds' face an uncanny menacing staring expression. However, it can rotate its head almost 180 degrees to the right or left, so that it can stare back over either shoulder, and many a small boy has unsuccessfully tried to make an owl "twist its head off" by walking around it.

Owls have another peculiarity.

Like hawks, they swallow their prey whole or in large pieces without removing the fur, feathers or bones. These indigestible portions are rolled up by the stomach into compact pellets and ejected from the mouth. The location of an owl's den or roost is frequently betrayed by a pile of these pellets beneath it. They are clean and dry, do not smell, and can be taken apart to discover what the bird has been eating. Such examination will show that, contrary to common belief, nearly all owls are valuable to mankind. Some, like the Burrowing Owl and the Tiny Elf Owl of the southwest, feed mostly on insects. The Barn Owl, the Barred Owl, the Saw-whet Owl, the Screech Owl—indeed, most other kinds—prey largely on mice, rats, ground squirrels, gophers and other rodents.

An exception is the Great Horned Owl. This powerful bloodthirsty "Tiger of the Air" frequently becomes a serious predator on poultry, game birds and waterfowl. It is the only owl not protected in Illinois and most states. Neverthe-

less, because of the harmful mammals it eats, it does more good than bad.—*Forest Preserve District of Cook County Bulletin.*

PERSUASIVE DUCK CALL

Colin Kidd, manager of Crystal Spring golf course, has a very persuasive call, but he isn't always sure what will answer the call. Last week it was a buck instead of a duck.

Kidd, whose Scotch brogue may give added persuasion to a caller, was busy attempting to lure a reluctant mallard to his blind one mile south of the elevator near Kingston when he spotted something strange approaching the blind. On closer examination he found that a large buck with sizeable antlers was swimming toward his decoys, apparently coming from the Illinois side of the river.

When the buck reached the decoys it apparently realized that something was amiss. It hurried out of the water and up the bank, disappearing over the levee.—*Burlington Hawkeye-Gazette.*

A gray Fallow deer—a fugitive from a zoo—met a sad fate Saturday afternoon because he was in the wrong company.

The 200-pound buck who escaped from Chris Christensen's zoo on N. Eighth St. two years ago as a young fawn was slain along with seven wild Virginia deer now native to this area, on the Harry Schultz farm, on the Missouri River east of Crescent.

Chris late Saturday told baffled sportsmen in the party that the young fawn and several other grown deer were brought here from a Kansas City zoo. The fawn escaped "before he even had horns," Chris stated. He was seen lurking around the pen at the pound several times and finally disappeared. "I thought probably the dogs got

him before he grew up," Chris said. The deer has lived since with wild deer on the river bottom land.

But he did grow up to a handsome 200-pound gray buck with the distinctive palmed antlers of his species. The Virginia deer of this area are reddish color with white tails and have spiked antlers.

Sharpe Osmundson, 143 Fifteenth Ave., a naturalist, said Saturday night that Fallow deer are native of Southern Europe. They are hardy, easy to raise and are commonly found in zoos in the United States.

The gray deer first came under the shotgun sights of Harold Saint, who also farms near Crescent. Harry Schultz dropped him with a second shot.—*Council Bluffs Nonpareil.*



Hunters with a 3-year-old Fallow deer killed on the Missouri River near Crescent. The zoo escapee had lived more than 2 years in company with wild whitetails. Council Bluffs Nonpareil Photo.



Jim Sherman Photo.
Lake Odessa, a popular hunting, fishing and picnicking area, will soon receive a face-lifting to increase its recreation potential. Principal development will include control structures to prevent extreme water fluctuations.

3,000 ACRES OF FISH, GAME AREA TO IOWA

Some of the best news in a long time for Iowa sportsmen is the transfer of the Odessa Area from the U. S. Army Engineers to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The area is located near the Mississippi River several miles south of Muscatine.

The Iowa Conservation Commission received word in December that the transfer of certain river lands along the Mississippi had been completed, and that these lands had been turned over to federal fish and game agencies. This does not include all lands under the jurisdiction of the Army Engineers, but only those having value as waterfowl management areas.

The good news stems from the fact that some of these lands will, in turn, be transferred to the Iowa Conservation Commission. Of the 6,000-acre Odessa Area, about 3,000 acres will be placed in the charge of the Conservation Commission. This means that the commission will be free to begin development of one of the finest fish and wildlife areas in the state.

