

1963's HUNTING PROSPECTS

E. T. Rose
Chief, Fish and Game

We "oldtimers" are prone to reflect on the wonderful days of yesteryear when hunting was really good, bag limits were plentiful, seasons long and we returned with our limits every time. That is the great part of human nature, we recall the good things and usually forget those unpleasant experiences. If we are honest with ourselves, we often didn't take our limit each time out, and sometimes came home empty-handed.

Populations of game birds and animals fluctuate from year to year, mostly due to environmental changes. When weather is favorable for reproduction and the habitat is good we enjoy bountiful crops of game.

A GOOD YEAR

This year has been one of the really favorable ones insofar as weather is concerned. The early spring with an absence of heavy rains was conducive to good reproduction for pheasants, quail, partridge and rabbits. This coupled with a fine carry-over of brood stocks has produced a bumper crop of game now maturing for the fall hunting season.

Each year a complex system of surveys and censuses are taken by game technicians, biologists, conservation officers and rural mail carriers to determine the status of game populations.

All dovetail into final reports which are thoroughly examined by Commission staff members before making recommendations to the Conservation Commission proper. The same procedure, only on a more elaborate scale is conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the fourteen states in the Mississippi Flyway to determine the status of waterfowl populations. This year an encouraging report has been received which indicates that the populations of waterfowl are moderately increased. We can expect this to be reflected in a more liberal season than last year.

Since most game species cannot be stock-piled, the seasons are tailored to permit hunters to harvest the surplus. Due to environmental deficiencies, the annual surpluses if not taken by hunters, would not survive for next breeding season. Our management program is based on keeping population in balance with the available habitat.

The Iowa State Conservation Commission has geared the hunting season to the increased populations as recommended by the technical staff. Let's consider briefly the status of each of the important game species and the seasons now established.

PHEASANT

Populations are up in all of the major ranges this year. This increase is in the neighborhood of 15 to 20 per cent over last year. The good brood carry-over was due to a relatively mild winter with no disastrous blizzards. Fair winter cover and a good mating season brought about this increase. Last year we had a season from November 10 to December 14 with three birds in the daily bag and six in possession. This year the season is extended from November 9 to January 1, 1964, with three in the bag and nine in possession limit. We will have fourteen additional days more hunting than previously. Of course most of the harvest will be on the opening weekend as usual.

QUAIL

Prospects for good quail hunting are the best in years. This splendid game bird has bounced back from its low of 1960 by about 100 per cent in the major quail ranges of Iowa. Again the environment played the big role. The record heavy snow and cold winter of 1959-60 raised havoc with the bob-white, but the last three years have brought back this brown bomber in bountiful numbers. This increase is also reflected in the seasons in which nineteen more hunting days are permitted,

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Jim Sherman Photo

Iowa Conservationist

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COMMISSION MINUTES

Des Moines, August 6

The Conservation Commission appointed Everett Speaker as permanent Director of the organization.

FISH AND GAME

Open seasons were established for 1963. Pheasant, quail, Hungarian partridge, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon and furbearing animals, and the deer season and method of take for 1963 were also established.

Approval was given for an agreement with the State University of Iowa concerning the use of facilities at the State Hygienic Laboratory.

Approval was given to proceed with the design of a new hatchery building at Clear Lake, located off the side of the old building—total cost \$51,791.00 contingent on the correction of a storm sewer problem in that area.

An option was approved on Elk Creek Marsh in Worth County for 22.5 acres of land at a cost of \$3,550.00.

An option was approved for the Meadow Lake Area in Adair County, including 80 acres of land at a cost of \$11,000.00, and another option for the Meadow Lake Area for 80 acres of land at \$11,000.00.

A discussion concerning camping fees on Spirit Lake Fish and Game access areas was held.

Louisville Bend on the Missouri River in Monona County was established as an inviolate wildlife refuge area from September 15 until after the hunting season.

The Commission met with R. L. Fehseke of Fort Madison, and other interested people concerning the straightening of the lower portion of the Skunk River.

LANDS AND WATERS

Approval was given for retriever trials to be held at Lake MacBride by the Southeast Iowa Field Club, September 8, 1963.

The Commission met with a delegation from Black Hawk Lake area in Sac County concerning the regulation of docks on that Lake.

The Attorney General's office advised the Commission that the State had no cause for action against the Molo Sand & Gravel Company of Dubuque.

Approval was given for a request to take water from Viking Lake by the Methodist Church.

Approval was given to a 50-year agreement for the use of 2.8 acres of land for a sewer plant by the City of Bellevue, in Jackson County.

Administrative Order No. 307 concerning Boating Regulations, was amended to regulate speed and distance on Federal impoundments within the State of Iowa.

Approval was given to a request for special zoning regulations in Massey Park Marina near Dubuque for the control of a congested area.

Approval was given to a memorandum of agreement with the Board of Control concerning the Prison Labor program, and for the operation of a Prison Labor Camp by the Conservation Commission.

Permission was given for the use of a Ski Jump at Tuttle Lake for the time it would be in use only.

COUNTY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Cerro Gordo County received approval for the acquisition of 115 acres of land at a total cost of \$20,550.00 as an addition to the Wilkins Marsh Area.

Cherokee County received approval for the purchase of 50 acres of land at a total cost of \$3,000.00 as an addition to the Martin River Access Area on the Little Sioux River to be used for the expansion of picnicking and camping at that location.

Humboldt County received approval for the acquisition of one acre of land by lease from the city of Humboldt on the west fork of the Des Moines River for boat launching and fishing access.

Linn County received approval for the acquisition of 84.76 acres of land at no cost from the Linn County Board of Supervisors to be used as part of the Wildlife Refuge area which has been proposed by Mr. Ira Lewis of that vicinity.

Palo Alto County received approval for the acquisition of five acres of land under a 5-year lease at a cost of \$1.00 per year, located four miles west of West Bend for picnicking and fishing access.

Polk County received approval for the acquisition of 3.17 acres of land at a total cost of \$1,268.00, located in the southeast corner of the City of Des Moines as an addition to the Yeader Creek Lake project.

Shelby County received approval for the acquisition of 6.43 acres of land at a total cost of \$5,500.00, located one-quarter mile south of the City of Harlan adjacent to Highway No. 59, to be used as a Highway Safety rest area.

REQUIEM OF A DREAM**A Message for Taxpayers**

Ernest Swift

In 1900 the Des Moines River gathered waters from numerous lakes and many prairie sloughs in southwestern Minnesota to flow south across Iowa into the Mississippi. Ducks and geese winging south from a region vaguely identified as "Up North" funneled into a myriad of ponds and bayous to rest and feed. It was virgin habitat, and nature had been lavish in her bounty. With the melting snows of March and the receding ice, the flight was reversed and came with easy grace and deliberation up from the south.

