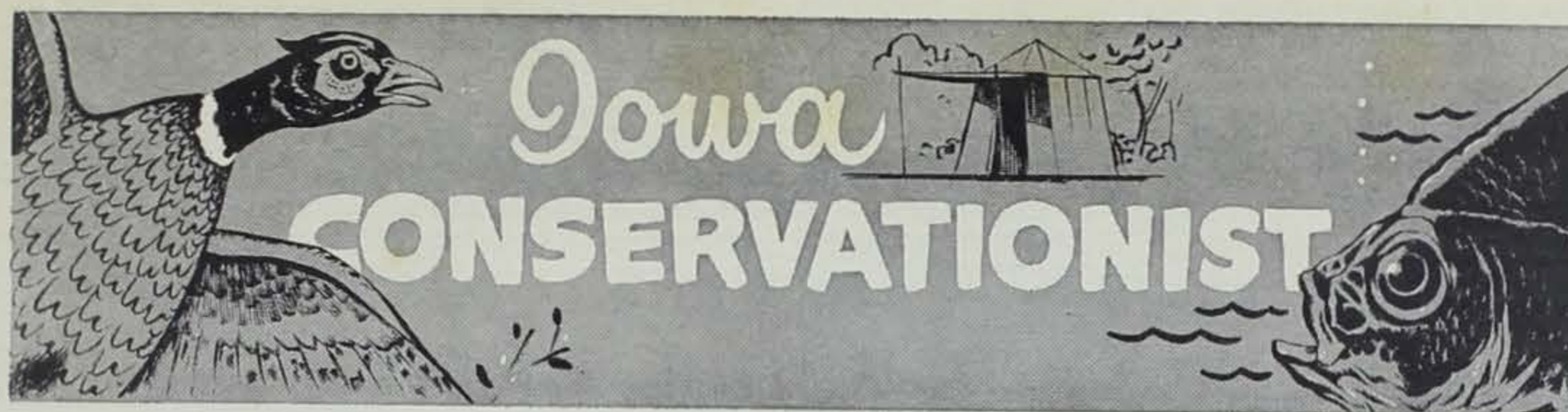


11-67  
THOMAS A. BARTON  
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AMES IA 50010



Volume 26

February, 1967

Number 2

# FREEZE OUT



Jack Kirstein.

A deceiving scene of beauty, for beneath the heavy snow and ice diminishing oxygen supplies are creating a chamber of death for aquatic life.

## NATURE'S CATHARSIS

By Harry Harrison  
Superintendent of Biology

The Weather Bureau tells us that Iowa entered the 1966-67 winter with the driest weather conditions in seventy-four years. It follows, then, that stream levels are approaching all time lows if, indeed, they have not already passed them. Low water levels are cause of alarm for fishermen, and particularly so when they occur under ice cover. Ice will further reduce the volume of water available to aquatic life, causing fish to congregate in areas where water remains. This adds to the dilemma by putting an increased demand upon the all important supply of life giving oxygen. When the volume of water is reduced and oxygen is depleted, fish must die. What then is the plight of the fisherman? The obvious conclusion is: He will be out of business until fish make their return.

It is this return of fish that we wish to consider from here on. To begin, we should point out that over the years we have experienced serious fish kills many times and for many reasons. As a matter of fact, we had a series of big fish kills in the winter of 1956 for the very same reason that we are having them this winter—drought accompanied by low oxygen.

Biological studies of fish kills have shown that almost without exception, kills turn out to have some, if not considerable, benefit to the fishermen. Even though this is like saying you can have your cake and eat it too, I believe that I can build a case to show the logic of this phenomenon.

The natural processes that explain this apparent paradox are perfectly logical. Those Iowa lakes and streams subject to and experiencing reoccurring fish kills have, among other things, one very important feature in common. They are overloaded with decaying organic materials. It is the decay of this organic matter that robs the water of its

(Continued on page 15)



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CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE 59,791

**COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Iowa Conservation Commission Meeting Held in Des Moines, Iowa, January 3 and 4, 1967**

The Commission met with Franklin Kinkade, Creston, Iowa, representative of the Creston Boating Club, and heard a request for the opening of Green Valley Lake to large motors for water skiing. Following a staff report, the request was denied.

**FISH AND GAME**

Exercised an option to buy 320 acres at \$250 per acre at Goose Lake in Clinton County.

Approved the re-submitting proposal of a small lake development in Dallas County to amend the acreage in the project.

Established a closed season on Canada geese in Ingham Lake in Emmet County and in Center, Swan Lake, High Lake and Jack Creek Townships.

**LANDS AND WATERS**

Ordered the reduction from 35 to 15 miles per hour on the speed limits through the congested area which encompasses the beach and bathhouse, boat launching area, picnic areas and parking lots at Lake Manawa in Pottawattamie County.

**COUNTY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES**

Bremer County received approval to acquire 9.75 acres of land at a total of \$10 for a Wapsipinicon River Access. This land is located west of and adjacent to the state-owned Sweet Marsh Area and is approximately 1 1/4 miles northeast of Tripoli.

Buchanan County received approval to acquire 20 additional acres of land at a cost of \$2,500 as an addition to the 40-acre county-owned Jakway Forest located 1 1/2 miles southwest of Aurora on Buffalo Creek.

Floyd County received approval of its request to acquire 101.92 acres at a cost of \$13,756.50 for the purpose of preserving an excellent piece of hardwood timber located 5 1/2 miles northwest of Charles City. The area will be

utilized as an outdoor classroom and public hunting area.

Kossuth County received approval to acquire 28.18 acres of land at a cost of \$6,500 for the purpose of preserving and developing a marsh area 3 miles northwest of the town of Titonka and 3 miles east of the federal Union Slough Wildlife Refuge and in the general vicinity of Black Hawk Creek.

Ringgold County received approval to acquire 72 acres of land at a total cost of \$5,415.75 to develop a multiple use outdoor recreational area surrounding a small proposed lake. The area is located 1 1/4 miles east of Mount Ayr and adjacent to State Highway 2.

Woodbury County received approval to acquire 2.02 acres of additional land at the Snyder Bend river access. The area will cost \$1,010 and will provide 300 feet of additional shoreline, as well as land suitable for the expansion of park facilities immediately east of the already developed boat trailer parking area.

Calhoun County received approval to condemn 3 parcels of land containing 6.05 acres on the shores of North Twin Lake for use as access. Part of this land consists of a county road constructed by easement.

Emmet County received approval of its development plans for Tuttle Lake County Park. This 12.35-acre tract of land is located on the southwest corner of Tuttle Lake and will have park drives, parking areas serving planned picnic and camping areas, a boat launching ramp and boat docks, as well as a proposed group camping area. Sanitary facilities and a drilled well to provide drinking water also included.

Kossuth County received approval of its development plans for a 50-acre tract known as the Buffalo Creek Marsh. The proposal calls for the construction of an earthen dike with a stop log control structure to create a 7-acre body of water for migratory waterfowl and some upland game winter cover planting at an estimated cost of \$1,700.

