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Jack Kirstein Photo.

The mists of a winter morn and the timbered hills along Iowa's river valleys combine to make the romance of big game hunting a reality to thousands each year.

IT'S WHITETAIL TIME

Preparation Is Key

Bob Barratt, Superintendent of Game

With the Iowa deer season well under way for archers, the shotgun whitetail hunters are impatiently awaiting their turn at bagging a trophy buck. Iowa's gun season for deer opens November 19 for two days in the short zone and four days in the long zone. Gun hunters will be permitted to hunt from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. of each day and can take one deer of any age or sex during the season.

Much progress has been made since Iowa's first modern deer season in 1953. With a carefully regulated kill each season, the deer herd in the Hawkeye State has steadily increased. Each year the number of licensed hunters permitted to partake of this sport has been gradually expanded to take advantage of this increase. In 1966 the quota of licenses was established as 25,000 in the long zone and 3,000 in the

short zone. Applications for licenses did not exceed the quota in either zone; hence, a drawing for licenses was not required and everyone making a legitimate application received a license. About 21,000 license holders will take to the field on the morning of November 19 with dreams of bagging a trophy whitetail.

The number of licenses issued in the short zone of northern Iowa must, of necessity, be curtailed due to the lack of good deer habitat and the relative susceptibility of the deer to hunting pressure. The long zone, on the other hand, with higher deer populations and abundant cover can support heavier hunting pressure without seriously jeopardizing the deer herd.

The heaviest deer kill is expected in the wooded hills of northeast Iowa, southern Iowa and certain areas along the western borders of the state. These areas also experience the heaviest hunting pressure, however, and on a statewide

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COMMISSION MINUTES

**State Conservation Commission
Meeting Held in Council Bluffs,
Iowa, October 4 and 5, 1966**

The Commission met with representatives of the Concrete Materials Company of Cedar Rapids concerning an application for a sand and gravel removal permit on Raccoon River in Polk County and appointed Dr. McNurle of Ames to represent the Commission in cooperation with the staff to work out recommendations for conditions governing this permit.

The Lake Manawa Improvement Group met with the Commission to explain possibilities for future development of the Lake Manawa area.

Land and Waters

Approval was given for a construction permit and right-of-way to the Iowa Public Service Company of Eagle Grove at Spring Lake State Park.

Approval was given for the State Highway Commission to use borrow fill dirt for park road improvement at Lewis and Clark State Park.

Approval was given for a staff member to assist the attorney general as an official representative of the Commission in taking depositions in Nebraska in regards to the Missouri River Boundary problem.

Contract for two water wells in Waubonsie State Park was awarded to Layne Western Company of Omaha for a total of \$8,955.

A discussion was held concerning qualifications for a Mississippi River supervisor position.

Lester Corriell of Atalissa, Iowa, received approval for the placing of 2,000 tons of riprap along the Cedar River near Atalissa.

Approval was given to the purchase of four additional tractors under a bid received in June, 1966.

A request from Shenandoah to allow motorcycle riding on Waubonsie State Park horseback trails was delayed pending further investigation.

Will T. Moline's application to

place a retaining wall in front of property at North Twin Lake was deferred for further investigation.

Fish and Game

Relocation of a levy adjacent to Muscatine Slough in Muscatine County by the Army Corps of Engineers was approved.

Authorization was given to exercise an option on 60 acres at \$150 per acre from Waldschmidt adjacent to Goose Lake and Burt Lake in Kossuth County.

Approval was given to exercise an option on 20 acres adjacent to Sweets Marsh in Bremer County for \$1,500 from Kromer.

Approval was given to a land exchange and to exercise an option from Mitchell & Hanson in Emmet County adjacent to Tuttle Lake for 160 acres at a total cost of \$41,500 and a trade of 13 acres.

A request by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for permission to straighten a portion of the Des Moines River channel in that county was denied.

Closing hours were established for the Banner strip mine area in Warren County to open at 4 a.m. and to close at 10:30 p.m. daily.

County Conservation Projects

Black Hawk County received approval for the acquisition of 90 acres at a total cost of \$10,575 as an addition to Black Hawk Creek Green Belt on Black Hawk Creek near the town of Hudson.

Black Hawk County received approval of the acquisition of 93 additional acres of land at Black Hawk County Park at a total cost of \$10,000 to enlarge the park and its facilities and to create a green belt along the Cedar River.

Black Hawk County received approval for the acquisition of 9.5 acres of land at Bruggeman Park at a total cost of \$83.08, which is the amount of delinquent taxes charged against this property, to establish a green belt along the Wapsipinicon River in the northeastern section of the county.

Black Hawk County received approval for the acquisition of 11 acres of additional land at Upper Wapsi Access Area for \$97.36, which is the payment of delinquent taxes charged against this property, to further increase the green belt along the Wapsi River in the northeastern part of the county.

Bremer County received approval for the acquisition of 16 acres of land for \$3,000 adjacent to the Mueller-Muench Park Area on the Cedar River northwest of Waverly.

Cerro Gordo County received approval for the acquisition of 34.34 acres for \$6,015 as a multiple use recreational area on the Winnebago River 10 miles southeast of Mason City.

Cerro Gordo County received approval for the acquisition of 23.18 acres of land for \$2,950 to preserve a timber and marsh area called the White Wildlife Area located on the east side of the Shell Rock River 1 mile north of Rock Falls.

Conservation Forum

Gentlemen:

I have a nephew, a resident of Wisconsin, 12 years old. Can he hunt pheasants and ducks with me? I have a license and duck stamp. Must he have a license or duck stamp?

Yours,
G.A.
Lansing, Iowa

The Code requires a nonresident to have a hunting license regardless of age or sex. A duck stamp is not required until a child reaches 16th birthday.—Ken Kakac, Supt., Fish & Game Conservation Office.

Dear Sir:

My brother rents two farms in Iowa with no houses on either place. We both live in town. I work for him year-round for wages. . . . Do I have to live in the state to kill deer on these farms?

Sincerely yours,
E.M.
Blanchard, Iowa

Section 110.17 of the Code of Iowa states that landowners, tenants and their children may hunt on such lands without a license. A hireman is not included in these exemptions. You cannot hunt on land owned by your brother without a license. Nor, can a deer license be issued to a non-resident.—Ken Kakac, Supt., Fish & Game Conservation Office.