But prairie lakes and marshes and diminutive ponds were so common across that broad, flat land that often the flights were spread from horizon to horizon, east and west, north and south.

I remember the brooding prairie of 60 years ago, with its melancholy winds blowing one season into another; the ponds festooned with bulrushes and cattails, a moving kaleidoscope of riotous waterfowl, uncounted and without numbers. Muskrat houses seemed to dot the undulating waterways to the horizon.

The flight of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk was still an irrational dream when first I lay on my back among the pasque flowers and watched the majestic geese winging overhead. The flight of ducks and geese were endless, from dawn to dark; and from bed at night I could hear the resonant symphony of the Great Canadian honkers as they pierced the prairie darkness—and in those days they flew without benefit of International Treaty.

Their wild song was mingled with a youthful and undisciplined passion for freedom, big skies, unplowed prairie, wild creatures and insatiable curiosity. These early instincts were further inspired by vast screaming flocks of gulls, as they sailed over the plowed fields and there was no end to the number of sandpipers, terns, killdeer and other small fry. On occasion the reverie was interrupted by the vain yappings of a farm dog chasing a bouncing jackrabbit. But the most treasured memory was the eerie booming of the pinnated grouse and at times I was able to peer from an ancient buffalo wallow and watch their fantastic mating dance.

At that time nothing could dim the youthful hero-worship for the mustachioed hunters returning with their buckboards laden with ducks, geese and prairie chickens. These mighty men were so knowledgeable that they scorned game laws. There was no stigma to spring hunting; bag limits were in ratio to a keen shooting eye, and selling a shipping game was simply practical economics. There would never be an end to it. These prophets said so, and they were almost immortal.

Before I left the prairie in early adolescence to finish growing on a backwoods stump farm in the Lake Superior country, I remember the first machines that gouged ditches to drain some of the lakes and sloughs. That was many, many years ago, but it developed a world-wide revolt in my youthful soul to the idea that such things had to be.

Sixty years went by and I revisited this area, and at the time the daily bag limit of ducks had been reduced to two. Searching for familiar landmarks I found cornfields with signs advertising the hybrid excellence, where nostalgically, I remembered cattails and raucous bedlam of milling waterfowl darkening the sky over prairie marsh.

In the interim of those long and varied years I had traveled to many places and seen many things having to do with natural resources; the depletion, some remarkable rehabilitation, but never quite the original I had seen successes and failures, brief victories and the scars of lasting defeats.

I had become case-hardened to such realities, I had learned to control my indignations, but not to forget them, and to channel my energy toward appropriate action.

But in this instance the impact was emotional despite rigid training. A childhood dream world had suddenly collapsed. The prairie marshes were gone, and gone were the waterfowl and the strident shore birds. Monuments to these huge drainage projects, there were dozens—hundreds throughout the area—neat, steel bins stored with price supported corn.

Then came the sudden realization that the awesome power of taxation was forcing me to become an unwilling agent in the destruction.

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GENERAL

Approval was given for travel by the Director to Camp Ripley, Minnesota, to review Iowa troops.

Travel approved included Federal Aid Coordinators meeting at Horseshoe Lake, Illinois; Conservation Business Management Association at Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri; a Correctional Congress

in Portland, Oregon; Coopers Farm Forest Supervisors at Spirit Lake, Iowa; Mill State Park in Indiana; Conservation Society of America at Logan, Utah; and the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners at Minneapolis; and the Mississippi River Inter-Agency Commission meeting at Minneapolis.

July 1963 to July 1965 IOWA Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Laws Synopsis



STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
East 7th & Court, Des Moines 8, Iowa

ers of the CONSERVATIONIST are familiar with the cartoons of Conservation Artist Jim Baldwin of Spencer. Here is one of his latest pieces of serious work, tracing the cover of the new combined Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Laws is.

little booklet contains a survey of Iowa hunting, fishing, and trapping laws and changes in the law made by the last legislature. Copies are available from Conservation Officer, County Recorder, and others who sell hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses.

Question on Minnows

emen:
I have a tank in my basement and I apply myself with minnows. Minnows have contracted fungus. If there is a treatment cure for the fungus, would you please publish the same in a coming issue of CONSERVATIONIST? I would appreciate any information you could give me regarding the treatment and bait minnows. Thank you.

A. W. Fleming
Davenport, Iowa

Answer from Bill Tate, Ass't. Dir. Fisheries

Fungus on minnows is usually a secondary infection resulting from improper handling. The fungus develops on dead or weak tissue caused by injury or temperature shock which removes protective slime and damages

the skin of the fish. Fungus infection may also follow bacterial disease or external parasite infestations.

One of the most effective methods of treating fungus is to dip the affected fish into a three per cent solution of common salt (sodium chloride) until they show visible signs of distress. The fish should then be dipped back to fresh water. (The temperature of the dip should be the same as the holding tank.) This treatment should be repeated at two or three day intervals as necessary.

Raising Bait Fishes, Circular 35, Fish & Wildlife Service, U. S. Dept. of Interior, is available from the Supt. of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. This circular should be in the library of all those who hold or raise bait minnows,

DREAM—

(Continued from page 66)

of resources which I demanded be given rational consideration; and that my representatives in Congress were denying me and millions of other citizens the use of that taxing power to save these resources. Never before had I realized with such clarity that the macabre inequities of the democratic processes could be as sinister as were the land abuses themselves.

The duck stamp was a grandiose gesture by Congress, because of much pressure, to answer for all time the waterfowl problem. A duck stamp purchase is a voluntary matter for each individual to decide, and a voluntary rabbit hitched to a subsidized horse makes a poor team.

I resent being taxed to destroy resources I value, and where no counter-balance is exerted by the taxing power to protect my interests. If the taxing power were used in both instances with equal weight and intelligence a compromise would of necessity result.

As a taxpayer I am an unwilling agent in building high dams without due protection of my interests; I am taxed to provide chemicals which destroy values I cherish, and here, again, none of the power of taxation is exerted to strike a balance. By the insidious power of taxation I am forced to contribute to the building of super-highways which destroy values I seek to save, and where no appreciable tax money is spent to guard my interests. If the power of taxation can be used to destroy, it can be used with equal force to protect; otherwise it becomes a tyranny.

In the matter of water pollution the power of law is not sufficiently exerted to force responsibility on polluters, but to an increasing degree the powers of Federal taxation are used to force all citizens to pay for the sins of the minority.

To a degree an opposite example can be cited. The Clark-McNary law contributes to forest protection, principally fire, state and national. While conservationists debate the virtues of wilderness versus multiple use, the basic resources, timber and watersheds, are being protected.