**GENERAL**

Travel was approved to the Great Lakes Park Training Institute at Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana; the Northeastern Area Fire Control Supervisors Meeting at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Outdoor Recreational Short Course, Columbia, Missouri; the Keokuk Pool, Mississippi River, to collect data on waterfowl; the National Wildlife Federation Meeting in San Francisco; the National Association Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio; to Falls City, Nebraska, for the Enforcement Meeting of Fishing Regulations on the Missouri River; and to the North America Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in San Francisco, California.

A motion to extend an invitation

**Conservation Forum**

Gentlemen:

I would like some information about using an electronic game caller. Can this caller be used in Iowa for calling crows and fox? If so, under what conditions if any?

This caller is battery operated using records for the calling.

Thank you,

R. B.

Burlington, Iowa

*At the present time, it is legal to use an electronic game caller in the taking of all species of game except migratory waterfowl and deer.—Supt. of Fish & Game Conservation Officers.*

Dear Sirs:

I would like to have The Boone & Crockett book of records; both game and fish. How do I get it?

H. S.

Des Moines, Iowa

*You may obtain "Records of North American Big Game" from Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 383 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017, 398 pages, for \$15.*

*As far as we are able to ascertain, the Boone & Crockett Club has not published a book of Record Fish.—Editor.*

Dear Sir:

I would like some information about using cotton seed cake for carp bait on a throw line. I bought those cakes two years ago, but then the game warden told me it was illegal. This year, 1966, a game warden, told me under the new law I could use 15 hooks on a throw line with my name on it and use cotton seed cakes. I am a carp fisherman for 30 years and gave away every carp I caught. In 1963 I caught 449 carp, in 1964 I caught 635 carp, in 1965 I caught 409 carp and in 1966 I caught 747 carp.

I never sold a one. I gave every one away. The day I sell just one—that's the day I quit fishing and that's never. If anybody offered \$100,000 to quit fishing I would tell him, keep your money. I wouldn't live very long if I had to quit fishing. I have been fishing at Oakland Mills and Boylston Bridge for 30 years and I believe you checked my license several times. Last Fall the fishing was no good in the Skunk River. Went to Iowa City—30 times—30 times 140 miles or 4,200 miles around trips. It's paradise up there.

Yours truly,

G. J.

Donnellson, Iowa

*You can use any type of bait you wish as long as it is a substance that does not poison or stupefy the fish. Cotton seed cake most certainly is not a poisonous or stupefying substance and its use as a fishing bait would be legal.—Supt. of Fish and Game Conservation Officers.*

Dear Sirs:

Being an avid hunter, I can appreciate your recent article explaining how some of our Iowa game is under harvested.

Regarding this subject I have enclosed a picture of myself with some of the 90 squirrels tails I have taken this fall!

I skin some of the back with the tail, remove bone, which is a trick in itself, and salt them down good.

Some people should be enlightened on game harvesting and not condemn the true sportsman. Thank you.

P. R.

Des Moines, Iowa

(Continued on page 15)

to the National Conference on Water Conservation Water Fund State Parks to be held in Iowa in Program apportionments.

A motion prepared by Commissioner McNurlen presenting the statement of the Commission concerning the Government Reorganization Meeting was approved and sent to that meeting.

Approval was given to the Dubuque County Historical Society to use chairs stored at Macbride for historical site.

The Commission heard a summary prepared by the Director of County Conservation Board Activities relevant to the recent actions taken by the Scott County Conservation Board.



## TRY CROWS!

Doyle D. Adams

Assistant Superintendent, Wildlife Research Station

Would you believe that hunters killed three times as many crows in Iowa last year as they did geese; killed twice as many crows as they did foxes and coyotes, and almost half as many as the total number of ducks taken? It's a fact. And what's more, crow hunters had a better success rate than all the pheasant and rabbit hunters combined. So even though the game bird seasons are now closed, there is no need to hang up the old scattergun and dream about how the mallards looked hanging over your decoys in the early morning sun, or lamenting about the rooster you missed even though you almost stepped on it. Now is the time to hunt crows. And what more could you ask for than a fast, wary, elusive, sporty target which is plentiful all over the state, and on which there is no closed season, no bag limits, and no shooting hours?

Although crows nest in Iowa and are found here throughout the year, they do migrate. Those found in the state in the winter probably spent their summers in the states to the north of Iowa while our "local" crows are usually enjoying the warmer climes of the south. In Iowa, wintering flocks will sometimes number 5,000 to 10,000 birds. I have estimated flocks of 2,500 in a single field in the early evenings.

### Methods of Hunting

Crows are omnivorous and spend much of the day searching for food. During this time they can be seen almost anywhere. Fair shooting can be had by setting up your blind and decoys near feeding areas such as along rivers, dumps, or feed lots. Some hunters enjoy shooting in these areas with long range, flat shooting, center fire rifles which are effective even though you won't rack up big totals by this method.

With a little food in the gizzard, and it takes surprisingly little to feed an individual crow, "ole Jim" may head for a farm grove or timber patch to tease an owl or talk about the choice tidbit he found for breakfast. He seeks these shelters especially during extremely cold, windy weather. This gives the chance to try another method of hunting. The hunters drive up to a grove, one man then slipping out of the car while his partner goes on down the road. The "gunner" hides in the grove edge and blows his call. This new intruder requires an immediate investigation. Thus a brief flurry of action is enjoyed before moving on to the next grove.

Usually by early afternoon, singles, pairs, and loose groups of crows can be seen winging in the same general direction. When you see this, you can figure that you have found a "flyway." Crows prefer to assemble in a central "ganging area" prior to moving into the roost. These ganging areas are usually a large open field within a mile of the roost. Movement into the roost is usually just before dark and movement out of it is at daylight. Once a flyway is found, and there may be several to one ganging area, you are set for some prime varmint shooting. If you are careful not to get too close to the ganging area, it is possible to shoot the same flyway for several days in a row.

One of the surest ways to disperse crows, however, and to ruin any future shoots in that area is to shoot in the roost itself. Unless they are causing problems in a farm windbreak and the farmer wants them run out, this should be avoided. A friend once told me of sneaking into and shooting a large roost at night when there was a full moon and snow on the ground. Over a hundred crows were killed with an untold number of shells, but the crows never came back to that roost. Even in subsequent years they moved their sleeping quarters to another grove of trees.

### Blind and Clothes

The best location for your flyway shooting blind is at the upper edge of the flyway facing downwind. This allows your call to be heard from a greater distance, and since crows almost always approach decoys against the wind, you don't have to worry about some sneaking in behind you. Movement in the blind is thus cut to a minimum by eliminating the need to turn around. The best blind is made of materials at hand although portable or prefab blinds can also be used. In snow a favorite of mine is to merely dig a pit in a snow bank. This, combined with white clothing or perhaps a white bed sheet over the top, is all that is needed. With a lack of snow, camouflage clothes and some brush around you is all that is needed, as long as you do not make any unnecessary movements. Some people prefer a strip of short trees or brush right in front of the blind so the sharp-eyed crows cannot see you until too late. Even with an excellent blind it is best to remain completely motionless until it is time to shoot.