Dear Sir:

I have a deer license for shotgun. I understand I can also have bow and arrow license to hunt. What I want to know is if by chance I might be lucky and get a deer with bow and arrow before the shotgun season, I could still hunt for deer with a shotgun.

Yours truly,
F.M.W.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Please be advised that there is only one deer season. There are two methods of take, but the season limit is one deer. You cannot take a deer by the bow and arrow method and take a second deer by the shotgun method as you would be exceeding the season limit.—Ken Kakac, Supt. Fish & Game Conservation Office.

Dear Sir:

I wish to travel out of state and hunt one of North American game birds, the pheasant. Is one permitted to bring them into the state, if so how many, and if one needs a permit to bring them into the state where can such a permit be obtained?

Sincerely,
E.P.
Des Moines, Iowa

You would be permitted to bring back to Iowa the legal limit of pheasants that is allowed to be transported from the state you hunt in. However, be sure you understand the game transportation regulations in the state you hunt in.

No permit is required to bring lawfully taken and lawfully transported game into Iowa. The burden of proof rest upon the individual who has game in his possession as to the legality of take and transportation. Proof being a non-resident license from the state in which the game was taken, and tags on game if it is required by that state to take game out.—Charles Olofson, Hunter Safety Officer.

Chickasaw County received approval for the acquisition of 12 acres at a cost of \$240 called Devin Woods to preserve a timber and wildlife sanctuary located 3 3/4 miles east of North Washington.

Chickasaw County received approval for a 10-year lease agreement with a private property owner for the purpose of installing plank diversion devices in the bed of Crane Creek to improve fish habitat.

Linn County received approval for the acquisition of 10.56 acres costing \$32,200 as an addition to the Squaw Creek Park south of Marion.

Taylor County received approval for the acquisition of 50 acres of land costing \$10,000 for a multiple use outdoor recreational area to include a 16-acre artificial lake located 3 miles southeast of Lenox.

This project will be cost shared by the ASCS "Greenspan" program which will supply approximately \$10,000 in Federal funds.

Approval was given for Linn County to initiate condemnation procedures on 348.21 acres of land adjacent to Squaw Creek Park.

Carroll County received approval for a development plan for Swan Lake Park consisting of a new well with a 6-inch casing and a new shower and toilet building at a cost of \$2,500 and \$4,000, respectively.

Franklin County received approval for a development plan for the W K W County Park to be developed as a forest and wildlife preserve with an outdoor classroom, playground, picnicking and

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WHAT ARE YOU?

Jack Higgins

What are you—a conservationist or a recreationist?

This question, forced upon many since the boom in recreation began, has created an image of opposition; that to be one or the other you have to choose a side, a team or group and get out and squelch the other side." It is time that everyone stops and takes a close look at what their goals are.

The nightmare the conservationist envisions (and too often sees happen) is the trampling of "his" natural areas by hordes of uncaring people running to picnic tables, defacing the natural beauty of the surroundings, the pollution of the fine fishing streams (either with wastes or by recreation dams) and the destruction of ancient trees to provide access and parking lots—all in the name of recreation.

The recreationist feels no similar emotion. He's in the majority and he knows it. He "deserves a place to go." His demands are listened to in the places that count. As a result, more picnic tables and camping grounds are being built smack dab in the middle of the precious little remaining wilderness areas.

To date, most of these areas are being developed in timbered valleys that were once enjoyed by outdoorsmen of all stripes—hunters, fishermen, naturalists and even courageous picnickers. Now, the rush is on to gut these natural areas with access roads and dams. The "public" supposedly demands that "unsightly" brush be removed or killed with rays and replaced with grass which is then mowed and treated like golf green. At this point, an area is supposedly made fit for enjoyment by thousands and the argument over the justification of the gutting, dam building, road building and commercialization of that particular piece of natural land is over.

It is time, therefore, to stop the useless bickering, and come up with some reasonable, sane and sound decisions regarding the continual competition of both groups for these areas.

Iowa lacks an abundance of natural areas and recreation spots. Both are needed. The decision to be made, however, is this: Which type of areas can be man-made and which cannot. The answer is simple.

Our timbered areas, and the plant and animal communities within them CANNOT be planned, surveyed, constructed and opened to the public on a mass production basis. The intricate interrelationships of soil, plants and animals that now exists in our wooded hills and valleys, and, incidentally, from which there is still much to be learned, are directly affected, cannot be duplicated, synthesized or rebuilt once destroyed. Such interrelationships, or biotas, can only be designed by nature's specifications and she is slow to create.

A recreation area, on the other hand, can be built from the ground up, and many have been. An artificial lake, tree plantings, picnic tables, campgrounds, shelter houses, rest rooms, etc., can all be planned

HUNTING SAFETY . . .

The advent of the hunting season and two recent gun accidents in Iowa (one in the family of this writer) move us to again use the columns of this newspaper to urge all parents to teach and insist on gun safety. There is no way that we can overemphasize the education of young people in the practice of the simple rules of safe hunting and gun handling.

The rules that we have printed and taught through the columns of this newspaper are as follows:

- (1) Never hunt alone.
- (2) Never cross a fence without first unloading your gun.
- (3) Never allow your gun to be pointed at anything that you do not expect to kill.
- (4) Always carry your gun on safe until it is on the target and take the safe off only when you are certain that there is no danger of hitting another object or person.
- (5) Keep firearms and ammunition where they cannot be reached by children, preferable under lock and key.
- (6) Never shoot across a roadway, water or near farm buildings.
- (7) Always ask permission to hunt and inform the owner and tenant where you will hunt and how long.
- (8) Obey all the laws controlling hunting, especially those involving firearms in an automobile.
- (9) Be sure of the target before you pull the trigger;
- (9) Know identifying features of game you hunt.
- (10) Hunt only with companions who practice all these rules. Leave any party where any of the rules are violated, especially if any of the party has been drinking.

There are other basic rules, but if those listed above are strictly followed, there is little danger of an avoidable accident spoiling your hunting fun. We believe that youngsters who are properly taught to abide by these simple rules will make good sportsmen and better citizens.—Reprinted from the *Bulletin*, Denison, Iowa.



A chance to be alone—a value that must never be sacrificed on the altar of recreation.

and built to meet our specifications. Also, they can be built almost ANYWHERE. We don't necessarily need to rape our timbered valleys to make space for them.

