

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

Volume 17

March, 1958

Number 3

THAWING LAKES AND BULLHEAD FEVER

Will Extra Roosters Improve 1958 Pheasant Prospects?

Richard Nomsen
Pheasant Biologist

The uncanny ability of the ring-neck plus the dense cover proved too much for Iowa pheasant hunters last season. Winter sex ratio counts were underway shortly after the first snow and it was soon evident that many of the surplus roosters last fall were still surplus birds this winter.

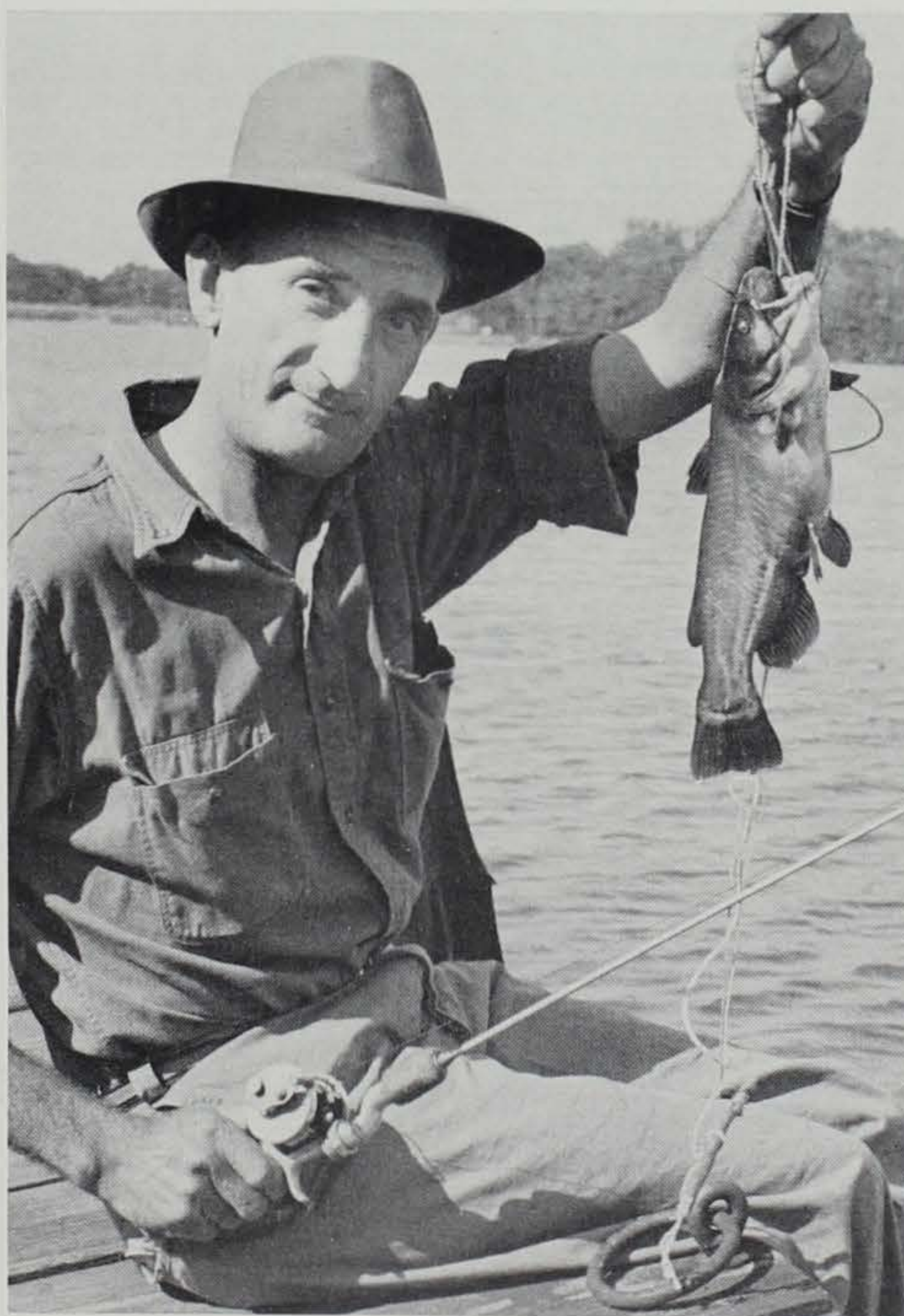
Weather and cover conditions during the 1957 season greatly favored the pheasants. Very little of the corn had been harvested before opening day and only 65 per cent had been picked by closing time on December 2. The harvest of grain sorghum and soybeans was also delayed by poor drying weather. Heavy snow blanketed the pheasant range on November 17 and 18. Hunting success improved for some local nimrods during the storm, but in the long run, the heavy snow cover favored the birds.

The larger hunting parties were the most efficient groups during the past season. Field checks indicated that this type of group hunting produced a bird every 2.3 hours compared with 3.7 hours of effort by the smaller groups. Hunters using dogs also enjoyed better hunting throughout the season. It appeared that the smaller parties without dogs were at a great disadvantage. Crippling loss was much higher than usual because of the dense cover.

Sex ratio counts during January immediately revealed the inadequate harvest of roosters last fall. A statewide average of 2.3 hens per cock indicates that only 48 per cent of the available cocks were harvested during the season. What effect will this extra carry-over of roosters have on our 1958 population?

First of all, these excess cocks will not guarantee a successful 1958 season. If you missed him

(Continued on page 23)



Early spring and bullhead fishing are almost synonymous in northwest Iowa lakes. He's called horned pout, brown catfish and yellow-belly, but it all adds up the same—eating that is mighty hard to beat!

Keith C. Sutherland
Editor

This is the time of year when the optics play strange tricks on the bullhead fisherman!

With one eye on the thermometer, he keeps the other concentrated intently on the fishing tackle he has so placed that he can get a hand on it in a hurry!

Stretching a point? Well, maybe, for most would probably remind that it's a physiological impossibility to focus the optic lobes in two different directions at the same time. But by stretching a point, it helps us make one—that mild weather and early bullhead fishing are almost synonymous and that when the first spring warm-ups take place, things can develop pretty fast for the bullhead fishermen.

Now this is not to say that things happen this fast in all areas of Iowa. But this is the situation in the northwest lakes region, roughly that area from Highway 30 north to the Minnesota line; bounded on the east by Highway 65; and on the west by the Missouri River. For the purpose of this article, the main emphasis is on early bullhead fishing in this area, although we hope to make some points that are just as valid for the river, stream and reservoir fisherman who will get in his licks a little later on.

Call him horned pout, brown catfish or yellow-belly if you will, but recognize one thing about the bullhead from the start—he's a real democrat among Iowa fish species! He's abundant (the subspecies black is more common than brown in Iowa) to a point where he is found in nearly all unpolluted waters of the state except the cold, scenic northeast Iowa trout streams; takes a variety of bait with fervor when he's hungry; and gives a good account of himself on the end of a line. And, outstanding as these characteristics are, he's probably most sought after for his eating qualities. Fried to a golden-brown in deep fat, he's perhaps without a peer!

With these reminders of the
(Continued on page 20)

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Nature's Notebook: A New Feature.....	18
Teachers Conservation Camp.....	18
Put Fishing Tackle In Shape Now!.....	19
You Can Help Protect Public Lands.....	20
Taking the "Mrs." Fishing.....	21
Whys and Whats of Fish Tagging.....	22
Auto-Deer Kill in 1957.....	23
Fly-Tying For Youth.....	24

Iowa Conservationist

Published Monthly by the
IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
East 7th and Court—Des Moines, Iowa
(No Rights Reserved)

HERSCHEL C. LOVELESS, Governor
BRUCE STILES, Director
KEITH SUTHERLAND, Editor
EVELYN BOUCHER, Associate Editor

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

GEORGE V. JECK, Chairman.....Spirit Lake
MRS. JOHN CRABB, Vice Chairman.....
.....Jamaica
GEORGE M. FOSTER.....Ottumwa
CLYDE M. FRUDDEN.....Greene
A. N. HUMISTON.....Cedar Rapids
G. H. MEYER.....Elkader
J. D. REYNOLDS.....Creston

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE.....54,000
Subscription rate.....40c per year
Three Years \$1.00

Entered as second class matter at the post office in Des Moines, Iowa, September 22, 1947, under the Act of March 24, 1912. Subscriptions received at Iowa Conservation Commission, East Seventh Street and Court Avenue, Des Moines 9, Iowa. Send cash, check or money order.

