

Volume 23

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Iowa deer country—whitetails thrive in the rich agricultural and timbered areas of the state.

HOW TO HUNT DEER

Max Schnepf

WITH A SHOTGUN

With the state's estimated deer population at an all-time high of 700 and an extra day to hunt in the long zone, hunters should have a better chance than ever of bagging an Iowa whitetail next month. About 16,000 deer permit holders and landowners should harvest nearly 100 animals.

From many of the shotguns that don't "score", excuses will fly and heavy. "I didn't see any deer!" "The only good shot I got, blew!" Nine times out of 10 a hunter will be the cause of his own failure.

There is really no excuse for not seeing deer. Scout an area or several areas ahead of time. Determine where deer are and analyze their movements to the extent that you are reasonably sure where they will be during shooting hours. You should find deer moving to and from food and water for an hour or two after the 8:00 a.m. opening and before the 4:00 p.m. closing. Since corn and soybean fields will be picked by December, deer will be forced to bed down in weed patches or timber. Look for them in these heavier cover areas during the day, especially on sunny slopes.

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WITH A BOW

Bow hunting for whitetail deer is best described by the time-worn cliché "sport of sports." And if you have ever tried to match wits with the wily whitetail, I don't think you will deny it.

The bow and arrow season for deer opened nearly a month ago. By now, a few of Iowa's 3,000 or so archery license holders have "scored" and are home by the fire gloating over their recent success. What's more, they are probably not too interested in a "how to" article. They killed their deer, and who can argue with success?

The majority of hunters, however, are still faced with the somewhat frustrating task of trying to get their deer. Fortunately, the best hunting days are ahead.

Opinions on how to go about getting a deer are as varied as anything could be, but most hunters like to read or hear about other hunters' ideas in hopes of picking up a suggestion or two that might help them. Following are a few that might help you "score" this fall.

Probably the two most important facets of bow hunting are the equipment and the archer's hunting ability. The question of which of these

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COMMISSION MINUTES

October 5, Des Moines

Operational budgets for 1964-65 received finalization and approval.

Legislative askings for the Lands and Waters operational budget and capital improvement program for the next biennium were approved.

Chairman Sherry Fisher gave a brief discussion of the Long-Range Planning Program.

Approval was given to schedule four out-of-state sports shows for 1965.

COUNTY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

October 6

Hamilton County received approval for an addition of 21.3 acres of land to Little Wall Lake County Park through a sponsoring agreement with the Iowa State Highway Commission.

Polk County received approval for the acquisition of 52 acres of land at a total cost of \$7,800 as an addition to the Chichaqua Wildlife Habitat Area.

Linn County received approval for a revision to the Matsell Bridge Access Development Plan which would include camping facilities for tent and trailer camping.

FISH AND GAME

A report was given on the proposed power plant location by the Omaha Public Power District near the DeSoto Bend Refuge on the Missouri River.

Approval was given to a resolution to be issued jointly with the Nebraska Game Forestation and Fish Commission and Federal Fish and Wildlife Service objecting to the location of a power plant directly across the river from the DeSoto Bend Wildlife Refuge.

A report was given on fencing of the Allen Green Refuge in Des Moines County.

Approval was given to exercise an option on 80 acres of land at a total cost of \$25,000 for the Hendrickson Marsh in Story County.

Approval was given for the addition of a foreman position in the Game Section.

Approval was given to bid for a reconditioned D-6 tractor by the Gibbs-Cook Company at a total

cost of \$14,650 and a reconditioned trailer by the Herman Brown Company at a cost of \$3,060.

The Commission approved the construction of a low-head dam across the Cedar River near Cedar Rapids by the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company.

LANDS AND WATERS

A discussion was held concerning the method of awarding concession contracts at state parks.

Approval was given to the reduction of speed limits to 20 m.p.h. in certain areas of various state parks.

Approval was given to the appointment of Roy Downing as Superintendent of Waters.

GENERAL

A progress report was given concerning the issuance of shotgun deer licenses.

Approval was given for travel to the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators at Portland, Oregon; The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Meeting at Chicago, Illinois; The Natural Resources Administrators Meeting at Saranac Lake, New York; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Meeting at Ann Arbor, Michigan; office of Surplus Property Procurement at Kansas City, Missouri.

The Commission met with Frank Mendell of the Soil Conservation Service and people from Afton and Creston in regards to the Three Mile Creek Watershed Project.

The Commission met with representatives from the Worth County Conservation Board and approved a proposal to develop Silver Lake in Worth County as a joint project.

The Commission met with Carroll County Conservation Board representatives and approved a resolution supporting the acquisition of additional land surrounding Swan Lake.

A delegation of Conservation Officers met with the Commission to discuss possible retirement programs to be presented for consideration by the next legislature.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING PROGRAM

Editor's Note: This is part three of a series of articles on the State Conservation Commission's long-range planning program.

January 1, 1965, will, undoubtedly, be a major milestone in the annals of conservation. On this date the new Public Law 88-578 goes into effect.

P. L. 578, passed just recently by the 88th Congress, is an act which will establish a Land and Water Conservation Fund to assist the State and Federal agencies in meeting present and future outdoor recreation demands. The program will be directed by the Secretary of the Interior, and will be administered through a new bureau to be known as the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

Iowa is in a very favorable posi-

GAME NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD

You pay for what you get.

Hunters afield don't always get a rabbit, a pheasant, or a Canada goose, but they hope to. And, in this hope, the hunting fraternity pays annually about 150 million dollars into the game management kitty. The money goes to buy land; to restore and improve habitat and to do research, so that every whim of wildlife can be met.

The motive, of course, is purely selfish. Hunters pay more with expectations that they'll get more. But to get more game there to be more. And so it is that game species are sheltered, protected and produced in quantity so that, finally, a fair portion of each fall can be converted to the stew pot or broiler.

There's a moral, or an economic lesson, in all this. . . . Here's way it figures:

Bluebirds are in short supply. Some claim they're a victim of flit gun; others say clean-up forestry and the removal of den trees have resulted in a housing shortage. The fact is no one really knows. But, if the bluebird weighed a pound and held to a pointing dog, then, we'd know. And we'd be doing something about it.

