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THE BROAD MISSOURI: "HONKER" HAVEN IN NOVEMBER

GEOLOGY IN NINE EAGLES STATE PARK

C. S. Gwynne
Professor of Geology
Iowa State College

One might say that Nine Eagles State Park is hardly in Iowa, for the distance from its southern boundary to the Missouri line is less than a mile. It is located in south-central Decatur County, just northwest of Pleasanton, a few miles southeast of Davis City, and about eight miles south of Leon. No other state park in Iowa is as far south.

The park is also a large one, comprising 1,136 acres, almost two square miles. It is an area which is largely wooded. Only the picnic areas and the strip along the principal road are free of trees and afford some sort of an outlook. The lake—for the park has a small lake—has wooded shores.

Note how level is the road, as we drive to the principal picnic area on the lake shore. Do not be misled by this, however, for the road is on a flat-topped ridge, and on either side the ground slopes away to deep valleys. And if one were to explore the park thoroughly one would find it to be a rough section of country, a maze of valleys, and intervening ridges. Quite different from the wide flat valley of the Grand River to the west. Yet both the bottom land of the Grand River and the "broken country" of the park are essentially the work of one geological agent. Running water has carved out the valley of the Grand River, widened it, flattened it. It has also cut the valleys of the park area, until now this area is almost entirely one of slopes. Presumably the engineers in planning the park road quite naturally wished to avoid grades, so they laid it out on this flat ridge, the upland divide between two valleys. Thus the many curves in the road are explained. The road follows the ridge, and one could hardly expect a ridge of this sort to be straight.

From the upland road, as one

(Continued on page 183)



Jim Sherman photo.

Goose hunting is at its best in western Iowa cornfields in November as this proud hunter would verify. The nearby refuge has held many thousands of geese that might not have lingered long without a resting place.

Keith C. Sutherland, Editor

Out along the Missouri River in western Iowa where the basin lands lie with tabletop flatness and the subject of wild geese is as familiar to the ear as the latest "pop" tune, the expression used to describe any degree of anxiety about geese and goose hunting is called "gooserpation." Likewise, any casual observer or nimrod who is beset by this captivating malady is "gooserpated."

A few weeks ago, Photographer Jim Sherman and this writer made a trip to Missouri Valley to get a first-hand look at the fall goose flight down the Missouri. Specifically, Jim's job was to record photographically some goose flight and goose hunting sequences he's putting together in the form of a new, full-length hunting movie. Mine was to write about what I saw. Somewhere in the process between 3,000 and 4,000 geese milling above a Missouri Valley cornfield and my word machine, I was "gooserpated." I hope I never get over it!

Concealed between rows of sorghum that bordered a picked cornfield, I saw (as did Sherman and the camera lens) the thin, thread-like "V's" of moving geese pouring over the horizon from the Conservation Commission's refuge on the Missouri River west of Missouri Valley. Without deviating from their route, they came towards us. As the symphonic notes of the closest geese reached my ears, I looked beyond them to the horizon. Two, four, six, eight more flocks I noted. Others were pouring up from the refuge like wispy trails of black smoke.

Meanwhile, the first arrivals were over us and the whirring of Sherman's camera was muffled by their incessant babbling. Here and there my eye caught the flicker of white against the sky as a snow goose "flipped" first one wing and then the other to loose altitude. Here and there I noted dark feet extended out and down as the geese began to settle in the field. The tempo of the calling seemed to increase once the first had "settled in" and the contented chatter of

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FABER APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lester F. "Les" Faber has been
appointed Assistant Director of the
State Conservation Commission.

The appointment was announced
at a regular meeting of the Com-
mission November 5 and took ef-
fect on that date.

Except for service during World
War II, Faber has been a Com-
mission employee since 1940. He
was a game biologist for a year
and a half before his appointment
as Superintendent of Federal Aid,
a post he has held for the past nine
years.

Faber studied at Westmar Col-
lege a year, transferring to Iowa
State College where he received a
degree in forestry in 1940. He is
a member of the Iowa Academy
of Science, the State Soil and
Water Conservation Needs com-
mittee, a state watershed advisory
board, the Wildlife Society, and the
federal aid committee of the Inter-
national Association of Fish, Game
and Conservation Commissioners.

He succeeds James R. Harlan
who resigned in September to take
a post as a federal conservation
consultant in Washington, D. C.



Jim Sherman photo.

Lester F. Faber

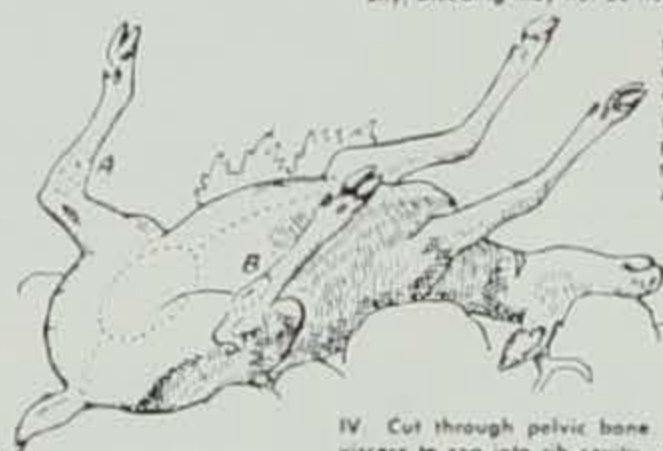
GOOD FIELD CARE-GOOD MEAT!

Here are some suggestions on how to take care of your kill

by ARCHIE PENDERGRAFT
Deputy Game Warden



I. Bleed promptly. Cut throat at point A. Or if head is to be mounted for trophy, insert knife at point B cutting deeply until blood flows freely. In case of wound that bleeds freely or internally, bleeding may not be necessary.



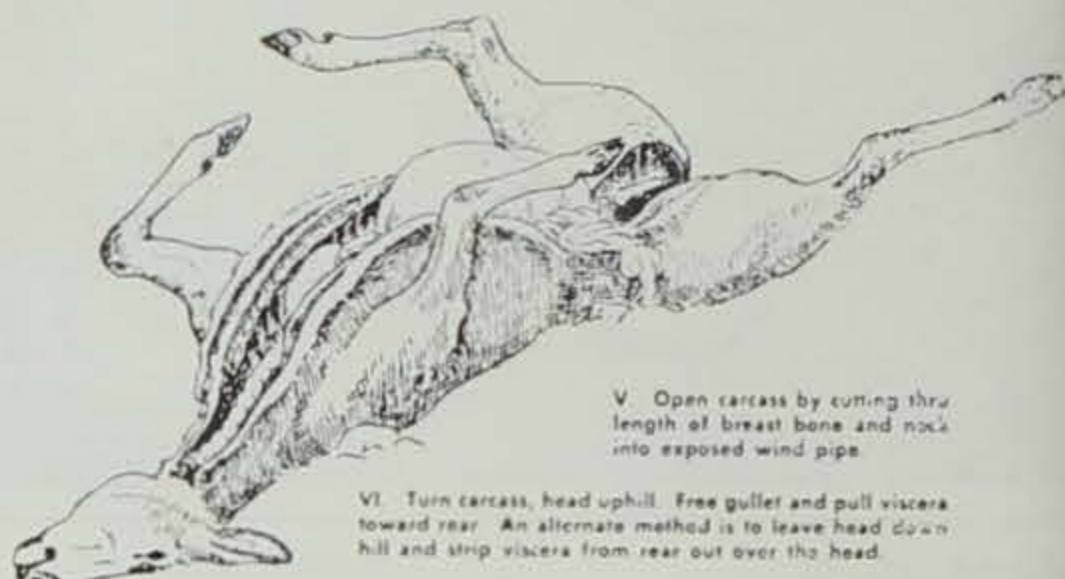
II. Remove genitals or udder. Prop carcass belly up—rocks or brush may be used for support—and cut circular area shown in illustration. Musk glands at points A & B MAY be removed to avoid tainting meat. Glands cease to function at time of death.



