

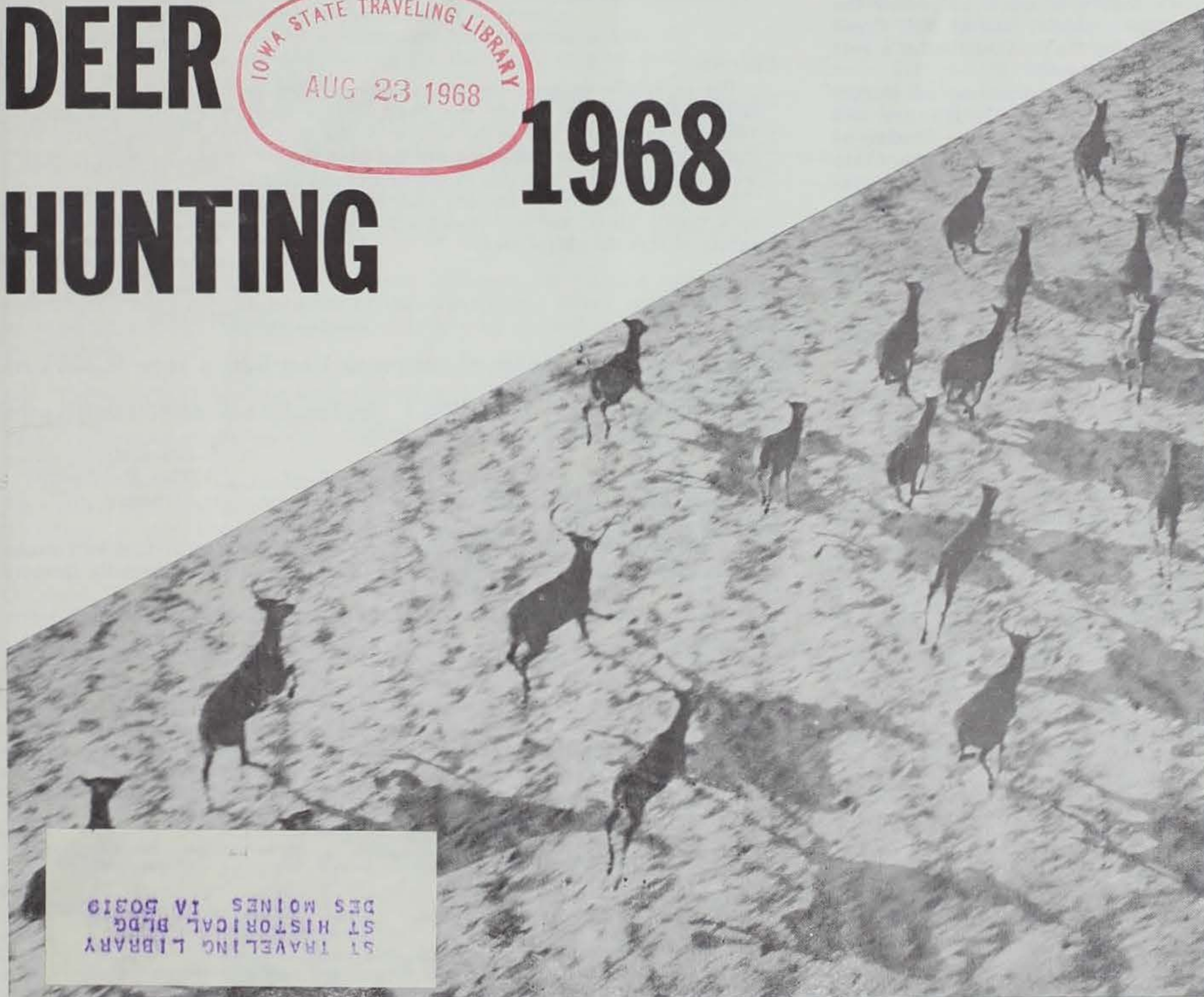


August, 1968

Volume 27

Number 8

DEER HUNTING 1968



By Paul D. Kline
Game Biologist

This fall, hunters will enjoy their 14th successive statewide deer season. Certainly this is an indication that we have been on the right track in managing deer in Iowa.

From 1955 to 1968 estimated spring deer populations over the entire state have increased from 10,684 to 22,870. All populations, after fawns are born, are much higher.

During these past 14 years we have witnessed rather dramatic changes in population distribution. Deer now occur in all counties of the state. In 1967 every county contributed to the legal bag, ranging from three in Grundy County to 423 in Guthrie County.

The most important of these changes has been tremendous increases in south-east and south central Iowa. In 1954 this area supported relatively few deer, although it offered some of the best habitat in the state. Now some of the highest populations in Iowa occur there. Decatur, Lucas, and Monroe were three of seven counties in which gun harvest exceeded 300 deer during 1967. The other high producing counties were Allamakee, Guthrie, Harrison, and Monona.

Along with the increase in populations has been an increase in hunters. In 1955, 5,586 licensed gun hunters harvested 2,438 deer, as compared to 20,811 hunters and 7,628 deer in 1967. Total gun harvest, including that by land-

owner-tenants who hunt free on their own property, increased from 3,006 in 1955 to 10,392 in 1967.

Bow and arrow hunting has achieved increasing significance also. In 1955, 414 archers killed 58 deer, as compared to 4,137 archers and 791 deer harvested in 1967.

1968 Season

The 1968 archery season will be almost identical to that of 1967. Sixty-two days of hunting will be permitted from September 28 to November 28. Hunting will be legal from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day.

Bag possession, and season limit will be one deer. As in all past years deer
(continued on page 60)

COMMISSION MINUTES

State Conservation Commission
Meeting Held in Clinton, Iowa
June 4 and 5, 1968

Eight projects were approved for submission to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for Federal Assistance.

Requests from five County Conservation Boards for approval of projects was granted.

The request of the Paullina Golf Club to use a four acre tract just below the dam of the artificial lake at Mill Creek State Park for the construction of a golf green was approved.

Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station of Iowa State University and the State Conservation Commission on a cooperative research study of Prairie Areas.

Ten bids were let for Land and Water Projects at Nine Eagles, Clear Lake, Beeds Lake, Rock Creek and Pilot Knob State Parks and Nobles Island.

Randall Lilly was appointed Park Conservation Officer at Bellevue State Park.

Approved a request from the Bellevue Sand and Gravel Company to break the bank of the Mississippi River near Bellevue for sand and gravel removal and the development of a pleasure boat harbor upon completion.

The 1968 Deer Season was approved as follows:

Bow and Arrow: Sept. 28-Nov. 28, statewide. Shooting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Shotgun and Muzzle Loaders: Dec. 7, 8 and 9. Shooting hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Issue 20,500 licenses as follows: Zone 1—5,500; Zone 2—9,500; Zone 3—4,000; and Zone 4—1,500.

Approved a land purchase option for 100 acres adjacent to Eldon Game Area, Davis County.

Approved an option on 160 acres in Clay County just north of Gillett Grove.

Approved a long-range expansion program for the Riverton Area in Fremont County.

Awarded contract for development of Hendrickson Marsh, which consists of the construction of the impounding structure, spillway, control structure, roadway, rip-rap, foot bridge and other items as specified.



"I wish this rain would let up, so we could get back to the trailer and eat!"

Our Readers Write . . .

Dear Sir:

We want to congratulate you on the April issue of IOWA CONSERVATIONIST with more legible and larger print—it is so much easier to read. We have taken this magazine for a good number of years and find it to be about the best.

My wife and sons enjoy it as much as I do. We were especially pleased with the article in this issue on Trout Streams.

Sincerely,
Arthur M. Remer
Davenport, Iowa

Dear Sir:

We especially enjoyed the charmingly written and perceptive essay on fishing that appears on the last page of this month's (April) CONSERVATIONIST. In fact, it fits in so well with our plans for a demonstration of family sports we are preparing for the 1968 Scout-O-Rama on May 11 that we are wondering if reprints of the article are available.

This year, the boys in our den wish to present a demonstration on fishing as a family sport, and our presentation would be greatly enhanced by reprints of this delightful essay.

Thank you.
Mrs. Paul B. Gilbaugh
Iowa City

Dear Sir:

I wish to report a change of address as I am now en route to serve my tour in Vietnam.

I would like you to know that I like the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST quite a bit and hope you keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Tim Matthewson
Dubuque

Dear Sir:

For the past several years I've hunted pheasants in Iowa—first two weeks of each season. Not only have I enjoyed the hunting but the friendly farmers and cooperative game protectors.

We've received the CONSERVATIONIST magazine for the past several years. Sure love Iowa!

Sincerely,
F. W. (Wil) Shaver
Schenectady, New York

RESCHEDULE

Lately we have received indications that some of you have not been getting your magazines. After checking our files we find that your names are correctly listed and therefore we must come to the conclusion that the firm that handles our mailing is having problems with their operation.

For any mistakes on either our part or theirs we apologize and ask that you let us know of any issues that you have not received. You will be sent these back issues upon our receipt of your letter.

We ask that you please let us know of any problems in mailing or change of address. Because we must recognize deadlines for printing and mailing, a new subscription that we receive in August (for example) may not make the cutoff date for the September issue and this subscriber may receive his first magazine in October. This time lapse is unavoidable. However, missing issues is not and we appreciate knowledge of these occurrences.

Usually you should receive your IOWA CONSERVATIONIST between the 15th and 20th of each month. The July issue we know was beyond these dates and we ask that you bear with us just this once. We are reorganizing our schedules somewhat in order to provide you with your magazines even earlier in the month than the present schedule, thus the delay.

We thank you for your interest in our

magazine and because of our interest in you we plan some even bigger and better issues in the future. We're pleased that you want to share them with us.

the CONSERVATIONIST staff

Iowa Conservationist

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EDITORIAL

A Message From the Director

(Editor's note: State Conservation Commission Director, Fred A. Priewert, who began his duties June 17, visited with staff members of the CONSERVATIONIST concerning his goals for and impressions of the Commission. Periodically, we of the staff feel that you as our readers would enjoy and benefit from his comments, not only as a reader, but as a conservationist and as an Iowan.)

In combining all factors and workings of the Commission, basically our job boils down to providing the best we can for the people of Iowa, with the best employees and the money available.

Providing this maximum recreation in all forms, without being detrimental to the resources and consistent with other land use practices, is a tremendous job . . . and a tremendous challenge. And, obviously, our problems aren't simple. We must have goal-oriented, team people to accomplish our objectives.

For me, the immediate objectives are to learn the workings of the department, to meet people and learn their problems, to understand the basic organization, and to provide good leadership to do the jobs that each individual in the Commission has to do.

I feel there is much work to be done, although I'm pleased with almost everything I have seen in and out of the department. Every individual must be oriented toward the Commission objective of providing this better life for Iowans.

As in any major project or activity, we need everyone's support. A job of this dimension can't be done without help, and this help comes from not only the personnel within the organization, but also from the legislature, other agencies in government, organized sportsmen and recreationists, and all the people of Iowa.

I look forward to a considerable amount of help from the members of the legislature next spring. We have a total common goal—making Iowa the best place to live. The Commission will bring sound proposals to the session, and give the members good, solid facts and information for their use in appropriating funds and making sound legislation for conservation programs in the state.

We at the Commission, and certainly all members of the legislature, are interested in the best for Iowans. By coordinating projects and cooperating with many different agencies, we can achieve these goals.

Within the Commission itself, all individuals are tied together. Thus, when a person makes a good impression it reflects to some degree on everyone. And, of course, the reverse is true.

As a group and because of the background and experience in our field, we are more qualified than anyone to manage our natural resources. Our specialists have been trained and educated to carry out land use practices, to provide adequate areas for wildlife populations, to manage game and fish, and lands and waters resources, and to provide sound information to the people of Iowa. Our first responsibility is to manage properly, and this, I know, we are qualified to do.

