

The Question of Quality or Quantity Camping —

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# **Campground Crisis!**



Vacation (?) Camping at Clear Lake 10 Years Ago (Page 6)

## lowa Conservationist

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Robert D. Ray, Governor Fred A. Priewert, Director

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CIRCULATION

## COMMISSION MINUTES March 3, 1970

### Des Moines, Iowa

A 39-acre land purchase option on the Walters Creek Watershed, Adams County, was accepted.

Accepted an option for 195 acres on the Big Creek Lake Project.

Approved the following project proposals and project amendment request for submission of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation: Pocahontas County Conservation Board, Northwest Recreational Area, Development; Sioux City, Floyd National Historical Landmark, Development; Sioux City, Northside Playground, Acquisition of one-half acre and development; Wellman, Community Park, Development (project amendment). Approved Policy 47 concerning retirement. Revised policy reads as follows: "All Commission employees are encouraged to retire from permanent employment at age 65, however, mandatory retirement shall be age 70. "Conservation employees reaching age sixty-five who desire to continue to work in a permanent position with the Commission must have a physical examination administered by a physician of the Commission's choice at the Commission's cost stating that the employee is capable of performing all assigned duties. Physical examinations are required each year of an employee between the ages of 65 and 70. "Physicals may also be required of an employee if the individual is not performing his assigned duties because of physical ailments.

## **NORTHERN PIKE or MUSKY?**

Attention Iowa anglers—can you differentiate between a northern pike and a muskellunge? As these two species are quite similar in appearance it is important for anglers to know the identification differences or they could possible violate the law. Correct identification is necessary because of different opening fishing dates, limits and a minimum length restriction on muskies.

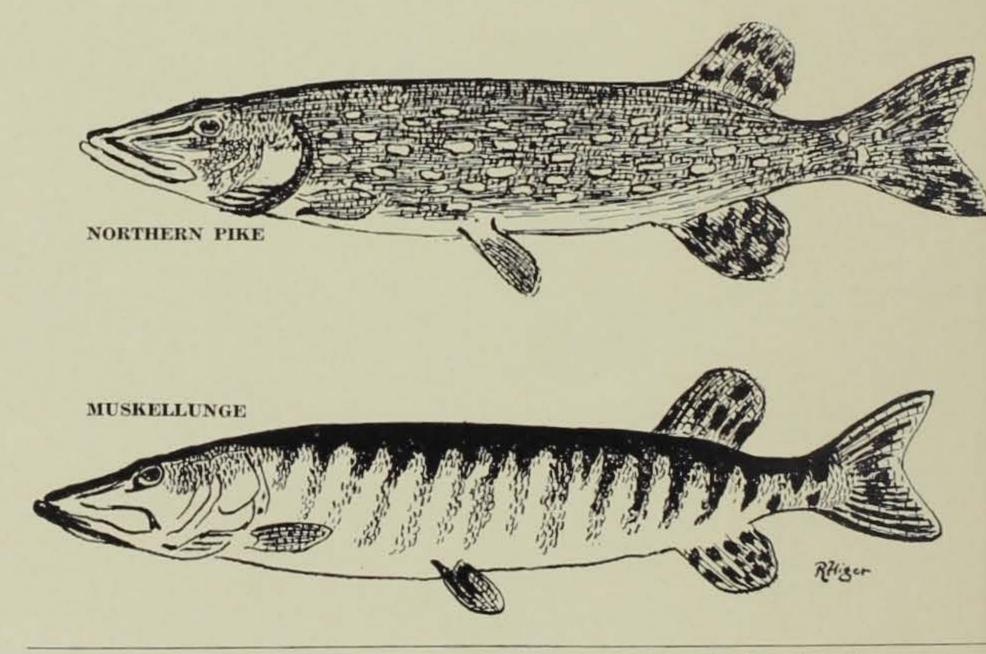
One of the surest differences between the two species is the scales on the cheeks and gill covers. The muskie has scales only on the upper half of the cheek and upper half of the gill cover. Northern pike's cheeks are fully scaled while the gill cover is scaled on the upper half. Another distinguishable difference is the underside of the lower jaw of the two fish. Northern have five holes on each side of the jaw whereas muskies have six to eight.