The loyal opposition of private citizens is forced down a tax road not of its own choosing, but when costly mistakes are made it is not exempt from paying for them. A sobering factor in budgeting for major programs where resources are violently dislocated, would be to insist on equal appropriations for all mitigating losses. That would slow down a lot of misguided "progress" to a crawl.

This is not apt to happen. We will continue on the theory that to the victor belongs the spoils, and that all the spoilage will belong to the rest of us.—National Wildlife Federation.

Do You Use a Bobber?

I have heard that there are twenty-five million people fishing for panfish in the U. S. If that figure is correct, there are at least twenty-four million using the wrong kind of "bobbers" and complaining loudly of their ill luck.

It is a basic tenet among fishermen that to catch fish, you must "have more sense than the fish," and there is a common trait among fish we must keep in mind if we expect to out-wit 'em. It is this—most any kind of fish wants to RUN with the bait before he swallows it. This is his instinct, and if you make it impossible or difficult by suspending the bait and leader from an immense, extremely bouyant bobber he simply can't pull it under and run with it.

Certain Indian tribes, reputedly, used to use porcupine quills as a bobber, and they are certainly effective, because they give almost no resistance or drag and a fish takes off with 'em like a flash. Unfortunately they are too light to cast any distance, and for bank casting must be ruled out. But you can approach their efficiency with a slender pencil-type bobber, or as I do, make your own copies from a length of eight inch hard-

wood "dowel" and tapered at the ends. In either case WEIGHT the bobber so that only an inch or so is visible above water. I do this by fastening the lead directly to the bobber, but another way is to simply crimp on some split shot on the line, close up and directly below the bobber, using enough to nearly sink it, but not quite.

I fished recently in a nearby lake, using the "non-resisting" bobbers described above. A strong wind was blowing, and I'd fished half way round the lake without a bite, but I finally found the bluegills in a quiet cove. As I approached it I nodded to a man and wife fishing there. They shook their heads significantly. "They're in there," they stated, "but they're not hitting, only just nibbling away our bait."

I noted their big round bobbers were trembling a bit as the bluegills tried vainly to take 'em under. On my first case the tiny float hit the water, sank, and NEVER DID COME UP. A bluegill took it as it hit and ran about six feet with it and hooked himself!

The man and wife both congratulated me on my "luck." Said they had fished in this spot since

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60 YEARS OF CHESTNUT BLIGHT IN AMERICA

Some Survivors in Iowa

John Stokes
Assistant Superintendent Forestry

One of America's important trees at the turn of the century was the American chestnut. The native chestnut was found in the eastern United States, extending west to southern Michigan and south to Mississippi. The chestnut was fast growing; stump sprouts quickly produced new trees after the older trees were logged. The chestnut became an important nut and was eaten in large numbers. Many well-known stories, poems, and songs refer to roasting chestnuts as a part of early American family life. The tree produced lumber with a pleasing grain which was durable. It was used as fence posts, poles and ties. Above all, it developed in its wood and bark more than half of the vegetable tannin then produced in America, a tannin especially valuable for making heavy leather.

The American chestnut (*castanea dentata*), Marsh is a large tree up to 90 feet tall and three to four feet in diameter. The bark is dark brown, irregularly fissured into broad flat ridges. The leaves are narrowly oblong, five to nine inches long and one to three inches wide, long pointed, coarsely toothed with slightly curved teeth, many parallel lateral veins, yellow green, smooth. The fruit is a spiny burr two to two and one-half inches in diameter, containing two or three broad, flattened edible nuts one-half to one inch wide known popularly as "chestnuts."

The American chestnut was favored as a shade tree in addition to its other uses and many early settlers in Iowa brought chestnut trees with them.

The "Blight"

Unfortunately in the early 1900's a fungus, *Endothia parasitica* was introduced into America from the Orient. The disease spread relentlessly and has destroyed all of our commercial stands of this once most valuable species of the east. The disease has become commonly known as, "Chestnut Blight."

After 60 years of observation and first hand experience with the behavior of this fungus, most people in the eastern United States have concluded that our native chestnut is "forever doomed." During this period the search for a native American Chestnut tree, resistant to the introduced Asiatic chestnut-blight fungus has never ceased.

By 1954, foresters of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station at Laurel, Maryland, became interested in reports of old American chestnut survivors, mostly in the



This American chestnut, four miles northwest of North Liberty near Iowa City, was hit by lightning recently. Much of the tree

midwest states including Iowa, and began to wonder about this supposedly "doomed" species.

Dr. Jesse D. Diller, Forest Pathologist, U. S. Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, has spent many years in chestnut blight research, locating remaining chestnut trees and introducing new oriental species of chestnuts. Several articles over the years have interested the public in reporting locations of trees that remain. Nearly 800 trees have been reported in 36 states, Canada and Mexico. Checks of these trees were disappointing since many of the American chestnuts reported turned out to be Asiatic chestnuts, horse chestnuts, Ohio buckeye, pignut hickory and even Kentucky coffeetree. Nevertheless a number of American chestnuts over eight inches in trunk diameter were located within the area swept by the blight fifty years ago, and many larger, older American chestnuts were reported from Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa.

Still Searching

The Forest Service is still interested in all American chestnut tree locations, but at present is concentrating on trees over eight inches in trunk diameter, four and one-half feet above the ground. The Forest Service has nearly 150 trees from which scionwood (cuttings made from healthy trees

exposed to the disease which have survived blight so far) have been taken. This scionwood has been grafted to Asiatic chestnut rootstock in 28 states. Such scionwood grafts which came from a single tree can be planted in several locations to see if the source tree is blight resistant.

The Forestry Section of the Conservation Commission has cooperated with Dr. Jesse Diller in his efforts to find resistant trees. During several visits to Iowa, Dr. Diller has checked a number of trees. American chestnuts have been observed in the Iowa City area, Vinton, Wayland, and Middle Amana. During the 1960 visit, Dr. Diller checked a tree in Fort Madison which was showing the beginning signs of die-back due to the blight. Another tree checked at Keosauqua was still free of blight.

The search for resistant American chestnuts is continuing and Dr. Jesse Diller and his staff would appreciate knowing periodically the condition of trees he has checked for Iowa landowners as well as the location of any American chestnuts not reported to date. The State Forester's office has over 25 locations of trees reported in Iowa. Any new information received will be forwarded to Dr. Diller for future study in hope of finding a truly blight resistant American chestnut.



has died, but one branch continues to survive. There are a number of American chestnuts still living around the state.