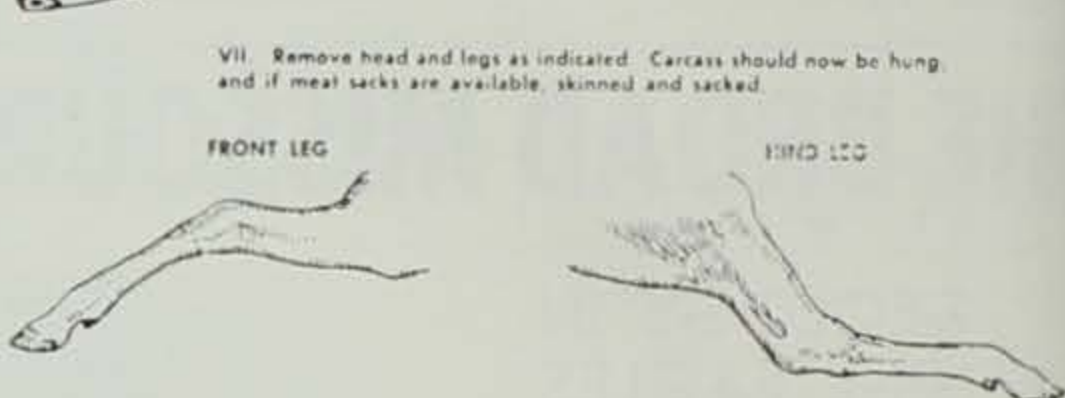
III. Split hide from tail to throat. Insert knife point under skin but do not cut into body cavity. Hide may be peeled back several inches on each side to keep hair out of meat.



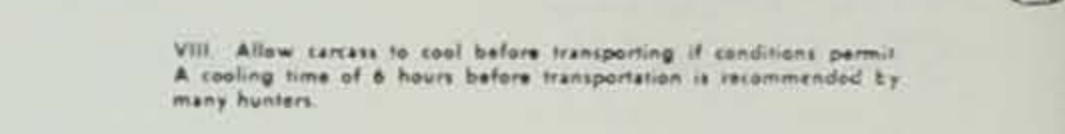
IV. Cut through pelvic bone. Turning carcass down hill will cause viscera to sag into rib cavity. This will decrease the chance of puncturing viscera while cutting or chopping through bone. Large intestine can then be cut free from pelvic cavity but not severed from viscera.



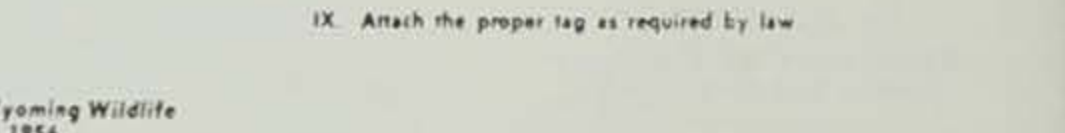
V. Open carcass by cutting thru length of breast bone and neck into exposed wind pipe.



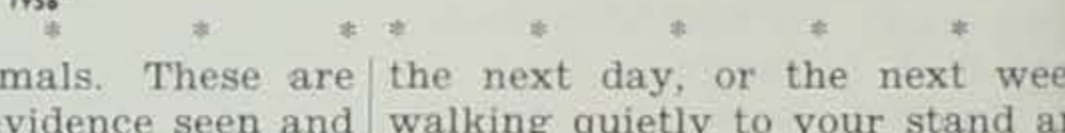
VI. Turn carcass, head uphill. Free gullet and pull viscera toward rear. An alternate method is to leave head down hill and strip viscera from rear out over the head.



VII. Remove head and legs as indicated. Carcass should now be hung, and if meat sacks are available, skinned and sacked.



VIII. Allow carcass to cool before transporting if conditions permit. A cooling time of 6 hours before transportation is recommended by many hunters.



IX. Attach the proper tag as required by law.

Reprinted from Wyoming Wildlife
August 1956

CHECK DEER TRAILS BEFORE GUN SEASON

(Editor's Note: While the paragraphs below are directed mainly to the shotgun hunter, much of the information is applicable to the bowman as well. Archer success thus far in the season which extends through November 26 is reported in another story found elsewhere in this issue.)

Between now and Iowa's two-day deer season for shotguns December 7 and 8, hunters can take some of the pressure off the waiting period by getting better acquainted with the area they plan to hunt when opening day rolls around.

One thing appears basic in deer hunting—the real secret of success is to get close enough to a deer to get an accurate shot. Study of deer trails and calculating the best vantage point before the season will tell you the best place to be for that killing shot on opening day.

A closer look and study of the area the hunter selects will disclose the favorite trails deer use in their daily travels to food, water and cover. All things being equal, deer will not deviate from these routes in their daily journeys. There also is evidence to indicate that if they are driven from a favorite trail by human or other activity, deer return to these arteries of travel soon after things get back to normal.

It is reasonable to assume, then, that hunter success during the season can be improved by finding and observing these trails before opening day. It's also reasonable to believe that the very deer a hunter will bag opening day may be spotted ahead of time by the hunter who finds the trails and stands quietly observing deer passing along them.

What are some of the things to look for in locating well established trails? Ordinarily, the most pronounced evidence is hoof prints

made by the animals. These are usually the first evidence seen and they will be found in abundance along a heavily traveled route such as stream banks and from streams back into cover areas. Droppings also are evidence of deer as are tell-tale trails into cornfields where they forage for food. These food trails are easily seen especially where streams or good cover borders them. Look for corn stalks, broken and partially eaten ears of corn and scattered kernels along well hoof-marked trails into fields. This is evidence that deer are feeding at these points in the cornfield.

Cover Areas

In taking up a stand near a deer trail, find a good cover area that is well concealed and so situated that your scent is carried away from the trail. Above all, make no movement while taking a stand. A good many hunters find good trails but fail to see deer travel them. The first reaction is to assume that deer are not sticking to their normal trails. Sometimes this is true, but a good many more times the deer leave their trail because they see the hunter before he sees them. Movement is often the reason!

Another effective way of spotting deer before the season is to ride back roads early in the morning or towards evening. When deer are seen, drive past the spot, stop, and walk back. Notice where the deer are crossing, see where they have come from and follow them leisurely. If they aren't pushed, chances are that they'll stick to their normal trails. Then find yourself a good place to stand, making sure it is beyond alarming noises of the road and in a place that would not endanger others when you hunt. Now come back to this same spot at the same time

the next day, or the next week, walking quietly to your stand and wait and see if the deer pass the same way.

Remember that one visit to an area may result in sighting deer, but it will not be conclusive enough to guarantee success on opening day. The acid test seems to be in the ability to sight deer at a particular time of each day each time you take a stand. If you can do this, it's pretty certain this is an established trail, and, all other factors being equal, the hunter can expect to see deer when he gets down to the serious business of hunting later on.

Leave the Trail

After seeing deer along a frequented trail, some observers purposely frighten them with sudden movement, making a mental note of where they leave the trail and where they go. This is an effective way of telling where best to station partners so they have a good chance for a shot if you miss.

So far, the emphasis has been on standing, not because this is the endorsed method of hunting deer, but because standing is the only way to be sure of deer movement prior to the season. Walking the woods before the season is just as important if you plan to stalk or drive. With knowledge of the deer trails, you'll be in the best place when other hunters drive them your direction during the season.

Some hunters take up a stand at the same location year after year because it has proved productive before. This method is sometimes faulty because deer might be using different trails this year for any number of reasons. The only way to be certain is to check and make sure they are using the trail you have in mind before the season opens.

Whether your equipment is bow
(Continued on page 182)



Jim Sherman photo.

Fishing continues as one of the main recreational attractions offered by the farm pond. The State Conservation Commission stocked a record number of fish in Iowa ponds such as this one during 1957.