The long-planned development will include concrete water control structures at the inlet and outlet of Lake Odessa. In the past, high spring water levels have flooded the lake, hindering fishing and the vegetation growth so vital to wildlife. In the fall, low river levels also meant low lake levels, much to the distress of waterfowl hunters. With permanent control structures the high spring water levels can be lowered, and low autumn water levels can be raised to attract waterfowl. Since the inlet of the lake will be in the pool behind channel dam 14, the lake can be raised much higher than the adjacent river.

The 3,000 acres transferred to Iowa include some of the wildest lands in the state. Odessa, in the

strictest sense, is not a lake, but a wilderness of bayous and heavily timbered islands that teem with fish and game.

Federal aid spokesmen at the commission say that development plans will be put into effect as soon as possible.

RECIPE FOR SCRAMBLED FOX

Let's say that it's a day in late winter. There is a fresh, wet snow beneath a leaden sky, and except for an occasional crow, you are alone.

Imagine that you are miles from the car, carrying a ten-pound rifle. You are dressed in white to match the world around you. Beneath your parka is a pair of binoculars, and beneath your belt is an empty stomach. It is early February, and most other hunters have long since hung up their guns. But for you, a fox hunter, the season has just begun.

For three hours you have been following a fox trail. The fox knows you are behind him, and



For the still hunter a fresh wet snow means "this is the day" to go fox hunting.

now and then you find where he has lain down to watch his back trail. It is an hour now since you've seen him, but his pauses are becoming more frequent.

In mid-afternoon the trail swings toward a low ridge ahead and on a hunch, keeping the wind in your face, you cut across a broad field to intercept it. At the top of a slope you scan the landscape with your glasses, and just below the crest of the distant hill you see a spot of red fluff.

Work down the draws then, and through what cover the open fields will give you. When close the range to 250 yards, belly down and crawl into your rifle sling. Through the powerful target 'scope the red fluff resolves into a crouching fox, still watching his back trail. The dot of the crosshairs hangs at the line of his back for an instant. And, with the recoil of the rifle, you know it is the last trail he will watch. . . .

There aren't many still hunters these days, for it is a demanding art. But for the men who can meet its demands, it pays off.

One of these men—these still hunters—is Ed Yelik of Des Moines, who has hunted foxes with a rifle for twelve years. His tally for last winter was 33 foxes and one

coyote, and eight of the foxes were taken in one day. His methods are worth studying.

Like many fox hunters, Ed uses high velocity, small-bore rifles. His favorite is a .22-250 Mauser, on which is mounted a target telescopic sight. Strange as it sounds, the rifle's great velocity makes it safe to use in Iowa. The extremely fast bullets (3,300 feet per second) never glance; in fact, they won't even go through a fox. Upon hitting anything, they simply blow up. Last winter Ed shot a running fox in the front leg and killed it instantly. Upon examination, it was found that the leg had been driven back through the animal's chest!

Using a pair of 9 by 35 binoculars, Ed takes a trail in all-white clothing. He wears white coveralls, white gloves and a white cap, for foxes are alert to anything dark moving on the winter landscape. Although Yelik doesn't camouflage his rifle, some hunters do this by applying strips and odd pieces of adhesive tape, thus breaking the rifle's outline.

Ed begins a hunt from a car. Driving around a section of land, he watches for a set of fox tracks leading into the area. He then drives around the section, and if the tracks don't go out the other side, he goes in after them. From then on it's Ed or the fox, and no holds barred.