BOBBER—

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early morning and caught only a fish. In the next hour and a half I caught eleven nice fat, burr-backed bluegills without a single question from either the man or his wife as to the "how" of better luck. I was sorely tempted to tell them what was wrong, even offer them one of my "lucky" bobbers, but I had learned from past experience that fishermen resent any advice in any way casts a doubt on their prowess, or questions their knowledge of fishing.

But it is a sad thing, to go around the shores of a lake, teeming with pan-fish, and see hundreds of over-size bobbers, the novice fishermen frantically yanking the line at every nibble. He couldn't possibly get it under and RUN with it, swallow the bait as he'd like to—unless he'd enlist several of his friends to help him. From Glen McNeley, Des Moines.

The sloth, one of the slowest of animals, eats so slowly that before he has finished one it is time for the next.

In spite of its description as a "prairie wolf," the coyote is smaller than the true wolf and more closely resembles the jackal.

CANOEING THE BOONE RIVER

Webster City to the Des Moines River

Bob Cushman and Bob Jr.

When the water on the Boone River is the right depth, as it was in mid-October of 1962, its variations in current speed offer the canoeist a pleasant and absorbing challenge.

Fog lay over central Iowa on the morning we put in, but an unbearable seventy degrees promised a comfortable day; we felt the fog would lift before noon. We put in on the south bank just below Millard's Bridge, which Highway 60 crosses the Boone two miles south of Webster City. At this point the U. S. Geological Survey has a gage for reading the river flow. The water stood at 3.0 feet as compared to normal mid-October height of 2.0 feet and a year around average of 4.7 feet.

The Boone has its source in Hancock County, zigzags through Wright and Hamilton Counties, averaging an average of 4.8 feet per mile, finally joining the Des Moines just above Stratford, at the Webster-Hamilton County line point directly south of its mouth. The water is muddy—laden with silt stolen from the world's farmlands.

One hour brought us to Albright's Bridge. Canoeists can

tell you that a country bridge comes slowly toward you around a bend in the stream, moves quietly up and over you, then just as quietly lowers behind you, gaining many a backward glance, until it finally slips away around another bend. You may never see it again, but it has become a part of your trip.

Where to Go?

A familiar question in our two-some as we approach a rapids is, "Where do we want to go?" Occasionally we decide simultaneously on different courses, and paddle a couple of strokes accordingly. The resulting confusion quickly forces a meeting of minds! Usually a spot is found to enter the rapids where there appears to be a maximum of depth as disclosed by the smooth surface narrowing to a V point between the riffles.

Bever Bridge is near the site of the old Bone's Mill. This mill, built in 1854, has a colorful history, including its continual battle with ice and flood waters, its important business function, a dash of romance, even a murder which today remains unsolved, and finally a thunderous explosion which ended its existence.

Just above this bridge on the left bank is an excellent spot to put in a boat or canoe. Two hundred feet below is a rapids whose

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"The 'Woods' continue to furnish us materials for jellies and jams as exotic, to my taste, as the fruits of the tropics. It's time again to gather the May apples for jam and marmalade. I'm sure you have seen in the springtime the glossy, six-leaved, parasol-like stocks that unfurl themselves to shade a delicate white blossom, and later almost hide the egg-shaped 'Apple' which is light green in color turning to golden yellow as it ripens.

"Children of Mother's generation picked May apples, firm and yellow, and placed them in the dry warmth under the hay in the horses' manger to mellow. We pick the golden fruits when we find they have lost all green color, and bring them home to sit a day or two (in garage or basement), to let them mellow and allow any picked too early to soften a bit. If the skin is almost golden brown and the flesh soft, they are at their mellow best. You asked if I had a recipe for the jam we made last year; our procedure was exploratory and analysis somewhat vague, but you may try as follows:

"Peel skin from the May apples. Remove seeds. Working with about six (6) cups of pulp at a time (in order to keep the color fresh and light), cook the May-apple pulp with water, just 'to cover', on medium heat for about 20 minutes or until soft.

"To 6 cups of cooked pulp add 3 tablespoons lemon juice (if desired) and 1 box commercial pectin. Stirring constantly, bring this to a good boil and add 6 cups sugar. Continue stirring over strong heat until mixture boils again.

"Then we turned the heat down some and cooked mixture 5 minutes more with CONTINUED STIRRING. I have scorched more than my share of jams! Test a spoonful and if the jam holds well



Jack Kirstein Photo

Leaves withered and the golden apple is ready for preserves.

on a tilted saucer perhaps you have this batch made!

"Every kettleful is a new adventure. To some batches we added bits of maraschino cherries for color; sometimes we omitted lemon juice; one could try adding grated lemon or orange rind or a bit of drained crushed pineapple.

"Don't be surprised if your product varies in consistency by each kettleful you make. Modern science has not yet provided us with a tangible kitchen test for pectin present in fruit at hand so we just experiment, and enjoy the unique flavor of May apple marmalade from our Hanging Rock 'Jam Pantry'.

"Hope you find some May apples—at least a gallon or two—. We call them wild mangoes because of their flavor, but the botanists call them *podophyllum peltatum*!"
—From Mrs. Robert Tidrick, Iowa City.

PROSPECTS—

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with the bag increased from five to six and possession from ten to twelve.