The coloration of the two fish varies

and therefore cannot always be depended upon. Muskies are usually olive to dark gray with tiger-like markings on the sides. The northern pike are normally a bluish green to gray on the back with irregular rows of light ivory colored spots on the sides running lengthwise.

Muskies are available in Clear Lake, East and West Okoboji with the season opening May 15 and continuing through November 30. A length limitation of 30 inches or longer must be attained in order to be a legal catch. A daily and possession limit of one muskie is allowed.

The northern pike season in Iowa's natural lakes is open from May 2 to February 28, 1971. The daily limit is three. There are no weight or length restrictions. Northerns have a continuous open season in all waters of the state except the natural lakes.



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Page 2

"Employees in good standing who desire to retire at age 65 will be encouraged to work for the Commission in a temporary or seasonal position."

The following County Conservation Board Land Acquisition Projects were approved: Chickasaw County Conservation Board, Wapsie River Access Addition; Sioux County, Big Sioux Park Addition; Van Buren County, Morris Memorial Park Addition.

The following County Conservation Board Development plans were approved: Scott County, Scott County Park Revision; Van Buren County, Morris Memorial Park.

Increased the total commitment of the State Conservation Commission on the Walters Creek Watershed to \$301,000.

Approved the following resolution,

"The State Conservation Commission of the State of Iowa does hereby wish to commend the State Soil Conservation Committee of Iowa, its staff, and various soil districts throughout the State for the efforts and assistance put forth by them in encouraging landowners within the watersheds of State owned lakes to apply soil erosion and other conservation practices to their land.

Furthermore, it is the view of the Con-

servation Commission that these cooperative efforts along with written accounts such as may be found in the January, 1970 issue of the IOWA SOIL CONSERVATIONIST concerning the watershed of Lake Geode is the surest guarantee that these lakes will provide wholesome outdoor recreation for the citizens of Iowa for many years to come."

Approved the expenditure of \$5,000 of Fish and Game Funds toward the reconstruction of the Humboldt Dam, the remainder of the cost to be borne by the Humboldt County Conservation Board and the local subscriptions.

Established the opening dates of the 1970 deer hunting seasons as follows: Bow and arrow season, September 26. Gun season, December 5. Recommendations on all other regulations will be presented to the Commission at a later date.



## the Beautiful? IOWA or the Ugly?

### by David Evans

Iowa, bounded by two of the nation's greatest rivers, enjoys a unique beauty all its own.

River bluffs and prairies, caves and windswept hills, natural lakes and native timber, sparkling streams and rich rolling farmlands. This is our outdoor heritage. A heritage of beauty to be proud of. These natural resources provide recreation for millions.

And yet, in the midst of all this natural beauty there resides a spoiler. Who, with his thoughtlessness, can undo in a single moment what mother nature has done in a million years? Who can wreck the carefully planned work of conservationists?

It's the litterbug.

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Count the bottles, soft drink cups, cans, papers, food wrappers, cigarette packages -the endless array of trash which litters our land and water. Actually, it goes beyond littering. It's pollution.

Who is this villian committing these horrible acts?

Well, it could be you. How many times have you thought, "one little piece of paper won't hurt", and gone ahead and tossed it out the window? How many times have you stayed too late at a campsite and hurrying to get home neglected to clean up the mess? Multiply this moment of carelessness a thousand times over and then take a look around. We reap what we sow.

Instead of "America The Beautiful", it will become "America The Ugly".



by Richard Ranney

The memory of the past hunting season is still fresh in mind: The quiet joy of sitting in a squirrel timber in September, or dosing in a goose pit on a warm October afternoon. The excitement of the pheasant and quail as they rise in startled escape on a brisk November day. The hunting of rabbits or watching a deer glide away on silent hoofs in an early December snow. This is part of the memory of the hunting season passed. Each require a hunting license and some extra equipment to pursue for sport in the outdoors.