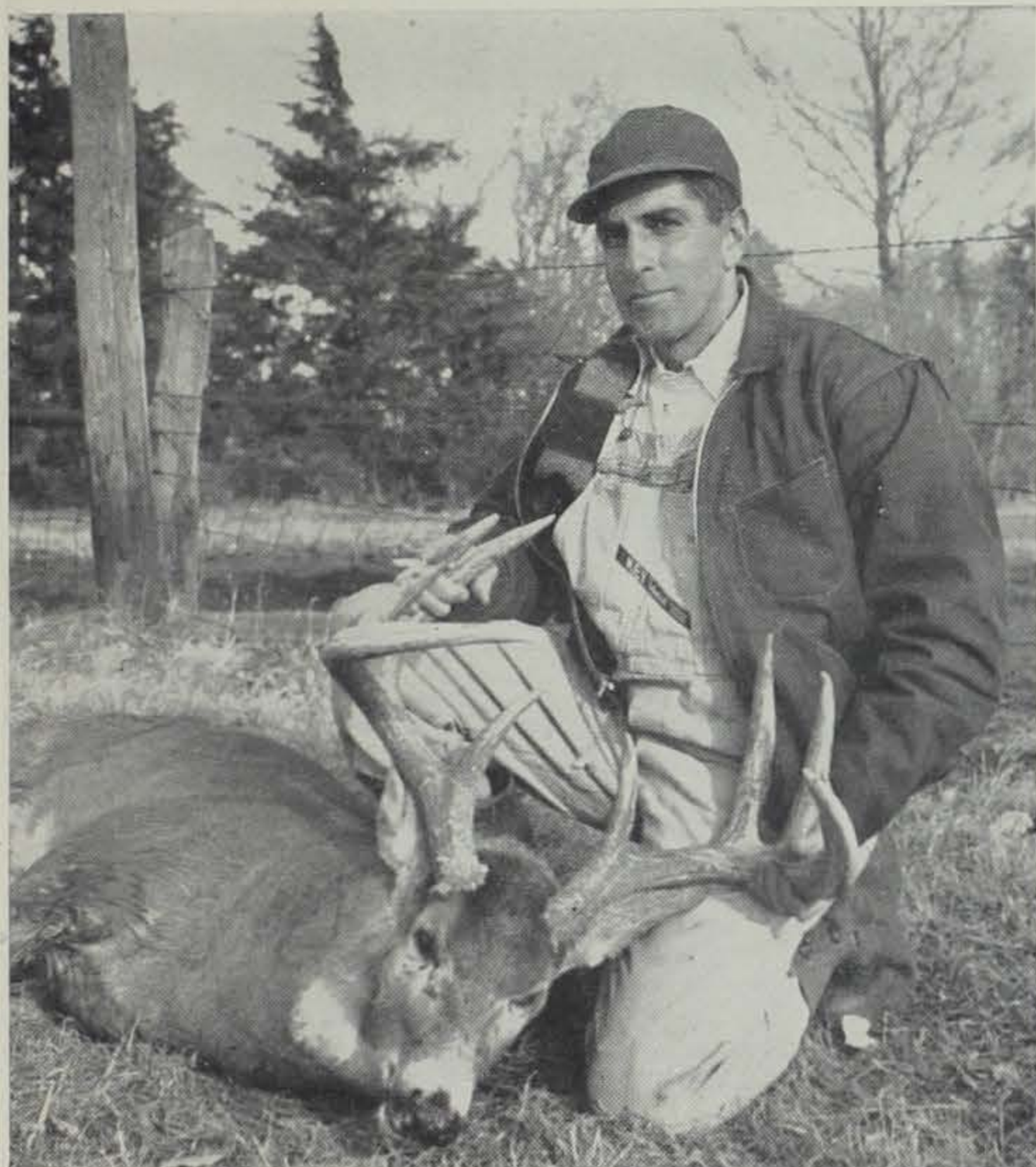
Many hunters follow this same method, but station a companion or two at the place where they think the fox will emerge from the section. Ed usually hunts alone, and once on a fox trail he sticks to it. He may take the fox in the first section, or he may not. If necessary, a good still hunter will track a fox all day.

All of his hunting is done in open fields, the winter habitat preferred by red foxes. The red fox, unlike his gray cousin, will even sleep in the open and Yelik has often trailed them and shot them.

(Continued on page 7)



Jim Sherman Photo.
For fox hunting, Ed Yelik uses a .22-250 Mauser, with a target telescopic sight.



William Robertson of Cherokee with fine buck taken on his farm. Farmers were not required to buy licenses but deer killed had to be tagged before removal from the farm.

Deer Season . . .

(Continued from page 1)

deer, and four hunters killed five deer. Of the thousands of hunters in the field, 7 per cent killed more than one deer, and 93 per cent killed only one deer or none.

In some local areas it is believed that as much as 50 per cent of the deer were killed, the percentage recommended for herd reduction. These areas were in western and northwestern Iowa where deer were highly vulnerable to hunters. However, the deer were not eliminated, even in the most heavily hunted areas. The day after the season closed, a conservation officer saw 27 deer in one morning near Harlan in the heart of the western deer country.