So far I have been able to take several flights around the state, to become generally aware of the conditions connected with conservation. In the future I hope to be able to leave my desk even more in order to become completely familiar with areas in the state and learn the many details of individual projects.

In a few weeks my family will join me here, and as "new Iowans" we are all anxious to visit throughout the state and enjoy the many things that Iowa has to offer.

I am pleased with what I see, and I am ready to support and participate in recreation and conservation programs now in progress. But I am also ready to meet the challenge of doing even more to achieve a better and more enjoyable life in the outdoors.

fp/ke



Several of our subscribers have written to us asking how to prepare and cook the various types of fish. The basic rules for cooking fish and seafood are easy to follow, even though each type of fish has individual flavor, texture, and appearance.

The first rule is to make allowances for the fat content of fish, and then apply common sense to any cooking method for almost all species. This means that lean fish may be cooked by dry heat methods (baking or broiling) if the fish is basted frequently with butter or margarine to prevent drying. Other bastes may be combined with the fat used—lemon or garlic, or individual basting sauces.

In all cases, try to avoid cooking the fish too long. Fish, when served, should be moist and tender, with a delicate flavor.

Excessive handling during cooking should be avoided.

In preparation for the skillet or baking dish, one rule applies to all fish. Don't leave fresh fish soaking in water. This can cause loss of flavor and makes the flesh flabby. To prepare, just wash the fish quickly, drain, and dry carefully on paper toweling.

There are three basic cuts of fish which should be noted.

Figure 1: Dressed or Pan-dressed; scaled, drawn with head, tail and fins removed.

Figure 2: Steaked; cross-sectional slices are cut from larger fish.

Figure 3: Fileted; sides of fish are cut lengthwise along backbone.

An easy and tasty recipe for either the "indoor" or "outdoor" kitchen is Fish and Cheese Fold-overs.

Use sole or other thin fish filets, either fresh or thawed frozen. Make one fold in each filet, placing a slice of American cheese in the fold.

Brush the outside with butter or margarine and lemon juice if you prefer.

Arrange the filet in a close-meshed wire broiler basket and broil quickly over hot coals. Turn and brush with more butter for just a few minutes.



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



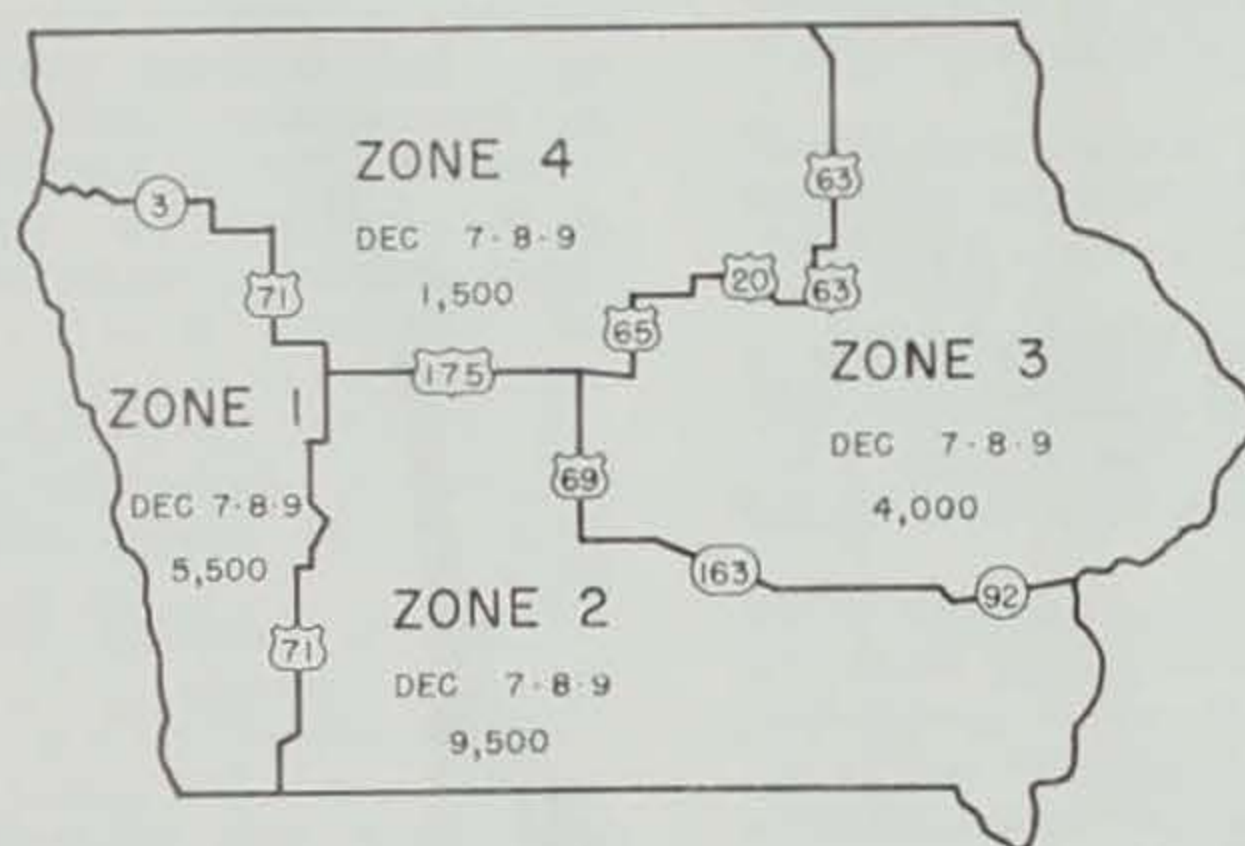
FIG. 3

'68 Deer Seasons, Zones, Hunting Tips

(continued from page 57)

of any age or sex will be lawful game. No quotas will be established on the number of archery permits, and they will be available throughout the season.