Now the season near at hand, which does not require a license or anything special, is the morel mushroom season. There is no bag or possession limit and the time to hunt is set by Mother Nature. Mushrooms can not run and hide or fly away. Noise does not frighten them or make them spooky. Some people take a portable radio, a camera, lunch and the kids. It's ideal time to loaf along a wooded creek and enjoy Mother Nature's spring flowers, birds and wildlife. The stems are as good to eat as the sponge top so cut them off at ground level. A Boy Scout pocket knife is excellent for this purpose. Don't forget a sack, or a plastic bag, or you might end up with a buttoned shirt with the sleeves tied in a knot to hold the treasure. Mushrooms are a joy to hunt, a delicacy to eat and a snap to prepare. Cut the mushrooms in half lengthwise from the top to the stem. Wash and rinse several times and soak in a pan of cold salt water while preparing the rest of the ingredients. Roll soda crackers out on a piece of wax paper. Beat six eggs with a fork and add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of milk. Remove the mushrooms from the salt water and freshen. Dip in eggs and milk and roll in cracker crumbs. Fry to a golden brown at medium hot fire on a grill or in a skillet. Most any kind of shortening can be used, butter, oleo or bacon fat to name a few. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve them with most any type of main dish from pancakes to pot roast.

Page 3

Let's take a look at some examples of littering. Refuse, scattered by the wind, blankets a field of wildflowers. Once a brilliant work of mother nature's art, its now lost from view, covered with trash.

Entrails from fish left on the bank of a river draw flies. The smell permeates the area spoiling what was once an angler's delight.

Food scraps, left from a park picnic, attract some mighty upwelcome visitorsskunks and raccoons.

A young child splashes in the water on the beach. Suddenly she runs from the water crying. A piece of glass has badly lacerated her foot. Someone tossed a bottle from a boat, it washed up on the beach and was broken. The child stepped on the razor sharp glass.

There is one very elemental and important factor to stress regarding littering. It's against the law. Littering pollutes the land and water, destroys the natural and manmade beauty of Iowa and is dangerous to both humans and wildlife. Litterbugs, like polluters, must be brought before a court of justice. Unfortunately, it's virtually impossible to patrol every inch of public land and water in the state.

However, increased efforts will be made to apprehend the litterbug. Law enforcement officers will patrol public lands and waters to stop the frightful activities of the litterbug.

But, it's also up to all the citizens of Iowa. You can make a tremendous contribution to conservation. Don't litter. Encourage anti-litter campaigns. Tell your friends about it.

Our great natural resources will not be here to enjoy in the future if we don't take care of them today. It only requires a minute to clean up a campsite. If takes even less effort to place an empty beer or soda can in a litterbag. Jam that empty cigarette package back in your pocket rather than drop it on the ground. If you don't dispose of trash in the proper manner, quicker than it takes to light a cigarette or empty a beer can, the area is a wasteland of litter. And another part of our heritage is marred.

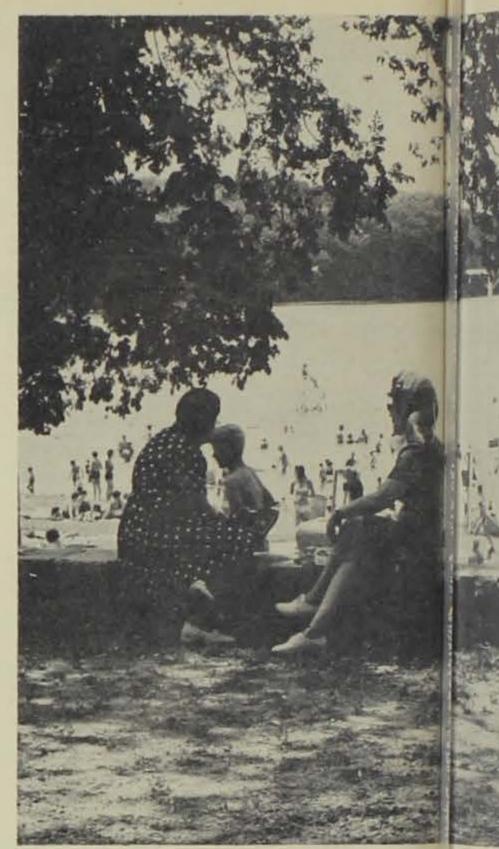
The citizens of Iowa are honor-bound to protect this natural heritage that is our birthright. It's our responsibility to make sure that Iowa will be beautiful for future generations.

