

NOVEMBER 1970



CONSERVATIONIST



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- ED WEINHEIMER—Greenfield



FRED A. PRIEWERT, Director

COMMISSION MINUTES

for meeting held
September 1, 1970

Exercised the following land purchase options: Volga River Lake, Fayette County, four acres; Brushy Creek Lake, Webster County, 240 acres.

Approved for submission to the BOR the following Land and Water Conservation Funds Projects: Dickinson County Conservation Board, Orleans Beach, development; Muscatine County Conservation Board, Salisbury Bridge Recreation Area, development (reservation that overall plan be amended to provide that roads in the immediate vicinity of the camping area be treated with a dust inhibitor, such as asphalt seal coating); Story City, Community Swimming Pool, development.

Approved the following project amendment requests for submission to the BOR: Taylor County Conservation Board, Windmill Lake Park, development; Johnson County Conservation Board, F. W. Kent Park, development.

The following County Conservation Board Land Acquisition Projects were approved: Harrison County, County Recreation Area, 50 acres; Sioux County, Big Sioux Park Addition, 4.20 acres.

Approved the following County Conservation Board Development Plans with the stipulation that the roads in the area shall be treated with a dust inhibitor such as asphalt seal coat and this information transmitted back to the ICC at the earliest possible date; Dickinson County, Orleans Beach; Muscatine County, Salisbury Bridge Recreation Area; Taylor County, Windmill Lake Park (Revision); Winneshiek County, Meyer Lake; Cerro Gordo County, Wilkinson Pioneer Park (Revision).

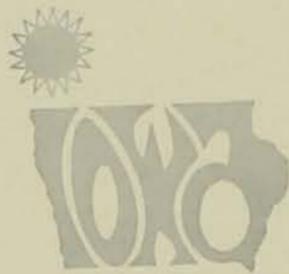
Harold Putnam and Harold Dettbarn, Pine Lake Improvement Committee, and Miss Virginia Stiles, Eldora Herald Index, met with the Commission to offer proposals for additional development at Pine Lake State Park.

Awards of merit from the American Association for Conservation Information presented to Keith Kirkpatrick, WHO-TV Farm News Director; and Blake Kellogg, News Director, KWWL-TV, Waterloo.

Adopted the following Nursery Stock Price List: Conifers, \$25 per thousand; Walnut Seedlings, \$25 per thousand; Walnut Seed, \$10 per thousand; Hardwood Seedlings (except Walnut), \$20 per thousand; Wildlife Shrubs, \$20 per thousand; Wildlife Packets, \$5 per packet; 250 plants.

Authorized the director to enter in an agreement with Bettendorf for the maintenance and management of Riverside Recreation Area, Scott County.

NOVEMBER, 1970



CONSERVATIONIST

ROGER SPARKS, Managing Editor

WAYNE LONNING, Photographer

DAVID R. EVANS, Editor

JULIUS STATRE, Circulation Manager

JERRY LEONARD, Photographer

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About the Cover . . .

Iowa shotgun deer season opens December 5.

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Deer Management:

A Time For Improving

by Lee Gladfelter
Game Biologist

The warm days of summer are giving way to the crisp cool days of fall. The stage is being set for a modern tradition which quickens the pulse of all hunters—the annual deer season. The buck deer are too busy establishing their territories and conducting mating activities to be concerned about their impending danger. They will rely on their natural instinct and quick reactions to carry them away from the advancing hunters. The does have produced this year's fawn crop and all are busy enjoying the luxury of lush vegetation and food-a-plenty. The hunter in the meantime has started preparation for the big hunt and has uncased "ol' bessy" and given her the first cleaning of the year to remove the cobwebs from the barrel. Soon the woods will be alive with "orange-vested" hunters in pursuit of their "brown-coated" quarry. As usual,

the archers have been the first in the field to take a crack at wily white-tail with a 62-day season lasting from September 26 to November 26, 1970. Now comes the shotgun hunters roaming through the woods from December 5 to December 7, 1970.