Now then, do we develop (the precise definition of that word as it is used here is "to destroy") our unique landscapes into weekend tent and trailer cities? Or, do we conserve these areas and select other already disturbed areas and develop (here the word means "to create, to build") them into ideal spots for intensive recreation use?

Until we realize and agree upon what we have the least of; what we can build, and what we cannot either build or replace, conservation and recreation will war with each other.

Minutes—

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camping areas at an estimated cost of \$6,700.

Washington County received approval for a development plan for Fern Cliff Park for picnicking and fishing access and hiking and horseback trails at an estimated cost of \$2,000.

Washington County received approval for a development plan for Foster Woods for picnicking, timber and wildlife preserve, outdoor classroom, a 1-acre lake at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

General

Travel was approved to a U. S. Forest Service Cooperative Management Meeting at Columbus, Ohio; National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' meeting at Santa Fe, New Mexico; the Midwest Conservation Education Conference at Oregon, Illinois; the Natural Beauty and Recreation Congress at Honolulu, Hawaii, and to work at sports shows at Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Minneapolis.

Approval was given to advertise for bids on the disposal of an old houseboat at Sabula, a dragline at Noble's Island and a crawler tractor at Shimek Forest.

The Superintendent of Engineering presented a proposed plan for the recreational development of the Red Rock Reservoir totaling \$1,200,000 for possible cost sharing

with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Approval was given to the use of the B.O.R. emblem in identifying all sites where B.O.R. funds are used and a temporary sign with the B.O.R. emblem to be placed on development sites where B.O.R. funds are used.

Approval was given to a list of project proposals to be submitted to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for federal cost sharing under the land and water conservation fund program including acquisition of 627.66 acres of land as addition to the Donnellson and Lick Creek Units of Shimek State Forest at an estimated cost of \$31,887.55 with Federal assistance requested of \$15,944; Mormon Trail Park Development by the Adair County Conservation Board of a 160-acre area southeast of Bridgewater at an estimated cost of \$34,481 with Federal assistance requested at \$17,240.50; the Pilot Grove Wayside Park Acquisition in Montgomery County by the County Conservation Board to consist of 20 acres of land near Grant at an estimated cost of \$10,200, Federal assistance requested to be \$5,100; development of the Pilot Grove Wayside Park by the Montgomery County Conservation Board to include two small silt retention dams to protect the two-acre pond on the area and construction of an access road, picnicking and camping facilities at an estimated cost of \$5,300 with

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Jim Sherman Photo

Br'er fox often builds dens of considerable size. A careful examination shows that Reynard also provides more than one exit.

TRAPPING OF COYOTE AND FOX

Tom Berkley

District Game Manager

Coyote and fox are highly intelligent and both have the ability to adapt quickly to changes of environment. The habits and habitats of each are very similar, as are the baits and scents and trapping techniques involved in taking either. Many sets that will take coyote are effective in taking fox, and vice versa.

If there is any real secret in trapping fox and coyote, it is in locating the trap set in the proper place. It is obvious that it will be impossible to catch one of these animals if the trap set is made in an area that is not used by the predator.

Both the coyote and fox are very doglike in their habit of establishing scent posts, or places used for the deposit of urine, along their regular routes of travel. These scent posts are used regularly by resident animals, and are also visited by other animals that are traveling through the area. After depositing urine upon the scent posts, the animals invariably scratch in the ground, not with the thought of covering the scent post, but probably to leave their own scent at the site. This habit is also the undoing of many a wise predator, as sets made at a scent post established by the animals themselves are very effective. These spots may be found at times along the routes of travel by locating the scratches made by the animals after they have urinated, and may at times be located by the smell of the urine, which often is strong enough to be detected by man.

Making a Scent Post

Many times it is impossible to locate a natural scent post, and it will be necessary to establish an artificial one. One should be certain that this is made near the travel lane of the coyote or fox, or that it is in an area being used by the animal as a hunting ground, a den site, or resting area. This can be determined by finding tracks, diggings, dens, or by seeing the animals themselves. The scent post is established by using the urine taken from an animal or purchased from trapping suppliers.

The travel lanes of the fox and coyote are most often open ridges, meadows, and open pasture lands. It is in such areas that sets must be made to take them successfully. In traveling over these areas, the animals commonly use trails of cattle or sheep, farm work roads, and, quite often, dry washes and ditches. It is in these places that signs indicating the animal's presence may be located, such as droppings, tracks, or possibly scent posts. It is in open areas such as these that sets of the scent post set must be established.

One of the most effective sets for coyotes is commonly called the double-trap set. After evidence has been found that the animals are using the area to be trapped, the first step is to pick out a spot for the set in an open area. Upon deciding where the trap set is to be made, the next step is to walk directly to the site, spread out a ground cloth, kneel upon it, and stay there as much as possible while making the set.

First, dig a flat bottomed trench 7 inches wide, 1½ inches deep, and 36 inches long. Be sure that all dirt and vegetation removed is placed upon the ground cloth. Next, place the drag in the center of the trench, or if the traps are to be staked, drive the stake flush with the bottom of the trench, after wiring the traps to the stake. The traps are then set, one in each end of the trench, so that they are about 1 inch below the surface. During freezing weather it is necessary to place waxed paper under each trap, so that they will not be frozen down. Using fine, dry dirt, fill in around the traps, covering the springs, the chain, and the drags. Be sure that the traps are firmly bedded, so they will not tip under the animal's weight. Place dirt around the jaws, using care that none of the dirt gets under the pan of the trap. Place the 5 x 7 pan cover over the pan and under the jaws of each trap. The slit in the end of the cover permits the trigger to be free of the cloth or waxed paper, and insures positive operation of the trap when the pan is depressed. Under no circumstance should the pan cover be permitted to cover the jaws of the trap.

Cover the entire set with fine dry dirt, using a sifter to remove clods or vegetation. Smooth it over with a feather or small twig. When completed, the set should be covered by not more than 1 inch of sifted dirt. During summer and early fall, the dirt removed from the trench may be broken up, sifted and used to cover the traps, but during cold weather it will be necessary to remove the excavated dirt, take it completely away from the site of the set, and bring in dry dirt to fill over the traps. The ground cloth may be used for these operations. It is well to collect a supply of dry dirt in early fall for winter trapping operations. This can be sacked up and stored in a haymow or other place where it will remain free of foreign odors and where it will remain absolutely dry.