Get a litterbag. Use it. Clean up areas. The fight against litter is a constant one, but it must be won. The scenic wonders of nature will not be ours to enjoy much longer unless we join the battle against littering and pollution.

Mushrooms are rich and delicious. I know, for this is one of the reasons I never lost my baby fat.

## Don't be a LITTERBUG!





## Lake Ahquabi

Page 4

## The Kesting

#### by Sonny Satre

Thirty-five years ago-the year 1935 to be precise—Ahquabi State Park received its intriguing name. A young lady from Norwalk learned of the term and placed it in competition in the naming of a new state park. Her choice won the ten dollars first prize money.

The contest judges couldn't have decided on a more appropriate name. The word and an a sac and Fox Indian term meaning the resting place. In 1969 over one-half million visitors rested and relaxed at Lake Ahquabi. According to attendance statistics, this 747 acre state park is the most popular state recreation area in central Iowa.

Why is Lake Ahquabi so popular? All you have to do is visit this beautiful park and you'll have the answer. Lake Ahquabi offers recreation for all kinds of outdoor activities. Some of the more popular forms include camping, fishing, picnicking, swimming, hiking and simply enjoying the picturesque scenery.

For those of you who haven't visited Lake Ahquabi your next question probably would be-where is it located? The park is situated in central Warren County, 51/2 miles south of Indianola on Iowa highway 349 just west of the junction of U. S. highways 65 and 69.

Looking around the timbered countryside of the park it's easy to visualize Indians holding council around their camp fires under many of the majestic white oaks and hickorys. Among other tree species present are basswood, hackberry, cottonwood, maple, sycamore, willow, burr oak, and red cedar. As is the case throughout most of Iowa, the once giant elms have fallen victim to dutch elm disease and are being removed.

An artificial "Y" shaped lake of 130 acres lies in the central portion of the park. The lake is well stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, walleye, channel catfish and bullheads. Boat rentals, bait and various fishing tackle can be procured at the lakes concession. Because Lake Ahquabi is an artificial lake of over 100 acres, state law permits outboard motors not to exceed six horsepower.

In 1966 when the lake's spillway was repaired a complete rejuvenation program took place. As the lake had to be drained for the needed repair work the game fish were restocked in surrounding waters and the undesirable species eradi-

cated. Something new was also done ler inforwhich added approximately 4,000 feet of ke Ahon shoreline for Ahquabi anglers. Thirteer nds for jetties were constructed which extend are on 50 to 150 feet out into the lake, forming is and a convenient fishing piers. These man 1008e fro made earthen embankments average ap mily ren proximately 30 feet in width. After con selters a struction work was finished and wate pen she returned, State Conservation Commission & first ser fisheries personnel restocked the lak he mad during the summer of the same year. Vental of

An inviting sandy beach is availabl ke Ahon for Ahquabi swimmers. Excellent facil re trails ities include a modern bath house and supervised beach with experienced lif Observe trillium guards.

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Tent and trailer camping is very popu lar at Lake Ahquabi. Facilities such a modern restrooms, showers and electric ity are obtainable. The over night camp, ing fee is only \$1.50 per camp unit.

Another form of camping available i Ahquabi the organized group cabins. These cabin its are ideal for groups such as boy scout as owls. and youth leagues. The nine cabins hav lentally a capacity for 72 campers. Write to th tefuges Park Conservation Officer, Lake Ahquat # State Park, R. R. No. 1, Indianola, Iow Ahquabi 50125 in regard to rates, reservations an h

## Iowa Trout Fishing . . .

The Old

## and

## The New

Trout aren't new to Iowa. Brook trout were native to a few, small spring fed streams in northeast Iowa long before the white man came. Rainbows, browns and brookies have been cultured here since the first state hatchery was established at Anamosa in 1873.