Some changes in the gun season have been made when compared to 1967. Only four zones will be used with quotas established for each; six were used last year (see map). Fewer licenses will be issued in most of northern and eastern Iowa. The season will last three days over the entire state, December 7-9, inclusive. Shooting hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.



Landowner-tenants will be required to have a license to hunt on their own property; although the license will be issued without fee. As with archers, the bag, possession and season limit will be one deer; and deer of any age or sex may be taken. Only 20-, 16-, and 12-gauge shotguns with slugs will be permitted.

How the Season Was Set

In recent years there has been some evidence that populations in northern and eastern Iowa have been subjected to rather heavy hunting pressure. Consequently, efforts have been made to reduce this pressure by establishing zones, lower license quotas, and shorter seasons in those areas where it seems deer need some extra protection.

For example, survival tables, based on a sample of deer aged by biologists during the 1967 season, show rather conclusively deer in northern Iowa do not live as long as in the rest of the state.

Expected life of a yearling deer from north central Iowa is 1.1 years additional as compared to 1.45 years additional in south central counties. This is believed to reflect heavier hunting pressure in northern Iowa. Hunting pressure here means more than numbers of hunters. It also encompasses numbers of deer and the amount of protective habitat available.

One deer is more difficult to find in southern Iowa, where there is an abundance of timber and brushland, than in north central Iowa where such cover is relatively limited.

Over the entire state in 1967, 41 percent of the bag was fawns, 32 percent was yearlings, 15 percent was 2½-year-old deer, 7.5 percent was 3½-year-old deer, and only 4.5 percent was comprised of deer older than 3½ years. Obviously, our deer do not live as long as many people suppose. This is balanced by the fact, however, that production is so high. In fact, if no mortality occurred, the herd has a potential to increase by 70 percent or more annually.

Survival tables were considered when the 1968 season was set, reducing the license quotas in northern and eastern areas from quotas used in 1967. Another consideration was the fact that success of gun hunters in eastern Iowa in 1967 was much below that enjoyed by hunters in other portions of the state.

In east central counties only 18.1 percent of the gun hunters bagged a deer compared to 30.3 percent statewide. Low hunting success in that area may reflect heavy hunting pressure during past seasons. The license quota reductions were enacted to compensate for this possibility.

Liberal archery regulations are based on the premise that here we achieve maximum recreation potential at relatively little cost to the deer herd.

For example, in 1967, 233 hours of archery hunting were required on the average to reduce a deer to bag. Paid gun hunters required 38.8 hours, and landowner-tenant gun hunters required 44.5 hours. In all, 591,715 hours of recreation through hunting were provided by our deer herd in 1967. This is indeed big business.

In 1967, for the first time, landowner-tenants who obtained free permits were required to return a report card of their hunting success. Through this we acquired some rather startling information.

We learned for the first time that the

number of nimrods hunting without fee on their property was very high, 14,529 as compared to 19,712 paid shotgun hunters. We also learned that many free license hunters did not hunt at all (about 6,000), and those who did spent less time afield and were less successful than the paid licensees. The harvest by free license holders was 2,764 or more than 25 percent of the total gun harvest—a very significant factor.

Advice to Gun Hunters

Doubtlessly many nimrods want to hunt within reasonable distance of home. But deer, like all other game species, are where you find them. For those hunters resident in Zones 3 and 4 there are two major advantages in considering a trip to Zone 1 or 2.

First, the license quotas for Zones 3 and 4 are meant to be restrictive. We want fewer deer killed there than in the past. Chances are many hunters who apply for permits for Zones 3 and 4 will not be successful.

Chances for getting a permit are best in Zone 1. There the quota remains the same as last year when it was never filled.

Second, your chances of bagging a deer are much greater either in Zone 1 or 2 than in Zone 3. The low success in Zone 3 for last year has already been pointed out.

If you plan a deer hunting trip to new territory it will pay you to lay a little groundwork. Before the season visit the locale, get acquainted with the landowners, and get their permission to hunt. This may save you hours of frustration during the three day season.

Explore the terrain, learn where the deer are (landowners often know) and where they travel. One weekend spent in a new area prior to the season will greatly increase your chances when deer season comes around.



By Eugene D. Klonglan
Asst. Supt. of Biology

The thrill of hearing the "gobble" of the wild turkey could come to more Iowans this year than at any time since the "pioneer days." Efforts of the State Conservation Commission during the past two years have greatly expanded the number of areas in which these birds might be observed.

Hopefully, the wild turkeys themselves will now begin creating a sizeable occupied range around each of the sites where birds were stocked.

The first release of wild turkeys in the current series of experiments was made in the winter of 1960-61 in the Yellow River State Forest in Allamakee County in northeastern Iowa. These were the Rio Grande species and were obtained from Texas. Early results were somewhat encouraging, but the population has remained about the same the last few years.

When no remarkable increase occurred within five years after the Yellow River Forest releases (similar to reports and data from other states) the question arose whether the particular subspecies involved (the Rio Grande) was the best suited to Iowa conditions.

The bird originally found in Iowa was the Eastern wild turkey which is still present in Missouri. States to the west had excellent success with the Merriam's Turkey—the one commonly found in the southwest. Steps were then initiated in 1965 to obtain birds of the latter two subspecies for testing their adaptability to present Iowa habitat conditions.

Shimek State Forest—"Easterns"

In October, 1965, the initial release of two toms and three juvenile hens of the Eastern strain of wild turkeys was made in Shimek State Forest in Lee County in southeastern Iowa. These birds were live-trapped in the wild in southern Missouri by the Missouri Conservation Department. An additional adult tom and five more hens were obtained and released at the same site in March 1966, making a total stocking of 1 birds—three toms and eight hens.

Results have been encouraging to date. At least two broods were reared in 1966, while four were verified in the summer of 1967. Many residents have reported seeing or hearing these turkeys. During the first fall and winter (that is, after the first production season was past) reports of 15 to 20 birds being sighted at once were received.