Iowa's first deer season was regarded by the Conservation Commission as highly successful for several reasons:

First, there were no fatal or non-fatal shooting accidents. No livestock or property damage was reported.

Second, there was a minimum of farmer-sportsman friction. There was difficulty in small areas in the open western counties, but over the state there was less trouble than there is in a normal pheasant season. Farmers in most of the deer range not only permitted hunting, but even joined the hunters. (A high percentage of licensed hunters were farmers.) On the other hand, most sportsmen were considerate of property and farmers' rights, with only a few exceptions. In the Avoca area, wide publicity of first-day hunting suc-

cess brought many hunters to a relatively small area, resulting in high hunting pressure. This, combined with the open country in which deer and hunters could be easily seen, fostered alarm among farmers and townsmen and many farms were closed to hunting after the first two days. The statewide picture, however, was one of consideration on the hunters' part and cooperation on the farmers'.

Third, there was high hunting success, and hunting is a part of good conservation. Conservation in its modern meaning is not strict preservation, but rather a wise use of our natural resources. All game populations have annual surpluses that should be harvested. If they are not harvested by man, they will, sooner or later, be harvested by nature. From this standpoint death by hunting is preferable to death by sickness and starvation. The present Iowa deer herd is in excellent condition, but no animal species can expand unchecked. There is always a control, whether it is hunting, famine or epidemic.

Checking stations revealed that deer killed were large and in superb physical condition. The biggest buck checked by the commission biologists weighed 271 pounds live weight, and there may have been larger ones unchecked. Many bucks weighed well over 200 pounds, and ten-point bucks were not uncommon. There were few patriarchs checked at the stations, and seven and one-half years was the maximum age. The largest deer, both bucks and does, were in the three and one-half to four and one-half

CHEER UP . . .

You don't have troubles. This past year may have been a little tough, but it could have been worse. Take the guy who got shot by his lawnmower, for instance. Or the poor fellow that was wounded by his rake, and the hunter who was shot by a deer. They had it tough!

These are only a few of the weird mishaps turned up by the National Safety Council in its annual roundup of odd accidents:

Robert Heinbaugh was mowing his lawn in Painesville, Ohio, when he suddenly felt all shot . . . and it wasn't from heat or fatigue. His lawnmower had run over a rifle cartridge and had plugged him in the big toe.

In Santa Cruz, California, John Plumbe was shot by a rake he had always regarded as an old friend. Plumbe was raking rubbish into a bonfire. In the rubbish was a shotgun shell. Wham!

And in Payson, Utah, Shirl Kelsey knelt triumphantly beside a deer he had just shot. The animal kicked defiantly, struck the trigger of Kelsey's rifle, and shot him in the thigh.

In Memphis, Tennessee, J. C. Lightfoot stood beneath a tree on a gentle day and drank deeply of the sunshine and fresh air. He was struck by the beauty of nature. Then he was struck by something else . . . an ear of corn dropped with precision and force by a squirrel in the branches above. Mr. Lightfoot had to hotfoot it home to nurse a long, deep gash in his head.

To top it all, 13-year-old Horace Boutwell of Houston, Texas, watched breathlessly as Wild Bill Hickok routed the bad men on TV. In his excitement, Horace got out his trusty air rifle and blazed away at a .22 caliber cartridge resting on a saw horse several feet away. His accurate shooting exploded the cartridge and sent the cartridge case whizzing back into his shoulder. At the hospital he smiled happily and said "Let's see Wild Bill do that." . . . It could only happen in Texas.

So don't gripe about flat tires, dents in your fenders and other humdrum misadventures. You never had it so good!

year age class.

Most hunters found rifled shotgun slugs extremely effective. They reported good accuracy if the slug's range was not exceeded. Kills at 100 yards were frequent. In some parts of the state gunners often fired at ranges beyond the capacity of their weapons. Few bow and

arrow hunters were in the field, and only two deer kills are known to have been made by bow-hunters.

Opinion of the deer season is strongly divided, and always will be. One thing, however, is certain. For years to come, hunters will be talking over the first Iowa deer season.



Fine racks were the rule on three and four year-old bucks. Sheriff Ray Barber of Jasper County and Conservation Officer Gene Hlavka examine the rack of a 295-pound buck killed by a car a few days before the season.



Actual weights revealed that hunters invariably over-estimated. Perhaps the new experience of "hauling out" was responsible for the exaggeration.