The scent post itself may be a chunk of rotten wood, coyote or fox droppings, or dry horse or cow manure. Either is good so long as it is dry enough to absorb and hold scent. The scent post is placed between the traps, and 8 to 10 drops of scent is placed upon it. After a careful check to see that things look as natural as they did prior to

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TRAPPING—

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ging, your tracks should be brushed out as well as possible, and scent post set left to do its work. This set should be rescented every day.

Another effective set is the trail set, using either one or two traps, concealing them in the trails used by the animals in their travels. Places such as breaks in fences, gates, and other spots where animals are forced to travel a restricted area are the best places. Quite often animals will travel the dead furrows left by fall plowing operations; a dead furrow set may be used successfully for both coyote and fox. In making this blind set, the traps are handled exactly as described in the double trap set. However, no scent is used, and the traps should be placed so the animal will step over the hinges of the trap, rather than over the side of the jaws because the animal's foot will be thrown by the jaws of the closing trap.

While quite effective, the trail set does have the disadvantage of catching other animals that might use the trail or dead furrow. This should be made only when sign indicates that the creatures using the trail are predominantly that of the species desired. It might be worthy of note that coyote urine attracts both coyote and fox, while foxes are not too much attracted by fox urine.

Scent for trapping coyote and fox is available from many commercial sources. This scent has proven to be very successful in Iowa, and would be a good bet for the beginner, who later might wish to make his own from animals that he has taken. The trapper can make his own scent if he desires to do so, by taking the urine from the bladder of a freshly caught animal. Add 4 tablespoons of glycerine to a pint of urine. The gall bladder and the anal glands may be added to increase the calling power of the scent.

The Fox

There are many sets that are used successfully in trapping both the red and gray fox, including several more or less standard sets, such as the double trap scent post set described for coyotes. The only change that might be made in this set would be that for fox. It should be only 30 inches long, rather than 36, and the set might be located in a slightly different location for fox. The location for fox might be nearly adjacent to heavy cover, or in smaller openings in heavy brush or brushy areas.

Of all the fox sets used, perhaps the most effective of all and the one that takes as many animals as all other sets put together, is the hole bait set. This set uses both scent and bait. The fox spends a bit of time hunting mice and other rodents in old meadows, pastures, open fields, along hedge fences and weed patches. He also uses the work roads, stock paths and dry washes through these fields for his travel lanes, and signs such as tracks, diggings or droppings usually indicate that the animal is using these areas.

This set should be made adjacent to a gopher mound, a very low hole or a clump of grass. This is done to insure the animals approaching the bait over the trap, rather than coming from the rear and missing it. After locating a spot, spread the ground cloth, exactly as in the scent post set, and with a trowel dig a hole 2 inches wide and 6 inches deep, at about a 45 degree angle to the base of the grass clump or gopher mound selected. Then make an excavation directly in front of the bait hole large enough to take the trap and stake, or gopher. Secure the stake or drag in the center of the excavation; set the trap and place it in the hole so that the pan will be 6 inches from the bait hole. The jaws must be placed so that the animal will step over the hinge of the jaws, and not over the outside of the jaw, which would be likely to throw his foot from the trap. The ground under the trap should be firm and level, and about flush with the surrounding ground. In freezing weather use waxed paper under the trap, over the pan, and under the jaws of the trap. Using the sifter, cover the pan with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of fine dirt. Smooth out with a twig, and the set is ready to bait. This set may be improved by making fox tracks in the dirt, and by adding scratches to the hole and to the dirt, so the completed set will look as much as possible as if an animal had been digging there, and had buried a tidbit in the hole for future use.

The bait itself is pushed in the hole, and is covered by a handful of grass, which will prevent the animal from learning too much about the bait until he steps upon the pan of the trap when attempting to dig the bait from the hole. In addition to the bait, scent such as fox urine is used to act as a suspicion remover. This also attracts animals from a greater distance than the bait alone. This scent is placed at the side of the excavation, again using a cow chip or a small piece of rotten wood to absorb and hold the scent. The odor will be picked up by the animal from quite a distance, while the bait will be smelled as the animal travels closer to investigate the scent. As a rule, the predator does not wish to eat the rotten bait. Being very cautious, however, he will often roll in and play with rotten meat, as is the dog. In any event, it is seldom that the fox will not step on the pan of the trap while attempting to dig the bait from the hole.



Wax paper, axe, traps, gloves, sifter, trowel and assorted scents and baits are the tools of the fox and coyote trapper.



Established at the base of a small shrub which will serve as a scent post, this trap, when fully concealed, should capture a predator.

Baits

While almost any meat baits, either fresh or tainted, are attractive to all canivores, the baits that have the greatest appeal to the fox seems to be flesh taken from the house cat, muskrat, rabbit, mouse, chicken and several others, with the house cat apparently providing the greatest appeal to the fox. Often baits include cheese baits, prepared catfish baits, honey, coagulated chicken, pork or beef blood, and bait made from fish oil.

Preparation and Use of Bait and Scent

Meat baits may be prepared in the following manner. All parts of chickens, muskrats or rabbits may be used in bait sets. These baits may be used fresh, but better results are sometimes achieved by permitting the meat to spoil. Cut one of the animals into 2 inch squares, meat, hide and all, and place these chunks in a clean, dry fruit jar with the lid either loosely fastened, or with several holes poked through the lid. This jar should be placed in the sun, or buried underground, until the meat is well tainted. One or two of these 2 inch squares is all the bait needed.

Another bait that is attractive to fox and coyote is made from the flesh of an oily fish, such as carp or buffalo. This gives the trapper a variety of baits to use on his trap line. This bait is prepared by cutting the fish into two inch chunks, placing the pieces in a clean fruit jar and covering the top with cloth. Several of these jars are placed in a wooden box and buried underground for a month or two. When the jars are recovered, it will be found that only a very strong smelling liquid remains. Fish juice may be used in several ways; it may be used in the dirt hole set rather than meat, may be used with the campfire set that will be described, or it may be placed on the

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This is raw sewage pouring into an Iowa river. The outfall pipe has been cropped out so that you can see the actual pollution mingling with what was fresh water.