Before we look to the future, let's talk about what has happened to deer in the past. Deer were abundant in the early 1800's but because of forest clearing and excessive hunting they had all but vanished from the state before 1900. Laws were passed to protect deer and they began to increase from natural stock and from small deer herds introduced by the Conservation Commission into new areas. By 1953, deer were plentiful and the first open hunting season in over 75 years was established. Since that time over 110,000 deer have been harvested by

Iowa hunters.

During the past 15 years there have been dramatic changes in the deer population and their distribution. Deer now occur in every county of the state with the largest populations being found in southern Iowa. Winter surveys indicate that the deer herd has increased from 10,674 in 1955 to 21,931 in 1970. The highest estimated deer population was obtained in 1966 when winter surveys indicated a herd of 28,476 deer. Fall populations, which include fawns born during the spring, are much higher. Estimates for the 1970 fall population are 30,700 deer.

1969 Season

Along with the increase in the deer population there has been an increase in the number of hunters. The number of licensed shotgun hunters has increased 6

fold since 1953 (first deer season) with landowner-tenant hunters increasing 7 fold and bow hunters 54 fold. Yet our deer population has increased less than two fold since 1953. This indicates the increased hunting pressure placed on the deer herd in recent years. In 1969, 40,000 hunters participated in the open season.

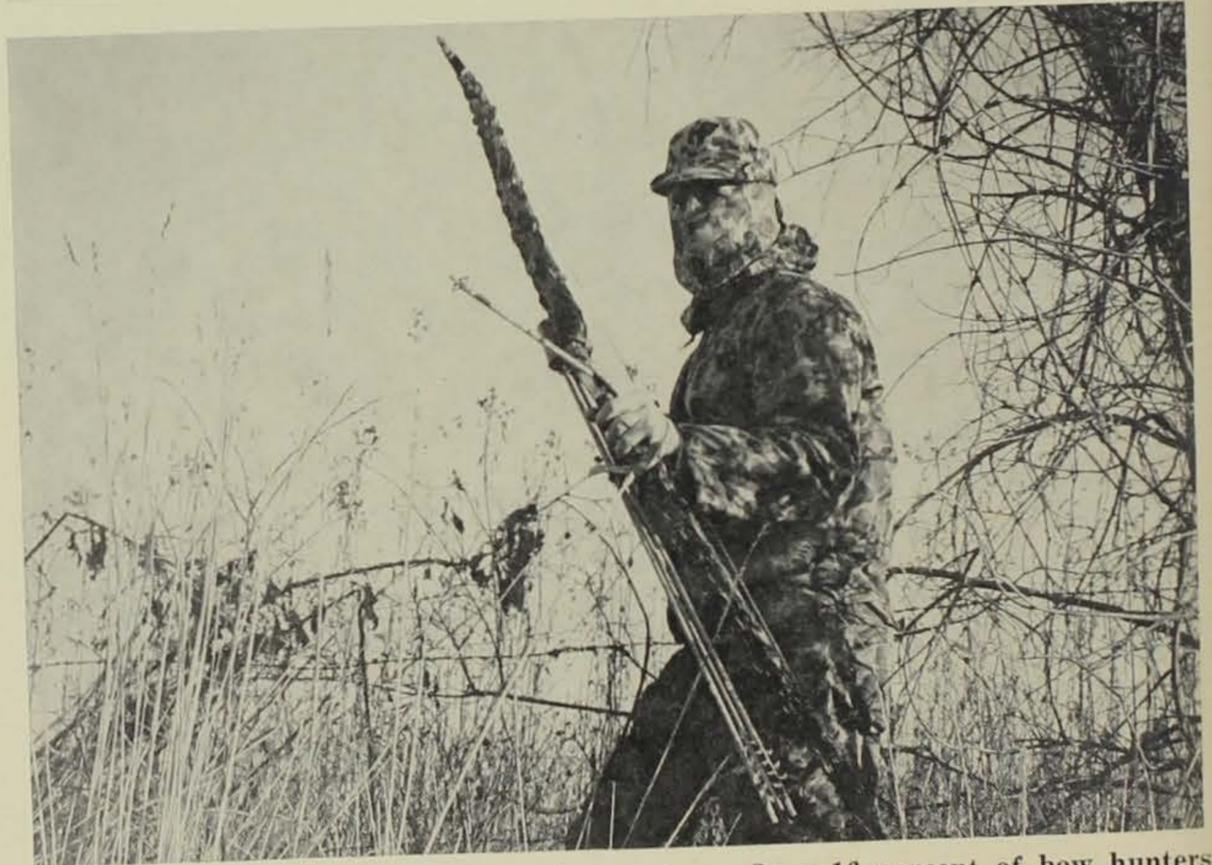
The state was divided into 5 hunting zones for the 1969 deer season as compared to 4 zones for 1968. In 1969, 18,000 shotgun, 23,476 landowner-tenant, and 5,465 bow and arrow deer licenses were issued. A total of 11,582 deer were harvested during the season with licensed shotgun hunters taking 6,952, landowner-tenants 3,779, and bow hunters 851. Hunting success was lower than in 1968 with the heavy snowfall during the short season being the primary reason. The licensed shotgun hunters were most successful with 40.6% bagging a deer, whereas only 21.2% of the landowners and 16.5% of the bow hunters were successful.