Following the second production season, observations of 20 to 25 birds in one group have been made. (One unverified report of 30.) There have been many reports of smaller groups, but the possibility of duplications makes it difficult to evaluate these.

Efforts to obtain more accurate counts of the number of birds present have been hampered by the lack of extended snow cover. However, this has worked

to the advantage of the birds, and their survival has been enhanced by the favorable winter weather. Sightings have been reported up to six miles from the original point of release.

The odds for establishing a resident turkey population in this corner of the state received a boost when Missouri stocked 18 birds (six toms and 12 hens) in the winter of 1966-67 at a site about 10 miles south of the Iowa line southwest of Shimek State Forest. Of course, the wild birds don't recognize state boundaries, and since the Des Moines River will present no barrier to them, prospects are favorable that wild turkeys can be re-established in this part of the state, which was once one of their earlier strongholds.

Stephens State Forest—"Merriam's"

In late January, 1966, 11 Merriam's wild turkeys were released in the Thousand-Acre Unit of the Stephens State Forest in the northeastern part of Lucas County near the Monroe County line. These consisted of four juvenile toms, two adult hens, and five juvenile hens. These Merriam's turkeys were trapped in the wild, in western Nebraska by that Game Commission.

Reports of broods during the two production seasons following this release have not been as encouraging as with the Eastern strain at Shimek. At least two broods, possibly three, were reared in the summer of 1966, but only one brood could be verified in 1967. There have been several reports of sightings of small numbers of birds (up to eight in one flock) but nothing compared to the flocks of 15, 20, and 25 reported from Shimek. Several people heard these gobbling toms in the spring of 1967. Dense cover and lack of extended snow to facilitate winter census operations made it difficult to evaluate this stocking effort.

Western Iowa Hills—"Merriam's"

In mid-February, 1966, eight Merriam's wild turkeys were released on private land in the heavily wooded hills about three miles west of Castana in Monona County. These two adult toms and six juvenile hens were wild trapped by Nebraska personnel in "Sowbelly Canyon" in the western part of the state.

Sightings of up to seven turkeys were reported frequently during the follow-

ing year. No verified brood reports were obtained during the first season. In the spring of 1967, several sightings of a flock of seven birds were again reported. It is possible these were birds from the original release.

Again, no verified brood reports came in during the summer of 1967. However, the past winter a flock of 12 turkeys has been seen in the area; another sighting of eight birds was reported two miles from where the 12 were spotted. Thus, it appears that at least one brood (possibly two) was reared.

Once again the rough terrain and lack of snow have hampered follow-up evaluations of the release. A better idea of the number of birds present may be ascertained by trying to secure an estimate of the number of gobbling toms frequenting the area this spring.

Stephens State Forest—"Easterns"

The most recent arrivals on the wild turkey scene in Iowa have just been added to the list. In January, 1968, five adult toms and five juvenile hens of the Eastern race were stocked in the Whitebreast Unit of Stephens State Forest. This was at the extreme west edge of Lucas County near the Clarke County line and some 25 miles distant from the Merriam's released in the northeast part of the Stephens Forest complex two years earlier.

In March an additional seven hens (three adults and four juvenile) were placed in the same area, bringing the total to 17 birds (five toms and twelve hens). These Eastern wild turkeys were obtained from Missouri.

Follow-up investigations will be maintained on this new release stocking as has been done on previously stocked sites. Checks for evidence of nesting and rearing of broods will be carried on throughout the summer, and related observations on the behavior of these birds will be made whenever possible.

In March, 1967, the Missouri Department of Conservation completed the release of 18 wild-trapped turkeys (five toms and 13 hens-Eastern strain) in the Chariton River bottoms only about four miles south of the Iowa-Missouri line. The distance and habitat between these birds and those at Stephens Forest make it far less likely that a "joint" population could develop in the near future,

(continued on page 64)

Turkey Study Reveals Good Future For Gobblers

Make Good Habitat

A Habit

By Richard Bishop
Game Biologist

For many years wildlife biologists have been preaching the need for adequate wildlife habitat to ensure good game populations. Biologists have stressed the word habitat so much that it has become an over used word and many have slacked off selling this program of wildlife habitat because it sounds like old stuff.

However, the real challenge is yet to come due to the relative shortage of good wildlife habitat and the continuing destruction of what remains.

We, as spokesmen for the sportsmen, must increase our output of information until all people interested in the preservation of wildlife are aware of what is happening. Many people are aware of the situation, but a good many others are ignorant of the true forces in operation that are limiting our wildlife resources.

The most important reason why we have or do not have abundance of certain wildlife species in a given area is the presence or lack of a safe living place or habitat for that species. Years of research show that regardless of predators or hunters if the proper habitat is present, good small game populations will prevail.

The bobwhite quail in Iowa is a good example. Southern Iowa for the most part has ideal quail cover and for the last three years the quail population has been close to an all time high. Hunting pressure has been higher than in past years and the quail season is more than a month longer than in past years.

Yet, the quail population has continued to remain high. Hunters and predators have not influenced this population. The high population will continue until severe weather conditions lower winter survival or reduce nesting success. (This is nature's behavior in population fluctuations. Populations build up and they decline due mostly to weather factors. Long term changes in the habitat will cause serious and permanent damage to the quail population.)

The future trend of quail populations in Iowa will tend to decline due to the destruction of brushy habitat for more pasture and farm ground. The change in farming practices in southern Iowa will be responsible for the long term decline in quail numbers.

At the same time the high quail population exists in southern Iowa, northern Iowa which is extensively farmed has few or no quail. Quail could be stocked in northern Iowa but without proper habitat there would never be a shootable population.

The pheasant is the example of the relationship of populations and adequate habitat. The pheasant is dependent on agriculture, however, it needs areas of heavy cover for winter survival and it also requires safe nesting places.