WATER QUALITY HEARINGS

Kenneth D. Carlander

Professor of Fisheries, ISU, Ames

People who like water based recreation—and that means every hunter, fisherman, swimmer, boater, camper, canoeist, etc.—have a duty to themselves and their children to attend and actively participate in the forthcoming water quality hearings scheduled around the state. Dates and cities where the meetings will be held are: Dubuque, Nov. 28; Waterloo, Nov. 29; Fort Dodge, Nov. 30; Sioux City, Dec. 1; Council Bluffs, Dec. 2; Ottumwa, Dec. 5, and Muscatine, Dec. 6.

It is important that Mr. Average Guy and Mr. and Mrs. John Doe

TRAPPING—

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scent post with the urine in the double trap set.

Miscellaneous Sets

Trail sets may also be used for foxes, this again is a blind set, using no bait, and is made as for coyotes. The double trap scent post set may be used if the size is reduced to 30 inches in length. Another set used by many is the gopher mound set, in which a trap is placed in the top of a gopher mound, either a natural mound, or one that is made from a pile of dry earth hauled to the area. This is scented with urine, and might be made more attractive if a meat bait such as a whole dead chicken would be placed about 6 feet from the mound. Foxes like to step up on a mound to look around before they approach the bait, which in this case would cause it to be one of their last looks.

The campfire set will sometimes take both fox and coyote that have become wise to the bait hole and the scent post sets. In this set a pair of traps are buried in the ground as for the double trap set. A small fire of grass, leaves or chaff is built over the traps, and after it has burned out, several chunks of any of the meat baits described may be placed in the ashes, or such bait as cracklings or bacon might be used. Stir these in the ashes, place a few drops of scent at the edge of the ashes, and another set is ready to go.

The sets that have been described are for early fall trapping, but will also work well in the winter, except when snow is too deep, or when the sets are frozen down by thawing and freezing conditions.

Winter Trapping—Fox and Coyotes

Wide changes in temperatures make winter trapping in Iowa rather difficult. However, it is still possible to trap both coyote and fox successfully, provided the trapper is willing to put forth some extra effort to cope with the changing conditions.

It will be found that with weather changes such as snow, rains, freezing and thawing, trap sets are quite often covered by either ice or frozen ground, thus causing the trapper extra work in keeping his sets operative.

For these reasons, it is necessary to have a supply of dry dirt on hand. Both the dirt hole bait set, the scent post set and the trail set may be used during freezing weather. It is necessary, of course, to remake each set after thaws or freezing rains, otherwise the traps will be frozen down. In addition to dry dirt, several other materials

make any needed sacrifice of their time to get to these meetings, make their desires known. Congress knows that the vast majority Americans have no background with which to understand water quality control standards, yet, it has directed that the public be allowed express their views about the subject. People do know what kind personal uses they want to make of our streams. So, the ability make public testimony of these desires is all one needs to make effective presentation. And it doesn't matter if 15 people in a room get up and state a desire to have a stream fit to swim in. This will serve to give weight to the eventual standards that are set.

Iowa has been blessed with an adequate supply of good water. I personally believe that we should ask for standards which will keep or restore streams to conditions adequate for growth and reproduction of native game fishes (differing in various streams) and suitable swimming and other water-contact sports.

Some conservationists may think we should ask for even higher quality water—for drinking water quality. "We should strive for the ideal," they say. I think this approach reduces the effectiveness of presentation. A request for drinking quality water in all streams quickly passed over as a dream—a utopia proposed by a crackpot.

Furthermore, such quality is not really ideal because it eliminates the use of water for much of modern living. The "ideal" can be attained only by eliminating most of the people and agriculture from the watershed. Iowa streams were not "ideal" in this sense prior to settlement. True, the early settlers drank the water from mountain streams, but standards for drinking water quality have changed since that time.

The new standards are to be established to "enhance the quality of water" and to enhance the quality of our living.

In making presentations at these hearings, give as precise and accurate information as you can about the amount of fishing or recreation in the streams for which standards are to be set. You will want to indicate how these would be increased if water conditions were enhanced. Most important—let the hearing and Congress know what you think the water should be used for. Some limitations on use are essential and will become more severe as our populations and demands for higher standards of living increase.

may be used successfully to cover the traps, but will be found satisfactory only if the traps are cleaned, waxed and dyed. Some of the materials are chaff from straw, chicken manure, or chicken manure mixed with peat litter from the floors of chicken houses where such material has been used.

These materials must be completely dry, or they, too, will cause traps to become frozen. Chicken manure and litter has the advantage of covering up any foreign odor that might be on the traps, and odor of the chicken manure seems to appeal to fox and coyote.

Sets may be kept working through winter weather by using 1 quart of calcium chloride mixed with 18 quarts of dirt. This should only be used with well treated traps, as calcium chloride is a salt and will cause untreated steel to rust. It may be used with waxed and dyed traps with good results, and it is an effective anti-freeze.

When dry, cold winter weather prevails, it is often possible to trap coyotes and fox using only snow to cover the traps, provided the traps are treated and clean. Sets that will take fox and coyote using snow cover are as follows: Scent Post—It is quite easy to locate the natural scent posts in the snow. The trap should be located in the trail made by the animals. The trap is made by removing enough snow so that the trap will be covered by 2 inches of snow. Waxed paper is used under the trap, and also over the pan and under the jaws. After the set has been made, human tracks should be brushed out with 2 rods from the set. Clean shingles can be used as a base for traps in deep snow.

Trail set—The trail should be approached from the side, and traps placed as previously for trail sets. Use waxed paper and cover with 2 inches of snow; tracks should be brushed out near the trail.

Water set—Foxes spend considerable time hunting and traveling along small streams, and in the cover usually found along the streams. It is often possible to use water sets for fox when land sets are either buried under heavy snow or frozen down under ice. Perhaps the most effective open water set is made by placing a large meat bait such as a whole rabbit on a rock or other object that is located from 12 to 18 inches from the shore of the stream. Place the trap up against another rock between the bank and the bait. The trap should be flush with, or just above the water level, and should be covered with moss or other material natural to the area, and should appear to be a fox as a natural stepping stone, which he will use to avoid getting his feet wet. A drag can be used in making this set, as it would be concealed under water.

The sets that have been described for fox and coyote are just a few of the possible ones that can be made, but it will be necessary for each and every trapper to make the minor changes that will adapt them to the varied conditions that are to be found on every trap line.