The wood duck is a disappointment over a pointing dog. But it's neatly in the mouth of a Labrador. It weighs a pound and is good eating; and, after all that, it serves well the need of fly tiers. Wood ducks, too, had problems of housing shortage, but not for long. Across the country dens were provided in quantity, and research to establish other needs is going on apace. Things for the woodie are looking up.

The bald eagle—our national bird—is on the skids. It's getting surveys-of-its-status, nominal research, and a lot of sympathy. But, for a determined, well-financed management program—nothing. Antelope, a huntable game species, were also on the ropes a few decades back. They got lots of attention and help, and a big new lease on life.

All this is not to say that the way to save bluebirds and bald eagles is to declare them game and hunt them. But it is fair to say that game species are privileged species, and money in quantity is spent in support of their welfare. It is fair to say that hunters are not about to abuse and destroy something they cherish and pay good money to produce in numbers. And it is fair to say that responsible administrators of game affairs are not about to risk jobs and reputations in unwise use of the game resource.

We strongly favor and support the better management of non-game as well as game species, and believe wildlife can serve admirable purposes without gracing the dinner table. We respect the interest of non-consumptive users of wildlife while pointing out that hunting, a consumptive use, is not one to effect any permanent reduction in numbers. All told, it's a fair claim that game species, because of investments in their behalf, are far better off numerically than if they were not being hunted and, with it, not being provided for in terms of land reserves and habitat improvement.

It's a fact, too, that a lot of the management for game species runs off on non-game associates. Take, for example, the \$105 million treasury loan to purchase and manage land for waterfowl. Duck hunters will pay the bill, but the benefits will extend beyond the prime intent of safeguarding producing areas for ducks. A great host of shorebirds, shorebirds, and other marsh inhabitants will be benefited in equal degree. And who's to argue whether a rose hedge for game is worth more for rabbits and quail or the endless variety of non-game types?

Protectionists, sincere but misled, may argue for the "protection" of doves and other game species. But the fact is that it's nice to have wanted and that's why game never had it so good. Without habitat which hunters are providing, many species could be "protected" by vanishing levels by the indifference that comes to the non-hunted. Game for hunting means eating your cake and having it, too.

J. P. Linduska

From the Remington News Letter

tion in regards to meeting the basic provisions and requirements of the new law. This is due, in part, to the fact that one U. S. Senator and one U. S. Congressman from Iowa were, and are, members of the original Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Committee. It was this body that made the recommendations that were eventually to be worked into the P. L. 578 law. With these recommendations in mind, the Planning and Coordinating Division of the Conservation Commission has worked on long range plans that would meet the proposed requirements.

The governor has already ap-

pointed the Conservation Commission to be the official agency in state for direction of the fund. Essentially this means that of governmental bodies, such as cities and counties, that have recreation plans will have to work them out through the Commission before submitting them to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. One of the qualifications that will have to be met before approval is received (and this applies to the Commission as well as the other agencies) is that a long range program of anticipated need has been developed.

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Jim Sherman Photo

Pheasants can withstand the hardest Iowa winters if proper cover is available.

G-1 (A) AND PHEASANTS

Richard Nomsen
Game Biologist

Just what does G-1 (A) have to do with pheasants? Of course, right now, most of Iowa's 275,000 pheasant hunters are thinking of the coming 1964 season. Where and how to hunt are prime topics of conversation. All surveys this year point to another very successful pheasant season. Total harvest should compare with the record 1.9 million Ringnecks killed during the 1963 season. But this is also the time to think about 3.5 million wary pheasant hens and cocks still scattered over the fertile Iowa countryside. These birds need a winter home and that's where G-1 (A) fits into the picture.

Pheasants are hardy game birds and can easily withstand the rugged Iowa winters if proper cover is available. However, adequate winter cover is not always available over much of Iowa's primary pheasant range. In the absence of dense field cover, farm groves and windbreaks provide the only available safe winter cover for Iowa's

number one game bird. And each year, the number and quality of farmstead windbreaks are reduced.

Provides Habitat

The new G-1 (A) practice which is administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service was designed to provide the much needed safe winter habitat for pheasants and other game species. This new A.C.P. program provides cost sharing (up to \$150) to establish wildlife cover in windbreaks or groves around farm buildings and lots.

Habitat improvement is the most basic and is considered the most important tool of the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Your help is needed to promote this program in order to provide safe winter cover throughout the thousands of square miles which includes our primary pheasant range.

Through severe winter weather, pheasants require food and shelter in close proximity. Pheasants rarely travel more than a half mile in search of food during January and February. Grain crops have been harvested which leaves fields bare of cover, but not of food. The birds normally move out into the

corn and bean fields to scratch for waste grain. Each night they return to the shelter of the windbreak. The birds' existence centers in and around the farmstead windbreaks during the blustery winter months.

The new G-1 (A) practice provides cost sharing for planting shrubs around existing windbreaks. Two or three rows of honeysuckle around a windbreak puts the cover where it is needed **close to the ground**. Sub-zero winds and blowing snow are stopped, providing a safe shelter for next years' nesting birds. Needless to say, this improvement also helps alleviate the snow removal problem within the farmstead.

Club Projects

This conservation project offers unlimited opportunity for the many Sportsmen Clubs, Service Organizations, 4-H clubs, F.F.A. Groups, Boy Scouts, and interested individuals.

Preparation usually includes removing old worn out trees and fences so that the seed bed can be plowed and disced. This can best be accomplished in the fall. Actual planting in the spring also involves a great deal of work.

So if it's a conservation project you're looking for, G-1 (A) should be considered. Shrub borders around existing windbreaks provide excellent winter cover for pheasants while improving the appearance and value of the farmstead.

Endowed with tremendous strength and the cat family's agility, the jaguar's list of prey includes almost any bird or mammal that comes within reach.

Captive and semi-domesticated wolves are often mated with sled-dogs in order to "build up the breed."

Under favorable circumstances the weasel can and does kill full-grown cottontails but often the rabbits are able to defend themselves successfully.

HUNTING AIDS THE ECONOMY

The American hunter is doing more than his share in the "War on Poverty." He spends about \$1.3 billion a year on this favorite sport and a good percentage of it is spent in remote areas where the hunters' dollars are badly needed.