Twenty years ago northern Iowa was ideal for pheasants. Agriculture was widespread but numerous marshes, sloughs, and idle grass and weed patches were present. Pheasant populations were high largely due to ideal nesting areas with farm groves providing winter cover.

As farming practices changed and a growing economy demanded more from individual farmer, the amount of land not under cultivation dwindled until finally little land is left undisturbed. Many farm groves, fence lines, sloughs, and small weed patches have been wiped out and put into production of row crops.

Another factor that has hurt pheasant populations is the substantial reduction in oat crop in recent years. The result is that pheasant hens must nest in the remaining small acreage of alfalfa, oats and road ditches. Alfalfa fields, which are the favorite nesting spots, prove to be death beds for most hens during hay mowing. At present in northern Iowa there are few places that are safe for pheasants to nest, therefore, very few of the nests actually hatch.

Modern farming in northern Iowa has destroyed the habitat and subsequently bumper pheasant population. Now people need a scapegoat, so they blame the hunter, fox, coon, etc. The hunter does not affect pheasant populations anymore than a hailstorm in Missouri, regardless of how many pheasants there are. Predators such as coons, skunks, and opossums that destroy eggs will affect local population due to the limited area available for nesting, but if proper nesting habitat were present they would not influence populations whatsoever. The sad but true fact is the demands of modern farming.

Southern Iowa has a few areas that are pheasant hotspots and have pheas-

ant numbers like that of northern Iowa 10 years ago. But the farms in southern Iowa have wider fence rows, more hayfields and many odd patches that are not cultivated. They have hunters and predators, but they have good habitat and therefore they have pheasants. If the pheasant is ever going to come back in northern Iowa a change will have to be made in farming practices and not by hunting seasons or predator control.

Another sad chapter in the book of our advancing civilization is the destruction of our water resources. Men have straightened rivers and drained the marshes and potholes of the prairie states and in Canada. This has had a very pronounced effect on waterfowl.

Many areas in northwest Iowa, Minnesota and North and South Dakota that once teemed with waterfowl now produce only grain crops or livestock. Without marshes, sloughs, and potholes the ducks do not have a place to raise their young and consequently the nation wide population of waterfowl is dwindling.

Very restrictive hunting seasons will only prolong the downhill slide of our waterfowl. The hordes of millions of ducks that once crossed the country each fall and spring will never be viewed again and children of the future will possibly never be allowed the anticipation and thrills of waterfowl hunting.

The plunder of our water as well as our waterfowl resource is one that can not be redeemed. The destruction of water habitat is continuing and our government is aiding in this destruction of water habitat by subsidizing drainage projects. Marshes and potholes in the Canadian prairies are also being drained and farmed leaving less and less habitat for waterfowl. Without habitat, there will be no duck hunting.

The way to halt this decline of our wildlife resources is to look at the habitat then do something about it. Don't use scapegoats, but face the truth. Farmers that wonder where their pheasants are going, need not look any further than their own farm and remember what it was like when they did have plenty of pheasants.

If the economy of modern farming does not change, the small Iowa farmer will be squeezed out as well as the wildlife and all Iowans will feel this loss.



EXHIBIT AT THE STATE FAIR

OF 1922

The constant interest manifested by the crowd ever in attendance at the exhibition of the Iowa Fish and Game Department at the Des Moines State Fair in August, is a subject for serious and intelligent study.

There were three special sources of attraction there, the glass-enclosed tanks of fish of various kinds swimming at their ease and furnishing an opportunity for onlookers to see how it was done; the capacious cages where certain birds and animals could be seen, some of the former very gorgeous in the resplendent plumes they wore; and a darkened tent, where on a large screen moving and still pictures were shown of the activities of the Department, and that with which it is in closest touch in the out-of-door world all the year around.

In all this there was nothing of the spectacular, as in evidence in some other parts of the grounds. The company had discovered something in the tanks and cages that fixed their attention, and they wished to know more. There was life in exhibition, manifest in a variety of forms, and such life as was to be found in the waters with which the onlookers were familiar, and in the woods and on the prairies which they knew.

But though the presence of certain fish and land creatures in their home surroundings was known to these visitors, this was the first time some of them had come so near to them, as the dwellers of the wild are not given to showing themselves for human inspection.

And thus the exhibition stimulated a healthful interest in the visitors' home environment, while close by were officials of the Department to enlighten a questioner, and the chief himself, genial and responsive, was ever ready to confer with those desiring a word with him.

It's 'Fair' Weather

IOWA CONSERVATION, forerunner to the present IOWA CONSERVATIONIST, included the above excerpt in the summer 1922 issue. Although the language is somewhat outdated, the meaning behind the article holds true no matter what year, for the Conservation Commission exhibit at the State Fair is always one of the most popular.

Since its first crude beginning about the turn of the century, the exhibit has drawn thousands of visitors annually. The building itself has changed from outdoor fenced yard with a mud pond to the present building which is acclaimed to be one of the finest of its type in the nation.

The early exhibits appeared more like a "barnyard" or farm pond with a tract of land 75 feet by 140 feet enclosed by rough fencing. Within the fence was a pond exhibit with different species of waterfowl and various animal species including prairie chickens, pheasant, quail, and partridge. This was the exhibit in 1910.

Fish used to be displayed in several crude steel tanks and when fairgoers visited the exhibit, an attendant used a dip net to raise the fish into view.

The aquarium now being used was first opened to the public in 1921. This

was the first attempt to display Iowa's native fish and aquatic life in a modern manner at the State Fair.