1970 Season

The 1970 deer season will be about the same as the 1969 season. There are 5 zones and the same number of shotgun licenses issued—18,000. The landowner or tenant must apply for a license which will be issued free. There is no limit on landowner-tenant or bow and arrow licenses. In 1969 there was a procedure established that allowed an individual who did not get a license through the 1969 drawing to obtain a license in 1970 before the drawing. This allows an individual to obtain a license at least once every two years which is necessary with the growing number of deer hunters. There are 3,429 shotgun licenses committed this year which leaves a total of 14,571 new licenses available from the 18,000 license quota.

Deer Management

At the present time the deer herd in Iowa cannot be properly managed to the degree it should be. The reason for this is that the Conservation Commission only exerts control over 43% of the shotgun licenses issued. The other 57% of the licenses are issued free and without control to landowners and tenants. The Iowa legislature established a law in 1953 that any landowner or tenant on farm land was guaranteed a free deer license to hunt on his own property. There is no quota on the number of these licenses which can be issued and therefore landowner licenses cannot be limited in regions of the state where deer are scarce. If deer herds are low, then the only way to protect them has been to reduce paid shotgun license quotas. The question now is why should the paid shotgun hunter continue to be penalized to maintain our deer herd when he is the one helping to pay for our management efforts. The cost of a shotgun or bow and arrow license is \$10.00. The management of deer in Iowa has been paid for entirely with funds derived from the sale of licenses. It is through these man-



Nearly one out of two shotgunners bag a deer. Over 16 percent of bow hunters score. Both success ratios are, comparatively, quite high.

agement efforts that we have been able to double the size of the deer herd since 1953 and still allow the harvest of 110,000 deer.

The paid shotgun quotas have been steadily decreasing every year since 1966 in an attempt to increase, or at least stabilize, the deer population. In 1966 a quota of 28,000 paid shotgun licenses was allowed while in 1970 the quota is 18,000. These declines were necessary during a period when deer hunting was becoming more popular and the number of applications for deer licenses was increasingly annually. On the other hand, the landowner-tenant license demands were also increasing with 20,470 issued

in 1967 as compared to 23,476 in 1969. Within the past few years our deer herd has started to decrease slightly in size, particularly in some areas, because of heavy hunting pressure, making strict management of this gunning pressure essential. It is thus time for the landowner to start paying for the privilege of hunting deer and to share the cost of management. It is now time for complete control over license sales and regional distribution of hunting pressure. Otherwise we may soon reach the point in several areas where the number of free landowner-tenant licenses issued exceeds the number of hunters that should be permitted, even if no regular licenses

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Deer are not considered farm game animals in the same sense as rabbits and squirrels, but are big game animals. Their home range covers many acres of land and they may travel several miles in the course of a year, crossing both private and public land. They are creatures of the forest and, although they do depend on corn or other crops as a primary food source during certain periods of the year, they are browsers and eat young shoots and buds of trees and shrubs.