Many tourist areas would dry up in the fall and winter if it were not for the hunters who seek out places of small population, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. Large regions, such as the Appalachians, get a steady flow of hunters after the normal summer vacation period is over. For every dollar the hunter spends on sporting equipment, he spends at least five times as much on side expenses.

According to government and foundation studies, the hunter puts out \$130 million a year on food, hotels and motels. He spends over \$10 million for train, air and bus transportation. With modern highways and longer vacations, distance means little to the avid hunter. In 1963 hunters traveled 4,780,000,000 auto miles (not passenger miles).

Here's what hunter travel by car meant to the American economy in 1963:

1. Figuring the average life of a car at 100,000 miles, hunters wore out 47,800 cars at a total cost of about \$143 million.
2. Hunters used 300 million gallons of gasoline at roughly \$101 million.
3. Hunters spent about \$2 million on oil and grease.
4. They wore out 215,000 tires valued at about \$5.5 million.
5. Hunters spent \$3.8 million on automobile maintenance for hunting trips. (Some hunters who got stranded on back roads might say this figure was too low.)

It is not generally realized but the sportsman spends much more on wearing apparel than for sporting firearms and ammunition. According to the foundation, hunters spent \$268 million last year for everything from bright red shirts to GI surplus jackets. Despite the variety of mechanical contrivances to transport hunters to remote areas, they still wore out more than 4 million boots while trailing deer or stomping brush piles for rabbits.

The great outdoors apparently does wonders for the appetites of hunters. In 1963 they spent \$100 million on food away from home, not counting what they started with from the family freezer.

The hunters' purchases reach into all segments of America's economy. For new firearms last year, \$4 million was spent for steel and \$3 million for walnut; nearly \$12 million was spent for lead.

Simply for the privilege of hunting each fall, the American sportsman spends about \$68 million for

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HUNTING—

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As readers of recent issues of the CONSERVATIONIST know, the commission planning program has reached the point of making positive recommendations concerning future needs. Studies have been completed in many areas, including: transportation, population, archeology, listing of historical sites, weather information, facility inventory (buildings, roads, fences, etc.), use study of existing state parks, cost study, and a need study.

Because of the timeliness of these studies, the amount of additional studying and planning needed will be minimal, as the law requires only four basic areas of planning. These are:

- 1) The name of the state agen-

cy that will act for the state (fulfilled).

(2) An evaluation of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the state (fulfilled).

(3) A program for the implementation of the plan (partially completed).

(4) Other necessary information as may be determined by the Secretary [of the Interior] (an unknown factor).

Iowa's participation in P. L. 578 will mean much to present and future generations. It will mean, for instance, that the Federal Government will go 50-50 on the acquisition of land and waters, and the development of new recreation areas in Iowa. This "stretching" of the Iowa recreation dollar is just what the doctor ordered.—J. H.



With the aid of a fur case, Iowa mammals were identified and their habits discussed.

Jack Kirstein Photo.

SCOTT COUNTY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Jack Higgins

How big is a forest? Why does anybody want to trap or kill our pretty animals and birds? Why don't we clear bottom lands of trees? These questions seem pretty simple to some of us; so simple that we don't even raise them. To a boy or girl they are vital questions, and they must be answered. In years past this was relatively easy, but as society becomes more and more urbanized, we have to supply situations that will cause young people to raise such questions.

In eastern Iowa, Scott County to be exact, a conservation education program designed to create such questions in children's minds has been underway since 1953. The seeds of future conservation are being planted in the minds of youngsters in the fifth through eighth grades with the use of outdoor classroom experiences.

The program is made available through the cooperation of the County Superintendent of Schools, the State Conservation Commission, Soil Conservation District, Extension Service, Izaak Walton League, Scott County Bankers Association, and the participating schools: Cody, LeClaire, Buffalo, Blue Grass, Walcott, and North Scott. These agencies make certain that everyone involved in the program is properly motivated.

Teacher Workshop

It all starts in August each year when the science and biology teachers assemble for a workshop that centers around a given theme. This year nearly 160 teachers toured the Davenport area to discover the water resources available to this highly industrialized area.

To find out what was going on, they studied the ALCOA water purifying plant and its attendant sewage disposal facility that returns water to the Mississippi River cleaner than when it was first pumped into the treatment plant. After seeing what the world's largest aluminum plant goes through to protect America's number one resource, the teachers went on to view similar plants erected for the citizens of Davenport.

Armed with an increased understanding of water and its position of importance, the individual teachers met their classes this fall with first-hand knowledge of the way man protects himself from his own wastes. Through movies, books, and lectures, the classes acquired the vocabulary and background knowledge that they needed to have when their turn came to tour the county.

The particular portion of these tours covered in this article involves the seventh grade students from the Cody School District, and their instructor, Ron Swanson.

Swanson had taken part in the August workshop and had spent the opening weeks of school preparing his seventh grade science classes for the tour. Being unfamiliar with the program and the general conservation programs in Scott County, Swanson relied heavily upon what he had learned at workshop, and through movies and discussions built up interest in conservation practices. The students, then, were well versed in the need for protecting the world about them. When they arrived at the Princeton Area for their outdoor class session, they were primed for business.

The Study Area

The Princeton Area contains a game management area that is oper-

ated by the State Conservation Commission, and a park area that maintained by the local chapter of Izaak Walton League. It is located along the backwaters of the Mississippi, just above the mouth of the Wapsipinicon River. The isolation and natural beauty of the spot make it an ideal place for outdoor class activities.

The class, some forty strong, arrived from their school in a familiar yellow bus. After a short hike through the trees, they arrived at a picnic area and found seats around tables. Notebooks and pencils were whipped to the ready when the District Forester took up his position at the "front of the classroom" and started to talk about the way nature goes about her task of covering the world with trees and shrubs.

Tree Study

With the students, the forester identified the various species of bottom land trees that abound in the park. As each new tree was identified, the students conjectured as to the use that man makes of it. In this way they discovered that cottonwood, for example, is not just a big weed, but a valuable source of raw pulp for the paper mills in Davenport and Dubuque. Other trees, such as the silver maple, were discovered to be equally valuable in the manufacturing of furniture, while corrugated material is made from elm, birch and pin oak.