### Decoys

Although crows can be hunted without decoys, they are a definite aid to attracting birds to your area and in getting them over your blind. Commercial papier-mache decoys are excellent, as are many of the homemade varieties. With any type of decoy, try to get at least one up as high as possible in a tree or on a fence post. These can be seen



Flocks of crows numbering in the thousands are common in Iowa every winter.

for a great distance and appear to be the sentinel always posted by a flock of crows. Other decoys can be set up as though they are feeding, or perhaps resting in other trees. Occasionally owl decoys are used in conjunction with crow decoys. Although crows have a fierce dislike for owls, the use of an owl decoy is not a sure fire method of getting crows. I know of one man who preferred to use a large house cat in a birdcage for a decoy, and he said that this drove crows into a frenzy. In any event "ole Jim" seems to feel that there is safety in numbers, so the more decoys used the better your success should be. One thing that should always be done is to lay all your dead crows out among the decoys to add to their number. A wing tipped crow makes an excellent decoy if it is tethered among the decoys. So does a string tied to a dead crow so that when it is thrown into a nearby tree and the string pulled it looks like a crow jumping from limb to limb.

### Calling

I have known some excellent crow callers who used only their vocal cords, but these men are rare and seldom can they keep this up for long. Most people use a small wooden or plastic call or one of the commercial electronic callers. While the electronic callers work fine under some situations, they have a big drawback in that they can't suit individual circumstances. With a mouth call you can vary your call to bring back those already shot at or to bring into range a wary high flier.

Winter calling should be a loud and exciting demand for immediate help. Slow leisurely calling brings crows in slow and gives them time to warily look over the situation. Crows are not hard to call. If the hunter can do a creditable job on just three types of calls, he can be assured of plenty of shooting.

The first is the distress call, which wails for help from all crows within hearing. This is the most important call and should be the most used. It can be called almost continuously until the crows are in range. The second is the comeback call which can be used to return the rest of the flock after you have shot. This is sort of a "Hey, hey, look here!" with the first two notes short and sharp and the last two slightly longer. This can also be used in conjunction with the third basic call—the mourning call, sometimes called the dying crow call. This is a low, slow "caaaaaaaa" call used to bring the birds in close. Although it is very effective, it should not be overdone. After using the mourning call, the caller should hit them again with the distress call. If it is done properly, this should entice them to dive in to help the "poor fellows" below.

One call that should never be used is three sharp, rapid notes. The "caw, caw, caw," is the crows' alarm and tells every black rascal in the area to get out fast. Occasionally a scout will appear in a tree several hundred yards away and give a two note "caaaw, caw" call. This is just a "howdy-do over there" and unless you can get him worried enough to come for a closer look, he will entice others to join him instead of you.

### Shooting

Almost any type of scattergun and shells can be used to kill crows. They are not hard to kill, but they are amazingly small without their feathers—even smaller in body size than a pigeon. This calls for a shot pattern that leaves few holes for them to get through. Since most crows are not shot at long ranges, there is no need for heavy field loads. My favorite combination is a trap or skeet load of No. 7½ or No. 9 shot from a full choke 12 ga. At the close ranges that many are shot, this puts a lot of shot into the bird—but then few people enjoy eating crow anyway! I have shot crows with .410 ga. and 20 ga. guns also, but still prefer the big 12 ga. for the great variety of shots that crows offer. I also like a gun that holds five or six shells rather than a single shot or double barrel, because when a flock is really stirred up, the shooting is fast and furious and there is little time to reload.

(Continued on page 14)



## IOWA BIG FISH RECORDS

Jack Higgins

If astrologers want to rename 1966, we'll gladly suggest "The Year of the Lunker" as being most suitable. By submitting entries to the Iowa Big Fish Records Book, 53 Iowans have indicated that they, too, would be agreeable to that name. And though many of them came within pounds, or in some cases ounces, of tying all-time records, only four succeeded.

Interestingly enough, three of the new all-time record fish edged out entries that had stood since 1963. The fourth had held supreme for four years.

West Okoboji gave up the largest smallmouth bass on record to Marvin Singer of LeMars. Singer's trophy weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. and was 21 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. He caught it on a live minnow last June.

Chet Ryan of Seymour found a record sized bluegill waiting for him in a Wayne County farm pond. The trophy fish weighed 2 lbs. 1 oz. and was 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

Another farm pond, this one in Taylor County, held an all-time record sized bullhead. The 4-lb. 8-oz., 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch lunker made history in April when Dennie Karas of Massena landed him.

A late November fishing trip to Elk Creek in Delaware County proved

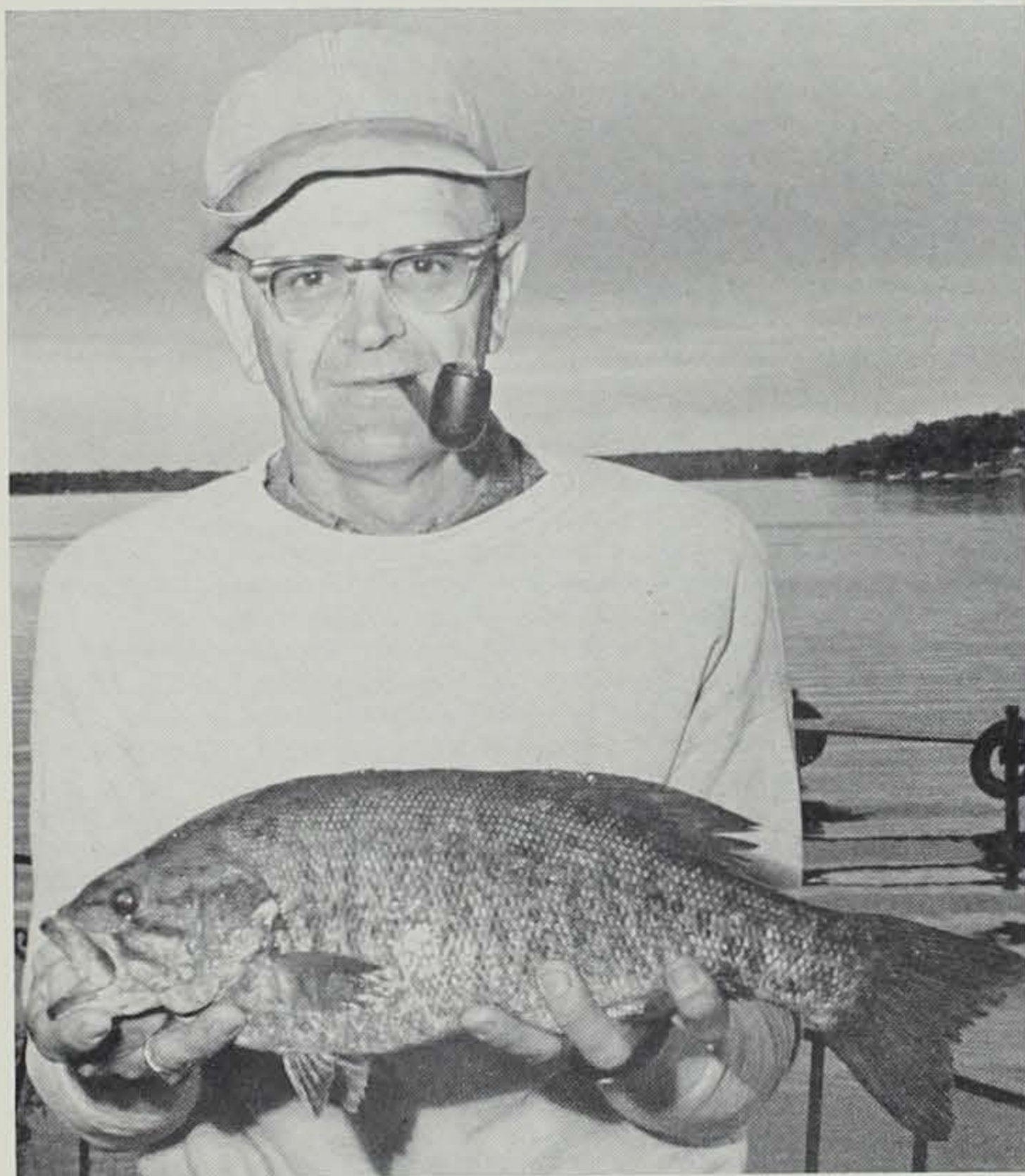
(Continued on page 14)



