IOWA
CONSERVATIONIST

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THE SHOOTING PRESERVES OF IOWA

Big problem:

WATER FOR ALL!

Lester F. Faber
Assistant Director

Fast—F A S T—**F A S T** relief. This television commercial is seen so often that it sometimes makes one want to hide behind a chair to find the promised positive relief.

Water—W A T E R—**W A T E R** has also become a part of everyday life. The words jump at you in the same tempo as the commercial but we can't find relief by hiding or by playing ostrich.

Water supply in the right places and in proper amounts has become a real problem. One of the reasons the words pound on us like a long commercial is that most of us have known that sooner or later there wouldn't be enough water—but, because of its apparent abundance and ease of obtaining it, we have kept our head in the sand and hoped it wouldn't bother us as individuals.

Water use is now replete with various classifications. We have consumptive and non-consumptive uses. There are surface waters, ground waters and diffused water. There are depleting uses, beneficial uses, regulated and non-regulated uses. These terms are partial evidence that a water problem is at hand and that real effort is being made to take positive steps toward providing a system of wise use of this valuable resource.

No one will argue the need of water for human consumption. No

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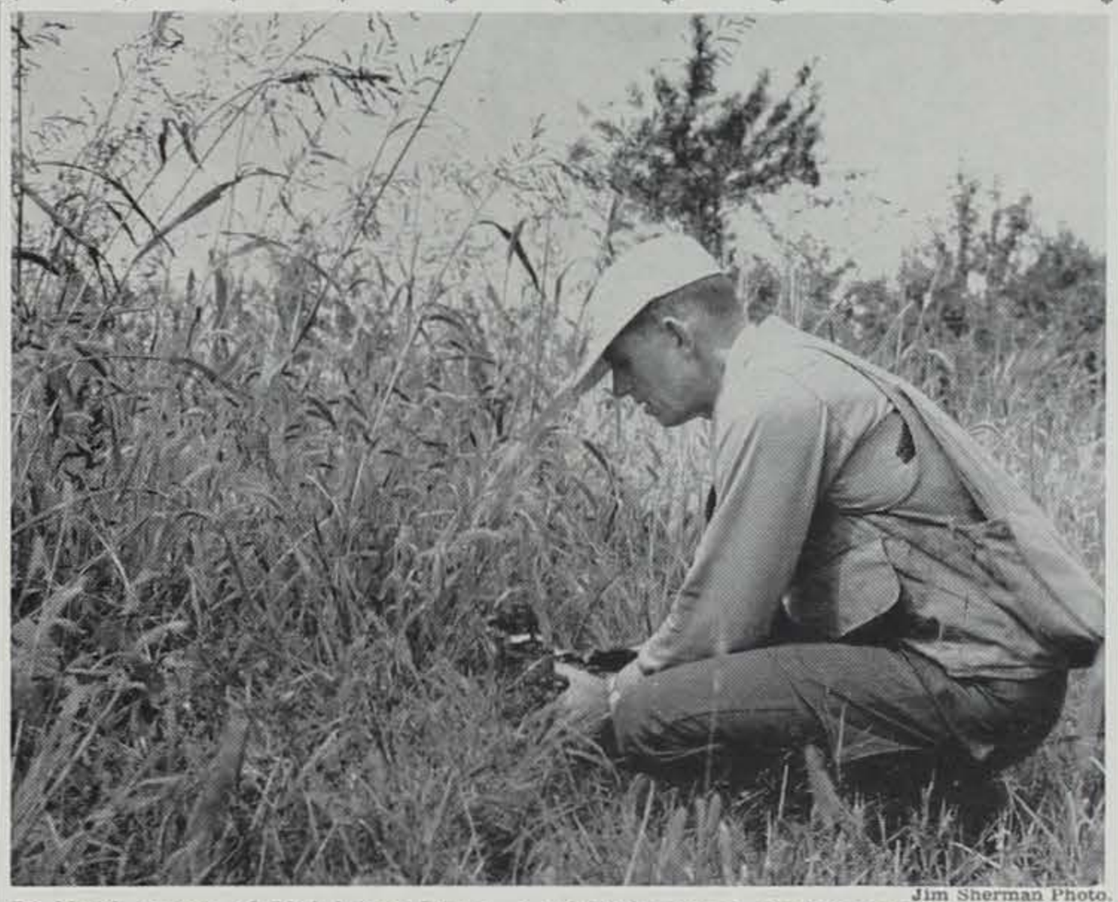
Inside



Jim Sherman Photo.

Ed Lloyd, owner of Bird Layne Farms, a privately-owned shooting preserve near New Sharon, places a pheasant in a cover strip. Some fortunate hunter will bag this bird later.

Their Formation and Operation

County Conservation Boards

Since the effective date of the Iowa law providing for the establishment of County Conservation Boards on July 1, 1957, new boards have sprung up in impressive numbers throughout the state.

The fact that today nearly half of Iowa's 99 counties either have boards in operation or have taken steps to establish one, is evidence of their growth in Iowa's recreation picture.

What is the purpose of the County Conservation Board? What is their role in recreation and conservation? What are the procedures for establishing such boards? These are questions that logically come to mind when the term County Conservation Board is used. It is for better public understanding of them and assistance to counties giving consideration to formation of new boards that we take up these questions in following paragraphs.

County Conservation Boards are established for the purpose of supplementing rather than sharing or duplicating the effort and responsibilities of the State Park System. County boards fill a void between state and city park systems, being empowered to acquire, develop and maintain local recreational areas, primarily for their own inhabitants. They are under strictly local management and local financing.

Iowa law sets out the purpose of the County Conservation Board as an organization, "to acquire, develop, maintain, and make available to the inhabitants of the county, public parks, preserves, playgrounds, recreational centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas and to promote and preserve the health and general welfare of the people, to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources, and to cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate programs of public recreation."

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Keith C. Sutherland
Editor

Chukar partridge in Iowa? Hunting for pheasants and quail from September to March? No bag or possession limits! Shoot hens or cocks! Can this be?

It can and is! But, before we give the impression that the State Conservation Commission has gone a bit far in liberalizing of game bird regulations, we would make one point clear at the start. We are here reporting activity hunters are now encountering on the Public Game Breeding and Shooting Preserves of Iowa—not the regular open hunting seasons for pheasants or quail or ducks most of us think of when we think of hunting.

Licensed shooting preserves have been operating in Iowa a little over a year, or since July 1, 1957. This season, which got underway September 1, has seen 11 shooting preserves duly licensed and in operation. Most offer quail shooting; some quail, pheasants and chukar partridge. Some operators plan mallard shooting in the future—now building the pens and towers necessary for this kind of shooting. As of this writing, none is yet ready to offer duck shooting.

As might be expected, some operators are operating on a rather large scale; others relatively small, at least for now. Some have a clientele, others are building. Some operated last year and have expanded their operations for the 1958 season. Some operators of last year did not apply for licenses this year. New operators have replaced the dropouts, however, so the number of 1958 operators is greater than the total in operation last year.