Jim Sherman Photo.

guns carefully broken down and unloaded, a man can enjoy a moment of rest with his boy and their dogs.

WATCH THAT MUZZLE—IT MAY "BITE!"

Russ Nelson

Firearm statistics for 1965 show the months of October, November and December to be the most dangerous for sportsmen who work Iowa's many lakes, streams and sloughs in search of game. Reports of fatal and non-fatal firearm casualty figures were the highest for these months according to data compiled by the Conservation Commission. Of the 115 Iowa firearm accidents reported last year, 20 were fatal and 95 non-fatal. Ten of the fatalities happened at home, nine occurred while hunting and one while target shooting. Rifles were involved in 10 of the fatalities, shotguns in eight and hand guns in two. This sharply contrasts with the national scene, where nearly twice as many guns were involved in hunting firearm accidents as rifles. Though 10 of Iowa's fatalities occurred at home, however, three times as many gun casualties were reported occurring during a hunt. Shotguns fired at close range are more dangerous than rifles due to many potential wound-inflicting pellets of each load. Seventy-four per cent of Iowa's reported hunting casualties occurred in the zero to 100 yard range, and only 10 per cent were in the 10 to 50-yard range.

WHITEBILLS ARE GOOD EATING

Coot, mudhen, whitebill, tulehen, poule d'eau, or whatever you choose to call them are very plentiful in North Dakota this year. If the hunters were aware of the value of this bird as edible game, coot shooting would take the strain off the duck and would reduce somewhat the competition for food between the ducks and coots. In addition, there would be fewer empty bags at the end of the hunting trip, and less about poor seasons.

The preparation of a whitebill dinner actually begins when the bird is shot and in the hand. The quality and flavor of the meat depends largely on the handling it receives in the field. One of the best and easiest cleaning methods, used quite extensively, if the hunter has had previous preparations to take care of the meat, is to simply pull the bird apart in the field. This process is very easy and takes only a few minutes.

To insure a tastier dish of whitebill, as much of the fat as possible should be removed, and the meat marinated in a salt, wine vinegar solution. The solution should be made up of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup wine vinegar to each quart of water. Garlic and other seasonings may also be added to the marinating liquid depending on your tastes.

The whitebill or coot is a surprisingly meaty bird, and its high breast and chicken-like legs provide proportionately more edible meat than most waterfowl. Try bagging a few of these birds during your next hunting trip. Anyone who has eaten properly prepared whitebill would never refer to it as a "mudhen" after the first taste.

WHITEBILL RECIPES

WHITEBILL SMETANE

breasts, legs and thighs of 6 whitebill	1 cup sour cream
salt, pepper, paprika and flour	4 T. flour
fat	4 T. water or wine

medium onion, sliced

Whitebill should first be marinated in a wine, vinegar and salt water solution before cooking. Dry, and dredge in well seasoned flour. Brown lightly in hot fat, 10 to 15 minutes. Add water or wine and place onion slices over browned meat. Cover tightly, and simmer in oven at 350 for one hour or until tender. Turn pieces once and add more liquid

as needed. The sour cream can be added at the same time as the onions or approximately 30 minutes before termination of cooking, depending on your taste. Makes four to six servings.

WHITEBILL BAKED IN CREAM GRAVY

2 to 4 whitebill breasts and legs	$\frac{1}{2}$ t. dry mustard
1 cup flour	$\frac{1}{2}$ t. paprika
Salt and pepper to taste	3 T. butter
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter	2 cups cream
2 T. flour	5 drops onion juice

Skin the whitebill, removing every speck of fat. Soak a few hours in a salt and vinegar solution. Then roll in seasoned flour and fry in butter until brown. Place in casserole. For cream gravy, blend flour, mustard, paprika, butter, cream and onion juice and stir until thick. Pour this over whitebill in casserole, and bake in moderate oven for one hour.

SOUTHERN FRIED WHITEBILL

2 to 4 whitebill	1 cup flour, seasoned or
2 cups shortening	1 cup breadcrumbs

Roll pieces of whitebill in well seasoned flour or breadcrumbs. Fry in hot deep fat (365-380 F.) about 10 minutes or until browned. Fry a few pieces at a time and remove them to a covered frying pan or Dutch oven. Bake slowly (300 F.) for 25 to 30 minutes. For shallow fat frying, cover bottom of kettle with one to two inches of fat and proceed as for deep fat frying, turning when browned on under side. Serve with a cream gravy, candied sweet potatoes, spinach, crisp relishes, southern spoon bread and cranberry jelly.

BRAISED BREAST OF WHITEBILL

Breast of 6 whitebill	1 T. flour
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(Continued on page 88)



Got the boy out teaching him to hunt.

IT'S WHITETAIL TIME—

(Continued from page 81)

basis the per cent of kill in relationship to the number of hunters is fairly equal.

With a highly productive deer herd, most of the deer harvested will be comparatively young. Young of the year and yearling whitetails make up more than half of the annual harvest. Many hunters have been surprised to find that their well antlered trophy was only a yearling buck. The size of the rack or the number of points is not indicative of the deer's age but is an indication of the rapid rate of growth attained by the deer of Iowa's fertile lands. Most deer have their greatest antler growth at two to four years of age and the occasional old monarch taken in the state usually shows a heavy beamed rack but with less points than the younger buck in the prime of life.

Iowa's shotgun deer hunters use many methods in pursuing their quarry. Some hunters prefer to hunt alone and either take a stand along a well used deer trail or hunt carefully and quietly in the hope of jumping a buck from his bed well within range of their weapon. Certainly a hunter who outwits a deer in this manner must attain a great deal of satisfaction in his prowess as a woodsman.

Probably the most common method of hunting in this state is for a party of hunters to work together. Three, four or even more hunters usually plan their hunt so that a part of the group hunts through a wooded area while the rest of their party waits on stand at the far end of the cover. By alternating the procedure as they hunt successive coverts, each hunter has an equal opportunity at both stillhunting and hunting from a stand. Success rates of parties using this system are usually high.

Preparation is a key to successful deer hunting. Deer hunters should scout their prospective hunting areas well in advance of the hunting season. Watch for tracks and other signs indicating the presence of deer and their usual travel runs. Be sure to obtain permission from the landowner if you propose to hunt on private lands. Many state-owned areas also provide excellent deer hunting and a list of these areas can be obtained by writing to the State Conservation Commission office in Des Moines or by contacting your local Conservation Officer or Game Manager.