RABBITS

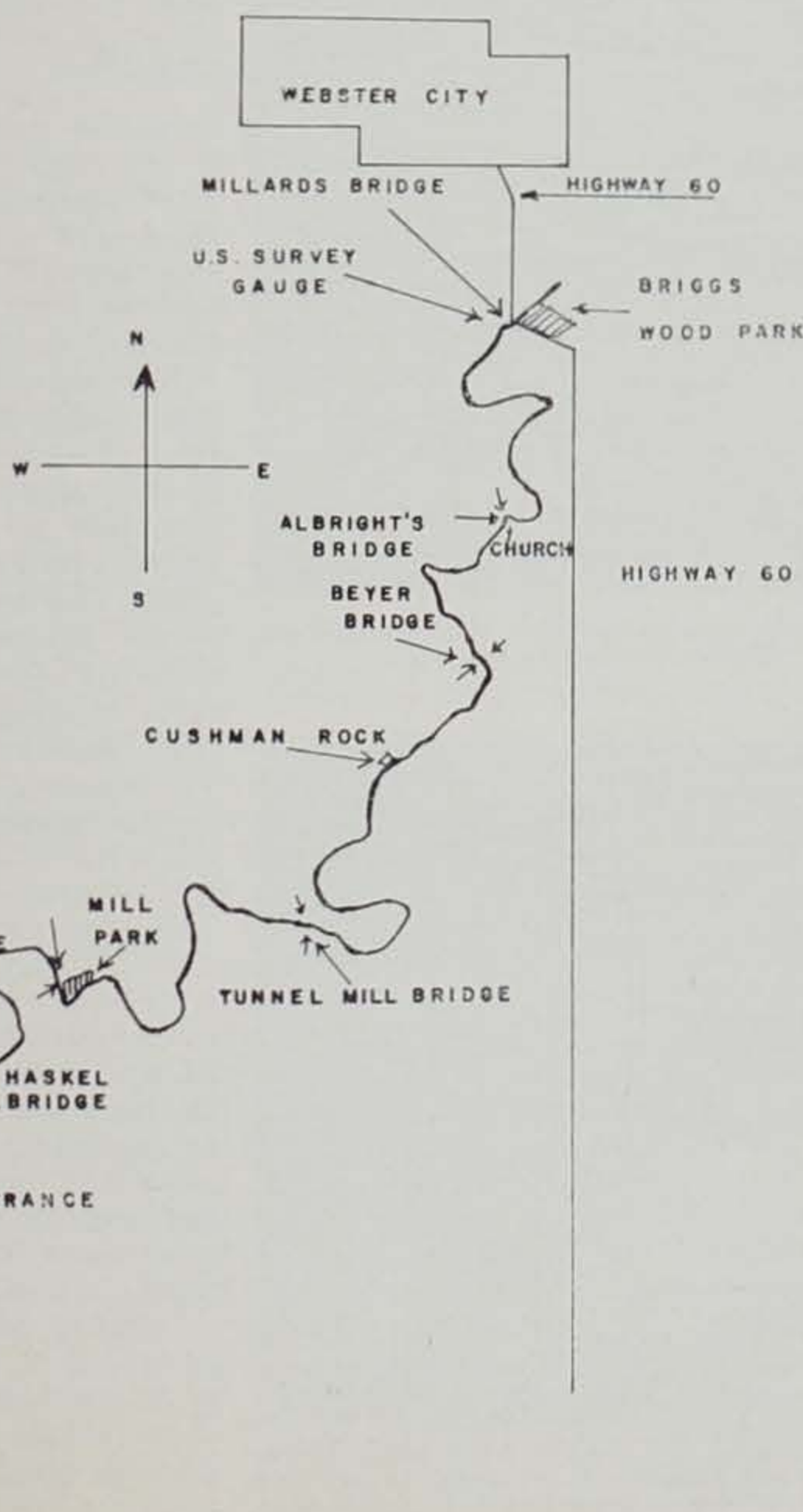
The cottontail is again on the increase after several years of depressed populations. Technician and officer survey data indicates this year's crop to be the best since 1950.

DEER

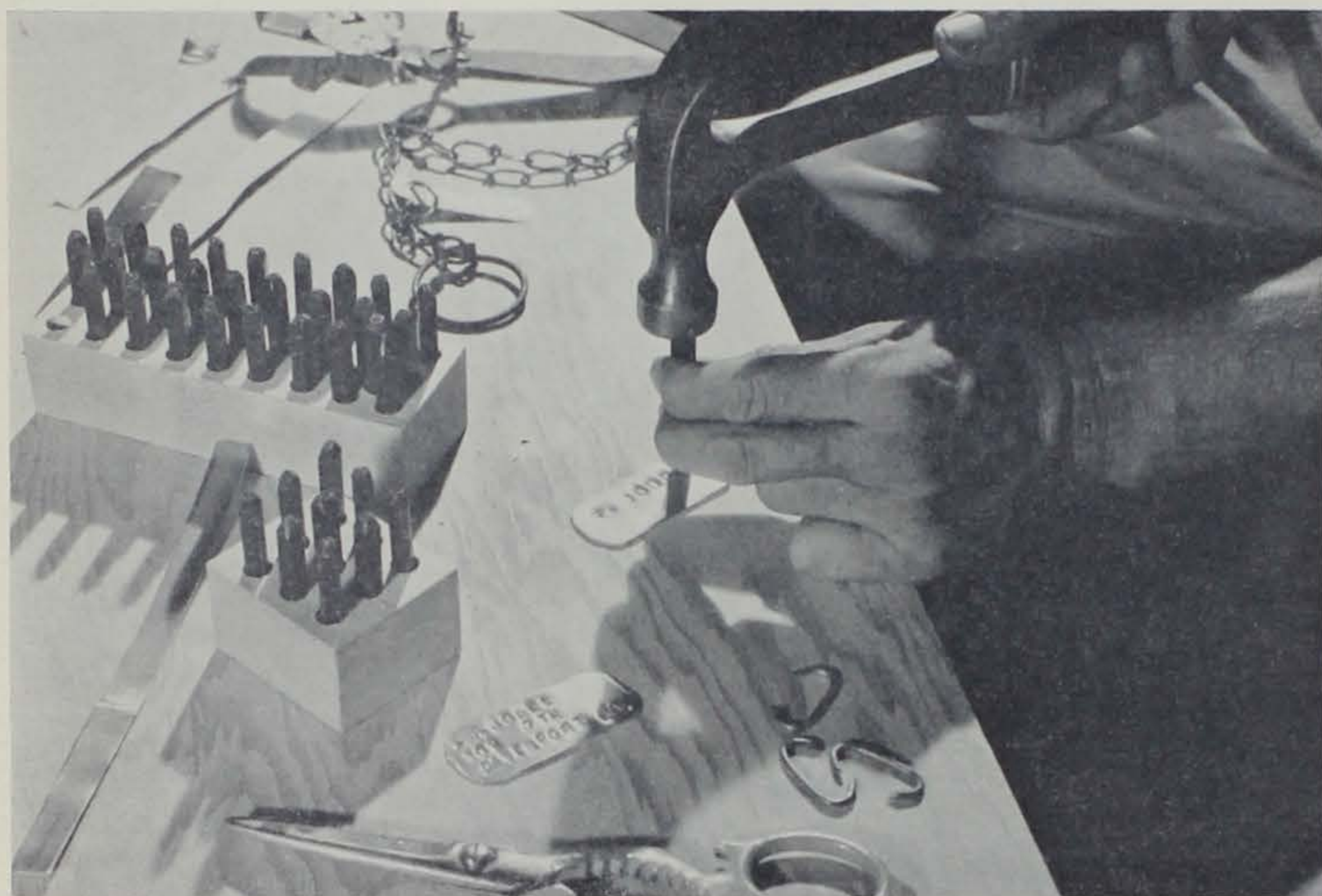
Iowa's deer herd is constantly increasing on a state-wide basis. The estimated number of 33,260 is the highest on record; consequently gun permits are again expanded to 2,000 over last year or 12,000 in all. This, the finest of all big game animals, is carefully censused each year to determine its status. Our officers and biologists work closely and carefully to be sure that no over-shooting occurs. This year a block of

twenty-five counties has been reserved for a two-day season only in order to reduce the harvest. This area has a good population, but due to the type of environment—small wooded draws along river valleys—an over-harvest is possible. We would like to have less hunting pressure here than in the more heavily timbered parts of Iowa with their higher populations and less hunting pressure.