Whatever the number of operations, big or small, and whether operators offer one, two or three game species for the gun—they all have common problems of a large investment, proper management for healthy, "full of flight" birds from selective breeding and rearing in clean surroundings. Cover and strip plantings must be carefully planned and layed out. The element of time is ever present and

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BIG-GAME MEAT FOR CLUB FARE

Buffalo and elk for club dinners and banquets is available from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each year, Fish and Wildlife Service offers surplus big-game animals for sale in order to safeguard range conditions and prevent overgrazing. The animals are classified as normal herd increases on national wildlife refuges in Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana and Oklahoma.

Butchered carcasses of buffalo, weighing about 450 pounds, are available for $140 to $180, depending on where purchased. A half carcass sells for $70 to $90. A whole elk, weighing from 250 to 300 pounds, sells for $90 to $120. A half can be bought for $45 to $60. All prices are f.o.b. at the refuge.

Butchered animals are dressed, quartered, and wrapped in muslin, heavy cloth, or burlap to meet the requirements of transportation companies, except at the Wichita Refuge in Oklahoma where meat will be processed and packed with dry ice in no-return containers.

Live buffalo and elk may also be purchased. Live buffalo, not less than two years of age, are $150; yearling animals, $125; live elk, approximately $100. Prices include the cost of corralling and delivering to the purchaser's truck or crate at the capturing corral on the preserve.

A leaflet containing complete details of the annual sale of surplus animals may be obtained by writing to the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

Environment has much to do with the color of trout. Those from clear, open lakes usually are lightest. Dark or shaded waters produce darker fish. Pink or salmon-meated trout are from waters in which the fish feed on such color-producing food as fresh water shrimp.

Editorially Speaking

More To Life Than Gold

Bruce F. Stiles
Director

We are told that the four billion acres of agricultural land in the world is not enough to adequately support its people. Let's bear in mind that the reference pertains to food alone.

As Edgar Guest has said, "It takes a heap of livin' in a house to make it a home." It takes a lot more than food to satisfy the needs of the people. One of these needs is recreation. Recreation is essential to our well-being.

To properly utilize our food we must be healthy, to be healthy we must have relaxation; to have relaxation we must have recreation. Hunting, fishing and nature study, or just communing with nature, is one of the most relaxing forms of recreation.

In Iowa it is natural that we should first think of land from the standpoint of agriculture. Due to our training it seems almost sacrilegious to many Iowans to utilize land for pleasure. We were brought up in the shadow of a puritan era. We have been taught the virtues of hard work and sacrifice based upon the theory of keeping our noses to the grindstone. This doctrine was conceived and preached by a people so impoverished in material things that their only concept of happiness was associated with the hereafter.

Whatever the relationship may be, there is a high degree of happiness that can be attained right here on earth. I have no quarrel with those who devote most of their time to activities designed to provide spiritual happiness in a world after death. Is this not also selfish?

After all, what are we living for? Just what is the thing here on earth that keeps us working and sweating and striving and forging ahead? Surely it isn't just to get enough to eat. We could go to the poor farm or to jail, or to the Salvation Army, and they would give us all we needed to eat. A good balanced diet, at that, with all of the proteins and carbohydrates and vitamins in just the proper proportions we need. Probably a better balanced diet than we get now.

That isn't what we want. The thing we want; the thing that's behind it all; the thing that we are striving for, is to feel good. We just want to feel good. We want to enjoy ourselves. We want to be happy.

Happiness is now regarded by many great religious leaders as a goal of earthly living. That was not true even a generation ago.

Happiness comes to different people in a great many different ways. Last month I was down on the Bowery of New York, haven of human derelicts. A taxi driver told me that last winter an old beggar was found one cold winter night on Third Avenue just above the Brooklyn bridge. The police picked him up and took him to the hospital. It was too late. He was dead. The doctors said that he had died from malnutrition and exposure. When they undressed him they found more than $80,000 sewn up in his clothing. People said, "Wasn't he a fool? What good did he get out of the money?"

I'll tell you what he got. He got the pleasure of knowing that he was independent. To him this was happiness. He could go to some Mission for a bowl of soup rather than buy a square meal. He could huddle in some entryway out of the wind instead of paying 50 cents for a flea bag in a flop house room.

While he was going through all these hardships he got happiness. The happiness of knowing that he was secure. His hand felt the money under his clothing and he chuckled to himself. He was safe. He had the "jack." He could be free from fear. He was safe in the knowledge that while he was skimping along on next to nothing, he could buy almost anything he wanted. That was his happiness; that was his recreation; that was the thing that made him feel good.

That's not normal, but it is essential to our well-being that we feel good. It's a tonic, it's an elixer. It's as important as food, rest and shelter.

Bacterial diseases are being conquered but victims of diseases due to exhaustion and worry such as heart disease and nervous disorders are increasing alarmingly. Physicians and specialists at great hospitals are prescribing more outdoor recreation. Rest and recreation cures are successful for many lung and nerve ailments. Probably one of the things that brings more people relaxation than anything else is to get out in the open.

Thousands of people enjoy the out-of-doors through hunting and fishing. Hunting and fishing are traditionally American and deeply rooted in our social structure and a part of our American way of life.

That's how hunting and fishing fits into the picture. We need recreation. We need the out-of-doors. We need hunting and fishing. That's what justifies the time and expense and effort.

Wardens Tales

Conservation Officer Ben Davis in Floyd and Mitchell counties, has some of Iowa's finest smallmouth bass fishing in nearby Cedar River. It's only natural, then, that he would also have some excellent smallmouth fishermen — even though their angling prowess is sometimes questioned!

One of the best of the smallmouth fraternity beat through a perpetual jungle of hemp and horseweeds one evening recently to fish a favorite stretch of the Cedar. While the angler rigged his spinning gear, a small boy came shuffling through the weeds to cast a suspicious eye on the strange proceedings of the grown-up. The little one's dress and fishing gear were—for all the world—straight out of a Mark Twain story of the river and river boys.

"Goin' fishin'?" he asked.

"Yeah, I thought I'd try it here," the angler answered.

"Ain't no fish in here," the little fellow instructed, pointing toward the nearest pool.

"Well, this first pool is a good place to start. I thought I'd try it here first," the angler said.

By now the angler was all rigged and was making his way to the first pool. While he crossed the stream to the other side, his small, uninvited "guest" took a seat on the near bank. The small one watched intently as the fisherman cast his small plug, retrieved, and cast again.

This obviously was a new kind of fishing to the small fry and it didn't take much to wear his patience to a frazzle:

"Mister, can't you make up your mind where you want your bait?" he asked, getting pretty disgusted with all the casting and reeling.

The angler continued to fish the spot, then moved to another pool. Still no luck! On to another spot. Not so much as a bump or nibble! His small "companion" followed from one spot to the next, watching every move.