Like most people, the students were at a loss when it came to understanding how a forest operates. Nature's hydrological cycle was viewed, and the students soon discovered the important role trees play in assuring a continued supply of clean fresh water.

Animal Study

The second portion of the morning class concerned the animals that make their homes in and along timber areas. The Scott County Conservation Officer, with the aid of a fur case, lectured on this aspect of conservation. After the fur was given a proper name, the animal's habits were discussed. The class discovered that each animal is, in its own way, beneficial to man; and that the only time they become problems is when man neglects to harvest them.

After the formal portion of the class ended, the students roamed the park in groups and examined closely the many things that had been discussed. When problems of identification, or new ideas arose, they turned to either the forester or conservation officer for an immediate answer.

While these seventh graders were engaged in this unique form of educational experience, other classes in other schools were too. They either were taking close looks at the soil on various farms, and learning how and why it has to be protected, or making a field study of water and mineral resources in the county.

By the time you read this, all the students will be back in their classrooms studying in much the same manner as you and I are familiar with. They won't have forgotten their experiences, however; they will be busily engaged in completing a special conservation workbook that continues what was started one day in September. As an added incentive, these books will be judged by competent professionals in the conservation field. Next spring those students who take the most care in completing the course book will be honored at a recognition banquet.

Sound like a lot of work? You bet it is! But when you stop to consider that these are the conservationists of the future, then even a bit of effort was well spent.

HUNTING AIDS ECONOMY—

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licenses, tags, and permits. The money is scattered into all parts of the states for refuge purchase, wildlife protection, habitat improvement and research.

There is no way to establish what the hunter spends for guides, according to the foundation. Thousands of farmers, ranchers, loggers and others pick up daily or weekly fees for guiding city hunters.

The amounts the American hunter spends each year has grown steadily since World War II, according to the foundation, and indications are that the hunt will continue to add more to the general economy.

On one subject the foundation could get no statistics, but only a general impression—the average hunter seldom lets his wife know how much he spends on a hunting trip.—Reprinted from a National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. news release.

IF YOU KILL A TROPHY BUCK

Every year the archery and shotgun deer seasons produce rumors about huge whitetail bucks in Iowa. Some of these rumors are exaggerated, but once in while they are true.

Unfortunately, most reports of bucks shot that are of near record proportions are never authenticated. If you kill such an animal, here is how to get your trophy recognized.

The Official Scoring System of the Boone and Crockett Club is the standard method of ranking North American big-game trophies taken with firearms. This system was introduced in 1950 because previous methods of ranking trophy heads had resulted in a muddled mess.

Rankings in each division of the Official Record are on a point system. In the case of Iowa's only game animal, the whitetail deer, the score is based on antler length, spread, circumference and number of points. There is a separate division for typical and non-typical (freak) racks.

If you shoot an unusually large buck with a shotgun and want to assure it for record, you may obtain the necessary scoring chart and measuring instructions from: Boone and Crockett Club, 5 Tudor City Place, New York 17, New York. If the animal you have killed is good enough to meet minimum scoring standards—160

for a typical head, 160:20 for a non-typical head—return the completed scoring chart to the Boone and Crockett Club. You will then be advised how to check the score with an Official Measurer to determine whether or not your trophy should be placed in the Records of North American Big-Game. The Pope and Young North American Big-Game Competition provides bowhunters with a system of records. This system is patterned after the Boone and Crockett Club's, with one exception. Minimum scores are lower because bowhunters cannot be as effective as hunters armed with rifles or shotguns. The minimum scores for whitetail deer are 115 for a typical head and 105:15 for a non-typical head.

A trophy can be entered only after it has been measured and recorded by an Official Measurer of the Pope and Young Club. You obtain a scoring chart and a list of Official Measurers by writing to: Pope and Young Records Committee, Box 887, Des Moines, Iowa. —M.S.

The trumpeter swan, with a maximum weight of 40 pounds, is the heaviest flying bird in North America.

The river otter can stay under water for a quarter of a mile without coming up for air.



The muskrat—Iowa's number one furbearer.

Jim Sherman Photo.

TRAPPING FEVER IN THE AIR

Eugene D. Klonglan

Assistant Superintendent of Biology

The first heavy frosts in the fall bring a big upsurge in that strange affliction often called "trapping fever." Some people come down with it even earlier, and you will find them wandering along stream banks and shores of lakes and ponds in late summer and early fall. They aren't daft; they are in search of a furbearer "sign"

that might mean good trapping later. In fact, most people who have been bitten by the "trapping bug" will admit it is a year 'round "disease"; it just happens to flare up in the fall when the trapping season arrives.

Season Dates

Trapping season this year opens at noon on November 14 for all kinds of furbearers. However, the closing dates vary for different species. The mink season runs only to November 30, a total of 17 days. Mink populations are at a

relatively low level, having failed to show an increase in catch during recent years when muskrat numbers and catch were quite high. This indicates that mink need additional protection so they can build up their breeding stock. The muskrat season closes on January 31, a month earlier than last year. Evidence in the field indicates that the typical cyclical trend of this, our most important furbearer, has passed its peak and is now heading downward. However, such things as water levels and fur prices have a big effect on the number of muskrats caught, and these often mask the cycling effect. The open season on other species lasts through February 28. These include raccoon, beaver, badger, opossum, striped skunk, and spotted skunk or civet cat. Of course, the season is open year 'round on fox, coyotes, and weasel, but is closed on otter.

Special regulations are in force on all State Game Management Areas and Federal Wildlife Refuges. Trapping on these areas is by "permit only" and may include a harvest quota for various fur species on each area. The season here will open at noon the day following the close of the duck season, which this year means noon on November 27.

Trap Tags

An important thing for each trapper to remember is that all licensed traps must have attached to them a metal tag plainly labeled with the owner's name and address. Since these tags are subject to inspection by conservation officers, they should be placed in such a way as to be readily inspected without disturbing the set. The last link at the end of the trap chain or in the ring itself is best. Beginning last year, following a change in the law, the Commission no longer provides the number tags formerly issued with the license. Thus it is up to each trapper to provide his own tags. These can be bought from most trapper supply houses, of which there are several in the state, or can be homemade so long as they are legible and durable.