It was hard for the general public to believe the number of deer in some areas. A group of Dubuque County hunters after a successful hunt near Pine Hollow State Park.

In the Press . . .

(Continued from page 1)

burg. Only the slug was a legal load, outside of an arrow, and dealers never anticipated so big a demand.

—*Emmetsburg Democrat*

. . . Iowa's deer season closed Monday afternoon, termed by most as "very successful" . . .

—*Cherokee Courier*

. . . Deer hunters in the Dickinson County area had easy pickings as they rolled out an estimated 125 to 130 deer during Iowa's first legislated deer season which ended Monday . . .

—*Spirit Lake Beacon*

. . . Iowa's first deer hunting season in 75 years ended Monday. Typical of hunters' comments was: "It wasn't a bad season . . . but there are plenty of them left for years to come" . . .

—*Northwood Anchor*

. . . Not many deer were killed in Decatur County during the five-day deer season. . . The first day hunters scattered the deer and farmers reported they were everywhere and not at their usual crossings at dusk and sunrise . . .

—*Leon Journal-Reporter*

. . . Although Iowa's first deer season got off to a slow start, Buchanan County sportsmen Monday finished the five-day event with enthusiasm and success. Few of the Buchanan County hunters failed to bag a deer . . .

—*Independence Conservative*

. . . With fewer hunters than were anticipated, and with so many of the deer's natural haunts posted against hunting, it would seem that a good many of the graceful creatures will have a pretty good chance of evading law-abiding sportsmen next month. If that proves to be the case, we hope some other method will be used to reduce the herd in the future, if that becomes necessary. It may not be as democratic, but we suspect the farmers concerned would be much

happier if only one or two hunters, employed by the state for that purpose, were given the job of culling the herds . . .

—*LeMars Sentinel*

. . . Some hunters, in other sections of the state, gave away their deer as they got them in order to continue hunting throughout the season, contrary to every intent of the law . . .

—*Lake Park News*

. . . The deer season just past was really surprising. More deer were taken the first day than most of us skeptics believed would be taken during the entire season. And when we say most of us skeptics, we mean approximately 15,000 of us . . .

—*Afton Star Enterprise*

. . . I suspect that if and when another season comes to Iowa, some of the mistakes of this year's hunting will be employed to set up a more realistic deer season. . . Some of the farmers were incensed

over the killing of does in this, the initial season in the last 75 years, other farmers thrilled because they had an opportunity of shooting some of the "government beef" . . .

—*Bellevue Leader*

. . . This writer's guess is that the total bag will be less than 400 deer in Iowa's first official legal deer hunting season . . .

—*Manchester Democrat*

. . . Just how much the Iowa herd was reduced will not be known . . . but it is highly possible that more deer were eliminated than anticipated by the . . . conservation commission. We expect some changes will be made in the next per hunter limit . . .

—*Neola Gazette-Reporter*

. . . Because of the great numbers of hunters the deer simply had no place to hide. Everywhere they ran there were hunters waiting to shoot them. . . Jauron said he had heard of no one getting five, the limit allowed by the law, and one

of the things that will probably be changed in future seasons . . .

—*Harlan Tribune*

. . . The biggest joke of the year was the day the deer season opened. The hunters who knew where to go got their deer in the first five or ten minutes. That's quicker than shooting . . . during pheasant season . . .

—*Polk City Citizen*

. . . Probably the most unusual incident . . . was the killing of two deer with one slug. A slug tore completely through one deer and then killed another animal behind the first . . .

—*Guttenberg Press*

. . . It seems evident that the \$15 license was a little steep for most city hunters, and they are the ones who . . . buy permits to hunt and fish, and who finance a good part of the work of the Iowa Conservation Commission . . .

—*Denison Bulletin*

. . . By a 5-1 vote, about 200 farmers and businessmen of the Avoca area attending a meeting . . . opposed an open season on deer next year. Assailed was the unsportsmanlike conduct of some hunters, both local and foreign. They agreed the number of such hunters was not great, but their actions added fuel to the fire . . .

—*Atlantic News Telegraph*

. . . The first open deer season in Iowa in 75 years was subject to a lot of deserved criticism. With the limited restrictions, hunters were permitted to make hogs of themselves, and many of them took advantage of the privilege. A limit of one deer per season would have been liberal enough . . .