It looks like we can expect a "red-letter" season for hunting this fall and winter. If you haven't done so, now is the time to make arrangements with your farmer friends for hunting privileges on their land. Also you might check with your Conservation Officer on the prospects in the public shooting areas. Don't forget your license and duck stamp. We look forward to enjoying with you one of the best hunting seasons in recent years.



Want to Make Your Own Trap Tags?



You can make your own tags if you wish. One method uses light-weight aluminum. A letter and number set will do for stamping out your name and address. The new law requires trappers furnish their own metal tags.

Jack Kirstein Photos



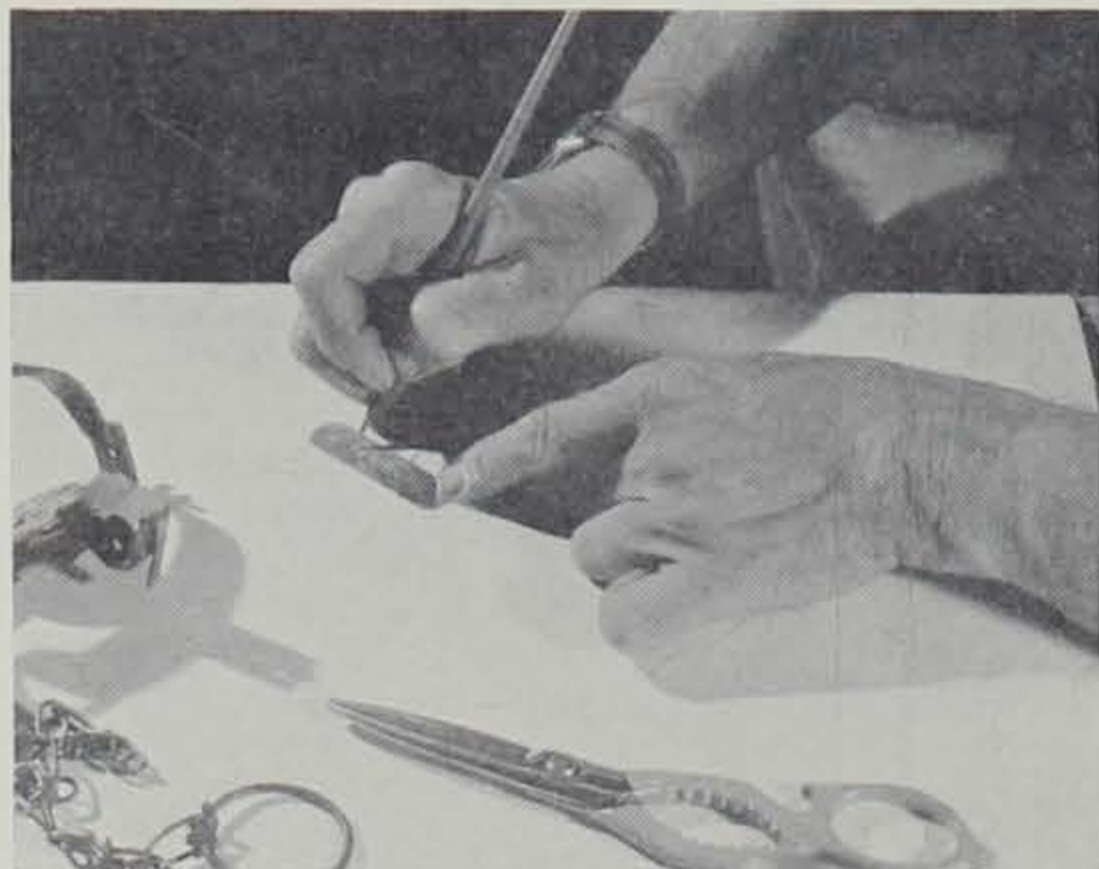
The light aluminum is easily cut with a kitchen shears. Non-deteriorating metals such as aluminum, copper, and zinc are recommended.



This tag will remain readable for some time. A hog ring makes a good rig for attaching the tag to the trap.



Trappers should attach their tags in the last link or ring of the chain. This makes it possible for the Conservation Officer to check the tag without disturbing the set.



Another method is using zinc with a metal stylus to imprint the owner's name and address. If you prefer to buy your tags, some of the more well-known order houses do supply tags.

The last General Assembly made some important changes in the law relating to trapping in Iowa. Most of us are familiar with the change in license fees—adults pay three dollars, trappers under 16 years pay one dollar.

Not so well known, perhaps, was the change in the tag law. In previous years the trapper purchased his tags from the Conservation Commission. However, the law has been changed making it necessary for the trapper to supply his own tags.

The trapping law synopsis available from the Commission's Des Moines office has this to say of trap tags: "All licensed trappers shall have a metal tag attached plainly labeled with the owner's name and address. Conservation Officers shall have authority to confiscate such traps when found in use that are not properly labeled."

The Commission recommends that the metal tag be made of metal which will remain readable and not deteriorate, such as aluminum, stainless steel, or copper. There are a number of commercial organizations from which trappers may purchase their tags.

Tags should be placed in the end ring of the chain so that the Conservation Officer can check your trap without disturbing your set.

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swiftness provided the most fun of the day.

In places, the banks of the Boone are very hilly, and 25 miles below Bever Bridge on the left, the bank rises high with huge boulders protruding.

Ten minutes farther a huge rock (presumably limestone) borders the river on the right. It rises straight up, twenty or more feet, and is a good 200 feet in length. Later we were told that above the ledge was an Indian Burial Ground. Clinging to the rock are scores of mud swallow nests, making this an interesting busy place in spring and summer. We lingered, decided that such a thing of beauty should not be without a name, and promptly named it "Cushman Rock."

The fog persisted. Tunnel Mill Bridge is at the site of the mill built by Robert Wats in the mid-1800s. The 400 foot tunnel was built to by-pass a sweeping, horseshoe curve, thus increasing the natural current by a deep fall at the dam. Later we learned that remains of the dam still can be seen on the north side of the ridge.

At many of the rapids, there is a parting of the stream forming an island. We had fun deciding which course to take, invariably choosing that which afforded the most excitement.