Trout and even salmon were stocked in all major streams and lakes in the state before 1900, but it soon became apparent that only in clear, cold-water streams could trout survive. For this reason, trout were, and still are stocked only in northeast Iowa's spring dotted hill country. Here, amid the rugged beauty of timbered hillsides and limestone bluffs, trout find the stream conditions tolerable. Trout require, among other conditions, a cold water environment. Generally speaking, warmer water has less oxygen and their somewhat primative respiratory system cannot withstand the warm temperatures of most Iowa waters during the summer. In 1931, the first streams tests were taken by Iowa Conservation Commission personnel evaluating the suitability of many northeast Iowa streams and rivers for trout habitat. This advanced the trout stocking program far ahead of the "dump 'em in and see if they live" era. Fisheries biologists have conducted these tests periodically ever since, judging not only temperature but such factors as clarity, current, riffles, pools, cover, shade, and food availability. Fishing pressure and the carrying capacity of the stream affect the number of fish stocked. Presently there are about 45 streams in nine northeastern counties which meet the suitability requirements and are stocked. That adds up to more than 150 miles of trout fishing!



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These hatcheries raise mostly rainbows and browns to an eating size of about 10 to 15 inches before stocking.

Until 1953 Iowa had an open trout season only during the summer. Trout were stocked in large numbers only once or twice a year, mainly for an "elbow to elbow" opening day crowd. After the first few weeks populations of trout could get pretty thin. Moreover, much of the trout water flows across private land, and owners understandably could not tolerate the large crowds.

But now, with a year-round open sea-

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eetle Ahquabi is a favorite picnic intel ds for many central Iowa people. are over 240 well shaded picnic extere and approximately 120 fireplaces TTO me ose from. For large groups such ge mily reunions there are two types er a selters available-open or enclosed. en shelter is available on a first iss n first serve basis while reservations be made through the park officer ntal of the enclosed style.

ails the Ahquabi has several miles of trails for the naturalist minded. of the wild flowers and plants you bserve while hiking on a trail intrillium, dutchman's breeches, vioerns, jack-in-the-pulpit, sweet wilpola may apple and Iowa's official state 🛰 —the wild rose. If you are careful lake little noise you may catch a call se of a fleet footed whitetail deer. wildlife creatures that reside at Ahquabi are squirrels, quail, foxes, s, opossums, raccoons, waterfowl, , owls and a variety of song birds. ntally, all Iowa state parks are wildfuges.

> your next outing escapade, try Ahquabi, you will find the trip well while.

The trout stocking program has changed greatly. As compared to the original hatchery at Anamosa, trout are now reared at three state-owned hatcheries at Decorah, at Backbone State Park, and at Big Springs near Elkader.

son, trout are stocked every week of the warm months for a well-balanced, putand-take program. Last year over a quarter of a million trout were stocked in northeast Iowa. Little wonder Iowa's trout fishing is growing in popularity.

Except for a few larger streams, most of Iowa's trout waters pose some problems. Most of them are guite small and barring continuous heavy rainfall, extremely clear. Trout hide under snags and undercut banks of pools and spook easily. Long casts aren't needed here, and short accurate "flips" of small lures or baits produce best.

Considering all, the \$3 trout stamp is a real bargain!



Page 6

## Overcrowding Could Ruin Iowa's Campgrounds

Its fair to say that in recent years the camping equipment industry has flourished. Exploded might be a better word. More and more people look forword to relaxing weekends in the outof-doors away from overcrowded cities.

Iowa, like every other state in the union feels the growing strain of another area of overcrowding, the overused campground.

Iowa's camping facilities were once considered "abundant." Later, when many sections of the country were no longer able to provide enough room and facilities for those who wanted them, Iowans still found facilities "adequate." Now, overcrowding problems have called for some new lines of thought.

## DO IOWANS WANT QUANTITY OR QUALITY CAMPING?

The obvious answer is both. People want quantity: room for all complete with showers, shelters, latrines, and trash cans. They also want quality: all the natural scenic beauty and wildlife, and also personnel to operate and man-

## QUALITY MUST BE PROVIDED

No one would camp on a garbage dump, or in a muddy vacant lot in the heart of a huge overcrowded city. To keep our state-owned campgrounds from acquiring some of these characteristics, the number of users must be limited. Overuse, or quantity-at-all-costs camping would eventually end up in no camping at all!