Some trappers will be interested in obtaining two types of permits, both free, which are concerned with the sale of their pelts. A permit is required for a trapper to ship his furs to an out-of-state buyer. Also, a permit must be obtained to hold furs more than 10 days after the close of the season. Furs must be disposed of within 10 days after the season's end unless this permit is secured.

And there are a couple more things for trappers to keep in mind. One is that you cannot legally kill with a shotgun or spear any mink, muskrat, beaver or otter. The other is that it is unlawful to molest or disturb in any manner a muskrat house, beaver dam, or mink, raccoon or skunk den, except by permission of a con-

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"Something that'll compete with the great Iowa outdoors—he's a hunter!"

FALCO SPARVERIUS SPARVERIUS

Often mistaken for a robin perched upon a roadside pole, power line or dead tree, *Falco sparverius* is seldom given a second glance by the casual traveler. Only when he stoops swiftly to the ground, or hovers like a hummingbird in mid-air, is the passing observer likely to note that this robin-sized bird bears strong resemblance to a tiny falcon. Indeed, he should, for this is exactly what *Falco sparverius* is—the tiniest member of the falcon clan in North America.

Known by a number of common names including Sparrow Hawk, Grasshopper Hawk, Short-Winged Hawk and Killy Hawk, this little falcon is not only the most brilliantly colored hawk in North America, but one of the least destructive. No greater misnomer could possibly have been given him than the label of Sparrow Hawk by which, unfortunately, he is best known. Very rarely does his diet include sparrows or other small birds; in fact, many small birds show no fear of him at



Jack Kirstein Photo.
Sparrow Hawk.

all and frequently have been observed to chase him away if he ventures too close. Insects, such as grasshoppers and crickets, form the bulk of his food staples during the warmer part of the year. Mice and other small rodents comprise his principal fare at other times. Such beneficial feeding habits make the Sparrow Hawk a friend to the farmer and even where not legally protected, he is seldom deliberately destroyed.

As with most birds, the male is the more colorful. The slate-blue upper portion of his head is

crowned with a patch of reddish-brown. Chin and cheeks are off-white and are broken by a pair of vertical dark streaks that almost frame the eyes. His back, rusty-brown barred with black, contrasts strikingly with bluish-gray wing coverts and whitish underparts. Black spots dot his light buff-colored breast. The female Sparrow Hawk, a bit larger than the male, is roughly similar except that her wing coverts are dark brown and her breast carries streaks of light brown rather than black spots.

Seldom bothering to construct a conventional nest, the Sparrow Hawk chooses some odd spots in which to deposit its average clutch of three to five eggs. These places can range from rock ledges or old woodpecker homes to shallow depressions in the ground and hollow trees.

Falco sparverius is one of the most widely distributed hawks in North America. He and his several sub-species are found in just about all parts of the continent. Though seldom used for falconry, this diminutive hawk is often kept as a pet where state law permits. —From the *Winchester News Bureau's* news letter.

WHERE DO HUNTERS GO OPENING DAY FOR PHEASANTS?

Eugene D. Klonglan

Assistant Superintendent of Biolo

On opening day of this year's pheasant season, many a hunter will swear that the bulk of 200,000 sportsmen afield that Saturday after Mr. Ringneck are in the next field or in the other end of the same field where he happens to be. In some parts of the state this feeling is quite understandable. A postcard survey of hunters mailed after the 1963 pheasant season showed there was considerable county-by-county variation in the number of hunters present the first day of the season. Of course, this is to be expected because of wide variations in pheasant numbers over the state. A dozen counties had over 4,000 nimrods with their boundaries. At the other extreme there were a dozen with less than 250 (not counting the seven counties with closed season in 1963).

An interesting point brought out by this survey is that there is no means a "perfect correlation" between numbers of hunters and numbers of pheasants in a given county. Hunters tend to drive the least distance necessary to find reasonably good pheasant hunting. A large percentage of Iowa's population, and thus hunters live in the southeastern "third" of the state—roughly the area below the line drawn through Dubuque, Waterloo and Des Moines. Thus counties in or near this area generally get the most opening day pressure.

Since hunting pressure later in the season corresponds roughly to that of opening day, it is not surprising that many of the best pheasant counties, particularly in the northwest part of the state, have a good crop of unharvested pheasant roosters remaining after the season. Winter surveys made after the hunting season bear this out, since this northwest region regularly shows the lowest ratio of hens per cock. Last year it was 2.4 hens per rooster compared to 3.6 statewide ratio.

Another interesting finding from this survey was that a considerable number of pheasant hunters do not make it into the field on opening day. Of about 315,000 licensed hunters, 88 per cent reported hunting pheasants at some time during the season—or approximately 277,000 pheasant hunters. However, only about 200,000 of these reported hunting on opening day. There are, no doubt, a good many possible reasons why the other 77,000 could not get out the first day—having to be on the job, working around the home (the lady of the house may be a factor here!), business, other commitments, perhaps going to a football game, student attending out-of-state schools and thus not at home until the holidays, and countless other reasons.

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TRAPPING FEVER—

(Continued from page 85)
ervation officer. However, a landowner is permitted to destroy such to protect his own property.

Fur Sales

How important is trapping in Iowa? An idea can be gained from a tabulation made of the total numbers of furs, and their value, taken by Iowa trappers over a 30-year period including the 1933-34 to 1962-63 seasons. During this time over \$25 million worth of furs was harvested by Iowa trappers (see first table). Mink and muskrat each accounted for nearly \$10 million. If we compare the catch for last year alone (see second table), we find that over \$1 million worth of fur was taken during the 1963-64 season, but that the relative importance of some species differs considerably from the 30-year picture. Skunks, in particular, show a great decline in importance in the catch. Nearly one-fifth as many beaver were taken last year as in the previous 20 years combined. Muskrats were well above the 30-year average. Most long-haired furs were well below. But no matter how you look at it, trapping is big business in Iowa.