—*Grundy Center Register*

. . . Biggest gripe among farmers and also folks living in and around Avoca were the game "hogs" who were not satisfied to shoot one deer on opening day, but went out on following days for more . . .

—*Avoca Journal-Herald*



Hundreds of deer were voluntarily brought to the checking stations where biologists determined age and weights and other factual information that will aid in determining future management of the herd.



A couple of youngsters look for the Lost Island. Even many geologists and historians are curious to know how Lost Island got its name.

Lost Island . . .

(Continued from page 1)

quickly, and then to continue at a somewhat uniform depth. The average was 6.6 feet and the greatest depth, in the south central part, 9.1 feet.

The park, an area of about 50 acres extending along the shore of the lake from which it is named, is a few miles north of Ruthven in northwestern Palo Alto County. A striking feature is the "wall" of boulders along the shore. Their location is the result of ice action. Originally the boulders were in the drift along the shore. As wave erosion proceeded the finer material of the drift was carried out into the lake and the boulders were left stranded. In the winter they became frozen in the ice. Then the ice, pushing shoreward, piled them up into a wall. Note that the park is on the east shore of the lake, and that the prevailing wind is from the northwest. It is no wonder that the boulders are piled one on top of the other. Also, note how smooth and rounded most of them are. Constant wear by the waves, particularly in time of storm, is responsible.

Although the wall of boulders protects the shore, it is interesting to note that a low bluff has developed along the shore at the park. Much fine sediment must have been carried out into the lake, as wave erosion has proceeded in post-glacial times. The survey of about 1935 is stated to have disclosed that the lake bottom was covered with silt having an average thickness of 10.8 feet. This seems an extraordinary thickness. Some of this may be silt carried in by glacial melt-water. Streams tributary

to the lake have also brought in sediment, but erosion of the lake shores is believed to have contributed a large part of this silt deposit.

Most of Lost Island Lake is in Palo Alto County, but the western part extends into Clay County. The lake is in a country of lakes. Not far to the west in Clay County are Trumbull and Round Lakes, all close to the county line. Five Island Lake is about 11 miles east of Lost Island Lake. Of course Dickinson and Emmet counties to the north also have many lakes. What is the explanation for the concentration of lakes in this part of Iowa?

The basins in which the lakes lie are of glacial origin. This does not mean that the glacier scooped out hollows. The lakes are all in depressions of a terminal moraine of the glacier which last covered Iowa. The deposits left by this glacier, called by geologists the Wisconsin, extend in the shape of a lobe as far south as Des Moines.

The terminal or end moraine marks a position of readvance of the glacier. Back of the front the ice was moving forward, but the rate of advance was approximately balanced by the rate of melting. The front thus remained in about the same place, and the terminal moraine was built up by the accumulating debris freed from the ice. Of course the margin shifted back and forth, and much more in some places than in others. In the vicinity of Lost Island State Park and in the neighboring counties to the north the terminal moraine is many miles wide and is exceptionally hilly.

Although the terminal moraine

is a hilly country it is not like one made by stream erosion. Many of the depressions are not drained by streams. If they are deep enough, lakes or ponds form in them. Of course the water all comes from the rain.

All lakes in time will cease to exist, as is suggested by the amount of silt found on the bottom of Lost Island Lake. Sediment carried in by streams, runoff down the shores, and waves, gradually make the lake basins more shallow. Material blown in by the wind also contributes. Reeds and rushes take hold, and what was once a lake becomes a marsh.

Southwest of Lost Island Lake and continuous with it is a swampy area called Barringer Slough. This probably was once a shallow southwestward extension of Lost Island Lake. Time has wrought its changes, and now it is a swamp.

The drainage from Lost Island passes through the Barringer Slough. Then it goes into a tributary of the Little Sioux River, and into the area of an older glacier deposit. Erosion headward by this tributary could in time drain Lost Island Lake. That however is something for the distant future. Lost Island Lake will be a lake for a long while.

Fox . . .

(Continued from page 4)

in their sleep. But it's not always that simple.

While hunting Yelik watches well ahead and uses his binoculars often. Except for the mating season, foxes usually hunt and feed at night and rest in the daytime. A hunting trail should be avoided, for it will wander aimlessly for miles. When a red fox is well-fed he will look for a place to bed down and will often make a slightly twisting trail. In such a case, watch the high ground ahead. Use your glasses often. Some hunters, upon jumping a resting fox, will wait a half-hour before taking up the trail. This lulls reynard into a false security and he will soon lie down again. Yelik, however, just keeps grinding away at the trail.