Our state parks and camping areas require a great deal of time, effort, and money to keep them from deterioration to the point of little value. The old phrase "a stitch in time saves nine" must have been coined by a park officer, worrying about the maintenance and upkeep of a park. But trying to maintain the beauty of an **overcrowded** camping area is futile.

Other states have tried to solve the problem in other ways. Some "rotate" camping areas just as the farmer rotates crops. One area is left idle for a year allowing vegetation to come back while another area is over used. This plan calls for twice as many areas. Another state allows camping mostly



Iowa Conservation Commission feels that, under the circumstances, the best way to attack the overcrowding problem is to "determine an absolute maximum number of people that the campground can accommodate and then close the gates when its full."

Iowans are fortunate in having the kinds of scenic areas suitable for state parks. But if you get turned away from one of Iowa's campgrounds this summer, remember it's necessary to retain that scenic beauty.

The list to the right indicates the great boom in camping in our state parks. "Individuals" refers to the number of people camping during each particular year, "areas" refers to the number of campgrounds available during that year.

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age them.

But it's not that simple. Camping is booming. The high cost of land and the desire for owners to hang on to it make it impossible for the state to acquire areas fast enough to keep up with the demands. County Conservation Board Parks with the help of the BOR fund have helped tremendously. But these programs have limits, and still the gap between need and acquisition widens.

In the past the general policy for managing Iowa's state-owned camping areas has been to provide overflow areas for use during the short peak season; "Make room for 'em as they come in." But the "peak season" now lasts all spring, summer, and fall and the overflow areas are often "overflowing"!

### SHOULD WE PROVIDE MORE OVERFLOWS?

We must look at camping as a recreational "use of the land", just as growing corn is a "use of the land." Research shows that one acre of campground can only accommodate so many users. Ground around a tree can be trampled and packed until the tree dies. Grasses and other vegetation can wear thin and die, if over used. Littering, vandalism and even serious crime follow. Life must seek other sanctions. In general, overcrowding and overuse leads to the ultimate destruction of the very thing that makes camping popular in the first place, the natural scenery and beauty of the outdoors.

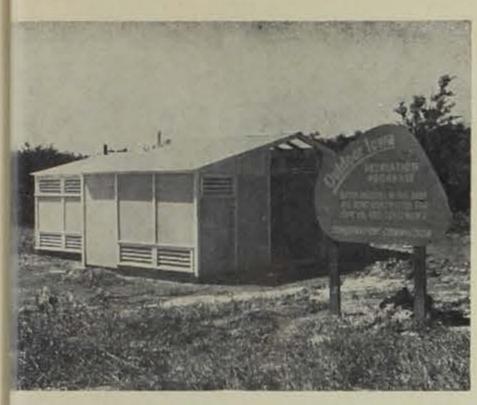
by a "reservations only" setup.

Joe Brill, supervisor of parks for the



Latest campers are homier," but take up more space.

Can





## Hooray for ICTALURUS MELAS

## by Phyllis Harris

Walk up the dock with a basket full of Ictalurus melas and you will be the envy of every fisherman there. If that statement has no meaning, it might interest you to know that an Ictalurus melas and a black bullhead are one and the same.

This species of fish is found abundantly in the cool, blue, lake waters of northern Iowa. A pan of fresh fried bullheads may be enhanced with a bit of tartar sauce or fresh lemon, but combined with a baked potato and green salad, the black bullhead of Iowa can satisfy the appetite of most ardent anglers.