1957 TOP YEAR FOR FARM FISH

The State Conservation Commission's farm pond stocking program for 1957 saw a record number of fish stocked in the most farm ponds since July, 1945—the date the Iowa legislature established the program as it now exists.

During 1957, a total number of 1,900 bass fingerlings and 8,360 adult bluegills were stocked in 448 Iowa farm ponds. Total acreage of the ponds was 419. Bass were stocked 100 to the acre; bluegills, 50 to the acre.

Davis County headed the list with a total of 43 ponds, totalling 48½ acres. Ringgold County was next with 37 ponds amounting to 25 acres. Four Iowa counties—Dallas, Lee, Lucas and Warren—had 20 or more farm ponds stocked during 1957.

Three big reasons come to the forefront in evaluating the magnitude of the 1957 program. Three of the biggest factors responsible for the record-breaking program are the farm pond's recreational opportunities, keen interest on the part of the conservationists in recognizing the farm pond in the soil and water conservation picture, and recent drouth years that have given new urgency to addi-

tional water sources of which the farm pond is an excellent one.

Most tend to think only of fishing potential when they think of the recreation farm ponds offer. Although this is a primary consideration, it is by no means the only one. Swimming, picknicking, boating and wildlife study come in for their share of the time farm families and their guests are now devoting to the farm pond area. Ponds are increasing in importance to the duck hunter during the waterfowl season. Mallards and other "puddle" ducks seek out small, outlying ponds in preference to larger bodies of water that are subject to heavy hunting pressure. They very often are used by geese, too, probably for the same reason.

Commission fisheries officials recommend the stocking of bass fingerlings and adult bluegills to give maximum recreation to farm pond anglers. They also recommend that the major effort be placed on the taking of bluegills on a year-round basis to keep their population in favorable ratio with the less prolific bass. Largemouths should not be taken until they have spawned once. In the case of fish stocked this year, that would mean the early summer of 1959.

Following is a list of farm pond stockings, by counties, for 1957:

1957 FARM POND STOCKING

County	Number Ponds	Acreage	Bass Fingerling	Bluegill Adult
Adair	5	8	800	160
Adams	12	6	600	120
Appanoose	19	12	1,200	240
Audubon	9	7¾	775	160
Benton	4	5¾	575	120
Boone	4	3½	350	70
Buena Vista	1	2	200	40
Calhoun	2	2	200	40
Carroll	3	1¾	175	40
Cass	8	6¾	675	130
Cerro Gordo	3	1½	150	30
Cherokee	10	25½	2,550	510
Clarke	5	3½	350	70
Dallas	28	22¼	2,225	430
Davis	43	48½	4,850	970

Decatur	10	4½	450	50
Des Moines	10	7¼	725	140
Dubuque	1	1	100	20
Emmet	1	1½	150	30
Fayette	2	½	50	20
Greene	2	3	300	60
Guthrie	4	5½	550	110
Hardin	1	1	100	20
Humboldt	3	5	500	100
Jackson	3	2	200	40
Jasper	1	½	50	10
Jefferson	16	10½	1,025	210
Johnson	1	1	100	20
Kossuth	1	1¼	125	30
Lee	21	10	1,000	200
Linn	1	2	200	40
Lucas	27	14	1,400	280
Madison	11	6¾	675	140
Mahaska	3	9	900	180
Marion	5	2½	250	50
Mills	4	15½	1,550	310
Monroe	11	6	600	120
Montgomery	2	3	300	60
Page	4	2½	250	50
Plymouth	1	1	100	20
Polk	11	11	1,100	220
Pottawattamie	4	10¼	1,025	210
Ringgold	37	25	2,500	500
Sac	2	1¾	175	40
Scott	1	1	100	20
Shelby	2	1	100	20
Story	1	2	200	40
Tama	3	2¾	275	60
Taylor	3	2	200	40
Union	14	12	1,200	240
Van Buren	15	13½	1,350	270
Wapello	8	16½	1,650	320
Warren	20	21	2,100	420
Washington	2	1¾	175	40
Wayne	12	8¾	875	170
Webster	1	1	100	20
Winnesiek	3	4	400	80
Woodbury	7	10½	1,050	210
TOTAL	448	419	41,900	8,360



Jim Sherman photo.

Cooking and picnicking along the shore of farm ponds is gaining in popularity with farm families and their guests—further evidence of the wide range of recreation offered by the farm pond.

DEATH CLAIMS "MAC" McMAHON

Final rites were held October 18 at Jefferson for Aireal E. "Mac" McMahon, 46, conservation officer in Carroll and Greene Counties. Burial was at Merville.

McMahon's wife, Rachel, survives. They had no children.

McMahon was first employed by the Conservation Commission as conservation officer in Dallas, Guthrie and Adair Counties from 1942 until his induction in the U. S. Army in 1943. Upon his discharge in 1946, he returned to his former

three-county territory.

After assignment in Union County, McMahon was transferred to Green and Carroll Counties where he was stricken by a cerebral hemorrhage last June. He never regained his health and died at Veterans Hospital in Des Moines October 15.

ANTLERS VERSUS HORNS

Deer antlers are made of solid bone and are shed once each year. True horns have only a bony core surrounded by a horny sheath. Horns are never shed, but the pronghorn antelope sheds the outer sheath.—*Colorado Outdoors*.

ARCHERS REPORT 13 DEER KILLS

A check of report cards for the 1957 deer season for bow and arrow made just before press time has disclosed Iowa bowmen have bagged 13 deer thus far in the bow season which continues through November 26.

The tally at press time:

Name of Hunter	Home	County Hunted	Sex of Deer
P. C. Purviance.....	Des Moines	Pottawattamie	M
R. Jay Nash.....	Des Moines	Polk	F
Leland T. Johnson....	Orient	Adair	M
Harold Jess	Sabula	Jackson	M
Wesley Seaver	Fort Dodge	Webster	F
Marvin Goetz	Bellevue	Jackson	M
William Wentworth ..	Preston	Jackson	M
Howard Stegmann ...	Marshalltown	Marshall	M
Robert L. Metz.....	Fort Dodge	Hamilton	M
Dr. R. C. Stewart....	Lamont	Delaware-Buchanan	M
A. L. Lockridge.....	Amana	Iowa	M
A. J. Bohall.....	Missouri Valley	Harrison-Pottawattamie	M
Donald Gipe	Emerson	Mills	M

All bow and arrow hunters are urged to return the report cards provided them to the State Conservation Commission office, whether a deer is bagged or not. The cards are important not only in determining hunter success but data on the cards will also give valuable assistance in future management of Iowa's deer population.



First photograph received of a deer bagged during the 1957 bow and arrow season is this one submitted by Marvin Goetz of Bellevue. Goetz took the young 80-pound buck October 30 at the outskirts of Bellevue. Goetz appears pleased and should be. It's his first bow and arrow kill although he has hunted deer with rifle in other states.

ARE HUNTERS HUMAN?

Some anglers, about this time of year, steal into their tackle rooms and, after drawing the shades, begin shoving pins into voodoo figures of men in thick red coats, bright red hats and thick, heavy boots.

This dark practice results from a perfectly natural seizure of resentment at the thought of big-footed fellows barging along the banks of superb little trout streams as they slay their deer, and slinking through salt-water marshes and along marine shores as they pot their ducks.

It is, however, a practice which is both counter to the laws of certain states that are sensitive to witchcraft, and to good, common sense. No matter how loudly some anglers may deny it, or rush to prove otherwise with involved charts and even brain-wave readings, it must be admitted that hunters are human. In fact, and this is staggeringly important, some of them are even anglers. (Government figures strongly suggest that even though sport fishing is, hands down, the dominant pastime of the American people, perhaps as many as a third of those who fish also hunt.)

The idea must, then, immediately occur that just as the wheat farmer and the cattleman learned to live and work together, so must anglers and hunters. Frontiers are opened that way.