The angler had about decided that this was a completely "flat" night for fishing, when a tug at his sleeve interrupted all thought and effort. He turned to look down into the upturned face of the little boy. A look of complete exasperation clouded his small grimy face.

"Mister," he pleaded, "don't you have just a plain ol' hook?"

"The happiest and most excited squirrel hunter in Iowa," is the way Christie Hein, conservation officer in Mills and Fremont Counties, describes John Lutter of Pacific Junction.

Lutter was out bright and early opening day of the squirrel season, September 13, hunting the bluffs country of western Mills County. In the gray light of early dawn, Lutter had located three squirrels

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Approach your animal cautiously and make the stick at the throat over the deer's shoulder. Watch sharp hooves and antlers closely—they're dangerous weapons!

Cleaning For Better Venison

Arnold O. Haugen, Leader
Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit
Iowa State College

The fun in hunting is in the chase. To many deer hunters, the "fuss-work" that goes into getting ready for the hunt is almost equally enjoyable. But once a deer has been bagged, the climax in enjoyment is past. The job of cleaning a deer is regarded by many sportsmen as a disagreeable task, and as a result of a messy job of cleaning, good vension may be ruined for eating.

Such a situation is not necessary because with proper "know-how," cleaning a deer is simple, and venison roasts and steaks can be kept most appetizing. This is important when we consider that Iowa's harvest of 2,325 deer in 1957 represented a yield of roughly 171 tons of clean meat.

The purpose of this article is to pass on information on proper handling of the carcass so you, too, can get the most out of your hunt, including good eating. First, however, we need to go back to the hunt so you may have a better chance of bagging your deer.

Deer hunters in Iowa are limited in their choice of weapons to a shotgun with slugs, or a bow and arrow. This necessitates that the hunter will have to get within at least 50 yards of his quarry in order to place his shot where it will be most effective. Most bowhunters even try to get within 30 yards before shooting. Depending on the marksmanship of the hunters, killing distances will obviously vary.

An important point to bear in mind is that the hunter should know the location of the most vital areas so he can place his shot for a quick kill. Hunters differ in their choice of a killing spot. Most sportsmen prefer to aim at the chest because it offers a bigger target, including heart, lungs, and backbone. Other hunters argue that on a running shot, one should aim at the neck because if lead is misjudged, the bullet still has a chance of hitting the backbone.

A sportsman who has the forethought and coolness of mind to hold his fire until he can place his shot in a vital area, will not mistakenly shoot livestock or another hunter. The season is open for deer only. Assume your responsibility to make certain your target is legal game before you shoot!

Just because your deer continued to run after you shot at it is no reason to assume that you missed. In fact, many mortally wounded deer run 100 to 200 yards

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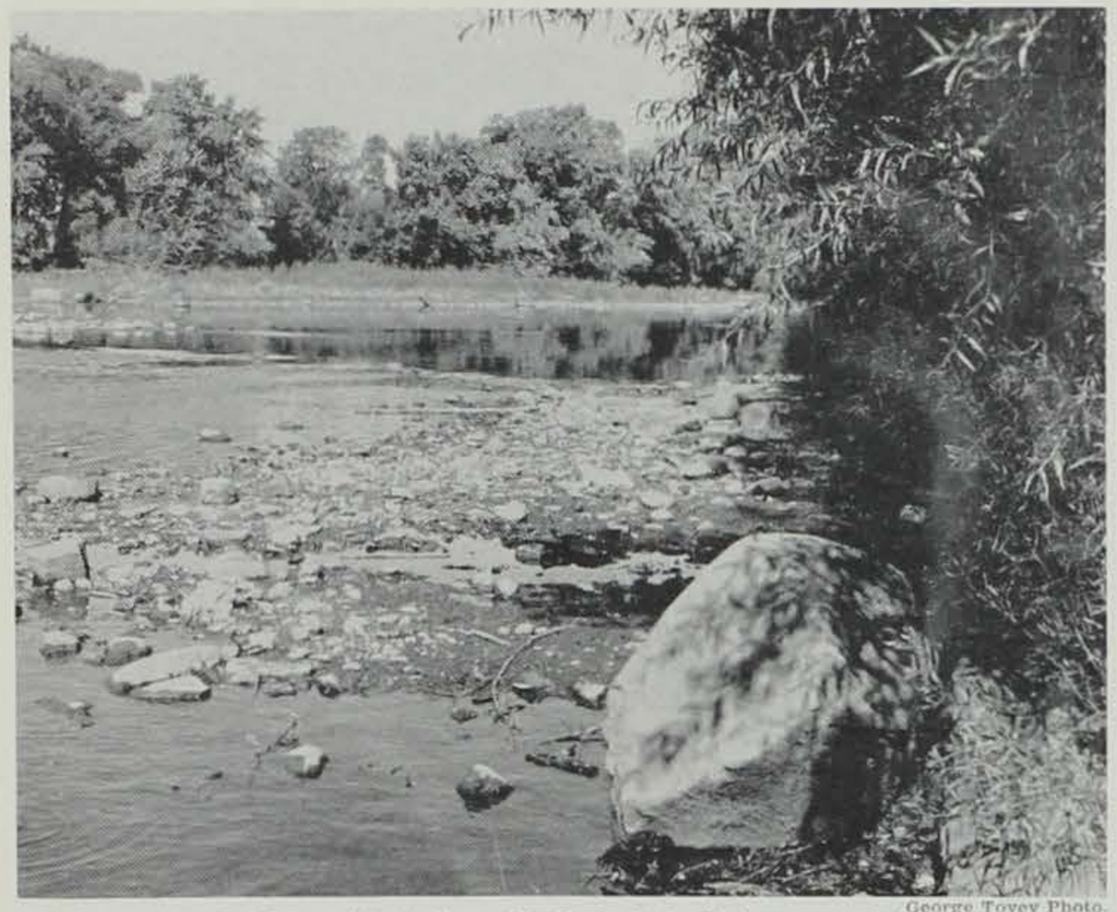
A cut may now be made the length of the deer. The knife may be guided by two fingers so incision is properly made.

All photos by the Author.

Make a circular cut around the anus of the deer as the first step in cleaning. Rectal tract will come free with rest of entrails.

Placing the deer on its side, the entrails are now easily worked out of the stomach cavity. Heart and liver may be left in the carcass.



George Tovey Photo.

This quiet scene in George Wyth Memorial State Park discloses some of the large rocks and boulders important to the area's geological past.

George Wyth State Park

Charles S. Gwynne
Professor of Geology
Iowa State College

George Wyth Memorial State Park is an area of over 400 acres along the Cedar River in Black Hawk County, adjacent to both Cedar Falls and Waterloo. The visitor finds a tree-covered area, rather flat and with no rocks in sight. Not much geology here, he might say; yet like every place on the earth's surface, the area has a geological story.

The road through the park is very winding. There are no hills, though shallow depressions may be noted on either side of the road. Ponds, or swamps, lie in some of the depressions. Away from the park, the country rises to a higher elevation. The geologist recognizes all this as meaning that the park area is on a floodplain in the valley of the Cedar River.