TEACHERS CAMP SESSIONS ARE SET

The Ninth Annual Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp will be offered at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center June 8 through August 9. Camp Director George W. Worley of Iowa State Teachers College, has announced.

Sponsored by ISTC, the Iowa Conservation Commission and the State Department of Public Instruction, the camp is open to elementary and high school teachers, and all others interested in a practical college course in conservation. College credit is offered.

A unique feature of the camp is that a major portion of instruction is in the form of field trips. In this practical approach, teachers have an opportunity to search the woods, streams, fields and marshes for a better understanding of nature and the need for a public awareness to the responsibilities and problems of conservation.

Three sessions will be offered during the camp period. The first session dates are June 8 through June 28; the second, June 29 through July 19; and the third session, July 20 through August 9.

Additional information regarding the camp may be obtained by writing George W. Worley, Director, Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, Science Department, Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls.

FREE INDEX

A new index, covering all issues of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST published from January, 1956, through December, 1957, is now in print.

A handy guide for quick and simple location of CONSERVATIONIST articles printed during this period, the index lists all material by author as well as by title.

Copies of the index are available without charge from the Conservation Commission, East Seventh and Court Avenue, Des Moines.

An Editorial**Tsk! Tsk! Mr. President!
And to You, Mr. Hagerty!**

Iowa sportsmen and countless others around the country were undoubtedly a little "jarred" at a recent photograph of President Eisenhower holding a shotgun in a dangerous way during a Georgia quail hunt.

The photograph showed the President posing with a gun between his knees, both hands folded over the muzzle which was pointed directly up at his head.

Now, we have great respect for President Eisenhower and the job he is doing at a crucial time in our nation's history. But we would be unfair to ourselves and our readers if we failed to recognize that we were shocked by this unfortunate display of bad gun manners. We say unfortunate because a great many youngsters and others across the land are liable to think less of gun safety because of the photograph.

We can't conceive of long military training and career that would permit unsafe gun handling. Nor can we conceive of a person—particularly the Chief Executive—allowed to handle a gun in an unsportsmanlike fashion. Around him was a large corps of friends, aides, and Secret Service Men. The latter group knows something about weapons—it's surprising they would permit the President to handle a gun in a way that invites tragedy!

The situation didn't go unnoticed, of course, and Presidential Press Secretary James Hagerty tried to curb criticism by sportsmen and others regarding the handling of the gun. Better he had made no statement.

To the press contingent's questions about whether the President's gun handling left something to be desired, Hagerty said, "The gun wasn't loaded." A little later, Hagerty announced that the way the gun was posed was to satisfy photographers—that they had asked that the gun be posed in the way it appeared in the widely-circulated photograph.

So we say a special "Tsk! Tsk!" to Mr. Hagerty! Apparently he has never heard that an "unloaded" gun is the kind that very often kills or maims somebody! To his other question, we say that serving the press is one thing—endangering life is another! We don't think there is any question about which is the more important!—K.C.S.

Nature's Notebook**Major Events This Month:**

- Spring migration of geese in mid-March.
- Height of the spring duck migration—larger species such as mallards and pintails.

Others:

- First northern migration of hawks is underway.
- Bats come out of hibernation this month.
- First movement of songbirds—Grackles, Red-Winged Blackbirds and Robins, etc.
- First wildflowers appear—Dwarf Trillium, Pasque flower in the prairie areas, etc.
- First mushrooms make their appearance.
- Insects begin to appear, particularly the Morning Cloak and Red Admiral butterflies.
- Bees begin working pollen of pussy willow and soft maples.
- First spawning runs of fish, particularly members of the pike family begin during March.
- Reptiles and amphibians begin to come from hibernation.
- Woodchucks and chipmunks are among the first of the hibernating animals to appear this month.
- Gull migration is underway during March.
- Nesting of some birds takes place this month, including hawks and great horned owls. Great horned owls will have young readying to leave nest.
- Several species of songbirds (some are winter holdovers), will be more in evidence. Robins, Cardinals, Nuthatches, Titmouse, and Brown Thrasher are in this group.
- Pussy willows appear in March.

**CHARLES SAYRE
RITES ON MARCH 5****CHARLES E. SAYRE**

Funeral services were held March 5 in Des Moines for Charles Emory Sayre, 83, an employee of the State Conservation Commission for the past 24 years.

Interment was in Masonic Cemetery in Des Moines. Sayre was a Knights Templar and a member of Adelpic Masonic Lodge.

Sayre died of a heart ailment at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines on March 2. He had a rather lengthy history of heart trouble and had sustained several heart attacks over the past several years.

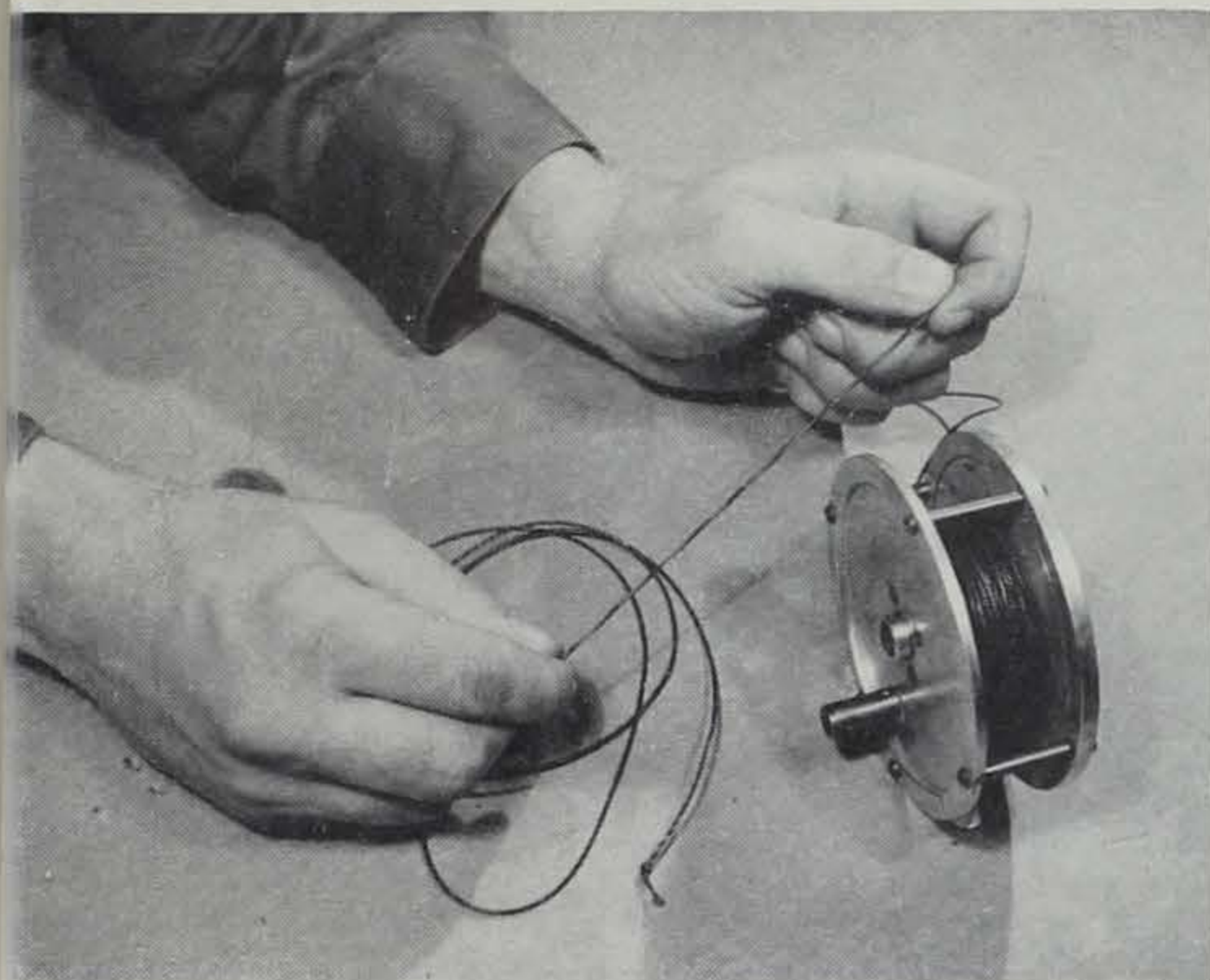
Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Jacobs of Gainesville, Florida, and two grandchildren. Sayre was a widower. A son, Keith, preceded him in death.