Robert DeCook's sauger.



Dennie Karas' bullhead.

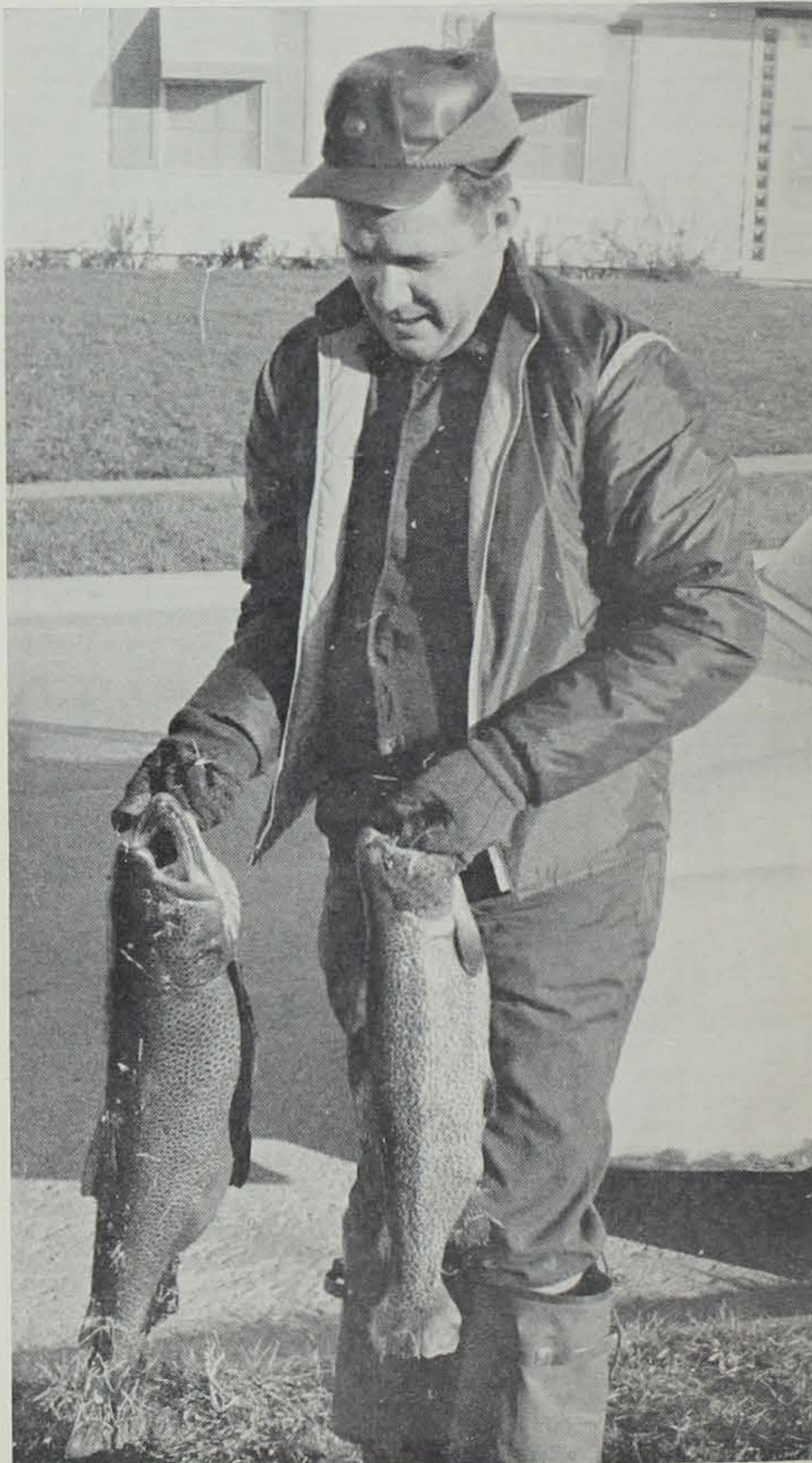


Marvin C. Singer's smallmouth bass.

Spirit Lake Beacon.



Wayne Anderson's Walleye.



Billy Lee's brown trout.

Speck  
Bass  
(Large)  
Bass  
(Small)  
Bluegill  
Bullhead  
Carp  
Cat  
(Chann)  
Cat  
(Flathe)  
Crappie  
Norther  
Paddlef  
Perch  
(Yellow)  
Sauger  
Sheepsh  
Trout  
(Brown)  
Trout  
(Rainb)  
Walleye





Harold D. Teeters' rainbow trout.



Don Parizek's carp.



Charles Brooks' sheephead.



Bill Short's channel catfish.