Legal weapons for Iowa's gun deer season are shotguns of 10, 12, 16 or 20 gauge shooting rifled slugs only. All other weapons are prohibited.

Iowa's highly fertile farm lands produce many magnificent specimens of the whitetail deer. Probably the woods where you plan to hunt harbors a near record trophy. These wily bucks, however, are mighty smart and are not easily taken. If the red gods of fall should smile down on you, perhaps one of these magnificent trophies could be yours this year. Above all, make the most of this recreational opportunity, and GOOD LUCK to you when you take to the field on your deer hunting adventure.

SEASONS NOW OPEN

Quail

Season—October 22 through January 31, 1967.

Bag limit—eight (8), possession limit sixteen (16).

Fox and Gray Squirrels

Season—September 10 through January 2, 1967.

Bag limit—six (6), possession limit twelve (12).

Rabbit

Season—September 10 through February 19, 1967.

Bag limit—ten (10), no possession limit.

Raccoon

Season—Noon (12:00 p.m.), October 15 to midnight (12:00 a.m.), February 28, 1967.

No bag or possession limit.

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

Continuous open season.

Deer—Bow and Arrow

Split season—first half—October 15 through November 13, 1966; last half—November 26 through December 16, 1966.

Bag, possession and season limit—one (1) deer of any sex.

Ducks and Coot

Season—October 15 through November 28, 1966.

Bag limit—on ducks collectively other than mergansers is four (4) daily and eight (8) in possession. The daily bag limit on coots is ten (10) and twenty (20) in possession.

Daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers—may not include more of the following species than: (a) two (2) wood ducks; (b) two (2) canvasbacks; and (c) two (2) mallards. The possession limit may not include more of the following species than: (a) four (4) wood ducks; (b) four (4) canvasbacks; and (c) four (4) mallards.

Daily bag limits on American, red-breasted and hooded mergansers—in the aggregate of these species, are five (5) daily and ten (10) in possession, of which not more than one (1) daily and two (2) in possession may be hooded mergansers.

Wilson's Snipe or Jack Snipe

Season—October 1 through November 19, 1966.

Bag limit—eight (8), possession limit sixteen (16).

Geese

Season—October 1 to December 9, 1966.

Bag limit—5 daily and 5 in possession, neither of which may include in the alternative more than 2 Canada geese or subspecies, 2 white-fronted geese, or one Canada goose or subspecies and 1 white-fronted. The entire bag may be made up of either blue or snow geese or any combination of them.