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THE FALL MIGRATIONS

Carol Buckmann

were once sold for \$60 an ounce. Due to sympathetic Audubon groups and public sentiment,

American egrets are no longer rarities and a few nests have been found along the Mississippi River. Snowy egrets are not as fortunate. Although their southern come-back is good, they are seldom seen here. American egrets are nearly four feet tall, have a 42-inch wing spread, yellow bills (slightly blackish on top), black legs and feet. Snowy egrets have bright yellow feet contrasting with black legs, black bills and are smaller. They are the most active of our herons, constantly stirring the bottom ahead of them and running in active pursuit of prey.

HERONS

The migration of Iowa's tallest fisherman, His Majesty the Great Blue Heron, is absolutely distinctive. The great blue heron, with its 70-inch wing spread, is a thing of beauty in flight. Three types of flight have been recognized—soaring, gliding and flapping. In flight, they fold back their necks and rest their heads on the shoulders in typical heron fashion. This fine, big heron adds a picturesque touch to any marsh landscape. It is versatile, adaptable and at home in any small stream, upland meadow, crop field, pond, shallow lake or mud flat.

Many great blue herons nest in Iowa's deep, inaccessible river bottoms. Like other herons, great blues are sociable with their kind and nest in rookeries, balancing by their powerful necks, legs and wings, in treetops. Herons eat a wide variety of small animal life ranging from snakes, insects, mice and frogs to fish, eels, salamanders and occasionally a rail or other marsh bird. They seldom take game fish. The ones they do take are usually small or stunted.

Another of Iowa's long-legged fishermen migrating in August and September is the rare little blue heron. Although we scarcely see them, little blues are a most common southern heron. Their uniformly dark bodies, maroon heads and necks, heavy black-

workshop in order to acquaint teachers and educators of Iowa with the latest thinking and teaching techniques in the field of conservation.

The theme of this year's conference is, "Effective Teaching in Conservation, Here's How I Do It." Anyone interested in conservation is invited to attend. Teachers should contact their local Soil Conservation Districts in order to obtain financial aid in attending the conference. Reservations and further information can be obtained by writing the council's Executive Secretary, Mr. Charles Ballantyne, Iowa State University, Extension Service, Ames, Iowa.



A common sight in late summer is hi-lines covered with swallows congregating for the trip south.

Jim Sherman Photo

tipped, bluish bills and dark, long legs are distinctive.

After the breeding season, they wander north in greater numbers than other southern herons except egrets. The juveniles are pure white and often confused with egrets on their northern migratory flight.

Little green herons, the most widely distributed Iowa herons, do not concentrate to the extent other herons do. Standing by the water's edge with neck drawn in, this small, dark bird doesn't look much like a heron. Its feeding habit is unique. When stalking food, it often freezes in odd positions held with great patience before actively pursuing its prey.

Another common heron concentrating in Iowa is the black-crowned night heron. When standing, the neck is contracted, giving it a hunched-up look. After breeding, these herons disperse widely to almost any lake or pool, then begin gathering for fall migrations. Like little green herons, they seldom gather in large numbers.

Their cousins, yellow-crowned night herons, are becoming more common but are still considered rare. They can be distinguished from black-crowned night herons by their heavier bills and longer yellow legs. The legs project well beyond the tail when wading or standing.

OTHER MIGRATIONS

Heron and egrets aren't the only birds concentrating in August

and September. Thousands of swallows, purple martins and chimney swifts form state-wide migrations.

Swallows are among the earliest birds to migrate and great concentrations perched on utility wires are familiar sights to roadside travelers. Swallows begin gathering when the young leave the nest. They feed on insects along sloughs, swamps and wet roadways.

Cliff swallows are among the most common and have the longest migratory route of any American land bird. Their timely flights can be estimated within two or three days of preceding years. The pale reddish rump and almost square tails are distinctive.

Bank swallows have clear white throats, brownish heads and backs and look very much like the larger, rough-winged swallows. Both have benefitted from human activity making good use of sandy banks, arid country, gravel pits, railroad and highway cuts.

Rough-winged swallows are powerful fliers with deeper wingbeats, straighter lines and fewer twists and turns than bank swallows.

Purple martins are distinguished during their migration by their flapping and sailing flight. They have broad-based, triangular wings and are the most domestic of our wild birds. In the fall, they form enormous temporary roosts before leaving for South America.

Chimney swifts migrate in early

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DOOR EDUCATION NEWS

Conservation Education Conference

year in October, the Iowa Conservation Education Council will hold a workshop for teachers, and others interested in conservation education. This year's conference, co-sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction and the Iowa Conservation Commission, will be held at Camp at Luther, Iowa, on 11 and 12. Speakers and persons of national importance will be present at the

CANOE—

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most mystery—whichever seemed narrowest, swiftest and most obscured from view.

By mid-afternoon we arrived at Bell's Mill Park. This was the site of the mill built by David Eckerson, Methodist preacher, in 1853, which found its way into the Bell family. On March 2, 1888, Benjamin Bell died and that night, flood waters swept away the dam, stopping the wheels of the mill. Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Bell donated the land for the present park as a memorial to the pioneers who settled this area.

Just below the present Bell's Mill bridge on the left can be seen an old abutment of rectangular stones. Trees growing atop the structure are themselves ancient, and we could not but contemplate in what way and at what time the abutment served mankind. Sometimes one is torn between seeking out the answers to these local mysteries, or letting them remain forever mysteries, to be contemplated anew when on some wintry night we relive our trip down the Boone. Curiosity won out, and we learned this was an abutment to a bridge abandoned in 1870—almost a century ago.

Coal Mining

Considerable coal has been mined in this area and the river banks below Bell's Mill are black with evidence of its presence.

Twenty minutes later is Haskel Bridge. Here one gets a broad view of the valley, and the roadway can be seen winding up over the hills in the distance. We talked briefly with a motorist on the bridge, attempting to get our bearings to determine the distance to our destination, but he was "a stranger here himself!"