## 1966 RECORD FISH

Species	Weight	Length	Where caught County	Date	Angler
Bass (Largemouth)	8 lb. 12 oz.	23 1/2"	Sand Pit Franklin	May, 1966	Stanley Halfpop Hampton
	8 lb. 2 oz.	23 3/4"	Lake Geode Des Moines	May, 1966	Francis Hecox Burlington
	8 lb. 1 oz.	23 1/4"	Lake Geode Des Moines	April 1966	Bill McManis Des Moines
	8 lb. 0 oz.	23"	Indian Lake Van Buren	September, 1966	John Hickey Keokuk
	8 lb. 0 oz.	24 1/2"	West Lake Lucas	April, 1966	Chuck Tighe Chariton
	7 lb. 11 oz.	23"	West Lake Res- ervoir, Clarke	March, 1966	Mike Ketcham Osceola
	7 lb. 8 oz.	22"	Farm Pond Jasper	May, 1966	Dallas Chastain Monroe
	7 lb. 4 oz.	22"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo	October, 1966	Walter Davis Mason City
Bass (Smallmouth)	*6 lb. 3 oz.	21 5/8"	West Okoboji Dickinson	June, 1966	Marvin Singer Le Mars
	4 lb. 8 oz.	22"	Cedar River Black Hawk	October, 1966	Herman Siepert Cedar Falls
Bluegill	*2 lb. 1 oz.	11 1/2"	Farm Pond Wayne	June, 1966	Chet Ryan Seymour
	1 lb. 12 oz.	11 3/4"	Farm Pond Marion	August, 1966	Robert D. Smith Des Moines
Bullhead	*4 lb. 8 oz.	17 3/4"	Farm Pond Taylor	April, 1966	Dennie Karas Massena
Carp	25 lb. 0 oz.	36"	Iowa River Johnson	June, 1966	Don Parizek Lone Tree
	20 lb. 0 oz.	45"	Farm Pond Dallas	September, 1966	Larry Kinman Perry
Cat (Channel)	22 lb. 0 oz.	36"	Green Valley Lake Union	September, 1966	Bill Short Des Moines
	20 lb. 0 oz.	34 3/8"	Farm Pond Boone	September, 1966	William Nash Boone
	18 lb. 2 oz.	33"	Farm Pond Page	May, 1966	Jack Tudor Essex
Cat (Flathead)	35 lb. 0 oz.	41"	Cedar River Linn	August, 1966	Louis Becicka Cedar Rapids
Crappie	3 lb. 14 oz.	18 1/2"	Allerton Lake Wayne	May, 1966	James Jensen Des Moines
	3 lb. 12 oz.	17"	Colyn Lucas	March, 1966	Ernest G. LaBarr Des Moines
	3 lb. 8 oz.	18 1/2"	Mississippi River Clayton	September, 1966	John Breiter Clinton
	3 lb. 6 1/2 oz.	18"	Indian Lake Van Buren	April, 1966	Gary Farmer Fort Madison
	2 lb. 9 oz.	17"	Corning Lake Adams	March, 1966	Alvey Hostetter Red Oak
	2 lb. 4 oz.	17"	Halletts Pit Sac	April, 1966	Mrs. Paul Simon Lake View
	17 lb. 4 oz.	45"	Spirit Lake Dickinson	September, 1966	Mildred Johnson Armstrong
	15 lb. 8 oz.	38"	Des Moines River Webster	May, 1966	Jess O. Oleson Fort Dodge
Paddlefish	15 lb. 0 oz.	37"	Coralville Dam Johnson	February, 1966	W. C. Wonick Iowa City
	12 lb. 8 oz.	34"	Cedar River Bremer	October, 1966	Doug Cregar Waverly
	35 lb. 0 oz.	57 1/2"	Iowa River Johnson	February, 1966	A. Robert Embree Wellman
	33 lb. 8 oz.	54"	Mississippi River Jackson	March, 1966	Ivan Earl Smith Mendota, Ill.
Perch	(No entries in 1966)				
Sauger	4 lb. 14 oz.	22 1/2"	Mississippi River Clayton	April, 1966	Robert DeCook Guttenberg
Sheepshead	15 lb. 0 oz.	30"	Mississippi River Clayton	June, 1966	Charles Brooks McGregor
	7 lb. 8 oz.	25"	Mississippi River Scott	May, 1966	Oscar Berger Davenport
Trout (Rainbow)	8 lb. 0 oz.	23 1/2"	Richmond Spring Delaware	October, 1966	Harold D. Teeters Greene
	5 lb. 12 oz.	26"	French Creek Allamakee	February, 1966	Tom Holland Cedar Rapids
	5 lb. 12 oz.	23"	Maquoketa River Delaware	December, 1966	Fred Daugs Robbinsdale, Minn.
Trout (Brown)	*12 lb. 14 1/2 oz.	28"	Elk Creek Delaware	November, 1966	Billy Lee Marion
	4 lb. 14 oz.	22"	Waterloo Creek Allamakee	August, 1966	Fred Daugs Robbinsdale, Minn.
Walleye	13 lb. 0 oz.	32"	Spirit Lake Dickinson	December, 1966	Wayne Andersen Archer
	12 lb. 15 oz.	31 1/2"	Mississippi River Clayton	April, 1966	Robert DeCook Guttenberg
	12 lb. 7 oz.	31"	Mississippi River Dubuque	April, 1966	Merlin J. Houselog Dubuque
	12 lb. 2 oz.	32 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson	January, 1966	Richard Freeburg Arnolds Park
	11 lb. 5 oz.	29"	Mississippi River Clayton	March, 1966	Erwin Koehler New Hampton

\*New Iowa Record.

## IOWA RECORD FISH

Species	Weight	Length	Where caught County	Date	Angler
Bass (Largemouth)	9 lb. 8 oz.	25"	Diamond Lake Poweshiek	May, 1964	Harley Bryan Montezuma
Bass (Smallmouth)	6 lb. 3 oz.	21 5/8"	West Okoboji Dickinson	June, 1966	Marvin Singer Le Mars
Bluegill	2 lb. 1 oz.	11 1/2"	Farm Pond Wayne	June, 1966	Chet Ryan Seymour
Bullhead	4 lb. 8 oz.	17 3/4"	Farm Pond Taylor	April, 1966	Dennie Karas Massena
Carp	40 lb. 0 oz.	40"	Mississippi River Clayton	April, 1963	Peter Hach Cedar Rapids
Cat (Channel)	25 lb. 3 oz.	35"	Rock Creek Jasper	June, 1964	Lawrance Carpe Des Moines
Cat (Flathead)	62 lb. 0 oz.		Iowa River Johnson	July, 1965	Roger Fairchild Coralville
Crappie	4 lb. 0 oz.	19"	Lake Darling Washington	May, 1964	Harold Conrad Keota
Northern	20 lb. 0 oz.		Spirit Lake Dickinson	June, 1965	Mary E. Jones Des Moines
Paddlefish	58 lb. 13 oz.		Missouri River Pottawattamie	October, 1965	Grace Holtzmann —Ann Jacobs Council Bluffs
Perch (Yellow)	1 lb. 13 oz.	14 3/4"	Mississippi River Allamakee	September, 1963	Neal Palmer Maynard
Sauger	5 lb. 2 oz.	22 1/2"	Mississippi River Dubuque	November, 1963	Art Hurlburt Dubuque
Sheepshead	46 lb. 0 oz.	38 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson	October, 1962	R. L. Farran Clarion
Trout (Brown)	12 lb. 14 1/2 oz.	28"	Elk Creek Delaware	November, 1966	Billy Lee Marion
Trout (Rainbow)	9 lb. 6 oz.	27"	French Creek Allamakee	December, 1964	Fred Daugs Robbinsdale, Minn.
Walleye	13 lb. 8 oz.	36 1/2"	Cedar River Bremer	May, 1963	Fred Stifter Waverly





Chester Ryan's bullgill.