Since computers are used to process applications and issue licenses the cost is considerable; yet 24% of the free landowner-tenant licenses issued in 1969 were not used by the recipients as compared to only 5% of the paid shotgun and bow licenses. This is an excessive waste of funds which could be more beneficial if used to manage the deer herd. The funds used to process, print, and issue the free landowner-tenant licenses are derived from license sales.

The privilege of the free landowner-tenant license has often been severely abused in many instances. The license requires that the recipient hunt only on his own property. Yet many reports are received each year of a number of individuals hunting a small area; all with landowner licenses. The law provides that two licenses can be issued to each landowner and two to a tenant. Because two licenses can be issued to a landowner, one in his name and one in his wife's or child's name, many licenses have been issued to children as young as 7 years of age. The present laws are being circumvented by too many people and require changing.

The paid shotgun hunter is not without blame. Many individuals who do not receive a license in the annual drawing go ahead and hunt with their group. These individuals may carry shotguns or rifles and when asked, say they are just out hunting fox or some other type of game. The tactics used by some large groups of hunters as they drive out small timber patches are not good sportsmanship, and often leave such areas without sufficient breeding stock for future deer production.

We cannot continue to travel along the same path we traveled in the 1800's. We must awake and realize that we are blessed with wonderful natural resources which provide recreation for all of us. These resources must be conserved so that they will be present for future generations. We must not take advantage of the laws which were set to protect our wildlife species. Of more importance is that we must strive to change those laws which are too liberal in their effects or are impossible to enforce.

The theme of this article has not been to condemn the landowner or tenant because he more than anyone else knows that the sustained yield of any crop, whether it be agricultural or wildlife, is important to the livelihood of man. Of more importance is that deer are expend-

able and that if we do not move to manage them properly, we will lose a valuable resource. The landowner should pay for the privilege to hunt deer and by doing so he should be entitled to hunt under the same regional regulations as the paid shotgun hunters. Many landowners already purchase their deer licenses because they do not prefer to restrict their hunting to their own property. The Conservation Commission must have the right of controlling deer herds in sparse as well as abundant areas to provide maximum utilization of the resource but still preserve breeding stock for future years.

What are the alternatives? The most obvious solution is to continue to restrict the issue of hunting licenses, but it doesn't seem fair to allow unrestricted issue of landowner-tenant and bow licenses while paid shotgun licenses are restricted particularly when considering the number of hunters in each group. A shorter season could be set but this would just make deer hunting more of a "rat race" than it already is. An earlier season could be held, with the additional cover still in the field making it harder to get a deer. Deer in Iowa are vulnerable to hunting pressure, particularly in north central Iowa where they can be driven from small woodlots or from sparse cover along stream bottoms. We can restrict the method of hunting to allow deer a better chance to escape. For example, hunting party size could be limited, but this would be almost impossible to enforce. Another alternative is some type of a bucks only season. There are many advantages and disadvantages to this type of hunting. One advantage would be that adult does and fawns would be protected, leaving a larger breeding supply of females for

the following year. Another advantage would be that fewer deer would be killed and, therefore, herds could be built up to allow more liberal hunting regulations. There are however, some very distinct disadvantages to a bucks only season. The most obvious is that many does and fawns would be mistakenly killed and left in the woods—a wasted resource. Some states estimate that this illegal kill is between 20 and 50 percent of the legal kill. Another disadvantage would be a much reduced hunting success (probably between 10-20 percent) producing many dissatisfied hunters. Iowans are spoiled for deer hunting because of one of the highest success percentages in the country. When you stop to think that almost one out of every two paid shotgun hunters kills a deer, that is a very successful season. There would also be a reduction in the number of trophy bucks available to the hunter since most bucks would not live long enough to reach the prime years for antler development (3½-5½ years of age). A possible alternative is to make a certain portion of the licenses issued good for bucks only, thus forcing hunters to concentrate on bucks more than does.