Born at Osceola, Sayre spent his early childhood at Atlanta, Georgia, where he lived next door to famed author Joel Chandler Harris. Sayre's parents made the trip from Atlanta to Osceola in a covered wagon.

Sayre began work with the Conservation Commission as an engineer in 1934. He was appointed Chief Engineer in 1941, and Superintendent of Land Survey and Acquisition in 1948. He had served as Superintendent of Land Acquisition from October 16, 1951, until his death. Sayre was employed by the State Highway Commission for 12 years before he came to the Commission.

"Charlie", as he was affectionately called by nearly all who knew him, was an avid reader and enjoyed "talking books" with those around him. Many sought "Charlie" out whenever they had a question about an author or book. The works of Winston Churchill were particular favorites, although there were few books or authors of any period that "Charlie" couldn't discuss at length.

High-fidelity music filled a large part of "Charlie's" leisure time, and small, thin cigars were definitely one of his trademarks.



Check fly lines for evidence of cracking or peeling. If they are beginning to show wear, they will not float or handle properly, and should be replaced. Dress them before the season and before each fishing trip. If given heavy use, they'll perform better if you dress them several times during the day's fishing.



Guide windings on flyrods take a lot of wear during a season. Check them before use this spring to avoid headaches on the stream. If they are badly worn, rewind them and apply color fixative and two or three coats of rod varnish.

Tackle "Tinkerers" Take Over This Month

March, when Dame Weather alternately flexes her muscles between the first balmy days of imposing spring and winding up with a final winter punch, also brings the fisherman closer to his favorite recreation.

It is a month for looking forward to better weather and a time for dreaming. It is a time for dreaming of the day ahead when the largemouth's froth-white strike booms in the quiet of a favorite nook, or of the flyrod arching gracefully under the weight of a throbbing smallmouth or bluegill.

What to do with March days that seem to "drag" with increasing burden while the body yearns for the out-of-doors? What to do

to curb blood that seems to quicken at the mere thought of warm, brilliant fishing days? What to do to shorten the time between bites?

Fly-tying, rod building, predator hunting, or a lick or two on the archery range are good "fill-gap" activities. But for the sportsman whose interests are strictly angling and may have an interest in only some of these, this time is a blessing of another sort and need not go to waste. It's an excellent time to put equipment in tip-top condition for the fishing days ahead.

A logical beginning is the annual collection (or search) of all fishing equipment—rods, reels, lures, lure and bait boxes, creel,

boots and waders, landing nets, etc.—for a thorough, piece-by-piece inspection. Depending upon the kind and extent of use you give your gear will pretty much determine what must be done to restore it to top condition. Considering these factors, you may find the following trouble and ways that you can correct same:

RODS—Check each carefully and particularly guide windings which seem to be a trouble spot. If windings are badly worn, rewind them and coat with two or three coats of rod varnish. Also check guides for excessive wear. If they are rough to the touch, they also are rough on the line passing through them. Replacing

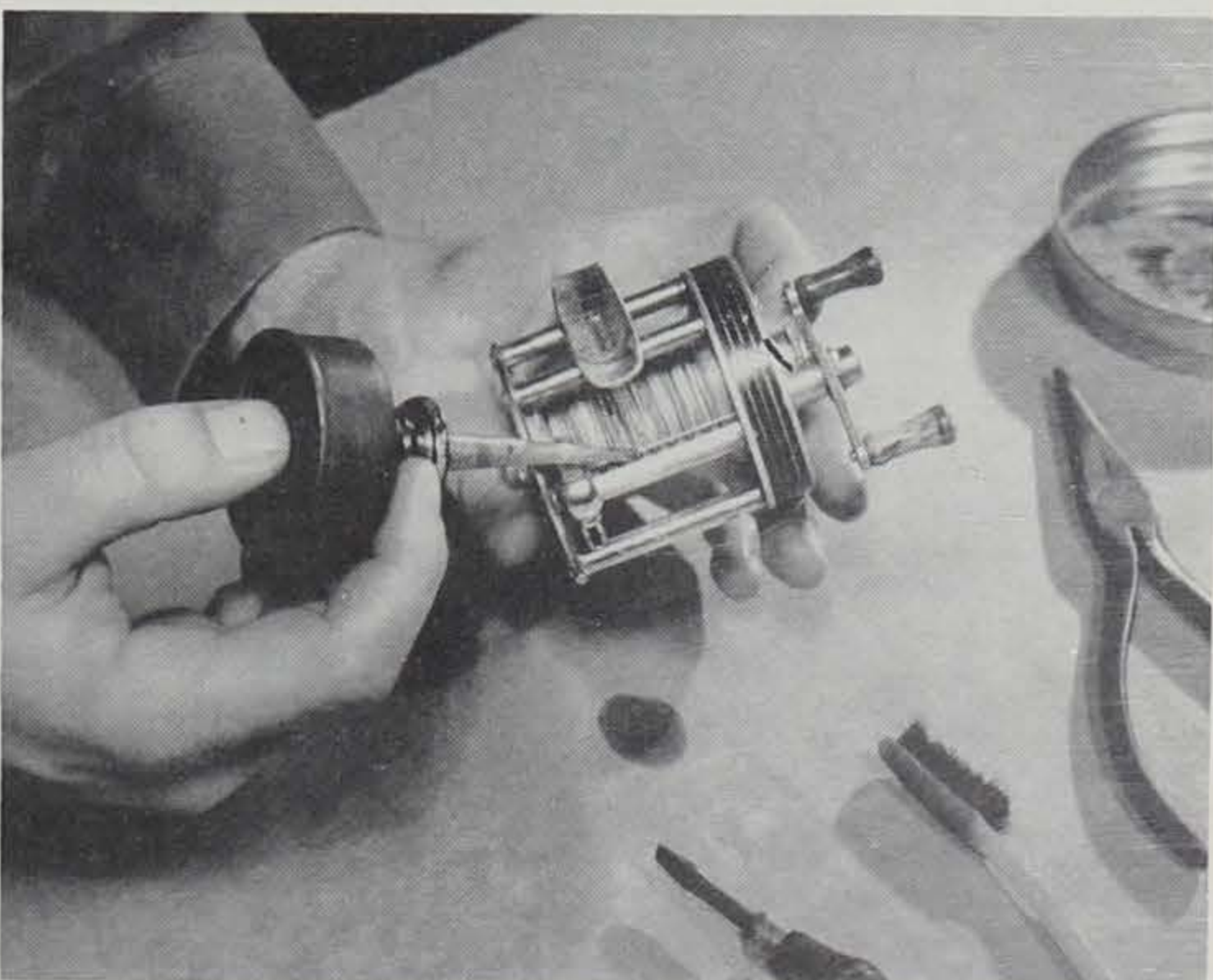
the guides will add life to your line or keep a new one from wearing excessively. Windings that are not badly worn but wearing thin (if the foot of the guide is beginning to show through the thread, they are getting in bad shape) a coat or two of varnish will help protect them for another season, but it would probably be smarter to replace them. If a thread end or two is sticking up, a little varnish will put them back in place and forestall further unwinding.