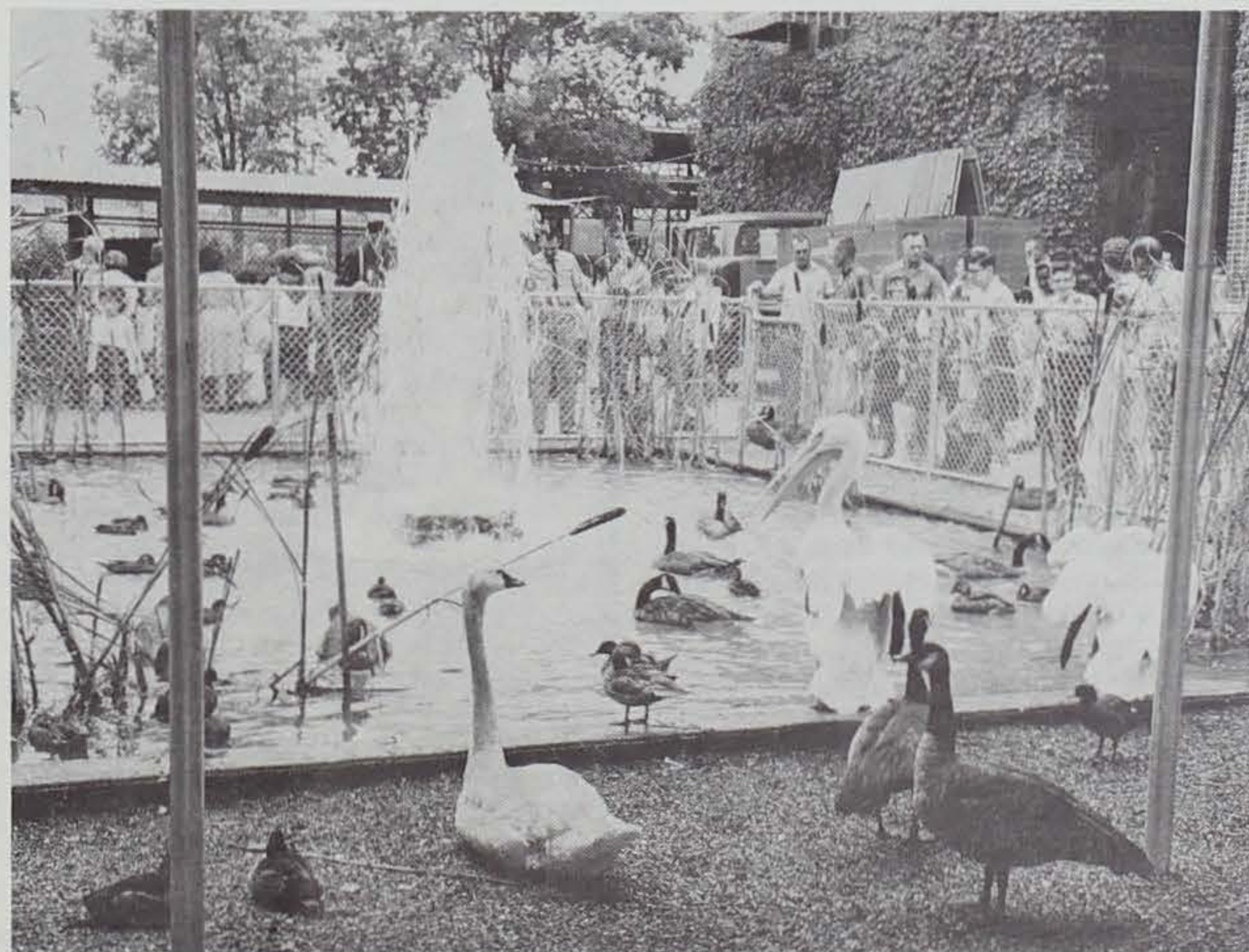
In 1923 the Exhibit Building itself was completed. At this time Iowa's native fish, game birds, and animals were all displayed under one roof.

Since then many improvements have taken place. The waterfowl pond and the five outside pens to the west of the building were completed in 1956. The picnic and rest area were begun in 1956, while in 1959 another pen for otter was added.

The 1968 Iowa State Fair will be still another interesting year for visitors to the Conservation Exhibit Building. Snakes, birds, mammals, the usual thousands of native Iowa fish, plus exhibits in forestry, waters, game, parks, and public relations will greet all those who attend.

Commission personnel and experts in all fields of conservation will be on hand to visit and answer questions from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day of the fair, August 16-25.

Plan to see the most popular exhibit on the fairgrounds at the Conservation Exhibit Building. It's interesting, educational, and fun for the whole family.



Bullfroggin'

Is

Fun!!

By Julius Satre

Have you ever gone "bullfrogging"? If you haven't you're missing a lot of fun and excitement. The sport of catching them and the fine food they provide for the table is a great combination.

Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) are the largest frogs found in North America. Iowa's bullfrog population is basically found in the southern half of the state, in places where you would expect—marshy areas, farm ponds, streams, lakes and reservoirs.

The bullfrog leads a precarious life. It spends two years as a tadpole, and at this stage of life the tadpole is in danger of being devoured by fish, wading birds, and snakes just to mention a few. After two years the tadpole transforms into a frog, but the bullfrog does not reach maturity for another three years.

Birds of prey, fish, and snakes are still its enemies, yet another enemy is the brother bullfrog himself, because these frogs are cannibalistic by nature.

Let's get back to the sport of catching them. There are many methods used. Among some of the more common methods are gigging, spearing, fishing, and catching them by hand. Using a fly rod can be very productive. Simply cast a fly as close as possible in front of the bullfrog and usually he will lunge for the fly and greedily gulp it down.

Also, a cane pole is advantageous because of its length. Using a small hook with a night crawler or a piece of red yarn, merely drop or dangle the bait in front of the unsuspecting bullfrog and wait for some action.

A treble hook is tops for gigging or snagging frogs. However, in Iowa gigging fish and frogs is illegal. Spearing frogs provides a challenge also, and reminds us somewhat of ancient methods of hunting and fishing used by the Indians.

After you catch one of these amphibians it is wise to have a sack to put it in. An old seed corn sack or onion sack is a good choice, or almost any type of cloth or woven bag.

According to old time "froggin'" experts, the best time to go after these creatures is July through September. The main reason why this time is considered prime is that water levels are normally lower than usual. Therefore you have a better chance to locate and catch old greenback.