The Ictalurus melas is the most common of the three species of bullheads found in Iowa. It is dark olive to black in color and its belly varies from white to yellow. It can be distinguished from the other two bullheads by the light color band at the base of the tail fin and the 17 to 20 rays in the anal fin. The black bullhead is rarely ever mottled in color. Of the brown, yellow and black, the latter bullhead is considered the "runt" of the family. Although in the larger lakes of northern Iowa, many of them will weigh two pounds or more. In weedy or muddy shallow areas the female will produce on the average of two to six thousand eggs. In saucershaped nests of mud the incubation period is completed in a week or less. Many small children have been enchanted watching the ball-like school of bullhead darting erratically near the shore line. Some people lean toward sunrise fishing for bullheads, some like late afternoon; while others prefer night fishing for this succulent dish. But when the bullheads are biting, everyone from Grandpa to three-year-old Johnny can experience the thrill of "Bullhead Fever." Though while sitting in a boat with three other anglers, you might find yourself fishing under hazardous conditions. You're either being slapped in the face with a cold, wet bullhead or nursing a sore finger. For in the flurry of your excitement you can easily be horned by this acquatic creature. But don't be discouraged. Just wrap your handkerchief around the wound, chuck another worm on the hook and soon you'll be pulling in another Ictalurus melas. The most popular bait for bullheads is earth worms or night crawlers. Some

people have been known to use bits of beefsteak and I once knew an avid fisherwoman who landed three large bullheads on one white licorice gum drop. Of course this is not the recommended appetite teaser for these fish, but if you are ever caught in a predicament when the bullheads are biting hard and fast and you have just run out of bait, it might help to have a soggy 'ole gum drop in your pocket.

Equipment used for catching the bullhead is quite minimal. The majority of fishermen utilize the bait casting rod and reel while some old-timers still prefer the cane pole. I remember as a child I caught my share of bullheads using a limber walnut pole freshly cut from the river bank.

Occasionally corks are used, but most anglers know the bullhead feeds on the bottom. If you're fishing from the shore, a small lead weight will insure proper casting distance and keep the bait near the bottom of the lake.

Page 7



10

Upkeep costs are high.

## Campers vs. Areas

YEAR	INDIVIDUALS	AREAS
1946	13,145	28
1947	6,763	26
1948	8,019	23
1949	7,863	25
1950	10,118	33
1951	13,005	31
1952	13,484	28
1953	16,964	30
1954	26,084	34
1955	40,845	32
1956	47,336	33
1957	65,324	34
1958	95,958	36
1959	135,264	37
1960	166,476	39
1961	160,569	41
1962	215,396	40
1963	285,873	42
1964	346,959	43
1965	386,778	44
1966	406,381	44
1967	434,858	48
1968	433,679	45
1969	439,082	45

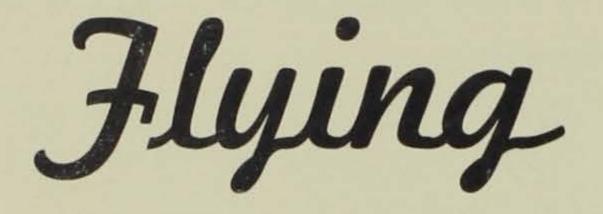
Long thin hooks, usually from No. 6 to No. 2, are employed. Because bullheads are eager and vigorous biters and often swallow the bait, a pair of pliers or a good hook disgorger is a must item for your tackle box.

If you are considered an old-timer at fishing, you already are aware of a brisk spring evening mingled with the scent of bullheads fryin' in the pan. But if you're the guy who is always looking for, yet never finds the time to fish, I'll let you in on a secret. Chuck that briefcase, close up shop, forget about those storm windows and keep that promise you've been making to yourself every spring. Just pile the children in the car, tell Mother to pack a few sandwiches and head the family car northward. The kids may have to stop at every service station and the wife may rebuke you about those windows, but by Saturday morning you, too, will possess the thrill of "Bullhead Fever."

Whether you plan a week-end outing or a week's vacation, the Great Lakes of Northern Iowa will give you, your family and friends that memorable "time-ofyour-life" in bullhead fishing. And if you're so inclined, you might tuck a good book in the glove compartment and stash a few licorice gum drops in the tackle box.

## Natures

Page 8



# Mousetraps

### by Sonny Satre

From his vantage point high on a lofty branch of a dead elm, a red-tailed hawk scanned the grassy slopes within his glaring view for some unusual movement. Approximately 75 yards away a field mouse scurried about in search for food. The mouse unknowingly had made a fatal mistake. The hawk's binocular vision detected the movement and he swiftly swooped silently down upon the mouse and sank sharp talons into the victim causing an instant death. After the mouse was quickly devoured the hawk returned to his sentry post to wait for another meal prospect. way of controlling certain species. If small rodents didn't have predators their presence would be much more numerous and damage caused by these pests would be excessively higher.