REELS—Far and away the most important part of your fishing equipment and good for years if you purchased a good quality one

(Continued on page 23)



Lures that are chipped or dulled from use should be touched up for top fishing this spring. While you are at it, check the hooks and hone or replace if they are dull. New or sharp hooks will hook many fish that would be lost otherwise.



A clean reel means a reliable one for this and future seasons. Clean it with carbon tet or gasoline and lubricate with fresh reel grease before use this spring. The level-wind mechanism takes the brunt of wear and should be oiled before the season and daily when in use.

All Photos by George Tovey.

You Can Help Protect Public Lands

Last month, we reported the observance of National Wildlife Week being noted throughout the country March 16-22.

"Protect Our Public Lands" is the theme for the 1958 observance. Past Wildlife Week observances have emphasized the following themes: 1952—Save the Key Deer; 1953—Save the Prairie Chicken; 1954—Clean Waters for All America; 1955—Save America's Wetlands; 1956—Save Endangered Wildlife; and 1957—Make a Place for Wildlife.

What can we as individuals do this year to protect our public lands? What can we do in 1958 to add our voice and effort to those all across the nation in advancing this worthwhile cause? These six courses of action can be the answer:

1. **Make it your business** to learn about the public lands, their uses and many values. Find out what public lands are near your home and within your state. Determine which of these uses are provided by them:

- ... Scenery
- ... Hunting and fishing
- ... Camping, Picnicking, Hiking and Riding
- ... Nature Study and Photography
- ... Skiing, Swimming, Boating and other outdoor sports
- ... Timber
- ... Minerals
- ... Water—for homes, industries, irrigation, and electric production
- ... Grazing for livestock

Learn about the programs in your county, state and federal agencies for managing these lands.

2. **Start educational campaigns** in your community. Interest your leaders in the protection and careful management of the public lands. Tell civic organizations, sportsmen and conservation groups, women's clubs, garden clubs, Lions, Rotary, churchmen, what must be done.

Point out to leaders the importance of these lands to the recreational enjoyment and livelihoods of people in your area. Teach them that these many benefits do not come from areas where soil erosion and wasteful practices have taken their toll!

3. **Show the people** who are using the public lands—the farmers, lumbermen, mining concerns, hunters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts that their "privilege of use" does not entitle them to abuse. Let these people know that no user can be permitted to destroy or permanently impair the soil, water, mineral, plant, scenic and wildlife resources of these areas.

4. **Protect and defend** city, county, state and federal parks, forests, grazing lands, and wildlife areas for encroachments by special interests who seek to chisel these lands away for their own gain. There are untiring efforts to pass laws and establish policies which give special interest seekers the advantage they want. Our public areas of high recreation value—parks, wilderness, hunting and picnicking and scenic areas—must be protected from unnecessary dams and other "development" schemes.

5. **Get behind programs** of your public land agencies. After learning of the work these people are doing, study the problems they face in making the most of our rich public land resources. Public agencies are often hamstrung by political pressures and critical fund shortages in their efforts to provide proper care of the lands they manage. The public expenditures required to save these resources is small compared to the long range benefits that are possible with careful management.

6. **Support the efforts** of private conservation organizations. With your help they can defend wildlife and recreational resources against attack from people who seek selfish ends or political gains.

Bullheads . . .

(Continued from page 17)

bullhead's popularity once again on record, it would seem logical to now seek him out and look at a few methods that are effective in putting him on the stringer.

Although he has something of a varied diet, anglerworms, night-crawlers and insect larvae make up most of the bullhead's diet. The fisherman who keeps this fact in mind can capitalize on it! Fish the windy side of the lake where wave action laps at the shore and washes this natural food into the lake. The same applies to inlets feeding into a lake which will carry food to bullheads that will be concentrated in such places. Many anglers hit these spots after warm rains which soften and wash soil containing worms and other natural food either into streams feeding into a lake or from the lakeshore itself.

Stream Fishermen

The fact that water in early spring may be turbid, or roily with large amount of soil, seems to whet rather than dampen the bullhead's appetite. Successful stream fishermen know this and are on their favorite stream when it is on the rise. It's only logical to assume that when streams are high

and muddy they are carrying a high amount of food and fish species that feed by smell (catfish, bullheads, etc.) rather than sight (pike, bass, etc.) are on an eating binge during these times.

If we would make no other point about methods and equipment, we would make this one—don't weight yourself out of contention! That is, don't use too much weight or rig your weight in such a manner that the bait is lost in the soft lake bottom. It is true that since bullheads are bottom feeders, you must get your bait down to them. *But it doesn't require a boat anchor to do it!* Light split-shot or a light sinker will accomplish what you are after—enough weight to reach the desired depth and keep your bait bumping along just off the bottom.

A sinker that is too heavy or poorly rigged poses another problem, and one that can be mighty wearing on the angler's nerves at a time when he's supposed to be relaxin'! I refer to missed strikes and missed fish the fellow on the thinkin' end of the rod suffers because the fish at the other end either gets a free dinner without detection or spits out the bait (probably in disgust) after trying to tug against a heavy sinker. The bullhead fisherman simply must face it sooner or later—he simply can not detect strikes and he will be left holding the bag on many occasions as long as he has a heavy sinker between himself and his fish!

There is a solution, however. A light rig, using split-shot or light sinker, or—and some prefer this method—rigging with the type slip sinker that lets the line slip through its hollow center, so that the fish pulls only the baited hook, is the answer. A piece of matchstick or a knot below the sinker keeps it well above the hook in normal fishing. Some "bullheaders" prefer to rig with a drop line, that is, a line dropping off the main line and which ordinarily carries the sinker. This method is fairly satisfactory although it probably has more tendency to wind and foul (my experience, anyway) than some other rigs. The important thing in this method is to be sure that the weight is kept below the bait so that the bait is near but not buried in the bottom.

Fish Without Bobber

Bobbers have their value, but fishermen would probably have better luck with bullheads if they left them at home. The major problem they pose is that they hold bait up off the bottom too often, and this is where you have to be to catch bullheads. If the fisherman could depend on one depth or had the time and patience to change the setting of his bobber every few minutes, the situation wouldn't be complicated at all. But such isn't practical or dependable. It's far more effective, then, to rig light without a bobber and bump along

the bottom. The slack or tautness at the point where your line enters the water will tell you if you are on the bottom or not.

Bullheads are taken on a great variety of equipment from trout rods to a fresh-cut willow pole and chalk line. This is another feature of bullhead fishing that has caught the fancy of the angler, young and old. The rod, whatever the choice, should have sufficient strength in the blade butt to set the hook firmly. Reels are a must in areas where the fisherman must reach out, and this would certainly apply to lake fishing and the larger streams.

Favorite hooks run large from 1/0 to 3/0 and should be long shanked for bullheads will take them far down. To save time, carry a good supply of hooks and clip your line rather than try to take hooks out after each catch. They can be retrieved when you clean your fish. Effective baits are worms, as mentioned before, with insect larvae and beef steak among the runners-up.

Seining and shocking work and various survey projects designed to provide information about bullhead populations, growth rate and size indicate the bullhead fisherman has good numbers awaiting him this year. Lost Island Lake near Ruthven and the Humboldt Impoundment near Humboldt have good populations as do Iowa, Tuttle, East Okoboji, Minnewashta, Silver Lake, Clear Lake and the Des Moines River.