Last year nearly 10,000 trapping licenses were sold in Iowa. Nearly one-fourth of these were bought by youngsters under 16 years old, who pay only a \$1 fee compared to \$3 for those over 16. And then there is a considerable number of farm boys who trap only on their families' own land and thus do not need a license (and a few dads join these ranks, too). Trapping license money last year totaled nearly \$25,000. This is used to partially defray the costs of maintaining annual population inven-

tories of the various species, conducting various studies on their life histories and management, and enforcing the trapping regulations on private and state-owned lands.

A check made a couple of years ago showed that trapping license buyers ranged in age from 12 to 83 years. More licenses were sold

to teenagers than any other comparable age group, with the early 20's second in number. Yet 219 people past 70 bought a license, and 13 of these were in their 80's. It appears that "trapping fever" is really a "chronic" disease. Once you get it, you will probably never get over it!

Table 1. FURS TAKEN BY IOWA TRAPPERS DURING 30-YEAR PERIOD, 1933-34 THROUGH 1962-63 SEASONS*

Species	No. Taken	Avg. Price Per Pelt	Total Value
Badger	8,285	\$ 2.63	\$ 21,762.86
Beaver**	52,493	7.50	393,632.24
Civet Cat	735,218	.70	511,699.55
Red Fox	174,595	2.88	503,393.55
Grey Fox	28,366	1.71	48,559.34
Mink	770,278	12.84	9,894,225.49
Muskrat	7,542,043	1.23	9,283,248.32
Opossum	533,199	.40	213,083.77
Raccoon	1,243,798	2.63	3,271,470.31
Weasel	63,920	.68	43,236.53
Skunk	1,114,082	1.34	1,488,082.29
Coyote	5,072	3.53	17,894.65

TOTAL VALUE OF 30-YEAR IOWA FUR HARVEST

\$25,690,288.90

*Compiled from Reports of Iowa Fur Dealers.

**Beaver season closed prior to 1943-44 season. Includes data from 1943-44 through 1962-63 seasons.

Table 2. FURS PURCHASED FROM IOWA TRAPPERS BY DEALERS IN 1963-64

Species	No. Taken	Avg. Price Per Pelt	Total Value
Raccoon	77,428	\$ 1.44	\$ 111,496.32
Opossum	3,052	0.33	1,007.16
Muskrat	555,055	1.17	649,414.35
Mink	21,032	10.90	229,248.80
Skunk	1,940	0.58	1,125.20
Civet	1,835	2.26	4,147.10
Badger	99	1.17	115.83
Red Fox	6,610	1.86	12,294.60
Grey Fox	232	0.66	153.12
Weasel	203	0.55	111.65
Coyote	61	1.67	101.87
Beaver	9,294	6.52	60,596.88
Rabbits	2,038

TOTAL VALUE \$ 1,069,812.88

WITH A SHOTGUN—

(Continued from page 81)

The hunting technique you use will depend on the number of hunters in your party. Obviously, you cannot post and drive with only two or three hunters. Likewise, it is pretty hard for several guys to stalk an area unless there is room to really spread out.

Post and Drive

With a hunting party of more than five individuals, the best method is the post and drive method. But, deer are hard to push out of heavy cover. Drive areas that are small enough to allow the drivers to walk in sight of each other. If there are no small areas—and this technique should also work well for a party of less than five hunters—at one or two hunters on well-traveled trails while the remaining hunters stalk in the area. This way deer are kept moving in the area, and everyone has a chance for a shot.

Hunting on Stand

If you plan to hunt alone or with one other hunter, you will be forced to stalk or take a stand. Which method you use will depend on the size of the hunting area, weather conditions, time of day and number of hunters in the vicinity. As was mentioned earlier, deer move during the early morning and late afternoon hours. You would probably have good shooting at these times if you sit down and let them come to you. This would be an even better idea if there were several hunters in the area. A ground stand or tree stand should be really good. If you are concealed and keep movement at a minimum, chances are good for a relatively close shot.

Stalking

In an area with heavy cover and no other hunters around, your best bet is the stalking method. This would be especially true during the day when deer are bedded down. When you stalk, move slowly. Always make a definite attempt to maintain your balance and keep good footing in case you have to freeze in position suddenly. Move in irregular intervals. You will appear very unnatural if you move the same distance at the same speed time after time. And remember, moisture and wind are great stalking aids. Take advantage of them if they are available.