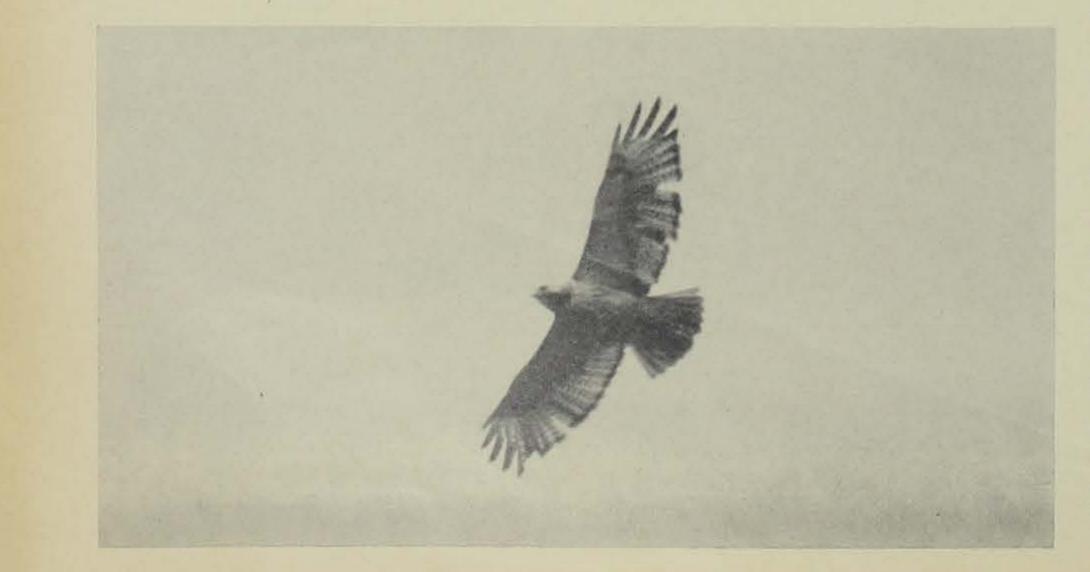
the indigestible portions such as bones, fur and teeth are formed into compact pellets. In order to make room for more food, the pellets are forced up from the crop by muscular contractions and out through the owls mouth. Pellets are commonly found under an owl roost, which often are conifer trees. Studies of these pellets have shown that they consist primarily of rodents. Many species of hawks and owls are found in Iowa. Owls which are most common are the great-horned, barred, screech and short-eared. Other less frequent species are the barn, long-eared, saw-whet and snowy owls. The most common hawk resident is the red-tailed. Among other hawks which migrate into hawkeye land include the Cooper's, sharp-shinned, marsh, redshouldered, broad-winged and roughlegged. The sparrow hawk is quite common throughout Iowa also but this small flighty bird of prey is actually a member of the falcon family. Just in case your wondering . . . chicken hawks and hoot owls are misused slang expressions. Iowa's 63rd General Assembly passed legislation which now protects all hawks and owls in Iowa. Prior to this new law, all hawks and owls were protected except the sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk and the great-horned owl. Because too many hawks and owls other than the unprotected species were being shot due to identification problems this law was deemed necessary.

Iowa opportu ments acres of natural

Tips

This sequence is routine and repeated often in a hawk's daily search for food. To some people this type of predation sounds very cruel but this is nature's While the hawks are a day time feeder, owls work the night shift. With the beneficial owl around, mice and other nuisance animals must be alert from dusk to dawn or they will contribute quickly to his diet. Like the hawk, some species of owls have preyed on domestic fowl or game but their usefulness in destroying rodents far outweighs their bad habits.

Because of a peculiar digestive system, an owls diet can be determined by wildlife technicians. The smaller animals which the owl preys upon are swallowed whole. The flesh of the swallowed creature is digested and absorbed while



Through this legislation, these perceptive raptors hopefully will survive mankind's progressive environmental changes for generations to come.