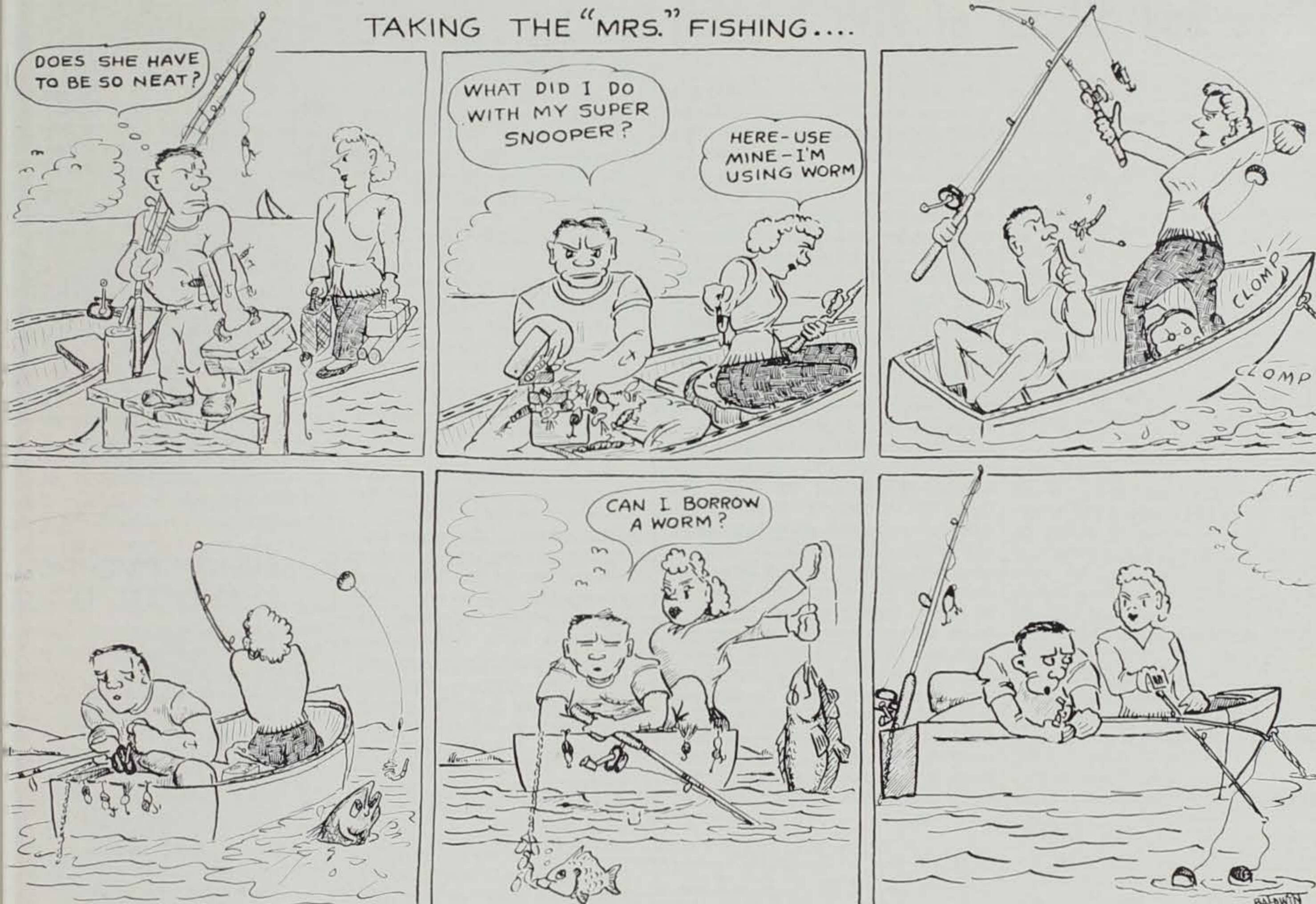
The Humboldt Impoundment is deserving of special mention because it is an example of what proper fish management can mean to the angler. Two years ago the Impoundment was chemically treated for removal of a high rough fish population, and stocked with bullheads. With the competition factor reduced drastically, the bullheads took off in an almost unbelievable growing spree. Last year, this area provided some of the best bullhead fishing in Iowa history and surveys show a good population awaits 1958 anglers.

ANOTHER USE FOR CIGARETTE BOX

Filter vs. non-filter? Artificial and natural filters? The wrangle may be waged for many, many moons regarding these advertisements appealing to the cigarette smokers of the nation. While their frequency of use may be a little irritating, the attempt to satisfy the tobacco consumers has resulted in one additional item of value to the sportsman.

The crush-proof box makes a handy box in which to carry live baits. Trout fishermen particularly like to carry goose worms, garden worms and crawlers in them. The boxes are light in weight, will stand quite a bit of abuse and they may easily be dropped into a shirt pocket within easy reach of the angler.—K. S.

TAKING THE "MRS." FISHING....



HARTLEY GROUP SETS FINE EXAMPLE

During the 1957 deer season, a party of eight Hartley, Iowa, hunters bagged eight deer in O'Brien and Clay counties.

That's pretty fancy shooting in my league and, therefore, a pretty significant achievement. But even more significant than the group's marksmanship afield, is the fine mark the group made in farmer-

sportsman relations on the Herman Peterson farm near Peterson, Iowa, where the group did some of their hunting.

Earl Norton of Hartley, one of the hunters in the party, recently sent a letter to the editor in which he quotes the following letter he had received from Peterson:

"Thank you so much for the clever picture of the deer hunters and their reward. That surely will be one season you will all enjoy telling about (especially

your dad.) And we are very pleased to be included in the fun in just a small way. We can assure you it is a pleasure to be able to accommodate a group of men as considerate and good sportsmen as your group was. We just enjoyed a dinner of delicious deer steak today. Thanks to your generosity. It was so very good, but we really didn't expect to receive so many packages. However, we are glad everyone had such a good time, and will be looking forward to seeing all the red deer signs again next year. Thanks again to everybody."

The Herman Peterson Family.

Norton was gratified by the letter and made one or two observations of his own:

"The letter made me feel very good and proud of our group. If more hunters would get permission first instead of just running over someone's land and getting kicked off like I have seen some do this fall, the hunter-farmer relations would be so much better."

(Editor's Note: Bravo and hurrah, Mr. Norton! This is a fine tribute to Norton and his hunting party. More, it is evidence for every hunter that better farmer-sportsman relations are built on the pillars of consideration for the farmer's property,

holdings and rights. The "good" and "proud" feeling experienced by Norton can be rewards for every hunter who treats the farmer and his property with courtesy and consideration).

PROTECTS EGGS

When preparing for a camping trip or a cookout, I sometimes pack eggs in coffee cans with corn meal or pancake flour. This will keep the eggs from breaking and the meal or pancake flour can be used in the usual manner.—R.P.

A group of geese may be referred to as either a "gaggle" or as a "skein". The former term is used only when the geese are on the ground, the latter only when they are on the wing.

The brook trout, as far as anyone has been able to ascertain, has always lived in a few of Iowa's streams.

When swimming under ice, mink, beaver and muskrats often breathe from air bubbles that are trapped there.

The Yellow River in Winneshiek and Allamakee counties has an extremely rapid fall, averaging almost 15 feet per mile. In one section, it falls 27 feet per mile.



These eight hunters rang up a perfect score during Iowa's shotgun season for deer. The five bucks and three does were all taken in O'Brien and Clay counties. The hunting party, left to right: Blaine Hirt, Warren Norton, George Sleeper, Ronnie and Harlon Geerdes, David, Vern and Earl Norton.