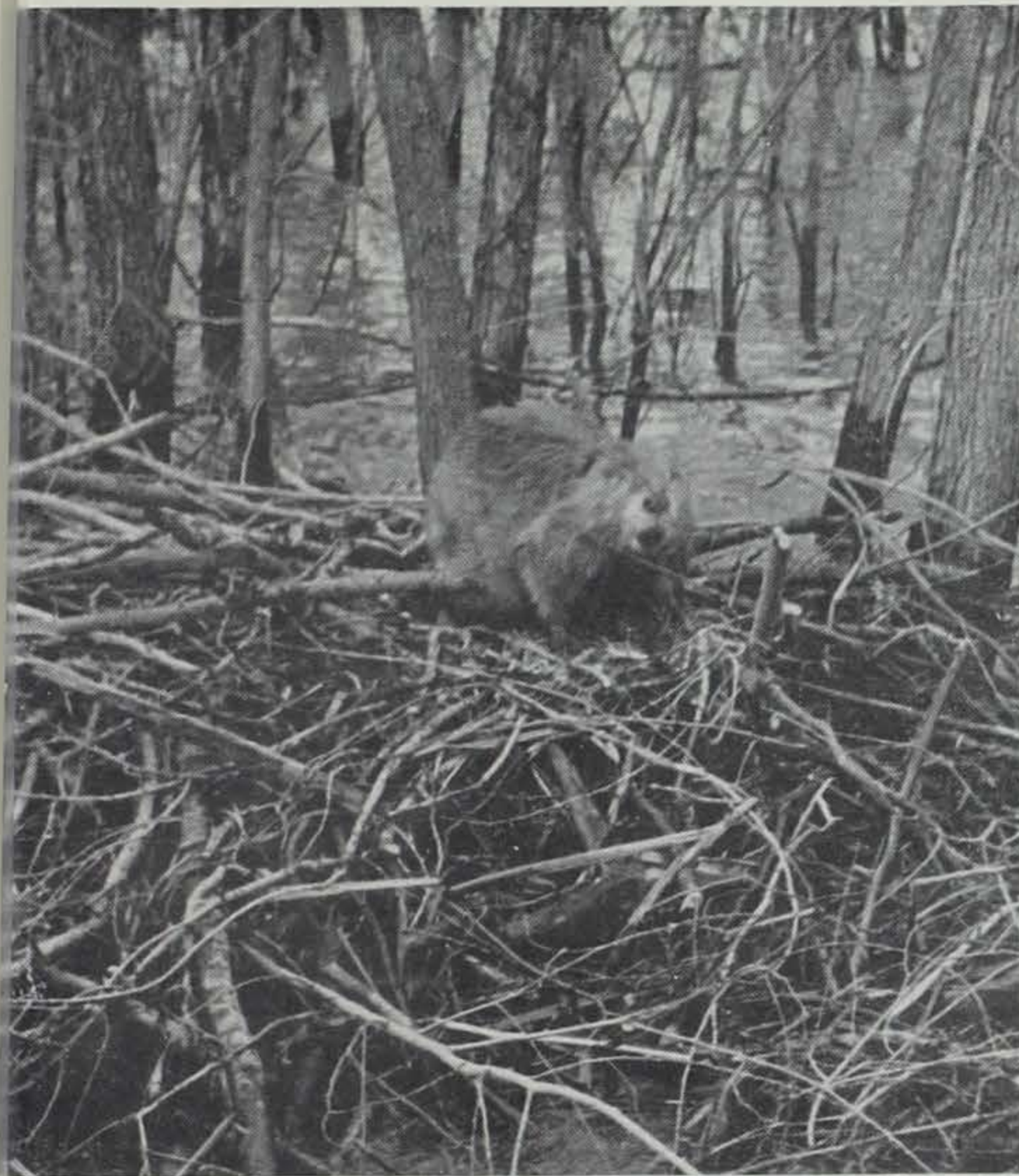
The hunter must remember that the stream he sees between barren banks of leafless trees is home to game far more popular than deer or rabbits. He must protect it zealously. Even when his gun is put away he must join the angler in fighting for the preservation of those streams, for they are the life-giving veins of the forest.

The angler, in turn, must know that when men fight to preserve a marsh on a flyway that, even though a fish never is caught there, the act of conservation is meaningful to all. Nature makes no fine distinction between the hunter's outdoors and the angler's. Where deer find browse there are the roots of growing things that bind the earth, to hold the rain, to save the stream. Where a salt-water inlet is free from filth and with food to feed the fish—there is a place of respite and food for a southing duck.

Pressures in the outdoors, particularly legislative pressures, all too often speak of, or act toward, the interests of anglers and hunters as things apart. The hunter who is more than a meat hunter, and who feels such pressure on his behalf should reject it. So with the angler. It cannot long profit a greedy sportsman that in serving his pleasure he destroy that of another, though different sportsman.—An editorial reprinted from *The Fisherman* magazine.

The 10 Commandments of Safety

- 1 Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun. This is the first rule of safety.
- 2 Guns carried into camp or home, or when otherwise not in use, must always be unloaded, and taken down or have actions open; guns always should be carried in cases to the shooting area.
- 3 Always be sure barrel and action are clear of obstructions, and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying. Remove oil and grease from chamber before firing.
- 4 Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble; keep the safety on until you are ready to shoot.
- 5 Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger; know the identifying features of the game you intend to hunt.
- 6 Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot; avoid all horseplay while handling a gun.
- 7 Unattended guns should be unloaded; guns and ammunition should be stored separately beyond reach of children and careless adults.
- 8 Never climb a tree or fence or jump a ditch with a loaded gun; never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
- 9 Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water; when at target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.
- 10 Avoid alcoholic drinks before or during shooting.



Jim Sherman photo.

perched atop his handiwork, this beaver might well be defying any human attempt to destroy his dam. A pretty good engineer with little time for loafing or for those who do, he's hard to move from an area once his mind is made up to stay.

INDUSTRIOUS BEAVER

When it comes to the habits of wild animals, there is probably none better known than the industry and persistence expressed by the beaver in his daily living.

Several years ago I read a tale that emphasized just how complete the beaver's industry and persistence really is. It proved to me that once a beaver's mind is set to a task, he's going to get the job done—come Hades or high-water!

A railroad in Canada had been having trouble keeping a section of track that passed near a beaver pond high and dry. The beavers were intent to have their dam and pond despite the location of the track. Just as often as railroad officials visited the area—just that often they found the tracks underwater from the water backed up from the beaver dam.

After several visits the railroad men faced up to a situation that was now resolving itself into one of serious competition between the railroad officials and the beavers. The beavers were bent on having their dam and pond despite the location of the tracks. The railroad men were just as intent in their resolve to get rid of the beavers.

The railroaders got their heads together. One observation was forthcoming from a member of the group. He'd heard or read somewhere that tearing the dam out would discourage the beavers and they'd take up their dam-building elsewhere.

Another Try

They tried it the next day. And the next and the next and the next. The result was the same each time. The beavers restored the dam, the pond was flooded and likewise the railroad tracks.

The officials met again and another suggestion blossomed forth. Oil is the answer, another official suggested. Oil put on the surface of the pond would drive the beavers out. Oil was poured on the surface of the pond and the officials left the scene content that they'd at last found a solution to the problem. No more flooding of the tracks from now on, they reasoned.

Retaliation by the beavers was forthcoming next morning. During the night the beavers had removed a section of their dam; the oil was floated away and the dam restored. Now the bewildered officials looked upon the restored dam and high, unpolluted water that had been returned to its former level.

What now, they wondered? Well, another of the railroaders allowed as how he'd heard once that beavers wouldn't work at night if artificial light were present to distract them. Perhaps such a light or lights rigged at night would discourage the beavers after a few nights. Why not rig a wheel and place kerosene lanterns at intervals around the wheel's rim? The suggestion sounded ridiculous to the group, but when one's at one's wits end, any course of action is worth a try. What's there to lose? We'll give the wheel a whirl, the railroaders decided.