One day in deep snow, Ed broke his front rifle sight while trailing a slightly wounded fox. Instead of letting the animal rest, Ed decided to run it down. Since both were nearly exhausted, neither of them gained any ground. When the fox ran, Ed ran. When the fox rested, Ed rested. Finally, by mutual consent, they called the whole thing off.

A fox bedding down in the open usually does so on the windward side of a hill, just below the crest. Anything approaching from upwind can be scented, and anything coming up from downwind can be seen. Ed usually comes in from the side, out of seeing and out of scenting. If the fox is lying on a south slope and out of a north

wind, Ed comes in from the east or west, depending on the best cover. The important thing is to wear white and avoid being upwind. Yelik has found that a fox isn't much afraid of white-garbed hunters, and it is often easy to come within rifle range.

Foxes also seem to feel safe in open fields. Perhaps this is because much of their experience is with shotguns or twenty-twos, the ranges of which are highly limited in Iowa's broad fields.

One of Yelik's favorite hunting areas is within ten miles of Des Moines, where, in spite of his constant attention, there are still plenty of foxes. When asking a farmer to hunt last winter, Ed was told "There's been a lot of circle hunts around here, and the foxes are gone." With his tongue in his cheek Ed headed through the farm and killed two foxes in the first field. Shooting doubles like that isn't too unusual in late February, when the mating season has begun.

A fresh snow and a sunshiny day makes ideal fox hunting weather. Foxes, like cats, like to bask in the sun. A day after a storm is best. If it's still snowing a little, that's all right. The fox's visibility will be cut down, too.

Snow isn't necessary for still-hunting foxes, but it's best. If there's no snow you might try driving along roads, scanning every open field (especially just below the hilltops) with binoculars. If the wind is blowing from the north, drive east and west and watch the south slopes. If the wind is from the west, drive north and south, watching the east slopes, and so on. Once you see a fox, lay your plans carefully. Approach at right angles to the wind, remembering that the fox will be sniffing upwind and seeing downwind.

If you take it easy and wear white clothes, you can get close. Yelik's shots average about a hundred yards, although he has taken foxes at over two hundred.

He hunts open fields for two reasons: one, foxes feel more confident in the open, and two, there are more foxes there. They tend to avoid timber and heavy cover except for hunting and shelter from severe storms.

With the exception of good still hunters and expert trappers, foxes aren't hurt much by man. Circle hunts, in general, aren't very effective. Some circle hunts may kill a lot of foxes, but most of them don't. Hunters such as Yelik may kill as many foxes in one winter as several circle hunts of a hundred hunters.

It's a rough job, this still-hunting of foxes. But although the work is hard and the hours are long, the pay is good. Not in the bounties collected, or the pelts, but in knowing that you have beat Bre'r fox with his own high cards . . . patience, slyness and animal endurance.—J. M.



After opening days the ringneck again proved itself "the smartest game bird on the North American continent". A good carryover is again apparent.

Summary . . .

(Continued from page 2)

GARRETT, Pottawattamie:

taken regardless of dry conditions.

DUCKS AND GEESE—Started slowly, but the goose shooting on the Missouri was the greatest in years. Greatest per cent was of Canadas and Hutchins. Duck hunting slow until November 17, which brought wonderful mallard shooting. By the 26th it was over.

SQUIRRELS—Dry, and hunting difficult. Good hunters did well, and populations were very good.

RABBITS—Populations look good but there will be little hunting until snow.

PHEASANTS—Most of the hunting was on opening day. On that day I checked 74 hunters that had 87 birds, not bad for a fringe county.

NICHOLS, Muscatine and Louisa:

QUAIL—About average, but dogs have had a rough time because of dry weather.

DUCKS AND GEESE—Poor in early season, but late in the season shooting picked up. Goose shooting was good with the biggest flight of geese in several years.

SQUIRRELS—Best hunting on river bottoms and creeks, close to water. Good season considering the dry weather.

RABBITS—Poor to date, and there do not seem to be as many rabbits as last year.

PHEASANTS—Good on opening day, but little hunting and poor success since then.