Whys and Whats of Fish Tagging

R. E. Cleary
Fisheries Biologist

From time to time, anglers in various parts of the state are asked to be on the lookout for marked or tagged fish. To my knowledge there are at present, walleyes, saugers, northern pike, small-mouth bass and catfish carrying pieces of marked hardware either in their jaws or body cavity swimming around in some of the Iowa lakes; in the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers; and in some of the smallmouth streams in north-east Iowa.

There are several reasons why a half-frozen biologist can be found out at midnight in an April snow-storm affixing a metal strap on the jaw of an equally uncomfortable walleye. For one, he may want to determine just how heavy the angling toll is on that specific walleye population. In addition to that, he may be trying to determine whether the walleye is a wanderer or a home body; and maybe a multitude of other little morsels of information on age and growth, mortality rate, racial studies and the like. Perhaps this walleye is being transplanted from another body of water or being stocked as a fingerling from a hatchery pond. In this case, the tag may give information as to the immigrant's survival and growth.

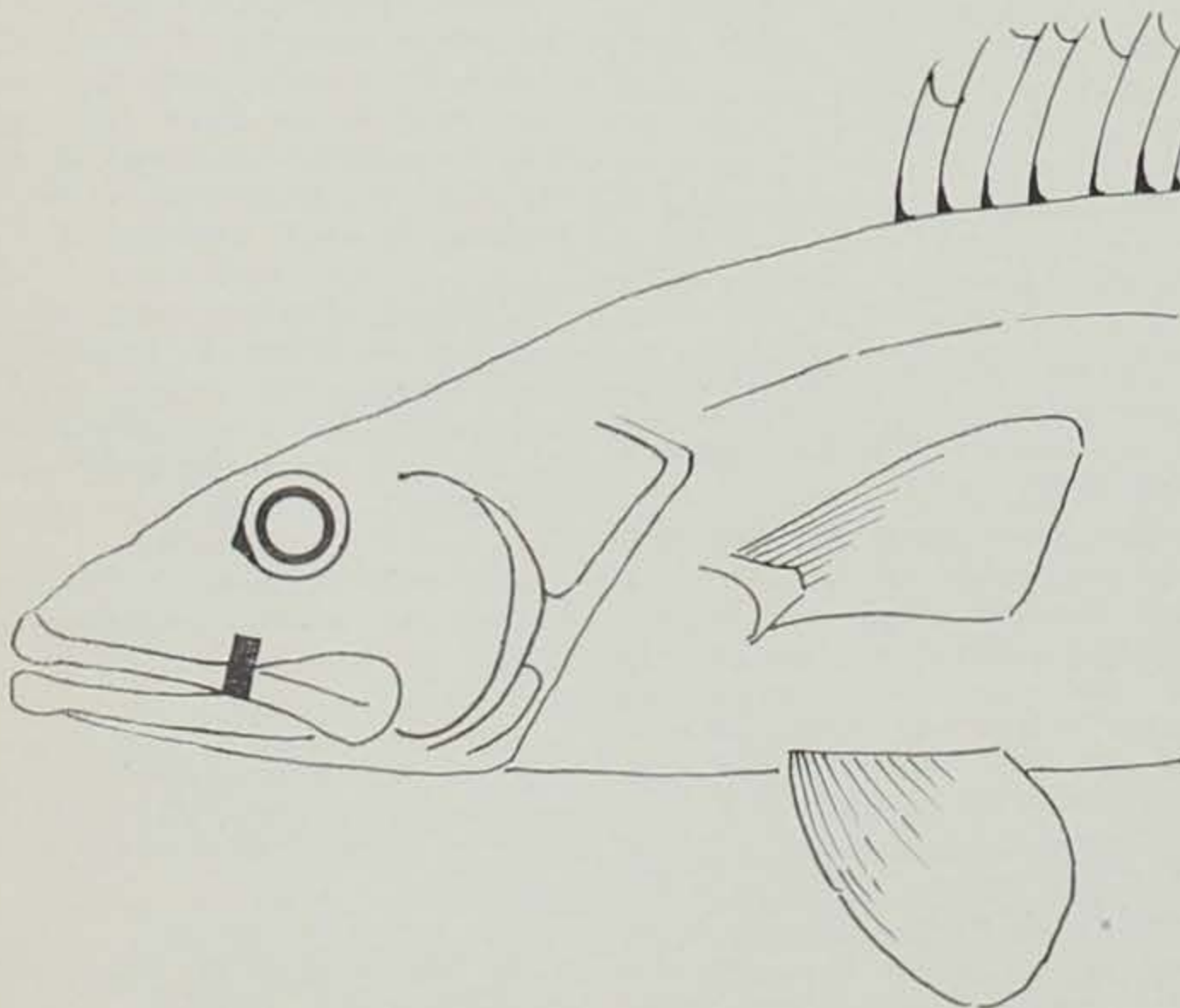
Since we have just been discussing exploitation and survival, this is the opportune (and planned) time to put in a pitch for both an old and a new tagging project which is and will be going on in eastern Iowa rivers.

In April of 1957, we marked 389 walleyes and 766 saugers with jaw tags (see illustration). These fish were caught at night with an electric shocker just below the dam (No. 10) at Guttenberg, Iowa, on the Mississippi River. After being tagged, they were immediately released in the same location where caught.

To date we have had 139 tags returned to us with the information as to when and where they were caught. Of this total 86, or 62 per cent, were taken in the same pool in which they were tagged; 32 (23 per cent) moved upstream; and 21 (15 per cent) moved down. The longest upstream movement, to Lock and Dam No. 6, was a 99-mile trip. Another, a tagged sauger, traveled 113 miles downstream to Princeton, Iowa. We even had three fish swim up the Wisconsin River to be taken approximately 120 miles from where they were released. This is a rather spectacular movement but what is also important, and often overlooked, is that 62 per cent of tagged fish remained right at home. And of the tagged returns both sauger and walleye were being taken in about the same proportion in which they had been tagged.

To a biologist this means that most of the walleyes he counts when he makes his inventory surveys are going to stay put. Also that the angler is taking less than 20 per cent of the available crop and is harvesting each of the two species according to their relative abundance in the rivers fish population—no strain on either species of pike.

This year, a chemical fish kill



This drawing shows position of tag in the upper jaw of a walleye. Studies of fish marked in this manner give important information regarding their movement. Success of such studies depend upon the angler, who should return tag and information about their catch to Conservation Commission officials.

TAGGED SALMON ON FRENCH MENU

The Oregon Fish Commission is positive of the final disposition of at least two steelhead salmon that entered the Columbia River in 1956, the Commission announced in June, 1957.

The fish were "tagged" by the Commission at Bonneville Dam in July, 1956, and were released to continue their trip to the spawning grounds. But these two particular fish failed to reach their intended destination.

This month, the numbered plastic discs that had been attached to the fish at Bonneville were returned to the Commission, accompanied by a letter written in French. A translation of the letter disclosed that the tags had been removed from the fish by a Roumanian dishwasher at the *La Reine Pedauque*, an exclusive Paris restaurant.

The Commission points out that the tagged steelhead salmon were probably among the last fish taken commercially by Indians at Celilo Falls. Completion of the Dalles Dam last winter flooded out historic fishing sites at Celilo.

The translator said he had a little difficulty translating the letter because the dishwasher had used phonetic French spelling in his letter. The name of the writer was illegible, but his curious final passage was clear: "I hope this information helps you to cure these fish of their polygamy and the cruelty of gobbling one another."

on the Cedar River in the vicinity of Cedar Falls and Waterloo will give us a chance to check the survival and catchability of transplanted adult fish. Various number of adult walleyes, northern pike, black bass, crappies, and catfish will be released in the "kill-out area" below the above-mentioned towns. These fish will all be jaw-tagged and Cedar River anglers are asked to be on the lookout for them. The Biology and Fish Management Sections want to determine the following:

Are these fish going to stay where tagged?

How many will be taken by anglers?