The wheel and lights were

rigged over the dam that evening. Next morning, the railroad men ringed the bank of the beaver pond to witness the beaver's reaction to this latest innovation. What they saw was astounding! The beavers during the night had splattered the mantels of the lanterns with mud, shutting out most of the light while they worked merrily on.

Move Tracks

One look at this latest turn of events and the railroad men were agreed. They'd begin immediately to plan for moving the tracks. It would be less nerve-racking than trying to keep the beavers from doing the work they were determined to do!

There reached the editor's desk recently a couple more yarns that point up the tenacity of the beaver.

Towards the wee hours of morning, a Canadian farmer was aroused by the excited barking of his two hounds. Several attempts to quiet the animals failed. Finally, around 4 a.m., when it became apparent that there would be no further sleep unless something could be done about the noise, the farmer went out to investigate.

The owner found both dogs looking toward their dog-house and the presence of their master gave them added courage to approach closer and to snarl and bark more viciously. However, it was obvious they would not enter or go close to the entrance to the dog-house.

Very cautiously, the farmer peered into the dog-house. Lo and behold, there sat an extremely large beaver on the skinned-carcass of another which had been placed there as food for the dogs.

It is anyone's guess as to whether the beaver was looking for ready-made lodging or attending the wake of a departed friend.

While we might go along with that tale, we'll let you decide about this one:

A Canadian farmer was having nuisance beaver trouble and reported same to the local Conservation Officer. He was told he could destroy the dam and then to hang a lantern nearby and to place tin cans along a wire which would frighten the animals away.

This was tried. Several days later, the farmer reported that after the lantern and tin cans were strung along and over the creek where the dam had been, he waited a couple of nights to see what effect they had. When he went back to the spot, he was amazed to see a new and larger dam nearly completed.

Several beavers were busily engaged in construction, while one was holding the light and another was using one of the tin cans to carry water to the workers so as to prevent any delay.—K.C.S.

As their spawning season nears, fish usually move upstream or, occasionally, to the shores or shoals of a lake, but only rarely to the lake outlet.

WANT NERVE TONIC? TRY FISHING

According to Fishery Biologist Charles C. Bowers, Jr., in an article in *Kentucky Happy Hunting Ground* magazine, fishing is a pretty important safety valve for the pressures of modern living. As he puts it, fishing is a chance to relax or use up some nervous energy, a chance to think seriously or to free one's mind for fanciful wanderings. It provides a chance to exercise desk-stiffened muscles or to soothe tired working muscles.

Fishing is a steam valve for pent-up emotions, or an anchor in reality when man's pettiness and insecurity begin to get a grip on us. It is one of the greatest humblers when we put our mighty brain and talent against the puny resources of the fish and come out not so good. But it is the fulfillment of the primeval urge to bring home the bacon when we are lucky.

In this day the most valuable thing about fishing is that it is a means of removing oneself from man-made surroundings. It is an excuse to share God's world of water, land, trees, grass, clouds, weather and the many basic things that have been, and will be here in spite of man.

In this mechanical age of ours where everything is tuned to the roar of machinery, the speed of transportation, and fast talk of millions of people selling, buying, building, and transacting, the poor human mind and body need rest and relaxation. We, as fishermen, have the key to much of that which is so sorely needed. Let us use that key. Starting with those nearest and dearest to us, let us begin this year to pass on to others that great gift which was given to us, the art and enjoyment of fishing and all its associated pleasures.

For fishing is the dignified way of doing nothing.—*Oklahoma Wildlife Magazine*.

The fishery industries on the Mississippi now support wholly or in part some of 2,500 families on the Iowa border. The average annual catch for the five-year period 1943-48 was 3 million pounds.

CAREFUL!

CROSS THAT
FENCE SAFELY



KEEP HUNTING A SAFE SPORT

PREVENT FOREST AND GRASS FIRES



The attraction of the cornfield and food has brought these geese from the refuge. Study of the morning and evening movements of waterfowl and the fields in which they feed will tell the waterfowler how best to hunt them.

Broad Missouri...

(Continued from page 177)

the feeding geese brought the others in without as much as one circle of the area. In a matter of minutes, a great blanket of blue and snow geese, Canada and Lesser Canada, Hutchins' and ringneck geese lay before us, their heads and bodies bobbing as they fed.

Less Significance

Without detracting from the splendor of such a sight, it had less significance for me than a couple of other observations I made during the time it took to wind up our mission.

Most important was the fact that I saw, first-hand, how the refuge works to the benefit of the sportsman in providing a degree of sport that would not exist otherwise. Secondly, I saw again the amount of excellent hunting that is available to the waterfowler who hunts the confields.

The fact that the refuge provides water and safety for migrating waterfowl is well established. With these two needs fulfilled, refuges provide and will continue to provide a "holding" attraction for waterfowl. As long as refuges keep waterfowl in the area, hunters can expect to have shooting as ducks and geese move to and from corn in surrounding fields.

It is also well established that geese using a particular refuge will return to it year after year. This "homing" instinct means that

geese will bring an increasing population back to the refuge, all other factors being equal. This would logically mean improved hunting each year with ever increasing numbers available to the hunter.

Without the refuge to provide safety from constant hunting pressure, waterfowl would move from a given area early or pass it up entirely. The constant pressure exerted all along the migratory route would keep waterfowl moving with the result that few would have sport during a given season.

Food is the other requirement and the fact that ducks and geese must seek it out provides wonderful opportunity for hunters to hunt them in the cornfields where they feed. Some points on hunting these areas then would seem in order here.

Study Movement

One of the most effective ways of hunting the cornfields is to study movement of ducks and geese during morning and evening and ascertain what field they are using. Once this is discovered, it is a matter of being at the field in early morning before ducks and geese "settle in" to feed. When they do come in, the hunter can either call them to decoys he has placed in the field or try his luck at "sneaking" them. Either method will require some observation of the particular field in which waterfowl are feeding. If this information is not gained beforehand, waterfowl

BACKBONE OF WATERSHED PROTECTION

Soil and water conservation can't be separated! The watershed approach in which we are experiencing renewed emphasis has been part and parcel of our soil conservation concept since experimental and research work started on it nearly 30 years ago. Conservation land treatment for soil erosion control and water management—"gully control" or however you think of it—is just as surely the backbone of any watershed protection and flood prevention undertaking today as it ever was.—Donald A. Williams, Administrator, Soil Conservation Service, in Minnesota Conservation Volunteer.

NEW LIGHT SHED ON OLD RUMOR

A news item appearing in a recent issue of the Sport Fishing Institute Bulletin points up the fact that some wild animals may have long been aware of certain therapeutic values to be found in natural radioactive sites.

"Aging elephants, it seems, drift instinctively to the spot of any radioactive spring or mineral lode in order to soak up rays that soothe aching joints. Over the years they have beaten paths from all parts of Africa to these therapeutic sites.

The discovery was made at Feira, Northern Rhodesia, by one of that government's geologists. He followed a centuries-old elephant track to a group of strange rock formations he had spotted on aerial photographs.

The track led across a bare hill rising from a dry valley. The

British official found the scrub covered mound to be a "pipe" (out-cropping of thorium, tantalum and columbium, all highly radioactive minerals. Other tracks led to three more radioactive mounds nearby.

"Perhaps there's something after all to that persistent rumor about elephant grave yards," remarked James Lee of Minnesota division of game and fish.—Minnesota Conservation Volunteer.

Deer Trails...

(Continued from page 178)

or shotgun, or whether you prefer to stand or stalk your deer, your chances of bringing home a white tail are better if you discover where he travels and pick your hunting spot accordingly. Why not give it a try? It will shorten the time between now and December and lengthen your chances of success when the season arrives.—K.C.S.

HINTS FOR COOKING WILD GAME

Rabbits, squirrel and other small game have small waxy scent glands that should be cut. These are small kernels located under the foreleg and along the spine in the small of the back. The scent gland in a game bird is just above the tail—same as a chicken.