SEASONS OPENING THIS MONTH

Pheasant

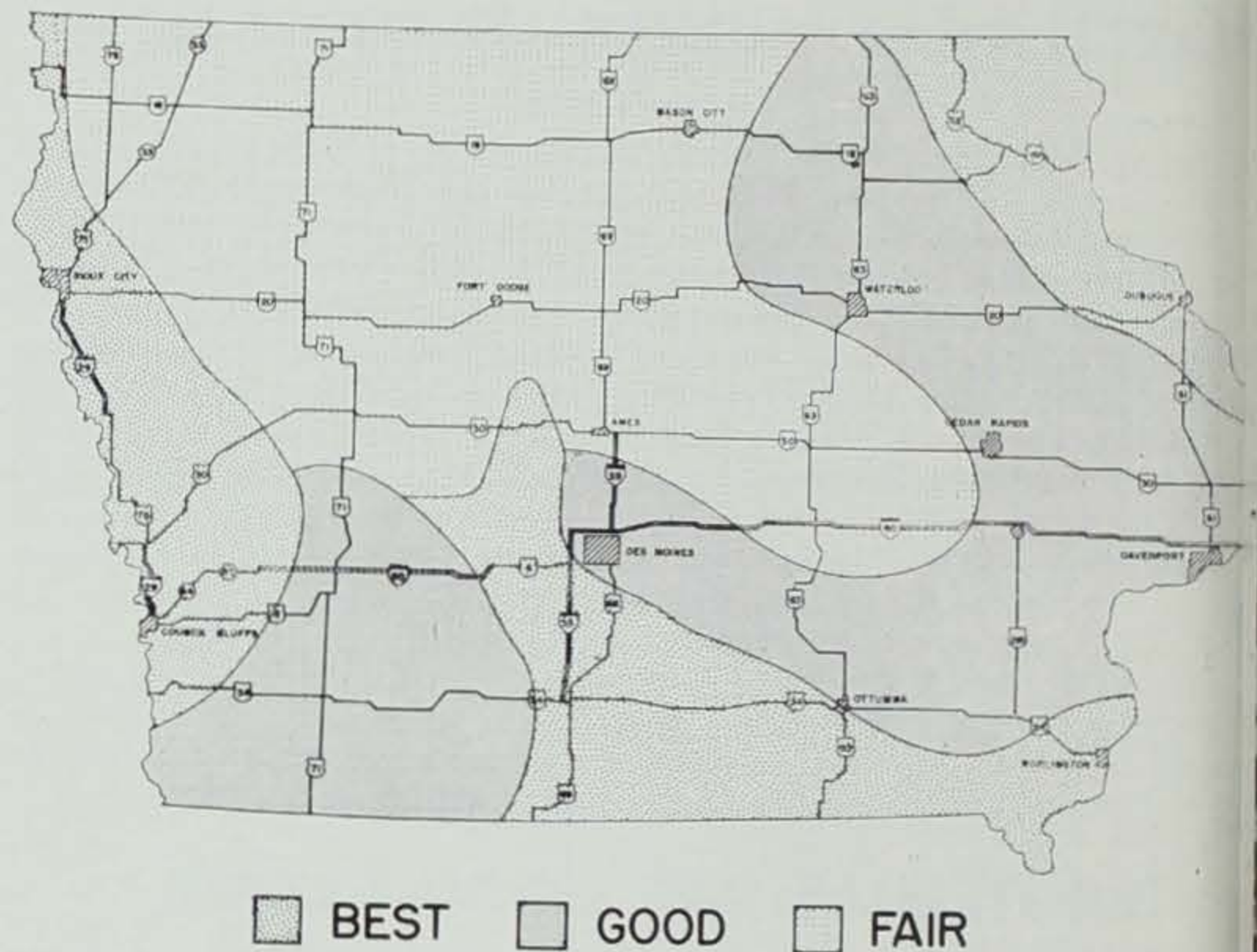
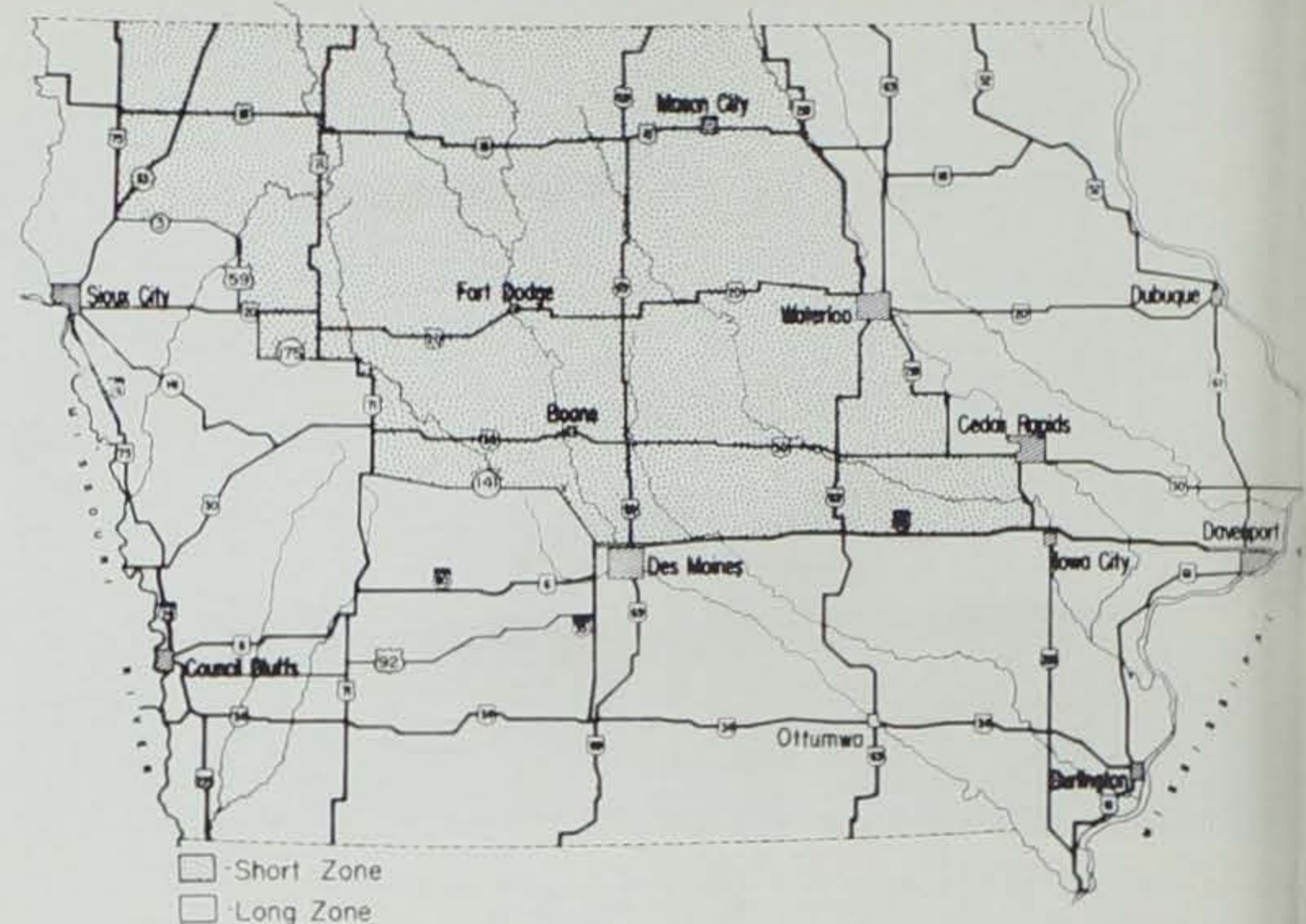
Season—November 12 through January 2, 1967.

Bag limit—three (3) cock birds, possession limit six (6) cock birds. Entire state open except the area south of State Highway 92 from Muscatine to Knoxville and east of State Highway 60 from Knoxville to the Missouri line.

Hungarian Partridge

Season—November 12 through January 2, 1967.

1966 DEER ZONES AND DISTRIBUTIONS



Dale Herman M.

WHITEBILLS—

(Continued from page 87)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| ¾ cup chopped onions | 1 t. black pepper |
| ¼ cup chopped mushrooms | ½ t. nutmeg |
| ¼ cup chopped celery | 1 pinch thyme |
| 1 T. chopped parsley | 3 T. butter or oil |
| 1 large ripe tomato | 3 T. sherry wine |
| 1½ cups clear consommé | |

Soak meat 15 minutes in cold salted water, dry, dredge in well seasoned flour, place in hot skillet with melted butter, and brown quickly (five to six minutes). Add consommé, onions, celery, parsley and tomato. Reduce heat, and cook two to five minutes or until all ingredients are tender. Add sherry wine and salt to taste. Serves four. Reprinted from *North Dakota Outdoors*.

Minutes—

(Continued on page 83)

Federal assistance requested of \$2,650; Poe Hollow Wayside Park Acquisition by the Ringgold County Conservation Board consisting of 72 acres east of Mount Ayr on Highway 2 at a cost of \$7,200 with Federal assistance requested of \$3,600; New Market Area Acquisition by the Taylor County Conservation Board consisting of three tracts of land totaling approxi-

mately 75 acres near the town of New Market costing \$6,200 estimated with Federal assistance requested of \$3,100.

The Commission voted to ask for money from the Executive Council to complete the Nebraska boundary survey work now in progress. The director was authorized to write a letter commending Assistant Attorney General Scism for his research and preparation of material for the pending Lake Okoboji litigation.

Bag limit—two (2) birds, possession limit four (4) birds. Hunting allowed only in area west of U. S. Highway 65 from Minnesota line to Iowa Falls and north of U. S. Highway 20 from Iowa Falls to Sioux City.

Deer—Shotgun

Zone I (Short Zone)—November 19 and 20, 1966.
Zone II (Long Zone)—November 19 through November 22, 1966.
Bag, possession and season limit—one (1) deer of any sex.