What will the catch ratio be of tagged (stocked) fish to the native fish that move upstream into the void created by the kill?

To this end, several investigational projects have been set up for the area; all of them depending on the co-operation of the Cedar

River angler. In fact, the success or failure of most tagging projects depends on angler co-operation!

So, if you ever take a tagged fish in this state, or any other for that matter, send the following information along with the tag to the State Conservation Commission:

Exactly where the fish was caught.

The date on which it was caught.

Simple? Sure it is, and what's more, you'll probably get a letter of thanks from the department giving you the tagging history of your fish. If you want the tag back, just ask for it.

There's nothing illegal about a tagged fish, so all it will cost you is a 3-cent stamp for your letter—with the possibility that your information will pay off in future conservation dividends.

SEVENTY-TWO FISH . . . AND ALL LEGAL

When is it possible to catch 72 fish on a single hook and still be within legal catch limits? Garfield Harker, area fisheries manager for Northwest Iowa has discovered it can happen.

Angler Ted Gipner and another nimrod had caught eight nice walleyes and 30 perch one evening in November, relates Harker.

For the next two days, there was a very strong wind blowing and fishing was out of the question. But, by the third evening, says Harker, the wind had quieted and Ted tried his luck in the same spot again. Not much doing though. After an hour of fishing, he had a two-pound walleye and three perch. While cleaning the walleye, he found seventy-one small bluegills, from a half-inch to an inch in length, in its extended stomach. Some were partially digested, but all were identifiable, reports Harker.

Harker makes some observations which perhaps account for Gipner's unusual catch. Harker thinks that when Gipner and his partner made the first catch, the walleyes and perch were in the vicinity trying to feed on the bluegills that were present, but using quite heavy vegetation for protection. The hard wind for two days set up a current in the lake that laid the dead and dying vegetation over so there was no longer any protection for the bluegills. This gave the walleyes and other predator fish a chance to gorge themselves on them.

This condition, in varying degrees and under various circumstances, no doubt exists many times during the year in all waters and with all species of fish, explains Harker.

"This is probably a partial explanation of why fish always bite the day before I go fishing, or two days later!" Harker muses.



George Tovey Photo.

Winter concentrates pheasants in cover areas. This fact sometimes deceives the sportsman into thinking large numbers of roosters in winter means heavy populations in the fall. Biology studies, however, point out that the success of nesting is more of a factor in determining how many will be available for fall hunting.

Extra Roosters . . .

(Continued from page 17)

Last fall, don't plan on shooting him next season. The odds are not in your favor. Natural mortality will take its toll during the coming year. But the main point to remember—old birds contribute such a small portion of the season kill that even a substantial increase in their numbers adds very little to the over-all shootable population. Bag checks have shown that young-of-year birds far outnumber the old ones each fall and the juveniles are easier targets for the hunters. The success of any season depends on the crop of young birds. They represent 85 to 90 per cent of the season kill.

For a recent example—the harvest of cocks in 1952 was a low 46 per cent as hunters averaged a bird every 3.3 hours. In 1953, with these extra adult males in the population, each bird bagged required 3.5 hours of effort. Again, hunting success was determined by reproduction success and our 1953 production was lower than it had been in 1952.

Research has shown that the extra males in our population will add little or nothing to the 1958 hatch. Where we have 44 roosters for each 100 hens—less than half that number would do as well. Studies throughout the Midwest have demonstrated that egg fertility remains near 90-92 per cent with sex ratios up to 6 or 8 hens per cock.

The 1958 production of young will determine the success of the 1958 season. Early spring temperatures tend to regulate pheasant reproduction in Iowa. A warm early spring signifies good production; a late cool one denotes a below average hatch. But whether the hatch is good or bad, there will be a surplus of ringnecks next fall. Don't fret about this wily game bird, he can take care of himself. He proves it each year.

The ruffed grouse is known to have lived in the forested parts of the northern United States and Canada for at least 25,000 years.

AUTOS KILL 263 DEER IN 1957

The automobile apparently continues as the biggest single factor in accidental deaths of Iowa deer, according to a report prepared by Paul Leaverton, Superintendent of Game.

Deer fatalities during 1957 totaled 263 and cost Iowa motorists \$18,985.50 in car damage, during the period of the report. A total of 172 motorists reported car damage during the period.

Allamakee and Decatur counties topped all others with 14 mishaps each. Wapello County was next with 11; Iowa and Marshall counties were next with 10 each.

During 1957, the month of November recorded the largest number of auto-deer fatalities with 52. The month also was the top one for car damage with \$3,902. April was close behind with damages of \$3,885 as a result of 16 mishaps during the month.

The summary of accidental deaths also lists deer killed by illegal hunting methods, action of dogs, and miscellaneous accidents. The total listed as miscellaneous accidents includes fatalities resulting from agricultural operations. Auto deaths include fatalities by train and truck.

Thirty-seven deer were taken illegally during 1957. Dogs accounted for eight and miscellaneous kills totaled 38.

Following is a summary of accidental kills during 1957:

Month	Dog	Auto	Illegal	Misc.	Total	*Estimated Car Damage
JANUARY	2	17	5	3	27	\$ 825.00 (17)
FEBRUARY	1	12	1	1	15	506.00 (12)
MARCH		16	1	2	19	1,980.00 (16)
APRIL		16	3	2	21	3,885.00 (17)
MAY		32	1	6	39	1,147.50 (32)
JUNE		23		6	29	505.00 (10)
JULY	1	13		4	18	300.00 (2)
AUGUST		20	1	1	22	1,060.00 (9)
SEPTEMBER		12	2	2	16	925.00 (4)
OCTOBER	3	21	2	5	31	1,470.00 (7)
NOVEMBER		52	10	5	67	3,902.00 (27)
DECEMBER		29	11	1	41	2,480.00 (18)
TOTALS	7	263	37	38	345	\$18,985.50 (172)

*The number in (x) is the number of cars that reported damage.

Tackle Tinkerers . . .

(Continued from page 19)

to begin with and have taken good care of it. Disassemble completely and clean with carbon-tetrachloride or gasoline. If you use carbon tet, keep it away from plastic handle knobs or other plastic parts unless you know definitely the plastic will take it without softening. Gas is a good cleaner, but it's dangerous, so be careful around smokes or open flames. Use a small, stiff-bristled brush to clean all reel parts. A discarded tooth brush is excellent for this job. In cleaning, pay particular attention to gears. Check them closely after cleaning for burrs which indicate wear. Replace them with new gears or file burrs smooth with a file. Lubricate with reel grease and fine oil according to manufacturer's instructions before assembling reel.

LINES—Check lines for wear or other damage. Their condition will tell you whether they are good for another season or should be replaced. Fly lines usually will show cracking or peeling when they are "over the hill." Casting and monofilament lines are ready for replacement when they no longer hold at the pound-test the manufacturer has indicated they should. Fly lines which have been stored for the winter should be cleaned and dressed before placing them on the reel.

LURES—Dulled lures can be restored to near-original lustre with a little elbow grease. Good quality metal cleaners are excellent for this purpose. After polishing, a coat of lacquer will protect the shiny finish. Wood and plastic plugs may need a touch-up of fresh paint, and it's a good idea to check all hooks. If they are dull from misuse, replace with new ones or hone dull hook points. Dry and wet flies whose hackle has been badly matted from use may be rejuvenated by holding them over steam. The kitchen steam kettle is just the ticket for this job. Flies that you intend to store should be protected with moth crystals.

BOOTS AND WADERS—Check for water tightness by thoroughly inspecting them for worn spots or tears. If leaks are small the job of locating them is a real "toughie." About the only satis-

factory method of locating pinpoint leaks is to fill the boots or waders with water and study for water seeping out. Make sure you mark the place so that you can find the hole after the water is poured out. Slight tears or holes may be patched with rubber patches. If damage is severe, they are ready for retirement. If you fill boots or waders with water, hang them by their bottoms and allow them to dry thoroughly.