Prepare and cook wild game much the same as you do domestic meat. Seasoning while cooking helps the flavor—wild game meat generally tends to be drier. Rubbing with butter and frequent basting helps retain moist flavor.—Outdoors in Illinois.

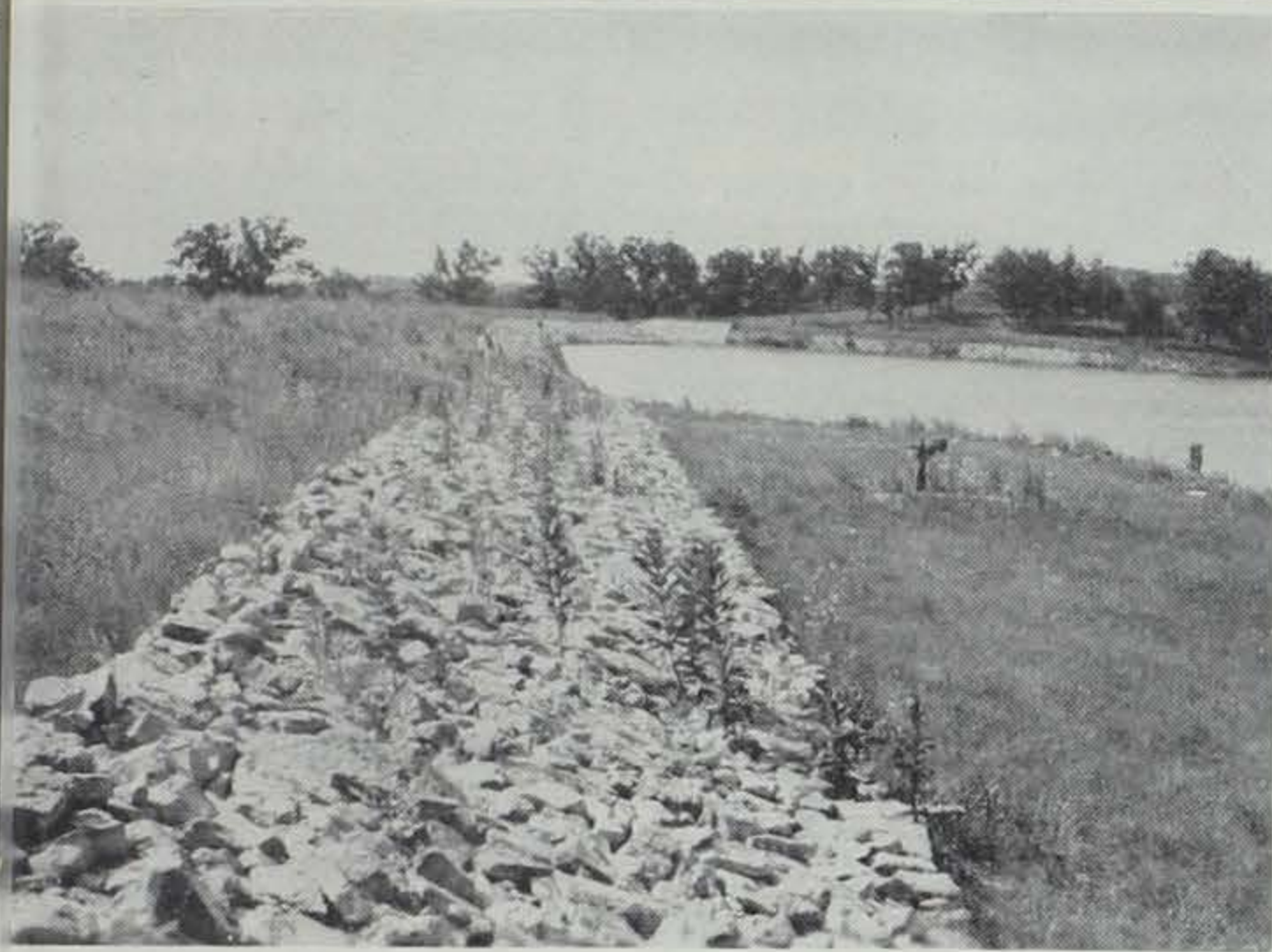
may settle in a far area of the field and in a poor position for "sneaking." Most experienced hunters prefer to "sneak" from the side rather than from the rear or head-on to feeding flocks.

While ducks and geese have the habit of feeding in a particular field until it is fed out, there is no guarantee that they will use the same field every feeding period. It is one of the perplexing traits of waterfowl behavior that has been experienced by many but for which there is no answer to my knowledge. The best alternative open to the waterfowler seems to be to follow the flock to a feeding field, spot their feeding location in the field, and then be ready early next morning when they arrive over the field. Chances are they'll be more interested in a field they have used before and from which they can take their fill of corn.

One of the best features of cornfield shooting is that natural camouflage is always available to the hunter in the form of corn-

stalks. When ducks are sighted the waterfowl hunter can quickly gather up a few stalks and camouflage his prone position. Partially standing corn on all sides of the hunter will also help break his outline. When snow is on the ground, the cornfield hunter can help his success by wearing white clothing or a white covering of some kind. One of the wife's discarded sheets will do the job.

As long as there are refuges to hold ducks and geese and waste corn on which to feed, Iowans will continue to have some of the best waterfowl hunting available anywhere. Make a point to visit and see one in operation. Then make a resolve to do what you can as an individual in promoting the creation of more refuges for the future. Talk it up among your hunting partners and friends, at your local sportsman's group meetings, and with members of all organizations working for better conservation—wherever and whenever you have an opportunity to do it.



Lake of Nine Eagles, showing the dam with heavy protective rip-rap of limestone.

Nine Eagles...

(Continued from page 177)

ets a good view of the country to the west on other side of the Grand River valley, one is impressed by the generally level skyline. Of course this is a characteristic of Iowa, even of southern Iowa, where the country is hilly. Iowans take it for granted, but there has to be some explanation for it, some geological explanation. In brief, this is a section of the North American continent that has been relatively stable, as portions of the earth's crust go. It has never been uplifted into mountains like the Rockies and the Appalachians. It has had its ups and downs, but always on a broad scale. When it went down, slowly of course, the sea came in and flooded the continents. When it rose, the seas as slowly withdrew. The evidence of the existence of these seas lies in the sediments they deposited. They are now hard rocks, shale, sandstone and limestone, which underlie all of Iowa and the midwest. None of this bedrock is visible in the park area. It may be seen in limestone quarries west of Davis City. There the layered character of the rock is apparent. And the layers are almost horizontal, close to the position in which they were laid down. So it is not surprising that the view from the upland shows this level skyline. One might say that Iowa always has been like that, a plains country, whenever it has been above sea.

While there is no bedrock exposed in the park, at least as far as known to the writer, there are samples of bedrock available for inspection. These are in the riprap at the dam. This broken rock is limestone, some of it of a shaley character, that came from the quarries in northern Missouri. Like most limestone it was deposited as a limey sediment in one of the prehistoric seas. It has long since been hardened to a solid rock. Evidence that it is of marine origin is afforded by the presence in it of small shell impressions, visible

in many of the limestone fragments in the riprap. Some of this limestone has also been placed in a small cut of the lake shore not far from the concession stand. Also, the park roads have been surfaced with crushed limestone.

The two monuments at the entrance to the park are another kind of limestone. This came from one of the quarries at Stone City in Jones County in eastern Iowa. It is characterized by a very delicate stratification, visible on the broken edges. This rock has been widely used as a building stone in Iowa, and in many of our state parks. It is called Anamosa stone.

The question might be asked, why isn't the bed rock visible here in the park? Of course it may be easily answered by saying that it is covered by other material, soil and subsoil. But how did that get here? Well, for one thing, the last of the seas in this area faded out some 250,000,000 years ago. In the time that has elapsed since, weathering could have produced a mantle of decayed rock at the surface, even if nothing else had happened.