What can you as a citizen of this state do? You can express your ideas to your state legislators as these individuals make the laws which are needed for proper game management. Only you can help equalize the responsibility for good deer management. The resource must be protected to insure good deer populations which will always provide a harvestable surplus for hunting. Deer not only provide the hunter with some exciting moments, but they are enjoyed by all who see them feeding along the forest edge or bounding away with their white tail waving in the wind.





Coldwater Cave



Wildflowers abound



Bluffton area

Iowa's Fine Preserves

By Paul Kline
Ecologist

Are you looking for something "different?" The various state preserves may offer just that pleasant diversion you have been seeking.

Eighteen hundred acres have been set aside so far as state preserves in Iowa. They have been dedicated in perpetuity as sites of natural, geologic, archeologic, historic or scenic significance. They vary greatly. Some are remnants of the vast prairie that originally covered much of the state, or of original forest lands. Some harbor plants that are rare in Iowa. Others contain prehistoric Indian remains, or have geological formations which predate even the Indians. A few represent some of the early history of Iowa. Some offer a combination of these attractions. All have one thing in common: They represent something worth preserving in Iowa's heritage.

State preserves are not intended as recreation areas. Facilities such as picnicking and camping are not provided on most preserves. Collection of flowers, minerals, or artifacts is prohibited except by special permission from the Preserves Board. The preserves are intended for more passive activities such as nature

study and observation, photography, hiking and bird watching. In some, trails for these activities are provided.

The State Preserves Advisory Board determines what sites in Iowa are worthy of being state preserves. This board was created by the legislature in 1965. It is composed of seven members, six appointed by the governor for terms of three years each. The terms are staggered so only two are appointed each year. The State Conservation Commission director serves as the seventh board member.

The most important duty of the board is to approve areas as preserves. This is a formal procedure requiring agreement of the board, the governor, and the landowner of a site being considered. The landowner may be a governmental agency, a private individual or organization.

Once a site has been dedicated as a state preserve it is afforded a higher degree of protection from private and public encroachment or exploitation than other lands. It may not be condemned for the construction of roadways or transmission lines, without consent of



A few preserves are for family affairs, but preserves aren't intended for multiple use.

Preserves System

the governor and the State Conservation Commission, together with a finding by the State Preserves Advisory Board of imperative and unavoidable necessity.

A master management plan is developed for each preserve. This plan is especially designed to perpetuate the features worthy of preservation. For instance, on the prairie areas the principal feature is the occurrence of native prairie plants. The master plans for these areas spell out management procedures which will favor the native plants as opposed to exotic species, such as blue grass which is inclined to invade the prairies. Periodic controlled burning once every three or four years which does not harm the native prairie grasses, but does discourage blue grass, is one management procedure specified in the master plan for the prairies.

On archeologic sites digging which would destroy irreplaceable records of prehistory is prohibited except under the supervision of a competent archeologist working with permission of the board. On historic sites the master management plans guarantee the authenticity of reconstructed remnants.

The Conservation Commission employs an ecologist who facilitates the functioning of the Board. His main duties are: Investigate and report on new sites for inclusion in the system; write management plans for preserves, see that the plans are implemented, advise the board on matters relating to preservation of natural conditions elsewhere, handle correspondence and administer finances.

Under the law the preserves board is not permitted to own land. As the official name implies the board is advisory to the Conservation Commission and to other government agencies and private citizens who may own land. Financing of board expenses is handled through a special appropriation to the Conservation Commission.