CREELS AND LANDING NETS

If you happen to be a fisherman who uses a creel, it may be in need of a little attention before the fishing season. Warm soda water and a stiff bristled brush is excellent for scrubbing the inside of the creel to restore its sweetness. In fact, it's a good idea to take care of this little chore at the end of each fishing trip. It takes only a few minutes—far easier than waiting which gives gurry a chance to set-up and get stubborn. Nets should be checked for wear or rotting. If excessive wear or rotting is found, replace with a new one, or you can, weave your own from "Do-It-Yourself" kits on the market.

Your choice of putting gear in shape yourself or having a tackle shop do it is less important than making sure it is done by somebody and soon! Over accomplished you'll be set to go forth with gear that will stand the rigors of weather and handling. And *we would hope* up to a battle with that trophy fish you've been dreaming of!

YOUTH REASONS: DAD IS HUNTER

A classroom of sixth-graders at Cedar Rapids' Polk Elementary School got an unscheduled nature lesson recently when a young rooster pheasant flew through a window and fell dead amid a litter of broken glass.

Dale Hackett, a Polk teacher, gave each pupil a chance to take a good look at the bird.

One lad commented: "My daddy shoots those!"

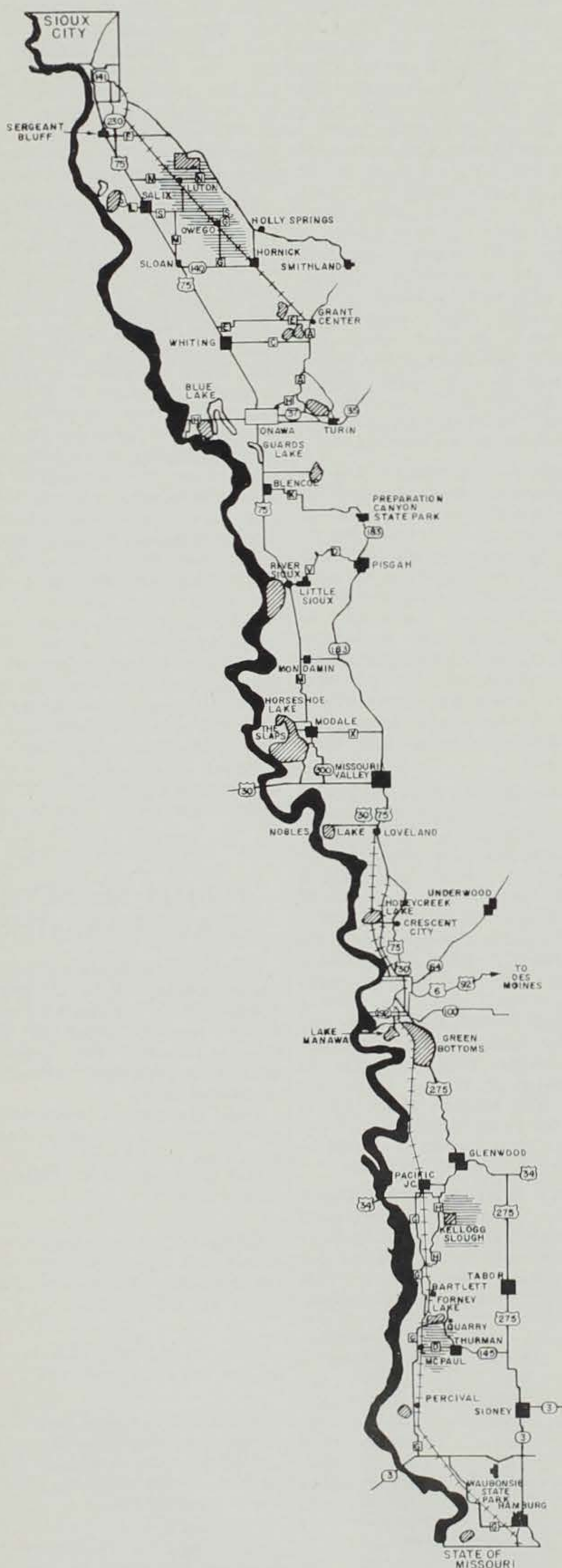
Of the 500 or more kinds of bats distributed throughout the world, the fruit bats, also known as flying foxes, are the largest.

More than 200 feathers make up the fan of the peacock.

Ancient Egyptians and Chinese prominently displayed fish in their art works and developed specialized ponds for culturing their favorite table delicacies.

The origin of the word "salamander" goes back to the Greek word "salamandra." The ancients believed the scaleless lizard-like animals had the power to endure fire without harm.

Goose Flight Area



The Missouri River area of western Iowa where geese will be concentrated during their northern migration this month appear as shaded area in this map. Weather, food supplies and other factors will determine what areas they will use. Watching their movement from your car or following other observers will lead you to main concentrations.

Fly-Tying: Top Hobby for Youngsters

Ask the fellow who ties flies for a hobby and he'll doubtless tell you there are few thrills in fishing to equal those of catching fish on a fly he has fashioned at his own fly-tying bench!

But perhaps more important than the value of this pastime to the seasoned fly-tyer, is the educational value this worthwhile hobby has for youth. In many instances, it can be credited with kindling the early fires of interest in fishing. With this first interest, the fires grow higher and brighter to encompass such other outdoor interests as hunting, camping, hiking, boating, nature study, etc. And, with development of these interests, also comes a proper respect for the out-of-doors and the ways in which mind and effort must be channeled to preserve it. Thus, there begins an early interest in conservation that often is nurtured throughout life. It is conceivable, then, that the youth at his fly-tying bench is fashioning more than flies—he also is fashioning a regard for conservation that will direct him in later years to right-thinking about conservation's responsibilities and objectives!

We have taken note of the fact that more and more youth are joining fly-tying classes throughout Iowa—taking their place alongside dads, older brothers and adult friends who have taken time to introduce them to this interesting hobby. It's refreshing to see how quickly they catch on to the basic knots and "know-how" with a little supervision. And refreshing is the word for the enthusiasm they show—even to the point where it spurs adults to keener interest and better work!

The outlay for the basic requirements of fly-tying is nominal. A vise, hackle pliers, scissors, a few feathers for wings and hackle, dubbing material for fly bodies,

hooks, thread, a piece of beeswax, and fly-head cement, are enough for a start. Of these, don't skimp on the vise or scissors. Poor ones won't last long or give good service during their short life. This is not to say that good scissors or a good vise are expensive to a point where they are "out-of-reach" for anyone. Some excellent ones are available in the \$3-\$4 category, and some very good scissors are being marketed for around \$1.

Hackle pliers are a must to grip hackle while winding it. They are in the 50-75 cent class. Other material is relatively inexpensive and much of it, no doubt, can or will be furnished by older club or class members.

As interest and participation increases, the beginner will find himself collecting a greater variety of feathers and hair with which to do more things. High quality feathers will also become a much sought-for thing—to a point where the beginner will look at every feather with a careful eye while weighing its value for wet or dry hackle or the right kind of wing.

Fly-tying kits, ranging in price from a few dollars up, are also available. All include the basic material. Some are a little fancier and contain more material to tie more flies.

How about talking up a fly-tying class among your sportsmen friends, and make room for the youngsters—your own or those in your neighborhood! Talk it up among youth groups—Boy Scouts and others! It is a fine off-season hobby and helps build the kind of moral fibre vitally needed for mature development. And, by far, not the least of the things gained at the fly-tying bench, is the kind of fibre that can someday express itself in wise conservation measures. —K.C.S.



Interest of youngsters in fly-tying is shown in the photograph of a Des Moines Adult Education Class. Lacey Gee, popular professional fly-tyer and manufacturer of artificial flies at Independence, shows the group the finer points.