But something else has happened. This part of Iowa, along

with the country south to the Missouri River, was twice invaded by glaciers of continental size. The first one was about a million years ago. The second and last one was some 600,000 years ago. These tremendous ice sheets, similar to the one of today in Antarctica, had their centers in Canada. The ice as it moved southward froze onto the material in its path and carried it along. When the glacier melted a deposit of debris was left. It is called glacial drift, and contains all sorts of stones that were once part of the solid bedrock in the northern United States and Canada. These are called glacial erratics. They may be found wherever the topsoil in the park has been washed away. They were particularly noticeable to the writer on the hillside sloping to the lake beyond the concession stand. There are many kinds of rock among the pebbles and larger stones.

Here and there along the roadside one may see a glacial erratic of boulder size. Two, of granite, are at the entrance to one of the picnic areas. The piles at the entrance to the driveway to the custodian's residence are also glacial erratics. Some are granite, having a spotted appearance. The dull purple ones are quartzite, a rock which was once sand and which has gone beyond the stage of sandstone. Then there is one rather greenish in hue. This is an ancient volcanic rock.

Now let us turn our attention to the lake. The lake basin is in a valley, created of course by post-glacial erosion. The basin was completed by construction of the dam. The water comes in part from runoff, and the area from which it runs off is not so very large. Probably some of the water comes from seeps or small springs. The lake, with an area of 65 acres, is not very large, at least not for the size of the dam. This is about 1,200 feet long. The dam had to be a long one because the valley was wide at this point; and the valley was wide here because it opened

into the valley of the Grand River. Valleys always increase in width downstream. The lower part of the valley developed first, and the stream has had more time in which to make it wider.

The lake has three arms and each arm represents a drowned valley. Let us see how the lake is changing. Lakes slowly fill in, through sediment carried in or eroded from the shore line. The outlet is cut down through erosion by outgoing water. This lake is comparatively young—the dam was constructed in 1950—but already there are signs of erosion along the shore. A small "break" is developing at the water's edge, the result of erosion by waves. Out from the shore a short distance the lake is getting shallower from the deposited sediment. Vegetation is taking hold. This will tend to hold incoming sediment and make the lake edge still more shallow. The shallow will extend out into the lake. As for the sediment being carried in by incoming streams, note the condition of the upper end of each of the arms. They are becoming more shallow as evidenced by the growth of weeds. Given time enough, and with nothing done by man to prevent it, the lake would fill up.

The dam is a sturdy one, well protected by riprap, and with a fine spillway. When water flows over the spillway there is some erosion. It would take a long while to be sure, but eventually the spillway would be destroyed. The stream would then cut away the sediment it had previously deposited in the lake. All that however is something far, far in the future.

HOW ABOUT THAT?

Weary Willy says if a single female black bass can lay around twenty thousand eggs, he wonders how many a married one could produce.—*Arizona Game and Wildlife News*.

SWANS ON DISPLAY

Two trumpeter swans, the first to be on display in a zoo or aviary in many years, may now be seen at the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., a loan from the United Fish and Wildlife Service.

According to Ross Leffler, assistant secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, the loan of the two trumpeters is part of a plan to allow public viewing and enjoyment of swans not deemed essential to maintaining the flock at the Red Rock Lakes Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in southwestern Montana or required for the establishment of breeding populations at new locations. The birds were captured at Red Rock Lakes during their flightless stage.—*Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*.



The shore line at the "point," Lake of Nine Eagles, showing "break" developed by wave action, and growth of weeds off-shore where sediment eroded from the shore has made the lake shallow.

NOT INTENTIONAL

It was deer hunting season in northern California and the novices invaded the tall timber shooting at every movement they saw in the bushes. When an old-time hunter had his cap blown off his head, he had an inspiration. He made himself a suit of canvas awning cloth of alternate stripes of blue and white, but the first time he wore it into the woods, he was shot at several times and finally killed by an inexperienced hunter. At the inquest the remorseful novice took the stand as a witness.

"Now look here," said the coroner, "you're not accused of killing old Bill intentionally, but it does seem funny to me and the jury here that he was dressed in striped clothes which could be seen a mile away, while you were standing not a hundred yards from him. How could you mistake him for a deer?"

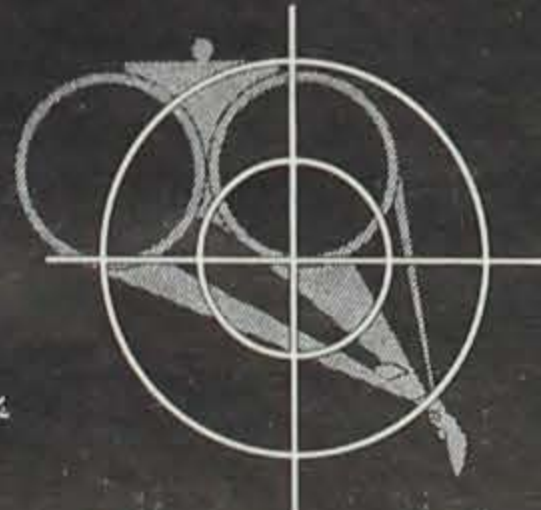
"I didn't mistake him for a deer," replied the man. "I thought he was a zebra!"—*Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*.

SURPRISE!

Dudley C. Hawkins of Lincoln, Illinois, was so disgusted when he reeled in a pair of old trousers that he gave the pants a scornful kick. He got a stab in the foot. A ten-inch catfish was inside the pants!—*South Dakota Conservation Digest*.

KEEP HUNTING A SAFE SPORT!

**BE SURE OF YOUR
TARGET..**



**before you fire!
WATCH THAT MUZZLE**

Will you be one of more than fifteen million American sportsmen in the hunting fields this fall and winter?

If so, pay heed as a good sportsman to this gun safety message. By doing this you can help make the shooting sports still more enjoyable for yourself and Americans everywhere.

JUDGE VERSUS GAME VIOLATOR

(Reprinted from Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Herald Review)

Convicted of possessing illegal game, Bennie Zardo, 42, of Nashwauk, was given a \$500 fine and 30 days in jail by District Court Judge Arnold C. Forbes for the possession of two deer out of season. Zardo was apprehended at his home by Game Warden Frank Bolstorff and Itasca County sheriffs. Search of the cellar revealed a large buck and a doe, who apparently was still suckling her fawns.

Judge Forbes blasted game violators as follows:

The Court: "Well, Mr. Zardo, you give me one reason why the law should not apply to you? It applies to me; it applies to Mr. Benton. It applies to the sheriffs of all the counties, all the county attorneys, all the railroad men, all the farmers—why shouldn't it apply to Mr. Zardo?"

Defendant: "It should apply to me, too."

The Court: "It certainly should, and it does. I don't know any reason why I should pay for a hunting license, or any other citizen of this country should pay for a hunting license to hunt deer in season when Mr. Zardo can go out and get two of them any time he wants to."

"A mechanic such as you gets a good salary. You can well take care of your two children and your wife with your two gardens. You wouldn't have any difficulty whatsoever getting along with meat for your freezer without taking it illegally as you have done. I am frank to say that I am out of patience with Americans—American born—who don't appreciate their country enough to obey its laws. You need a lesson in law enforcement, and I know of no reason why you should be spared except for your two children. Your wife must have connived with you, or at least consented to put deer—illegal deer—in the freezer. But your children are innocent. Aside from that I have no sympathy whatsoever for you, or anybody like you. You can take that back and pass it around Nashwauk and all the rest of Itasca County and all of the state of Minnesota, that there is one judge who is sick and tired of people coming in here to shoot deer out of season."

"True, this is the first time you have been caught, but don't tell me it is the first deer, and that one man can lift a 250 pound buck all by himself, and put it in his trunk. He learned it by practice, because I have seen greenhorns struggle, two and three men, try to do it with a limp deer. It is quite a lift. I don't say there was anybody else with you because under oath you have told me otherwise but it certainly shows experience on your part."

"You have been treated with leniency, even though you don't deserve it. You are just cheating on your fellow men when you go out and get deer the way you do. You aren't being big, nor smart, nor nice, nor clean, nor sportsmanlike. You are just making it harder for some one to legally get a deer during the season. I have no sympathy whatever."—*Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*.