Through the ages, water flowing down this river has carved out the valley. Not a spectacular valley like the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, but the work of running water just the same. With time, the down-cutting has slowed, but widening has continued. Wherever the river has flowed against the valley-side, more widening has taken place, until now the valley is a few miles wide in most places. Not all of this is floodplain, or "first bottom," but in the vicinity of the park the floodplain has a width of a mile or so.

Any stream flowing in such a widened valley is steadily shifting its course. It flows rather sluggishly most of the time and develops great bends, or ox-bows. The neck of each bend, or loop, may become so narrow that it is cut through in time of high water, and the river then continues to use this shorter path. Thus, the older loop may be left as an ox-bow lake. This has happened many times in the course of the history of the Cedar River, all along its floodplain. These lakes become shallower with each flood that covers them.

Thus the depressions in the surface of the floodplain in the park are the result of such rather recent changes in the course of the river. Remember, however, that with time they will all be filled in, as many others have. Every time such depressions are covered with flood waters, sediment is deposited in them. Vegetation helps to catch the sediment and contributes to the filling. Farther away from the river, the older ox-bow depressions have been filled in by sediment.

A walk through the brush along the river bank gives one a view of the changes taking place at the river's edge. At any of the slight curves in the river, the current is flowing most swiftly against the outside of the curve. This means more wearing away of the bank on that side, and the development of a low bluff. On the opposite bank, on the inside of the curve, the current is more sluggish. Here sediment is being deposited by the river and the bank may be a more gently sloping one.

This is very well shown at the big bend in the river at the west end of the park. Here the stream is flowing right up against the valley-side across from the park, and the slope up from the river is steep and high. The slope is protected from erosion by riprap. This is broken rock, presumably put there by the Rock Island Railroad. The railroad tracks lie above the riprapping.

Above the railroad tracks, limestone ledges can be seen outcropping on the hillside. These particular ledges, part of the Cedar Valley formation, once were continuous across the valley. The stream, in the course of the ages, has worn them away.

This Cedar Valley formation, named from its occurrence and outcrops along the Cedar Valley, has a maximum thickness of about 150 feet. It is the bedrock immediately below the subsoil in a wide area of Iowa extending southeastward from Mitchell County in the north, to Muscatine and Scott Counties in the south. The area is 25 miles wide in Black Hawk County. Now a limestone, it was formed as a limey deposit in one of the ancient seas which spread over the interior of what is now North America.

Millions of years after the retreat of the sea which laid down the limey ooze of the Cedar Valley formation, glaciers spread from the north, in Canada. The last one to cover Black Hawk County was one which has been named the Iowan. It extended over country which had been previously glaciated, and later cut up into hills and valleys through erosion by running water.

The Iowan glacier is thought to have laid down only a rather thin mantle of drift over this older topography. The present topography of Black Hawk and surrounding counties is believed to reflect this. In any case, it is characterized by long sweeping hillsides and usually wide and shallow valleys. A thin mantle of loess, a wind-blown silt, lies above the glacial deposit almost everywhere.

The valley of the Cedar River probably developed in pre-glacial times. The valley may have been partially filled by glacial deposits, but the river resumed its course, following the retreat of the last ice. A floodplain has been developed, but the rise to the upland is in many places a rather uneven one—probably a result of uneven drift deposition.

The low bluffs along the river bank in the park disclose only sand, silt, and clay deposited by the river in the course of the building up of the floodplain. At the "borrow pit" just south of the road, in the eastern part of the park, sand and gravel are exposed. The gravel includes many pebbles of rocks brought from the north by the glaciers. There may be similar gravel in places beneath the floodplain surface.

No data seems to be available regarding the distance from the surface to the solid rock, limestone, of the earth's crust in the park area, but it is assumed to be a few score feet. This is all clay, silt, sand, and some gravel—most of it deposited by glacial meltwater. At the "big bed," the river in places is flowing rather swiftly over solid rock. The valley in the bedrock probably deepens from this point north beneath the floodplain, and the thickness of the "fill" of sand and gravel increases.

On this shallow in the river's course, there are several boulders. These are glacial erratics: glacial because they were brought to these parts by the glacial ice; and erratics because they are so different from the underlying solid rock. Most of them are granite. They represent about the only visible evidence in the park that glaciers have been in the area. There is also a pile of these glacial erratics along the river bank on the south side of the road, west of the custodian's residence.

The sand and gravel beneath the park area contain an abundant supply of water. The top of the zone of saturation, called the water table, is at about the level of the river, at the river's edge, and rises gradually away from it. During the three years up to and including the first six months of 1958, the level in Fisher's Lake and other smaller bodies of water of the park has been failing. This is, of course, a reflection of the low rainfall of these years and of the consequent lowering of the water table.

There is really much more to the geological story of the park area, but it is hidden below the surface. Extending a few thousand feet beneath the Cedar Valley formation are more rather similar sedimentary rocks. They contain the records of repeated flooding of this part of the continent by seas over a period of a few hundred million years. Because of the general southwestward dip of the sedimentary rocks of this part of Iowa, these formations have outcrops in the counties northeast of Black Hawk.

DUCK STAMPS GO UP IN '59

An increase to $3 in the price of duck stamps will go into effect July 1, 1959. Present price of the stamps is $2.

The effective date of the price increase means that Iowa waterfowlers have another year of sport before the price hike.

A current duck stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age. The stamp must be carried on the person and the signature of the hunter must be in ink across the face of the stamp.

All net proceeds from future duck stamp sales will be used to acquire federal refuge lands. The Secretary of Interior will have authority to open 40 per cent of any refuge to public waterfowl hunting. Under current law, he is limited to a maximum of 25 per cent.

Fish may learn from experience. They often take readily any food offered them in protected ponds, but may ignore the same food where open fishing is allowed.

This serene picnic area in Black Hawk County is an example of the facilities county conservation boards can provide residents of their counties.

BOARDS—

(Continued from page 73)

Procedures for establishing County Conservation Boards are also set out by law and include: petition of voters; selection of officers; custody, control and management of property; collection of fees; rules and regulations; financing; and relationship with state and federal government, school districts, State Conservation Commission and State Department of Education.

Petitions require the signatures of 200 voters and are submitted to the County Board of Supervisors. The board is then required to submit a proposal for a County Conservation Board to the voters of the county at the next primary or general election. If the majority of voters indicate they want a conservation board established, the Board of Supervisors, within 60 days, creates a County Conservation Board composed of five residents of the county. Members of the new board are selected and appointed on the basis of a demonstrated interest in conservation and serve without compensation other than actual expenses. Term of office of board members is five years, except first appointments, which are made on the basis of one, two, three, four and five years, respectively. The alternating office terms are set up in this manner to avoid a complete changeover of board members.

All photos by George Tovey.

One of the projects of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board is this boat launching site on the Cedar River.