The Preserves Board is continually seeking new areas worthy of dedication as State Preserves. Iowans are encouraged to contact the board ecologist through the Conservation Commission if they have or know of areas which have outstanding significance to Iowa's heritage.

IOWA STATE PRESERVES

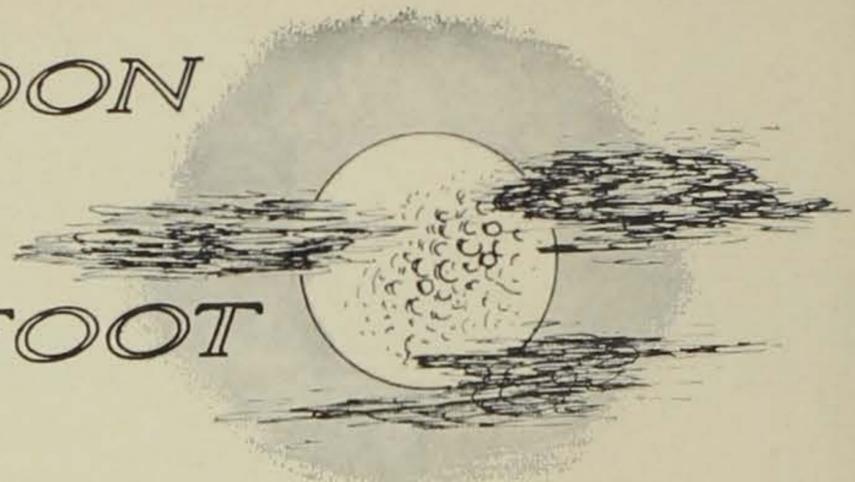
Name of Preserve and Acreage	County	Nearest Town	Description
Bluffton Fir Stand 94	Winneshiek	across Upper Iowa River from Bluffton	Forested area containing rare stand of balsam fir and scenic view. Picnicing permitted on north side of Upper Iowa River.
Coldwater Cave 60	Winneshiek	3 miles Northwest Bluffton.	Forested area with spring-fed creek. Spring is only known entrance to Coldwater Cave, largest discovered in Iowa. Fishing permitted.
Fish Farm Mounds 3	Allamakee	4 mi. S. New Albin off Hywy. 26	Wooded terrace containing 30 conical Indian burial mounds of various sizes probably dating from 200-500 A. D.
Ft. Atkinson 5	Winneshiek	Northwest edge of Ft. Atkinson	Reconstructed fort built in 1840 to protect Winnebagoes from other Indian tribes.
Gitchie Manitou 91	Lyon	9 mi. N.W. of Larchwood	Prairie and brushland bordering Big Sioux R. Pink stone outcrops of Sioux Quartzite are 1.2 billion years old. Beautiful pool occurs in outcrops.
Hartley Fort 2	Allamakee	7 mi. S.W. of New Albin	Formerly a stockaded fort built about 1,200 A.D. by Woodland Indians as protection from invading Oneotas.
Hayden Prairie 240	Howard	5 1/2 mi. West of Lime Springs	Virgin prairie land, mostly never plowed. At least 149 species of prairie plants are found here.
Kalso Prairie 160	Pocahontas	3 mi. North and 1 mi. West of Manson	At least 230 species of plants occur on this virgin prairie.
Merrill A. Stainbrook 23	Johnson	2 1/2 mi. N.E. North Liberty at East end of Mahffey Bridge.	Forest and brushland with exposed geologic formations consisting of State Quarry Limestone overlying Cedar Valley Limestone. Fossils abound.
Merritt Forest 20	Clayton	4 1/2 mi. South and 2 mi. W. Guttenberg on County Rd.	Virgin, never cut, forest stand.
Old State Quarry 8	Johnson	1 1/2 mi. N.E. North Liberty off private road	Wooded tract containing remains of limestone quarry where stone was taken for building Old State Capitol and other structures.
Pilot Knob 369	Hancock	4 mi. E. and 1 mi. S. of Forest City	Wooded park, parts of which are State Preserve. Contains floating sphagnum bog with rare plants. Also, example of "old field succession". Camping and picnicing permitted in Park.
St. James Lutheran Church 0.1	Winneshiek	N.W. edge town of Ft. Atkinson	Church built in mid-1800's and partially restored by congregation of St. Peter Lutheran Church of Eldorado. Also, tiny cemetery.
Sheeder Prairie 25	Guthrie	4 mi. West & 1 mi. North of Guthrie Center	Virgin prairie, mostly never plowed, with at least 180 species of native plants.
Turkey River Mounds 62	Clayton	3 1/2 mi. South and 1 mi. East of Guttenberg on County Rd.	Forested ridge containing numerous conical and linear Indian mounds.
White Pine Hollow 712	Dubuque	2 mi. N.W. of Luxemburg	Rough forested terrain containing largest stand of native white pine remaining in Iowa.
Wittrock Indian Village 5	O'Brien	3 mi. E. of Sutherland through private land	Prairie land containing an ancient Indian village site occupied by Mill Creek Culture.
Woodman Hollow 63	Webster	5 mi. N.W. of Lehigh	Forested ridge overlooking Des Moines River. Features a deep ravine containing rare plants.