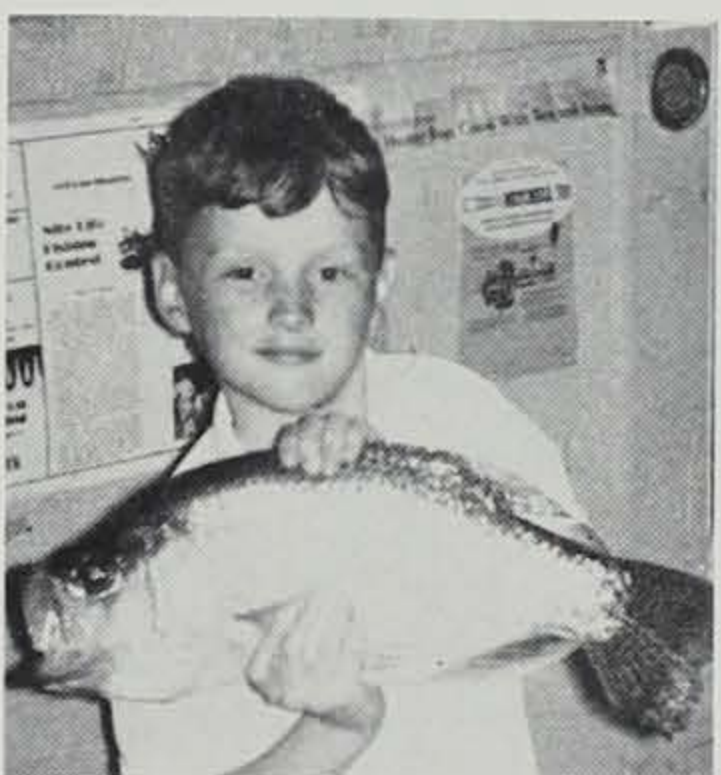
Robert Embree's paddlefish.



Mrs. Mildred Johnson's northern.



Stanley D. Halfpop's largemouth bass.



James Jensen's crappie.



Louis Becicka's flathead catfish.

## IOWA BIG FISH RECORDS—

(Continued from page 12)

to be worthwhile for Bill Lee of Marion. Lee managed to hook and land a 12-lb. 14½-oz. brown trout measuring 28 inches long.

Iowa anglers were able to report a "braggin'" sized catch during every month of 1966. March, April, May and September were the "hot" months with 7, 8, 8 and 7 entries respectively. June fishing produced five entries, while August and October anglers claimed four big ones each month. There were three entries spawned by February ice fishing; two each in November and December. January fishing was slowest, having produced only one lunker sized entry.

Unlike 1965, men rather than women predominated in both the yearly and all-time categories. Only in the northern listing did a woman, Mrs. Mildred Johnson of Armstrong, lead the list. Her 17-lb. 4-oz. northern was 2 lbs. 6 ozs. shy of the all-time record set by another woman the previous year.

After a lapse of several years, the Mississippi again became a producer of big fish. Eight of the 17 lunker fish reported caught in Iowa rivers came from Iowa's eastern border waters. The Iowa river produced five entries; the Cedar three, and one each from the Des Moines and Maquoketa rivers.

Artificial lakes and farm ponds proved highly successful to anglers. These man-made waters yielded 22 lunkers—11 from lakes and 11 from ponds. And as has been noted earlier, the ponds are credited with containing the largest bluegill and bullhead ever caught and officially recorded in the Iowa Big Fish Record Book.

Fishing success in Iowa's natural lakes was good during 1966. Only five anglers reported lunker sized catches. One of the five made all-time honors.

Live baits continued to hold a slight popularity edge. Of those who specified baits, 23 used live baits and 19 used artificial lures of some sort. The selection of one over the other appears to depend entirely upon what's being fished for. For instance, of the ten entries in the largemouth bass division, six specified artificial lures while the remainder didn't indicate what was used.

## THE 1967 CONTEST

Entries for the 1967 Official Big Fish Records are now being accepted by the State Conservation Commission. Any species of fish commonly taken by hook and line and caught in state or boundary waters is eligible. There are, however, minimum weight limits on certain species; crappies must be over two pounds; channel catfish over 18 pounds; carp over 20 pounds; northerns over 10 pounds; smallmouth bass over four pounds; largemouth bass over seven pounds; walleyes over 10 pounds and flathead catfish over 20 pounds.

Any potential 1967 or state record fish must be weighed to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade. The weighing must be witnessed by two persons. The fish's total length should also be recorded.

The angler must fill out an official entry blank or a facsimile and send it and a glossy black and white photo of himself and the fish to the State Conservation Commission, East 7th and Court, Des Moines, Iowa, by January 1, 1968.

The entry blank includes the angler's name and address, the species of fish being entered, date caught, where caught, county, total length, weight, method of catch and the witnesses' signatures and addresses.

Any fish that surpasses the state record will be publicized through the Commission's weekly news release. All state records and the 1967 record fish will be published in composite form in the February, 1968, issue of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST and in the news release.

## TRY CROWS—

(Continued from page 11)

Crows are great aerial acrobats and when the first shot is fired they may go any direction. I have seen some dive toward the ground while others went straight up or to one side. For this reason I like to get the birds in real close for the subsequent shots. Your first shot is the best one you will get out of each flock so be sure and make that one count. Another good rule is to limit yourself to one shot per bird. It is usually better to swing on a second bird than try the same one a second time. Your shells per crow killed percentage will be better.

Another important rule is to stay hidden at all times—even when shooting if possible. Many times crows are not particularly frightened by being shot at if they don't see who is causing the loud noises. They seem to think their falling friends are actually diving down for a closer look and they will return to join them. A good practice is to grab your call immediately after shooting and give a lengthy comeback call. Even if the survivors of that flock fail to return, there are many times when another group is following up the flyway and will respond.

The 22,000 Iowa hunters who killed almost 179,000 crows last year can't all be wrong. They know they have a good thing going. So instead of hanging up the old musket in the off season, try crows!



## FREEZE OUT—

(Continued from page 9)



Jack Kirstein.

Checks on the dissolved oxygen content of the water let us know what's happening to the fish in our rivers and lakes.

dissolved oxygen and in turn results in the demise of aquatic animal life that require oxygen to live. Although this phenomenon can, and occasionally does, happen at any time of year, it is most likely to occur under ice cover. This, for the simple reason that ice seals air from the water, thus preventing atmospheric oxygen (your and my source of it) from getting into the water where it becomes available to fish and other aquatic beings.

A second important aspect of heavy organic loading of water, to those of us who fish, involves the fact that it favors and encourages the development of fish species that we would rather not have. Studies by our biologists, conducted on areas subject to fish kills—those places where kills occur perhaps once in eight to ten years—show that as fish populations recover, they gradually unfold into communities dominated by rough fish and/or stunted game fish. In these areas populations often develop into species compositions consisting of 90-95 per cent "junk" fish. Depending upon the type of habitat, these "junk" fish include such species as: Carp, buffalo, a variety of suckers, and a profusion of small, slow growing pan fish. Because these are favored by the environment, desirable kinds cannot make it in large enough numbers to provide good pole and line fishing.