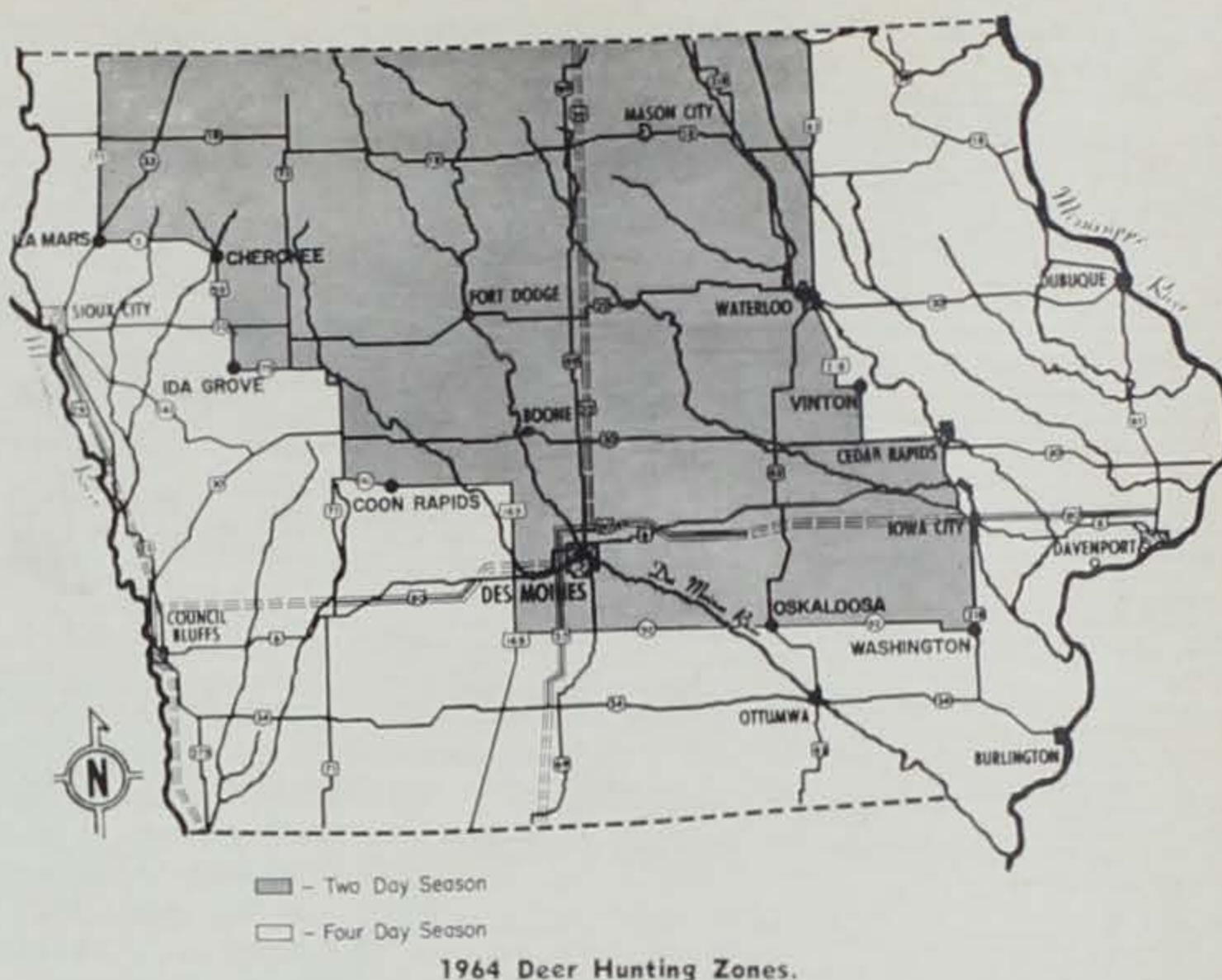
You and Your Weapon

One of the greatest causes for failure is the hunter's inability to hit his target once he gets in position. I would venture to say that the majority of shotgun hunters never shoot a rifled slug before the season opens. As a result they do not know how their gun will perform, and more times than not they overestimate the firearm's capabilities.

The effective range of a shotgun slug varies with the gauge, choke and barrel type. Many will not shoot accurately over 50 yards. Some form well out to 80 or 100 yards. Buy an extra box of shells before the season opens, and shoot 20 or 25 rounds so you know what your gun can do. A rear metal sight or a low-powered scope can increase effective range considerably. And when you are in the field, do not shoot at an animal unless it is within the effective range of your arm.

Season Prospects

The outlook for next month's season is rosy indeed. A record number of deer and hunters should produce a record harvest. The state's estimated fall population has been set at 36,700 deer, and this estimate is somewhat conservative according to State Conservation Commission personnel. At any rate, landowners and shotgun permit holders should



1964 Deer Hunting Zones.

bag about 8,000 deer.

This year hunters will have four days to hunt in the long zone. The short zone season is again only two days. This does not indicate that there are low deer populations in the short zone counties, however. The reason for the shorter hunting season is that deer do not have the extensive areas of cover that are available in other areas of the state. Consequently, they are more vulnerable to hunters.

Areas of highest populations are located in northeastern and southwestern counties, but good deer hunting is available within a short distance of most of the major metropolitan areas of the state. Wherever you decide to go, make proper arrangements with farmers and landowners. Hunting may be so good you might want to go back next year.

WITH A BOW—

(Continued from page 81)

is more important has been debated in nearly every archery article and letters column printed in the past two years.

Good equipment helps. More important is your ability to use what equipment you have. Remember, practice makes perfect. But you can own the best equipment, have all the accessories, be a good shot and still get skunked more times than not. You have to know deer and their habits.

Deer Habits

Deer depend on their senses for survival and are remarkably good at doing so. They are habitual in their movements and feeding activity. If you can read deer sign and know something about these habits, you have a better chance of getting your deer. This is one reason why bowhunters are continually advised to hunt in an area they know, even though it may not have a high deer population.

Deer are usually most active during early morning and evening hours, although during bad weather they may be somewhat active most of the day. At these times they are moving to and from food and water. Unless you are an expert stalker, your best bet during these hours is to sit down on a well-traveled trail and wait.

Ground Stand

A ground stand has few advantages. The only major one is the fact that you probably have a larger target and easier access to a vital area as a deer moves down the trail. Chances are good of a broadside shot. On the ground, however, you are on a sight plane with the animal; and there is a much greater chance that the deer will see you moving into position for a shot. It will be harder to conceal yourself along the trail. You will have to take up a position in or on the edge of cover or construct a make-shift blind; consequently, you won't have the freedom of bow and body movement that would be possible in a tree stand.

Tree Stand

In a tree stand you are less likely to be discovered by any deer moving along the trail. Depending on how high off the ground you sit, you should be above the animal's plane of sight. Any deer that is feeding as it moves down the trail is not likely to look up high enough to see you very often. Furthermore, your scent has a better chance of being blown over the deer than it would have if you were on the ground. A tree stand may not allow as large or as good a target as a ground stand. If a deer moves close to your stand, you will probably see more back and less side area. To counteract this disadvantage avoid sitting too high off the ground. Six or eight feet should be plenty.

(Continued on page 88)



Aerial surveys during the winter help determine Iowa's deer population.

PHEASANT OPENING—

(Continued from page 86)

The longer season with its added opportunities to go hunting should be of particular benefit to this group (see article "The Hardy Ringneck" in the preceding October issue).

The importance of farmer-sportsmen relationships is given added emphasis by this survey. It should be obvious to all hunters that when several thousand hunters are to be found in a single county on one day it behooves each and every one of them to make every effort to respect the rights of the man who controls the land—asking permission to hunt, avoiding livestock in field and feedlot, remembering to close gates, being careful in climbing fences, being particularly careful not to trample unharvested crops if allowed in such fields, and

"TOWERING"

Many hunters have been puzzled by slightly wounded game birds that appear to fly well for a distance and suddenly "tower" almost

always keeping an eye out for farmers or their help who may be working in nearby fields.