Draw Up Petitions

Any attorney is qualified to draw up a petition or a sample form may be obtained from the Lands and Waters Division of the State Conservation Commission. More than the required 200 signatures is advocated by many since it presents an opportunity to explain the County Conservation Board to many people. Those who have worked closely with boards now in operation also suggest an energetic follow-through to insure appointments of vigorous, interested persons to the new County Conservation Board. In other words, effort should not stop at the petition or voting, but should be carried, with as much enthusiasm, right on through appointments to the board. In this way, every county resident is assured of the best qualified and interested people on their new board.

Board members must, within 30 days after appointment, select a president, secretary and such other officers it finds necessary for conduct of business. The board is authorized to hold regular monthly and special meetings, adopt by-laws and enter into contracts. The board must submit an annual report of its activities for the preceding year to the County Board of Supervisors with a copy to the State Conservation Commission.

Custody, control and management of all real and personal property acquired by the county for conservation and recreation purposes, is under control of the County Conservation Board. Other powers include:

1. Studies of present county conservation and recreation facilities, the need for such facilities, and extent to which these needs are being met.
2. To acquire suitable real estate for additional conservation and recreation areas.
3. Plan, develop, preserve, maintain and equip old and new areas, including buildings.
4. Accept contributions and appropriations of money and other personal property for conservation purposes.
5. Employ and fix the compensation of an executive officer for carrying out policies of the County Conservation Board.
6. Charge and collect fees for the use of facilities.
7. Let out or rent privileges in or upon any property under control of the Conservation Board.

In addition to specific powers, the Conservation Board is required to file and obtain approval of the State Conservation Commission on all proposals for improvement and maintenance before any such program is executed. Authorization is given the board to alter rules and regulations for protection, regulation and control of all conservation and recreation areas under its control. New rules and regulations take effect 10 days after their adoption and after proper publication.

What about money to operate County Conservation Boards? Upon adoption of any county of the County Park Law, the Board of Supervisors, by resolution, is authorized to appropriate money from the general fund of the county for payment of expenses of the board in carrying out its powers and duties. It may also levy an annual tax of not less than one-fourth mill or one mill on the dollar of the assessed valuation of all real and personal property within the respective county. All moneys from taxes, gifts, and fees charged are earmarked for a special county conservation fund.

County Conservation Boards are authorized to cooperate with federal and state governments or any federal or state agency in carrying out their purposes. County boards may also join with any other board or boards, and any city, town, village or school district may help in equipping, operating and maintaining areas under conservation board jurisdiction. State and county officials may give assistance to the board, so long as their cooperation does not interfere with regular employment. Any school district may grant the use of facilities to county boards, and the State Conservation Commission and State Department of Education are authorized to advise and assist County Conservation Boards in their work.

These are perhaps the most significant features of the County Park Law; presented here, of course, in abbreviated form. Copies of the complete text of the County Park Law are available from the State Conservation Commission, Lands and Waters Division, East Seventh and Court Avenue, Des Moines. As mentioned before, sample copies of the petition form are also available at the above address. Persons interested in a County Conservation Board for their particular county are welcome to visit Conservation Commission offices or write the Lands and Waters Division for full particulars.

Contrary to general belief, rodents do not feed entirely on plants. Some feed almost exclusively on insects when they are abundant.

DEER—

(Continued from page 75)

before they collapse. Always look for signs of blood at the spot the deer was standing or running when you fired. If evidence of a hit is found, such as a tuft of hair or blood, wait about 10 minutes before you start looking for your deer. This is especially advisable when hunting on ground that is free of snow. If you scored a hit, a delay will give a wounded deer a chance to bleed out and/or "stiffen" so it won't be so apt to sneak away when you go after it. "Stiffening" is really just a stage of shock resulting from loss of blood and the using up of stored energy in the muscles and nerves.

By all means, don't give up easily but put considerable effort into finding your deer if you hit it. Your chances of recovering your wounded animal will be much greater than any chance of finding another to shoot at. In general, crippling loss in deer hunting can be expected to amount to about one animal in each five or six shot. This loss can be reduced by good judgment and persistence on the part of the hunter.

Top Quality Meat

When possible bleed the carcass without delay. In many cases the bullet will have done an adequate bleeding job; however, it is recommended that the animal be bled at the throat. For your own safety, approach the animal from behind, set one foot firmly on the antler on the ground, or on the head if it is a doe, and reach over the animal's shoulder to do the sticking. Downed deer have been known to kick and break a hunter's leg or to cause other injury by a last desperate swing of the antlers.

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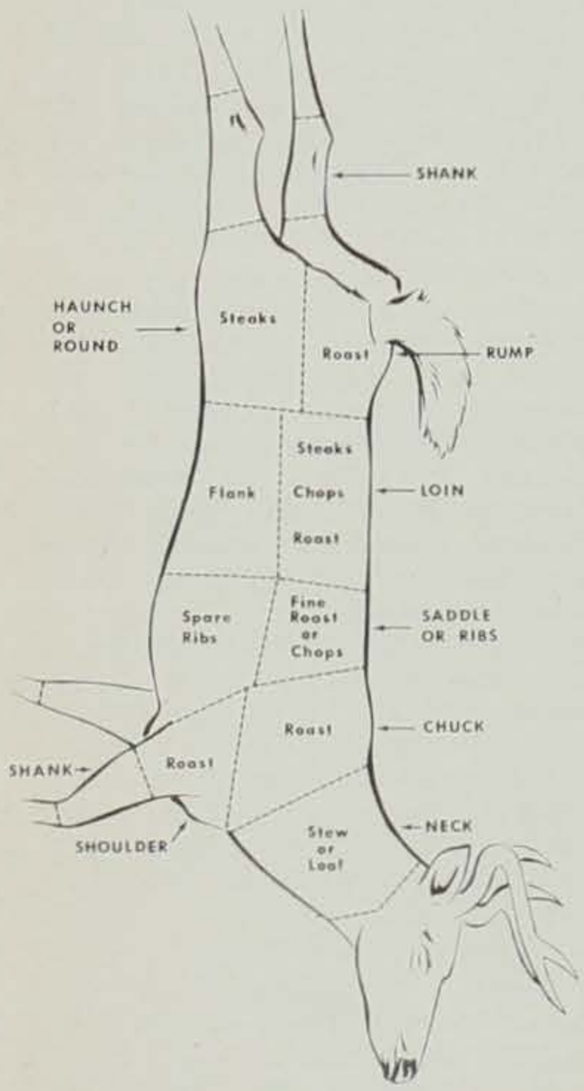