NEWEL, Sioux and Plymouth:

DUCKS AND GEESE—First part of season was slow. Ducks moved in about November 20 and mallard shooting was very good. Many geese in this area, with large flocks feeding in early picked fields and then going on to the Missouri River.

SQUIRRELS—Started slow due to heavy foliage, but picked up later in the season.

PHEASANTS—Very slow in this territory. Some limits on opening day, but few since then. A decrease of about 15 per cent of birds in this area.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE—Some Huns taken in Sioux County during the season, but not as many as there should have been according to populations.

JOHNSON, Emmet and Palo Alto:

DUCKS AND GEESE—Duck hunting was good the first two days, and ducks started coming in on November 19. Goose shooting was very good in my territory.

PHEASANTS—For the first three days of the season shooting was excellent. After that birds became hard to flush.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE — A

few Huns were taken the first two days.

RABBITS—Hunting is slow, as most hunters are awaiting snow.

WILSON, Boone and Story:

QUAIL—Very little quail hunting done in Story County, and results were poor.

DUCKS AND GEESE—Many teal killed here early in the season. Hunting was poor until around November 18, then good to fair river shooting. Best goose shooting in years. Many Canadas and sub-species were killed on river or in cornfields.

SQUIRRELS—Considering the dry weather, squirrel hunting was good. Lots of squirrels killed but plenty of seed stock left.

RABBITS—Better than last year with some spots showing fair rabbit shooting. Populations are spotty.

PHEASANTS—Fair opening with quite a few birds killed. Success dropped off after opening day, and dry conditions made hunting hard.

JOHNSTON, Tama and Benton:

QUAIL—Very little hunting in this area this year.

DUCKS—Warm weather and dry pot holes gave unproductive hunting except on opening day and one or two days late in the season.

SQUIRRELS—Excellent during most of the season for the experienced hunter but dry conditions made it difficult for the novice.

RABBITS—Hunters reported seeing rabbits in greater numbers than in recent years, and prospects for good rabbit hunting seem high.

PHEASANTS—Opening day was good, but for the average hunter this year was not as good as were recent years. Many non-resident hunters went home empty handed, or nearly so.

RAUSCH, Linn:

QUAIL—Very dry conditions in early season made hunting difficult. Most quail were shot during pheasant season when large parties of hunters flushed coveys.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Duck hunters were plagued by drought and a slow southward movement of ducks. "The largest flight in recent years during the last 10 days."

MACHEAK, Wapello and Davis:

QUAIL—Populations believed to be up, but hunters had little success in finding birds because of drought. Dogs had trouble locating birds. Best hunting was along streams.

DUCKS AND GEESE—River shooting generally poor, but a few diving ducks were taken from city reservoirs. The goose flight was one of the best in years, and Canadas, snows and blues were taken early in the season.

SQUIRRELS—Populations at a good level, with average hunting success.

RABBITS—Populations about the same as last year, with some areas having good concentrations where cover is abundant.

PHEASANTS—No open season in either county, but farmers indicate an upward trend in populations.

HOLMES, Ida and Sac:

DUCKS AND GEESE—Some good river shooting on ducks, and goose hunting was above normal for this area for several days.

SQUIRRELS—Normal. Good hunting late in season.

RABBITS—Some are being taken, but not much interest yet.

PHEASANTS—Started good, but dropped off later in season. Season as a whole was fair to good.

DUCKS AND GEESE—Very poor duck shooting. There was a large goose flight but few landed in this area, although there was some shooting on Cedar River sandbars.

SQUIRRELS—A good squirrel crop but hard to hunt in early part of season.

RABBITS—Seems to be an increase of rabbits in this area. Many hunters are using beagles and bassetts.

PHEASANTS—Most birds killed on opening day. Population was down in Linn County and hunter success was poor.

EELLS, Howard and Winneshiek:

DUCKS AND GEESE—One of the poorest years for some time, except for three days when the flight was on. Some cornfield shooting along the rivers, and a few geese killed early.

SQUIRRELS—Very good season, plenty of squirrels, and a lot left over for breeding stock.

RABBITS—Just getting into rabbit season, but a lot shot during pheasant season. Rabbit populations still not heavy in this part of the state.

PHEASANTS—Season good to fair. Birds smart and hard to get up within range. Some talk about there being no birds, but the experienced hunter with good dogs was satisfied.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Quail hunting was tough at the opening because of extreme dryness. It improved during the last half and was classed good by most hunters.