And one thing that would be greatly appreciated by the farmer—if you do inadvertently cause some damage, such as to a fence or gate, be sure to let him know about it and offer to help fix it. Nothing can ruin farmer-sportsmen relations quicker than having livestock get out through a fence or gate broken or left open by hunters. Earn your welcome. This is never more important than during the traditional opening day rush.

straight up, rising to a considerable height and dying on the wing. We have often seen this at Nilo Farms when pheasants may rise over a hundred feet, flying strongly, and then collapse and fall like plummets.

In a recent article in the British sporting magazine, *The Field*, writer Denys Laing offers the traditional theories for this strange reaction to shot:

1. That the bird is hit in the brain or central nervous system, or in the organs controlling balance.
2. That the bird is hit in the heart or pulmonary artery.
3. That a shot pellet has penetrated the pleural sac, causing swift pneumothorax and lung collapse.

In the last two cases, a rather

fuzzy theory postulates that a bird's oxygen supply is rapidly depleted and that it flies higher to seek more air.

Laing studied the actions of several pheasants that towered after being shot, and x-rayed those birds. Each had been only lightly "pricked" by shot pellets, and none was hit in the head. From the location of the pellets, he deduced that penetration of the pleura and subsequent lung collapse was responsible for towering and deaths of the birds.

And in view of the pellet placement in those birds, Laing concluded: "Remember, next time you see your bird tower, that, most likely, you almost missed."—From the *Conservation Department*, Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation.

**NUMBER OF PHEASANT HUNTERS IN EACH COUNTY ON
OPENING DAY OF 1963 SEASON**

Number of Hunters	Counties With That Number
6,000-7,000	Adair, Cerro Gordo, Benton
5,000-6,000	Fayette, Grundy, Buchanan, Black Hawk
4,000-5,000	Johnson, Kossuth, Linn, Howard, Floyd
3,000-4,000	Tama, Franklin, Pocahontas, Poweshiek, Butler, Wright, Sac, Scott
2,500-3,000	Clay, Sioux, Bremer, Cass, Hancock, Carroll, Iowa, O'Brien, Buena Vista, Crawford, Marshall, Chickasaw, Muscatine, Story
2,000-2,500	Palo Alto, Union, Calhoun, Shelby, Plymouth, Webster, Guthrie, Osceola, Emmet, Hardin, Adams, Taylor, Delaware, Winnebago, Woodbury, Audubon, Ida, Cedar, Dickinson, Humboldt, Winneshiek, Boone
1,000-1,500	Hamilton, Jasper, Pottawattamie, Clinton, Cherokee, Mitchell, Wayne, Worth
500-1,000	Monona, Lyon, Jones, Washington, Keokuk, Ringgold, Mills, Dallas, Montgomery, Lucas, Polk
250- 500	Greene, Decatur, Madison, Clarke, Clayton
0- 250	Mahaska, Harrison, Dubuque, Jackson, Fremont, Allamakee, Warren, Marion, Louisa, Page, Monroe, Appanoose (and the 7 closed counties—Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines, Wapello, Lee, Davis and Van Buren)

WITH A BOW—

(Continued from page 86)

Rules to Follow

Whichever type of stand you choose, here are a few rules to follow. Avoid quick movements. When you spot a deer moving toward you, move into position slowly; and move only when you are sure the animal is not looking at you. When you walk to your stand, walk quietly. You will probably spook some deer no matter how quiet you are, but an excess of noise can ruin hunting in an area for several hours.

While some archers place a strict taboo on smoking, it is generally believed that the movement involved is of more harm than the smoke itself. Besides, your scent is much more alarming than smoke.

Commercial deer scents may not be all they are cracked up to be, but they sure can help. Even if they don't attract deer, they cover up human scent. When and if you use these scents or lures, place them on thickets or objects slightly away from your stand. This way the scent won't attract attention to you if it does draw a deer in.

Another small item that is sure to backfire sooner or later is not holding your bow while on stand. Use an arrow holder, change hands, rest it over your knee, anything; but don't get caught with it hanging up somewhere so you spook the deer while picking it up.

It has always been my contention that a bow hunter's success depends a lot on the time he puts in hunting. Unless you are lucky, you just cannot expect to go out two or three weekends during the season and get your deer. You have to work at it. It stands to reason that the longer and more often you sit on a well-traveled trail, the more chance there is of having a deer move by.

Last year, the average Iowa bow hunter made less than eight trips into the field and put in 45.3 hours. This is less than one six hour trip each week of the 51-day season. The hunter success ratio of 18.6 percent is amazing in light of these figures. Granted, it won't do you much good to sit on stand all day; but don't be afraid to sit for two or three hours early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

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**Stalking**

Now, what about stalking. Its chief advantage lies in the amount of territory you can cover rather than restricting yourself to one small area as you do in stand hunting. Secondly, you are not limited to hunting during deer activity periods, although they are prime time. Stalking can be effective during midday when deer are bedded down (see "Bow Hunter's Untapped Resource" in the October CONSERVATIONIST).

Always stalk moving upwind. A short piece of common sewing thread tied to your bow can be used as a wind direction indicator. Move slowly, deliberately and at irregular intervals. If and when you get close enough for a shot, move your bow into position slowly. It is hard to believe, but they can outjump an arrow.

Moisture and wind make for ideal stalking conditions. Make use of these conditions when they are available.

Post and Drive

A third method of hunting deer rarely used by archers is the post and drive method. It can be effective if sufficient manpower is available and the hunting area lends itself to the technique.

If you are going to post and drive, choose an area that is small and has a lot of heavy cover. They will run or crawl back between drivers of heavy cover. They will run or crawl back between drivers of heavy cover. They will run or crawl back between drivers of heavy cover. A good spacing rule might be: walk so you can clearly see the driver on either side of you.

Whichever method of hunting deer you use, don't be disheartened by lack of success. Get out as often as possible. When you are in the field, try to anticipate where deer might be and what they might do.

Iowa hunters bagged 538 deer last year. The hunter success ratio was one of the highest in the nation; and with the deer population at an all-time high this fall, you have a better chance than ever of "scoring." Good luck!