Because of the food value of the bull-



frog, man is very much interested in them also. Different methods may be used in dressing bullfrogs for the frying pan. One easy way is to cut the frog's head off, pull the front legs through the skin, then take pliers and pull off the rest of the skin. (The skin comes off quite easily, just like shucking corn.) Remove the entrails and wash the meat thoroughly. Many people eat all of the fleshy white meat while others prefer only the legs, but this, of course, depends on the individual.

All you have to do now is dip the meat in a batter, roll in flour and fry. If you never have eaten frog legs you're missing a gourmet's delight.

A regular fishing license is required in order to obtain frogs legally. Residents under the age of 16 do not need a license. Iowa has a continuous open season on bullfrogs. The daily catch limit and possession limit is one dozen. (In other words you are never allowed to have more than twelve bullfrogs in your possession at one time.)

For sport, for food, and for fun try "bullfrogging." We'll be seeing you at the frog pond. Good luck!

TURKEY STUDY . . .

(continued from page 61)

as compared to the releases by the two states in the Shimek Forest vicinity. However, it is possible that the "Missouri birds" could eventually work their way up the Chariton River bottoms into Appanoose County in southern Iowa.

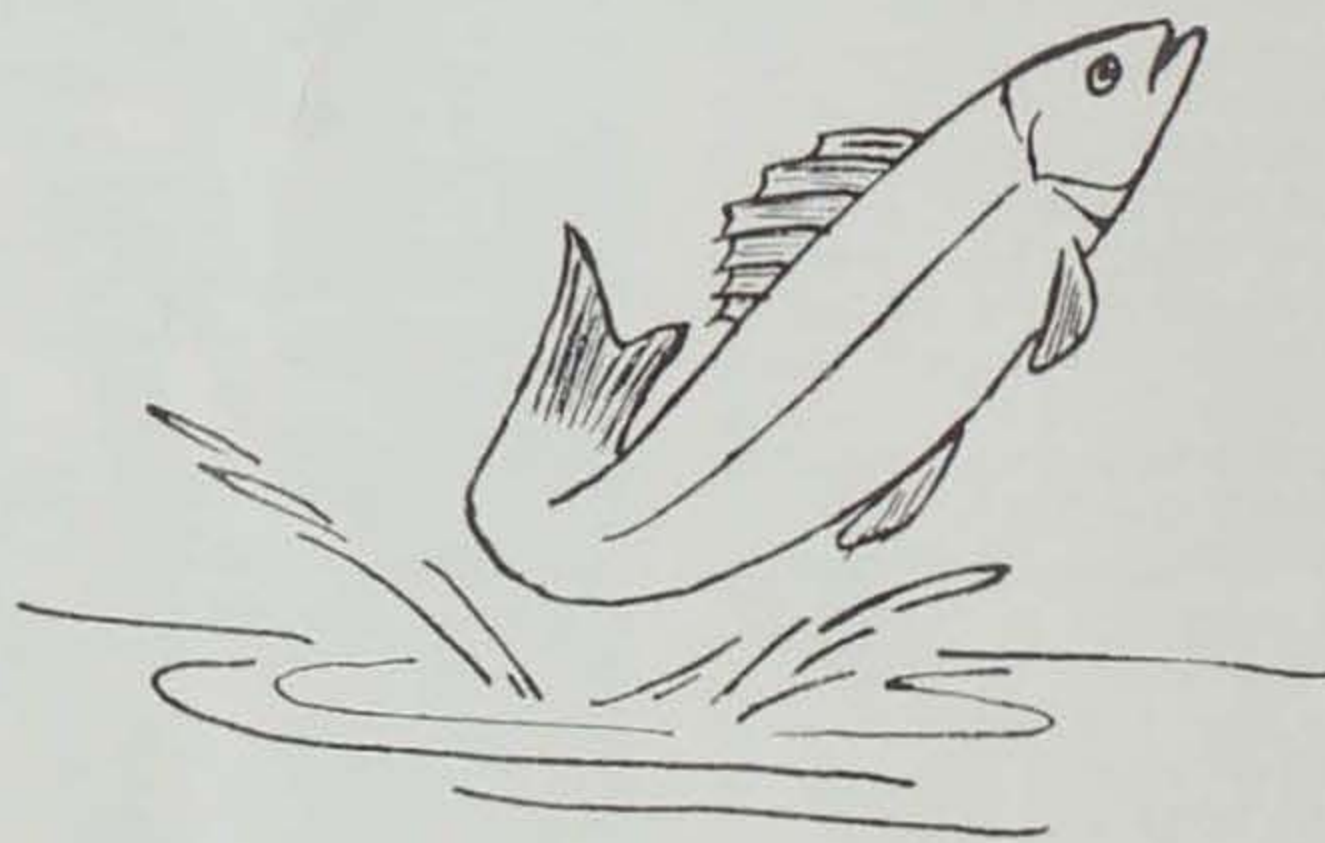
Three Types—Which Is Best?

Iowa "turkeyologists" have a unique opportunity for evaluating the merits of different types of wild turkeys under the current conditions in the state. (So far as is known, we are the only state, at least in the midwest, to be experimenting with all three of the most popular subspecies—Eastern, Merriam's, and Rio Grande—being used by various states in their attempts to establish populations of this prize game bird.) The progress of the separate stockings will be matched closely to see which is the best adapted to Iowa.

So far, the Eastern strain shows the most promise. This would be expected since it is native to the state. The Rio Grande variety seems to be losing at the moment, while the Merriam's strain apparently sits somewhere in between, though sufficient time has not yet passed for any confident evaluation. Only time will tell whether the race turns into a "winner-take-all" event or whether the honors will have to be shared.

With luck, populations of one of the subspecies will build up to a point in at least one of the areas where Iowa can trap and transplant some of them to other suitable locations. If we have exceptional success, someday we may even see a limited amount of controlled hunting on this "trophy" species in Iowa.

You'll feel like a fish out of water . . .



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