A third consequence of heavy organic loading is that it promotes growth of tremendous poundages of certain specific types of aquatic plant and animal life, fish notwithstanding. Organic matter in our waters has an effect very similar to fertilizer applied to land. Just as fertilized pastures will support more livestock than unfertilized pastures, so will aquatic environments containing abundant nutriment derived from decomposed organic matter produce more fish than those containing lesser amounts. As a point of interest, those studies by our biologists referred to above reveal that our more fertile waters, including those subject to winterkill, are carrying several thousand individual fish per acre and that the total weight of these fish may exceed 1,500 pounds. However it must be remembered that 90 to 95 per cent of these fish are, all too often, of those kinds or quality we would rather not have.

Now then, let's look at a fish kill and consider a few things that go along with it.

In numerous investigations that have been made of fish kills, and particularly so for those occurring in winter, we have never found a case where every last fish succumbed. Even under the severest conditions a few hardy individuals pull through. These fish provide seed stock for recovery. In most cases, however, many more fish than considered necessary for seed stock survive. They do so by finding fresh water, bank seeps, or springs with sufficient oxygen to tide them over to better times. It is true thousands of fish may die at a certain place and time, but even then, hundreds find water with sufficient oxygen to maintain life.

Fish populations in streams have an added feature aiding their recovery. Streams have a natural ability to assimilate decaying organic materials, or in non-technical language they are said to have an ability to purify themselves. Because of this, the gross effects of organic loading disappears in rather short reaches—40-50 miles under the worst of conditions. Recovery of fish populations in kill areas in streams may then come in from above or below.

What we are saying is this: A typical winter fish kill does not obliterate fish populations. Rather, it reduces their numbers and total weight. This results in a biological void in an environment into which surviving and stocked fish may grow. Because these kill areas are extremely fertile, growth by individual fish is rapid. Fish released from the pressures of crowding become vigorous and find themselves in

abundant food supplies. Abundant food and sufficient space promotes healthy fish. Pan and game fish such as channel catfish, bluegill, crappie, bullheads, walleye, and northern pike surviving kills flourish in the absence of competition from carp, buffalo, sucker, etc.

In addition to bettering conditions for survivors, winter fish losses set the stage for successful spawning and growth. Of course rough and game species spawn during the same year. But, until the habitat fills to its carrying capacity, both groups have an equal chance to survive to adulthood. Game fish populations persist until they are gradually removed by angling or by the pressures exerted on them by a hostile environment—one favoring rough species. This process often takes several years.

Yes, if your favorite "fishin' hole" had a kill this winter—don't give up in despair. Things may be better than you think.

## WATER, LAND AND PEOPLE

**WATER, LAND AND PEOPLE** is the title of a book which, like "Road to Survival," should be read by every American. Water, and its uses or control, has become a vital national problem. Some places, some years, we have too much of it and suffer disastrous floods. Elsewhere we have too little. In cities like New York and Los Angeles—even in many inland towns—and in the western lands which depend upon irrigation, the demand far exceeds the supply. Our Congress is beseeched for huge appropriations to provide flood control navigation, electric power and irrigation.

Water, soil, air and sunlight—these are our basic natural resources upon which all living things depend. Water conservation and soil conservation are twin problems. We have become conscious of the imperative necessity for halting the depletion of our precious topsoils by water erosion, wind erosion, and improper agricultural methods. Water conservation interlocks with soil conservation.

The location and character of our farms, grazing lands, towns and cities are determined by the availability of ample quantities of good water in the form of rainfall, lakes, streams, or underground supplies. As our population increases, the demand for water increases because of intensified agriculture, more industries and higher standards of living. We depend upon water for irrigation, electric power and rural electrification, for food processing and innumerable industrial uses, and for navigation of our important rivers, as well as

for drinking, bathing, fire protection and—lately—such comforts as air conditioning.

Floods, water shortages and dust storms are the ominous symptoms of destruction—the results of three centuries of ignorance, carelessness and greed. There were worthless wornout tobacco plantations in Tidewater, Virginia, in 1776, and in the first 150 years of our national existence we have destroyed more fertile farmland than any other nation in the world in a like period of time. When the Pilgrims came, most of our land was like a bountiful sponge. Now much of it is like a drainboard. Man has cut and burned the forests; plowed and over-grazed the grasslands; "reclaimed" and farmed millions of acres that never should have been farmed.

And there, say the authors of this startling book, lies the key to all our water problems. Dams are not enough; levees and dredged channels are not enough; reservoirs and irrigation canals are the products of wishful thinking; deeper wells are but temporary expedients. **We must protect our watersheds.** A watershed is the area of land that supplies a given watercourse. It comprises the slopes, ridges and valleys on which rain or snow falls and from which the water works its way, above or below ground, to the many channels that, like the twigs and branches of a tree, feed the runoff into the main trunk—the big river.

We must formulate a water resources policy and create a central planning agency that will stop the untold waste of public funds, protect our watersheds, and insure the conservation of our soil, water, forests, wildlife, and scenic wonders. —Reprinted from *Forest Preserve District, Cook County*.

## CONSERVATION FORUM—

Dear Sir:

(Continued from page 10)

I would like to know if it would be legal to obtain certain game fish fry for a home aquarium.

If I could do this could you tell me how and where to obtain such fish and whether or not a fish hatchery license is necessary.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
R. A.  
Waterloo, Iowa

Please be advised that the Code of Iowa requires a fish hatchery license if you are propagating fish native to the waters of this state. You most certainly would not be propagating game fish in a home aquarium; therefore, a fish hatchery license would not be required.

You can obtain game fish fry from a licensed fish hatchery operator. —Supt. of Fish and Game Conservation Officers.