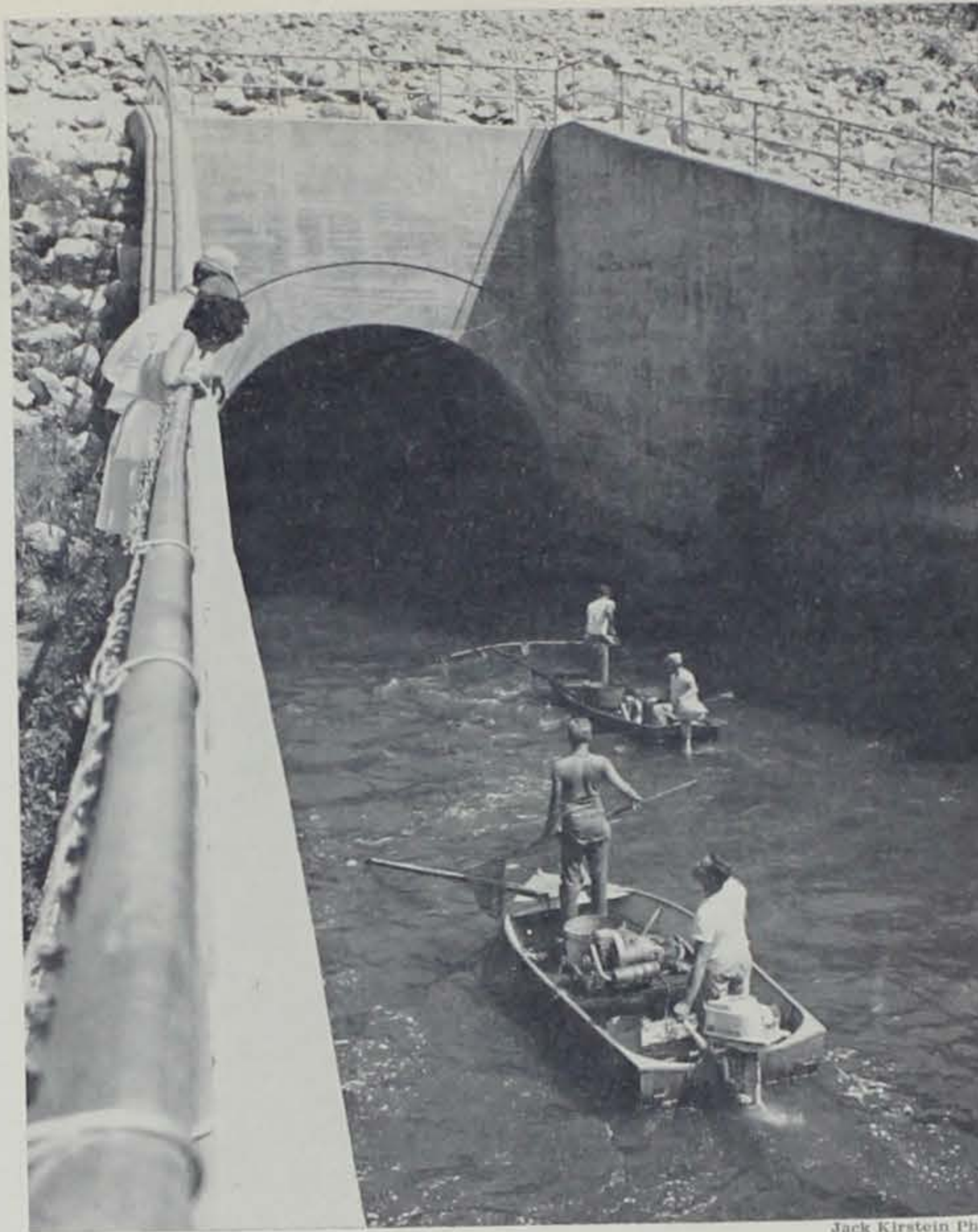
Another mystery which still remains exactly that: twenty feet or so up on the left bank is a concrete entrance as though to a cave, or maybe a mine—like on the late, late show! Concrete steps that once led to it have fallen away, cockeyed. Time did not permit us to explore or we might have left with fabulous treasure. Later inquiry revealed nothing. If you take this trip, save time to explore this spot, but if you come out with the loot, you really should split with us.

Five minutes later is Vegors Bridge. High on a scenic hill to the north is Vegors Cemetery, an historic spot of early Indian and white burial.

Landmark

Landmark	Time Between Landmarks	Cumulative Time From Put-In
Millard's Bridge		
Albright's Bridge	60 minutes	1 hour
Bever Bridge	50 minutes	1 hour 50 minutes
"Cushman" Rock	35 minutes	2 hours 25 minutes
Tunnel Mill Bridge	75 minutes	3 hours 40 minutes
Bell's Mill Bridge (and Park)	95 minutes	5 hours 15 minutes
Haskel Bridge	70 minutes	6 hours 25 minutes
Vegors Bridge	40 minutes	7 hours 5 minutes
Bellville Bridge	20 minutes	7 hours 25 minutes

Table represents actual travel time; time spent stopped or ashore has been deleted.



Jack Kirstein Photo

The popular Coralville Reservoir near Iowa City was the target of an intensive fisheries investigation early last month. Crews from the Commission's biology and fisheries sections divided the impoundment into three study areas—the headwaters, reservoir itself, and tailwaters. Nets and electro-fishing gear were used in the survey. The purpose of this survey was to determine the magnitude of reproduction for game and rough fish, species composition of the fish population, age structure of the fish population, and management techniques to increase the quantity and quality of the sport fishery.

Just from the raw data, indications are that carp, sucker, buffalo, and crappie are the most abundant species. Others taken during the survey included channel catfish, flathead catfish, crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass, walleye, green sunfish, northern pike, carp, redhorse, and various minnows.

Another five minutes and the Boone joins the Des Moines. The Boone, a rugged individualist upstream, loses all when it pours itself into the Des Moines—a swirl of current where their channels meet—then oblivion!

A mile or so below the junction, Bellville Bridge comes around the bend. Just below it on the right is an excellent place to take out. Our day had been perfect—23 miles of ideal canoeing—water just right—not once forced to wade or portage.

We would like to do this stretch again—but there is so much river in Iowa that we have not canoed, and there's many a spot where we'll be wondering what's around that next bend.

MIGRATIONS—

(Continued from page 71)

September when they alight large chimneys. They have narrow, slightly curved wings and flight seemingly lack a tail. Their fast, erratic course lacks the smoothness and gracefulness of swallows. They migrate in the daytime or on moon-lit nights flying or sailing alternately in circles. They roost in large chimneys turning to the same one year after year. Toward evening, a whole flock may disappear within a few minutes into one chimney.

Although man's quest for knowledge of the unknown has brought great break-throughs in space, medicine and other sciences, the whys of these great bird migrations is still an age-old mystery. Knowledge of these birds is important as they all have an important role on the stage of our great outdoor theatre.

Things You May Not Know—

A particularly interesting American snake is the egg eater. This snake is able to swallow and crush hens' eggs, and sometimes pigeon eggs, the skin being stretched to its breaking point. When the egg cracked, the swelling collapses with the swallowing of the yolk and shell is ejected.

Three common beliefs are that bats snarl themselves in women's hair, falling cats always land on their feet, and elephants are afraid of mice. All are untrue.

The fisher, which belongs to the same family as the mink and marten, is able to fight off and kill such animals as the fox, the cat and lynx.

Except for vultures and parrots, wild geese live longer than other birds. Authentic records show them as much as 70 years.



"Sorry, sir, but you'll need more than a resident hunting license!"