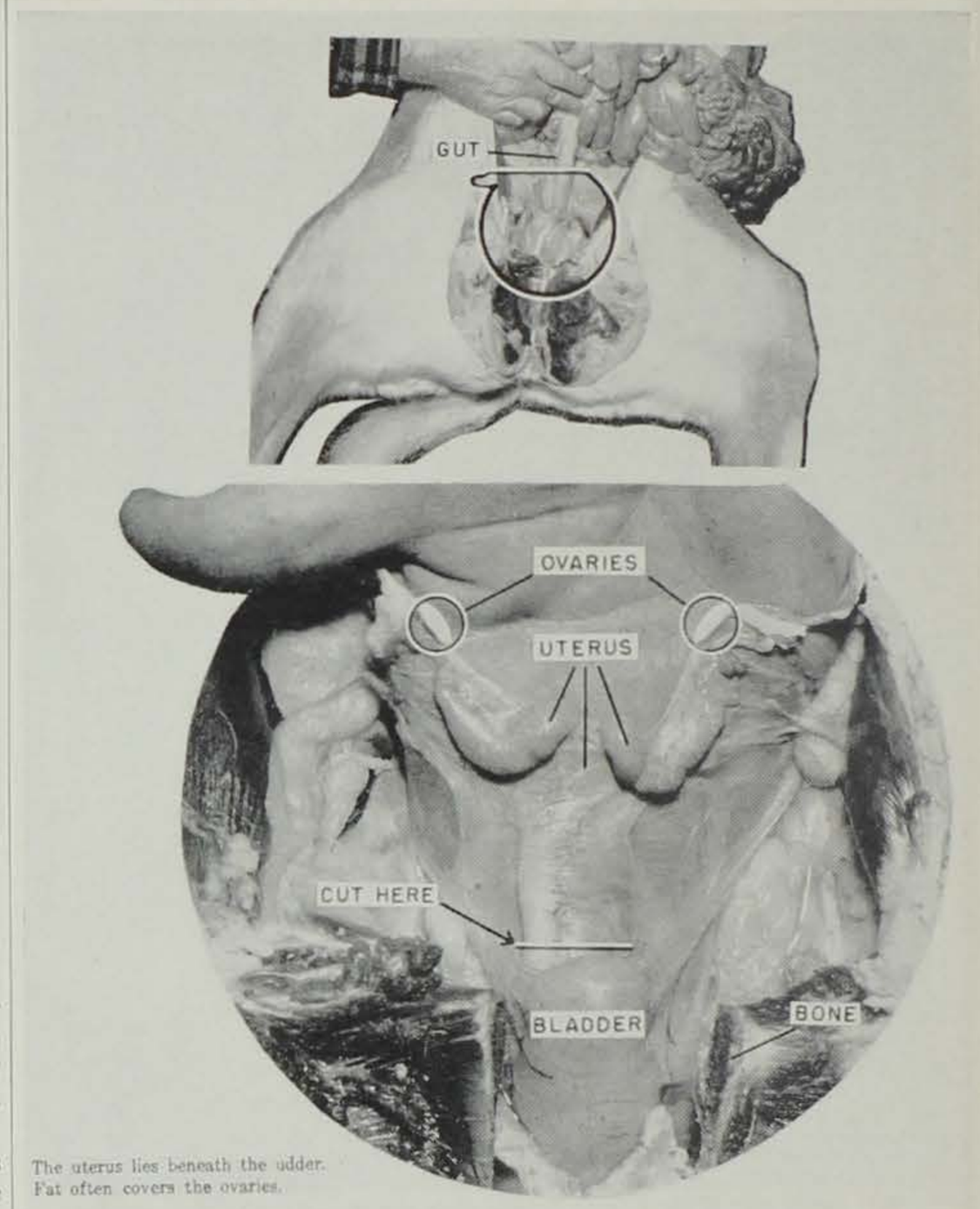
This drawing shows different cuts of venison and where each comes from.

Sticking should be done low in the throat where it joins the brisket. Slitting the neck from ear to ear or a jagged cut on the middle of the throat will disfigure the skin and make it difficult for your taxidermist to prepare an attractive trophy. Old time hunters insist on cutting off the buck's reproductive organs at once, insisting that these organs "taint" the meat if left on. Apparently, this claim has more basis in superstition than in fact.

There are two sets of glands on the hind legs of deer that may impart an undesirable taste on the meat. The metatarsal gland is on the outside of the hind shank and is marked by an elongated patch of longer hair. Its secretion has a musky odor. The tarsal gland is marked by a tuft of coarse and longer hairs on the inside of the hock joint. It secretes an oily substance with a strong smell of ammonia. The handling of meat after soiling one's hands with the musky or oily secretions on the hair of these glands may taint meat. Hunters, therefore, commonly cut these glands off. If the glands are removed, it seems most advisable to do so after the deer has been gutted. This procedure will reduce chances of transferring glandular secretions to the meat by way of soiled hands.

Quick cooling of the carcass is desirable. The entrails should be removed as soon as practicable. This job is easily done by the lone hunter armed with no more than a sharp pocket knife. A workable procedure for this process is as follows:

1. Make a circular cut around the rectum.
2. Start at the tip of the breast bone and slit the skin and body wall all the way to the crotch. If the slit is made while the knife tip is held between two fingers, as illustrated, there will be no chance of cutting the paunch or entrails.
3. If your deer is a doe, here is your chance to become a cooperator in the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit deer study. Make certain that the female reproductive organs consisting of the Y-shaped uterus with a small bean-sized ovary at each inner end of the Y is left in place.
4. With the deer on its side, pull the entrails from the body cavity, cut around the diaphragm along the ribs and cut off the gullet and windpipe in the chest cavity. The rectum can be pulled forward from the circular cut and removed intact with the intestines without further cutting. The lungs should be removed but the heart may be left in. Save the liver if it looks normal (there is no need to worry about cutting the gall bladder as a deer doesn't have one.) You may want to save kidneys as many people eat them.



The uterus lies beneath the udder. Fat often covers the ovaries.

Save uterus and ovaries of does for fawn reproduction studies. These may be delivered intact to checking stations or frozen for later delivery to any commission employee.

5. Don't throw away meat that is bloodshot. It can later be trimmed off and soaked in cold salted water for use in stews.

If your deer was shot away from a road, you are now ready to bring it out. If your age is such that you have cause to be concerned about over-exertion, go for help. First, however, take a good look at local landmarks of the area so you can find it again. If, however, you are young, healthy, and willing, you should now tie to the antlers or head that piece of sash cord you carried in your coat, prop the animal's front feet behind its antlers or head (so they won't catch in the brush), unload your gun and start dragging your animal out. A friend is really handy at about this point! Don't invite disaster by trying to carry your deer out or somebody's "dear" may be shot for a deer.

When you get the carcass to your car, prop the stomach slit open to allow quicker cooling and put it on a top carrier, in the trunk, or the box, if you drive a truck. Never put your deer on the hood of the car, since heat from the car's engine may cause spoilage.

Whenever possible, take the carcass to the Conservation Commission official checking station where age, weight and other biological data will be determined and the female organs removed and preserved by a game biologist. Such data and materials are being collected to provide a sound basis for deer management. The number of deer in the various age groups may indicate whether more deer can be harvested. Weight of the

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Dotted line shows proper method of skinning head for mounting.

deer may reflect food conditions in the area.