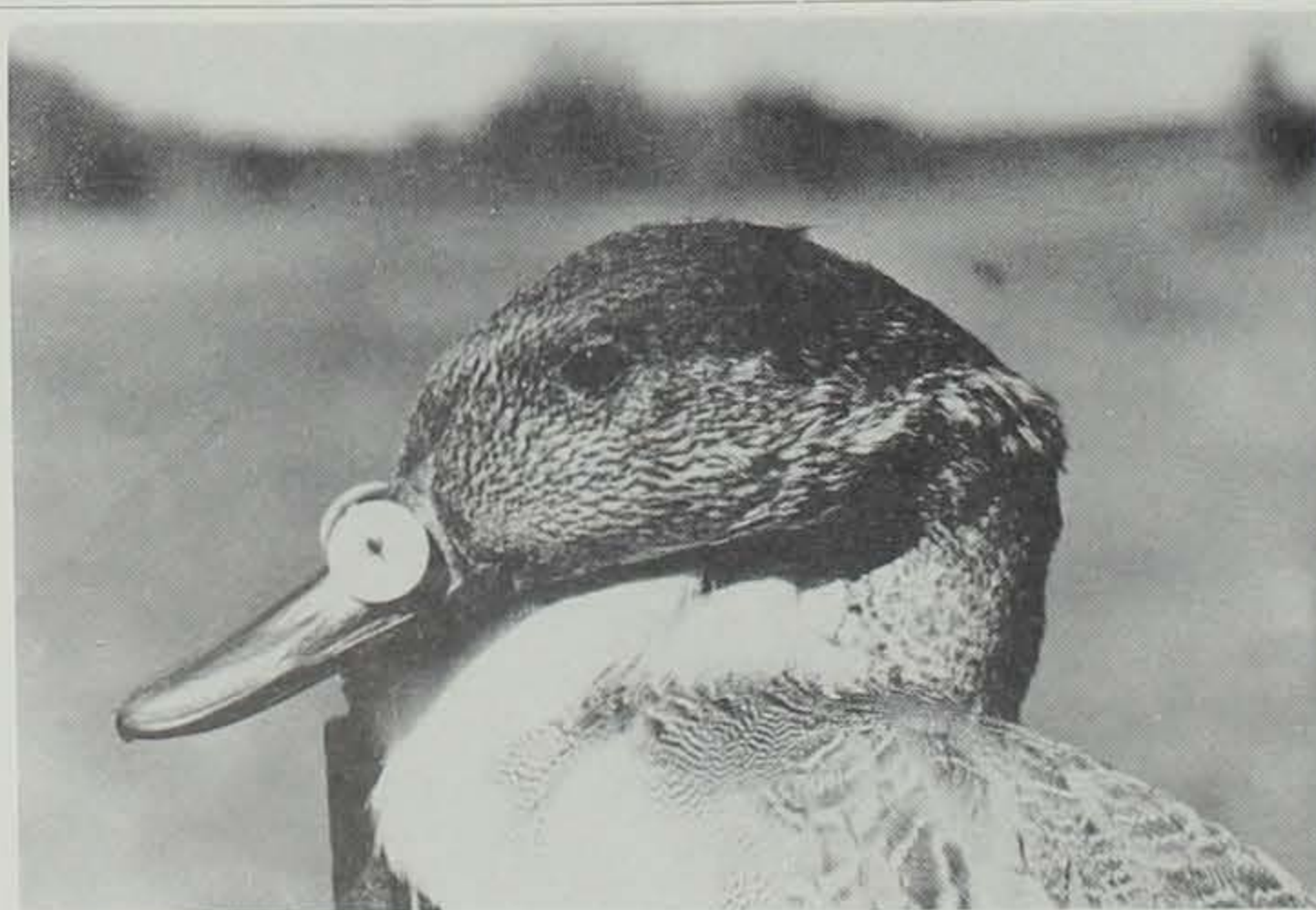
YOUTHS WITNESS AERIAL DUEL

An aerial duel involving a great horned owl and two hawks was recently witnessed by three Des Moines boys hunting in Madison County.

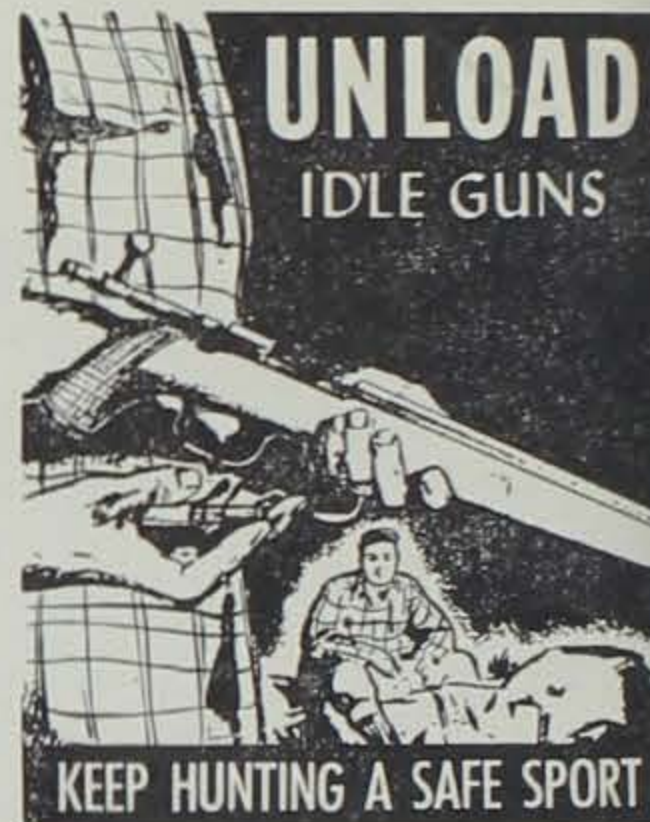
John Mattern and Jim and Jerry Corder heard a screeching over-

head and glanced up to see the owl under attack by the two hawks.

The hawks dive-bombed the owl repeatedly until it fell. The owl was dead when the boys reached it. The left wing was broken, apparently in the fight. The fall presumably had killed it. The owl had a wingspread of nearly five feet.



Minnesota Department of Conservation researchers are making a study of migrational homing and this new type marker and have released 600 wild ducks marked in this manner. Iowa hunters can aid the study by sending heads, markers and weights of any ducks they bag marked like the one above to Dr. Arnold B. Erickson, Bureau of Research, Minnesota Department of Conservation, 600 Shubert Building, St. Paul, Minn.



2
PREVENT FOREST AND GRASS FIRES

FORESTERS SLEEP IN PAPER BAGS

Some forest fire fighters are hitting the sack these days in paper sleeping bags.

The lightweight, disposable bags made of cellulose and creped paper are solving problems for weary smoke jumpers. They have less than half the weight of kapok bags, and can be used in temperatures down to 40 degrees. At \$2.50 each, they can be used for several weeks and then thrown away.

Foresters admitted, however, that you've got to be dog tired to sleep in one of them. The rustle would make an insomniac out of most people.—*Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*.

TRAVELING DUCK

A scaup duck bagged last fall by a New Hampshire hunter traveled about 6,000 miles to the Granite State, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

The bird had been leg-banded in July at the Minto Lakes, 30 miles west of Fairbanks, Alaska. Its long flight was uncovered when the band was forwarded to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for checking against its bird banding files.—*North Carolina Wildlife*.

NEW ALIBI

Fancy alibis from game-law violators are old stuff to the Department of Game and Fish in New Mexico, but here is the fanciest one that has come to our attention in a long time.

Charges were filed against a fellow in JP court in Alamogordo. He was fined \$50 and costs after admitting the shooting of ducks out of season. But he insisted to the end that the ducks were not killed by gunfire—that in their rapid descent to the ground they had died of shock from the sudden stop.—*Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*.