## FISH AND GAME CONSERVATION OFFICERS

Name	Address	Office Ext.	Area Code	Home Phone	Name	Address	Office Ext.	Area Code	Home Phone
Kakac, Kenneth, Supt. VI Fish and Game Conservation Officers	R. 1 Elkhart, Iowa 50073	5918	515	367-3364	Roemig, Alan Mitchell, Floyd	1020 Maple Osage, Iowa 50461			515-732-3307
Adams, Ervin Air Pilot	1801 Army Post Road Box 2521 Des Moines, Iowa 50315	5919	515	285-1982	Rokenbrodt, Floyd Humboldt, Pocahontas	403 6th Avenue N. Humboldt, Iowa 50548			515-332-1236
Davis, Ben, Supervisor IV (District No. 1)	509 W. 10th Street Spencer, Iowa 51301		712	262-1789	Rowley, Keith Dubuque	3192 Kerrigan Road Dubuque, Iowa 52001			319-582-3351
Smith, Curtis, Supervisor IV (District No. 2)	609 E. 5th Cresco, Iowa 52136		319	547-2688	Runyan, Mike Jasper, North Half Marion	R. 2 Kellogg, Iowa 50135			515-598-8402
Lemke, Louis, Supervisor IV (District No. 3)	DeSoto, Iowa 50069		515	834-2109	Shipley, Jim Fremont, Page	301 Fremont, R. 2 Shenandoah, Iowa 51601			712-246-2370
Emerson, Rex, Supervisor IV (District No. 4)	1115 N. 4th Avenue Washington, Iowa 52353		319	653-2566	Simonson, Wendell, Johnson	Oxford, Iowa 52322			319-628-4443
Olofson, Charles Hunter Safety Officer	517 E. 2nd Street Ankeny, Iowa 50021	5919	515	964-3964	Speer, Myron Scott	2629 Cedar Davenport, Iowa 52804			319-391-4060
Anderson, Maurice Clinton	523 2nd Avenue Clinton, Iowa 52732		319	242-6956	Starr, Frank Buena Vista, Cherokee	802 W. 6th, Box 402 Storm Lake, Iowa 50588			712-732-5463
Angell, Glen Bremer, Chickasaw	303 N. Locust New Hampton, Iowa 50659		515	394-2037	Tellier, Frank Lyon, Osceola	Box 139 Doon, Iowa 51235			515-2821
Ashby, Michael Dickinson	Box 233 Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360		712	336-3643	Tellier, George Calhoun	Box 410 Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501			515-573-2508
Ashby, Wesley, Fayette	Fayette, Iowa 52142		319	425-4001	Tilley, Archie Ringgold, Union	1101 Orchard Drive Creston, Iowa 50801			515-782-5068
Baldwin, Jim Clay, O'Brien	121 W. 10th Spencer, Iowa 51301		712	262-3001	Uhlenhake, Mark Monroe, Appanoose	R. 1 Moravia, Iowa 52571			515-724-3571
Basler, Bill Kossuth	Box 97 Burt, Iowa 50522		515	924-3410	Wagaman, Kenneth Audubon, Cass	Box 226 Atlantic, Iowa 50022			712-243-1285
Basler, Dick Woodbury	Box 154 Lawton, Iowa 51030		712	872-6633	Wallace, Jim Ida, Sac	Box 32 Lake View, Iowa 51450			712-657-8739
Becker, Jim Buchanan, Delaware	512 4th Independence, Iowa 50644		319	334-2197	Wilson, Duane Hardin, Hamilton	Alden, Iowa 50006			515-859-7246
Beebe, Bill, Louisa	R. 1 Wapello, Iowa 52653		319	523-2804	Wilson, Warren Boone, Story	421 Clinton Boone, Iowa 50036			515-482-5581
Beecher, Wesley Jackson	300 High Street Bellevue, Iowa 52031		319	872-3391	Wiltamuth, John Lucas, Wayne	319 N. 17th Street Chariton, Iowa 50049			515-774-5693
Bruun, Jens Crawford, Monona	1214 Diamond Street Onawa, Iowa 51040		712	432-1591	Zmolek, Delbert Carroll, Greene	405 N. West, Box 148 Jefferson, Iowa 50129			515-386-4234
Carter, Harold Clarke, Decatur	830 S. Park Osceola, Iowa 50213		515	342-3221					
Downing, Berl Jefferson, Washington	306 E. Briggs Fairfield, Iowa 52556		515	472-5248					
Draves, Ronald Davis, Van Buren	Box 76 Bloomfield, Iowa 52537		515	664-1074					
Edwards, Leo Hancock, Wright	714 1st Avenue S.E. Clarion, Iowa 50525		515	532-3353					
Entner, Dale Lee	2401 Avenue "D" Fort Madison, Iowa 52627		319	372-3513					
Ford, Larry Keokuk, Mahaska	512 Jackson, Box 341 Sigourney, Iowa 52591		515	622-3546					
Handeland, Orlan, Linn, Benton (Temporary)	Central City, Iowa 52214		319	438-6319					
Harris, Glen Warren, South Half Marion	602 S. 3rd Indianola, Iowa 50125		515	247-3360					
Harvey, Walt Marshall	6 N. 2nd Marshalltown, Iowa 50158		515	753-8886					
Hein, Christie Mills, Montgomery	7 Elm Street, Box 329 Glenwood, Iowa 51534		712	527-4188					
Heinkel, Galen Franklin, Butler	1408 Central Avenue E. Hampton, Iowa 50441		319	456-2659					
Hollien, Jerry Allamakee	26 3rd Avenue N.E. Waukon, Iowa 52172		319	568-4102					
Holmes, Verl Palo Alto	103 Call Street Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536		712	852-4969					
Horton, John Clayton	Box 181 Garnaville, Iowa 52049		319	2231					
Hoth, John Howard, Winneshiek	Box 106 Decorah, Iowa 52101		319	382-2717					
Huff, Lloyd Polk	2604 37th Street Des Moines, Iowa 50310		515	277-9233					
Jennings, Ermin Muscatine	1116 E. 3rd Vinton, Iowa 52349		319	472-4494					
Johnson, Richard Harrison, Shelby	213 W. Huron Missouri Valley, Iowa 51555		712	2-3578					
Judas, James Des Moines, Henry	Box 149, R. 4 S. Gear Avenue West Burlington, Iowa 52655		319	753-0297					
King, Duane Pottawattamie	1499 Indian Hills Road Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501		712	328-2786					
Leigh, Ralph, Poweshiek, Iowa, Tama (Temporary)	Box 127 Marengo, Iowa 52301		319	2-6811					
Lemke, Lester Adams, Taylor	R. 2 Bedford, Iowa 50833		712	523-2278					
Macheak, Wilfrid Worth, Winnebago	Forest City, Iowa 50436		515	582-3553					
Meggers, Jack Cerro Gordo	Box 75 Ventura, Iowa 50482		515	829-3323					
Mineck, Bob Cedar, Jones	211 13th Street, Box 29 Tipton, Iowa 52772		319	886-6725					
Moats, Bob Emmet	Box 115 Estherville, Iowa 51334		712	362-2962					
Nelson, Dennis Dallas, Madison	Van Meter, Iowa 50261		515	3501					
Newel, Gene Plymouth, Sioux	176 S. Main Sioux Center, Iowa 51250		712	722-3961					
Oden, Robert Wapello	808 E. Woodland Ottumwa, Iowa 52501		515	684-7693					
Priebe, Donald Black Hawk, Grundy	404 Bertch Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613		319	266-2889					
Ray, Marlowe Adair, Guthrie	509 N. 12th Street Guthrie Center, Iowa 50115		515	747-3002					

## SEASONS NOW OPEN

## Rabbit

Season—September 10 through February 19, 1967.

Bag Limit—Ten (10), no possession limit.

## Raccoon

Season—Noon (12:00 o'clock), October 15, to midnight (12:00 o'clock), February 28, 1967. No bag or possession limit.

Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote, Weasel, Ground Hog

Continuous open season.

## OPEN TRAPPING SEASONS

Raccoon, Badger, Skunk, Opossum, Beaver, Civet Cat

Season—Noon (12:00 o'clock), November 12, 1966, to midnight (12:00 o'clock), February 28, 1967. Entire state open.