If you have a cold storage locker, you are now ready to head for your butcher and let him worry about caring for your animal. The carcass should be hung with the hide on in cold storage for at least two weeks to properly age the meat. Such aging will assure better quality meat. Afterward, cut, package and freeze the meat for transfer to your home freezer.

The weight of a deer carcass is reduced by about 20 per cent in removing the paunch (hog dressed). A study by Hammerstrom and Camburn (Journ. Mammalogy, 1950) in Michigan showed that the fully dressed weight is about 54 per cent of the live weight.

Skin Carefully

For skinning, hang the deer by the hind legs — like beef. Some sportsmen, however, prefer to hang the animal by its head. The head need not be skinned if the weather is freezing and you can get it to your taxidermist while still frozen. If skinning is desirable remove it from the head and neck by cutting, being careful not to cut the skin at the ears, eyes and/or lips. The sooner you get the head and cape to your taxidermist and skin to the tanner, the better. Merely salt the flesh side of the pelt and cape, roll flesh side in, pack the cape in a box with the skull and antlers and deliver or ship the parcel by Railway Express to your taxidermist.

Here is one last parcel that might well be considered worthwhile "food for thought" for the appetites of every sportsman. Sportsmanship must be cultivated —it will not develop without conscientious thought and help from the individual. When you go afield, go equipped with this thought: **sportsmanship cannot thrive with a "polychoke" conscience — with the full choke reserved for church and the open bore for hunting.**

TALES—

(Continued from page 74)

in a tree and waited for a clean shot in the heavy foliage.

White Lutter waited, a coyote ambled into the area and Lutter shifted his sight from the squirrel tree to the coyote, dropping him. All at once there were more coyotes all around. Lutter cut loose with a rapid burst of fire, stopping four for good and putting two cripples up in the brush.

Hein reports that the $40 bounty Lutter collected for the coyotes answered a current need for the sportsman — financing new hip boots and decoys for the coming duck and goose season.

The postcript to this tale? Lutter didn't get any squirrels, Hein reports. Pretty inconsequential, we believe, when you consider the kind of action and excitement Lutter packed into a few minutes—to say nothing of the "boost" the $40 bounty gave his hunting equipment needs!

WATER—

(Continued from page 73)

one will disagree with the use of water for livestock, but beyond this point opinions and views become diversified.

Water Laws

The need for water use legislation in Iowa has been recognized by the passage of water use laws in 1957. As with new legislation of great importance, there evolves some problems that remain to be solved.

One big question before us is the competition for use of water for irrigation of crops using surface waters and the need for the same water for hunting, fishing, boating, swimming and outdoor recreation in general.

The Conservation Commission is making every effort to carry out its duties as assigned by law to protect the rights and interests of those people who use water for all forms of outdoor recreation.

The Commission is generally opposing the use of surface waters for irrigation except that it does not object to the use of water for this purpose between March 1 and June 30 of each year if water levels are at or above average high flow or at any time when a water course is above bank full. This position is taken based upon the fact that most water for irrigation is needed in July and August when water levels are low. This position recognizes that at certain times of the year the flow of a stream is such that some water can be taken and stored without serious harm to the fish and game resources. The position is based on biological evidence showing the gains and/or losses of fish and wildlife in relation to changes in volumes of water in a given stream.

Objection

When the first application for permits for irrigation were announced, the Commission, following the provisions of the law, objected. It also appealed the first Water Commissioner's determination before the Natural Resources Council. Having lost the appeal the Conservation Commission took the next step provided by law and filed its case against granting the permits in District Court in Polk County where the case is now on docket.

Because the Commission has taken its stand to protect the interests of outdoor recreationists many misunderstandings have resulted. No person or agency, in the administration of present law, wants to or is trying to ruin the streams for fishing. The difference in view here is when and where water may be fallen and in what amounts it may be taken. This difference in view does not constitute a condition wherein two state agencies are at each other's throats nor does it mean that all water laws must be thrown out and new ones written.

The Conservation Commission's stand has been interpreted as anti-farmer by some quarters. It is difficult to understand how a regulation that only partially limits several hundred farmers can be anti-farmer when there are over 200,000 farm units in the state. As pointed out, the Commission does not object to storage of spring run-off for later use. If the farmer who wishes to irrigate provides such storage he will not be limited beyond the conditions of available rainfall or run-off. On the other hand, it is entirely possible that several hundred irrigators can materially reduce the flow of many Iowa streams which would adversely affect a much larger number of Iowans.

Not Anti-Farmer

A sincere evaluation of the Commission's views will show that it is not anti-farmer or that restricted irrigation will result in loss of markets by Iowa farmers as has been said. Farmers and small town people make up two-thirds of the hunting and fishing public in Iowa. Maintaining our recreational resources benefits more farmers by far than it may harm. Any issue must be decided on its merits as it relates to the majority of the people.

There is little doubt that the demand for recreational water in Iowa is beyond the supply and that such demand will be accelerated. The supply will continue to diminish if present trends continue.

Most everyone realizes the need for water control laws for the welfare of the citizens of this state but it must also be realized that outdoor recreation has become a necessary part of well balanced living. This need, not yet generally understood, must be defended in its adolescence and in its competition with other needs.

The Commission is not following the human tendency to be "against" something but rather has taken the positive position "for" a realistic over-all approach to the water use problem. Changes in the present water law are essential. Laws are needed that recognize the fact that outdoor recreational use of water is a legal use and as such must be given at least equal consideration to other uses such as for irrigation, industrial, and other regulated uses.

In the general effort to work out a water use program one human weakness must be remembered, and that is, not knowing reality, often we kill what we intend to save, we foster what we intend to eliminate. When our efforts are examined by historians let us not allow them to describe our programs by the use of the old proverb, "He struck at Tib, but down fell Tim."

Raccoons go abroad chiefly at night and, unless disturbed, do not come out into the daylight.

NEW LAW APPLIES TO ELECTRONICS

If anyone tells you that you can't blow your old duck or goose call to lure a flight of quackers or honkers within gun range because of some new Federal waterfowl regulations, don't believe him, says U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In a special release, the Federal agency passed this word along with the hope it would correct an erroneous impression some hunters have gained about a new regulation prohibiting the use of electronic calls only.

The amended section of their regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the taking of waterfowl by the use or aid of "recorded bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds." All that has been banned is the use of the electronic-recorded calls, some of which have been so effective they have resulted in excessive kills.

You can still use electronic calls to lure crows or other unprotected, nuisance nongame species and predators to gun range. They really work well for those purposes, too.

At one time there were as many as five billion passenger pigeons in the United States. The last of these birds died in a Cincinnati zoo in 1914. Their extermination was due to unrestricted "market" hunting.

Trout often feed in riffles because more food is likely to be available there. However, in a given stream, most trout stay in quiet pools most of the time because these offer greater protection from enemies.

A duck's visual equipment includes a transparent membrane which the bird can pull over its eyes while in flight.

The swift-footed coyote is capable of a speed of more than 40 miles an hour.

Jim Sherman Photo

A pheasant at Bird Layne Farm is on the way to the bag here. Preserve shooting can closely resemble that of wild if cover is right and birds are put out properly.

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HUNTING—

(Continued from page 73)

dogging the footsteps of the preserve operator—time to allow cover to get proper growth, time spent in incubation, feeding and watering birds.

If the operator offers duck shooting, much valuable time must be spent training ducks to use the tower and go from tower to pond (for pass shooting when they get old enough to fly) and from pond to pen at night. They must be taught the routine while still ducklings with the preserve operator or helpers painstakingly walking them along the prescribed route every day, day after day, until they are ready to try their wings.

Work involved in planting cover, posting property, and building facilities also are a common denominator of preserve operators. While we haven't mentioned all, we have outlined enough preserve activity to indicate the operator's time must be carefully planned or any profit suddenly goes on the skid. We have also hinted that, because of what has been mentioned above, most operations must necessarily start on a small scale and good profits may be several seasons in coming.

One look at the sporting and recreation features of the shooting preserve and the observation hits home that these areas are an important addition to outdoor recreation. Many prefer wild birds and that's fine if your age and health permit long walks and you're loaded with time. What of others with less time, physical abilities or the desire for long hunts afield? The shooting preserves provide a place for guaranteed shooting in a minimum of time. As far as cost is concerned, it can be at a minimum for some—in some instances cheaper than hunting birds in the wild. And preserve shooting can closely resemble regular hunting if cover is good and birds are put out properly.

Elaborating a bit on the operation of shooting preserves, the hunting they provide boils down to put-and-take shooting of privately reared birds, whether they be pheasants, quail or such exotics (not native) as chukar partridge. All birds are pen-raised and put out for a fee. The type of shooting they offer is in no way connected with that of the birds hatched and reared in the wild, and which by Iowa law are declared to be the property of all the people of the state.

The Iowa Game Breeding and Shooting Preserve season opens September 1 and continues through March. There are no bag or possession limits or specified shooting hours. Since preserve birds are raised at private expense, released on private land, and are privately managed, it's only sensible that shooting restrictions are more liberal. There is something of a similarity here between the shooting preserve operator and the licensed game breeder, except that the preserve operator is allowed one more step. In addition to raising and selling game birds and killing them in unlimited numbers, the preserve operator may instead turn them out in unlimited numbers, for paid shooting, during the long season.

Requirements of shooting preserve operations in Iowa have been described by some as among the most liberal of any state. What may normally go undetected in reading preserve regulations is the large amount of thought that went into the law and designed to permit maximum sport on preserves while, at the same time, insuring certain safeguards for protection of wild birds. In shortened form, these are perhaps the main requirements for setting up and operating shooting preserves:

1. Preserve area land must be contiguous, not less than 320 or more than 1,280 acres in size.
2. On application and payment of fee, State Conservation Commission personnel inspect area to determine if it qualifies for size; that preserve birds are not likely to be menace to other game; that area will not interfere with normal activities of migratory birds.
3. Licensee is required to post licensed area, including boundaries.
4. Operator is required to stock pen-reared game birds for release on licensed area only. Not more than 80 per cent of the total number of species released may be taken during the season. Pen-reared waterfowl and chukar partridge may be released at any time of year for shooting and 100 per cent may be harvested by shooting.
5. A minimum of 100 pen-reared birds of each species to be shot shall be released during the season. Experimental releasing of less than 100 birds shall require a special permit from the Conservation Commission.
6. Special tags must be placed on the leg of each game bird taken before removal from preserves and tags must remain on birds until they are prepared for consumption. Waterfowl must also be marked.
7. Hunting licenses are required of all those hunting on shooting preserves. A special hunting license for nonresidents, restricted to shooting preserve hunting, is available for $5.

A couple of features of preserve shooting need expanding to see them in proper perspective. In some cases shooting preserves are located on land considered poor for wild pheasant production. These lands, with fee shooting, will provide more sport than they have ever offered before. Small areas will provide sport for many hunters during a long season in which preserve birds are released. With this situation, it is only logical that this preserve shooting will far exceed the amount of hunting regular shooting areas of equal size—even in the best pheasant country—could provide.

Another bonus from preserves is the fact that birds will move from preserves to the wild and from the wild to preserves. In poor pheasant country, it is inevitable that preserves will provide extra shooting targets in the vicinity. Some birds will fly beyond the preserve fences and boundaries and end up in the wild bird hunter's bag. By the same token, in good pheasant country, some wild birds may find themselves inside preserve boundaries. However, safeguards enter the picture here, with the requirement that not more than 80 per cent of species released on the preserve may be bagged. This regulation is to prevent too many wild birds being shot. It's likely that the larger preserves won't have much of a problem for heavier shooting on these areas will tend to keep wild birds out.

The net gains to Iowa sportsmen outlined in preceding paragraphs seem to us to make a strong case for the value of shooting preserves. As with anything relatively new, knowledge and approval of game preserves will come only after understanding of their role in Iowa recreation and conservation. If we have contributed here to a better understanding of their operation and regulation, another stride toward their acceptance has been made.

Inbreeding does not produce "runt" deer. Aside from genetic factors, "runts" are produced by inferior food or lack of food.

SHOOTING PRESERVES OF IOWA

Name of Operator	Location	No. of Acres	Type of Shooting
Leonard Morris Corning, Iowa	Adams County 3 mi. N.E. Nodaway	320	Quail
Glen T. Straight Bedford, Iowa	Taylor County Adjoining Platts-ville on West	470	Quail
Paul Neal, Jr. 825 Locust St. Des Moines 9, Iowa	Clarke County 4 miles S.E. Osceola	416	Quail
W. R. Prouty, Jr. 1022 High St. Des Moines 9, Iowa	Warren County 2 mi. S. & 2 mi. W. Indianola	626	Quail
John Mullin Gooselake, Iowa	Clinton County 3 mi. N. Gooselake	828	Pheasants Quail
Jack Nemocek Mt. Vernon Rd. S.E. Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Linn County 2 mi. N. Viola	926	Pheasants Quail
E. S. Lloyd New Sharon, Iowa	Mahaska County 6½ mi. E. New Sharon	838	Pheasants Quail Chukar Partridge
Robert Heinje 808 Glenwood Ottumwa, Iowa	Wapello County 6 mi. S.W. Ottumwa	641	Pheasants Quail
George Shimerda Oxford Junction, Iowa	Jones County 4½ mi. S.W. Oxford Junction	828	Pheasants Quail
T. M. Bannister 906 Walnut St. Des Moines 9, Iowa	Decatur County 1½ mi. E. Bracewell; 6 mi. N.W. Lineville	600	Quail
Jonbar Ranch R. J. Benkhoff, Mgr. 408 S.E. 30th St. Des Moines 17, Iowa	Dallas County 1½ mi. E. Van Meter	780	Quail