HUNTER'S MOON



AND

RABBIT'S FOOT



by David Evans

Do you believe that a "hunter's moon," generally agreed to be the first full moon in November, is the best time to pursue game? Do you believe that carrying a gun on your left shoulder is bad luck?

Well, if you do, you might be called superstitious. Now according to the dictionary, a superstition is a "belief resulting from ignorance . . . or trust in magic or chance." But let's face it, superstition is still an influence on some outdoorsmen.

Did you know that sighting over a gun barrel indoors signifies a fruitless hunt next time out? Some people think so.

A few hunters, and not all of them boondock bumpkins, believe that animals killed during the decrease of the moon yield meat that shrinks excessively during the frying or baking. Of course a moon on the increase guarantees that meat—both wild and domestic—will resist heat shrinkage.

And what about the autumn "crazy moon," which, according to Indian legend, causes wild animals to mysteriously go through all sorts of weird and unaccountable nighttime antics.

Snake superstitions abound by the score. One of the most ancient of all notions about snakes is that they possess the power to "charm" or hypnotize birds and small animals. And no doubt you have heard the claim that no snake will crawl over a hair rope—even to obtain food when starving.

Many superstitions surround the crow—most of them branding him as a messenger of misfortune. A few credit him with possessing powers of a prognosticator. And one old verse even makes the ebony fellow a weather prophet:

Crow on the fence,
Rain will go hence.
Crow on the ground,
Rain will come down.

As might be expected, many superstitions concern the angler. It's believed in some piscatorial circles that if a minnow dies on the hook, the person using it may as well go home. He will have no luck the rest of the day. Some anglers believe it's unlucky to drive a nail on

Sunday.

Getting rather "far out" is this old thought. It was once believed that if one eats the eyes of a fish it's a sign that he will never be afraid of the dark.

Perhaps a more practical bit of advice is the following: "Fisherman in anger froth, when the wind is in the north; for fish bite the best, when the wind is in the west."

Not all fishing beliefs are home grown. Estonian anglers figure it's unlucky to quarrel with a member of the family when starting out on a fishing trip. On the other hand, I've known some fishing trips that have led to these quarrels. Scottish fishermen from the fogbound highlands think it unlucky if a woman wishes them good luck on their angling enterprises.

Folklore tells us that it's unlucky for a woman to cross your fishing stream because it drives away the fish. Likewise it's bad new to meet anyone with red hair or a lone crow. Each instance portends adverse luck for fishing that day.

Ever impale yourself in the hand with a fish hook? When you remove the hook you should strike it three times with wood. This is said to guarantee that the wound will not fester. Just to be on the safe side I would also apply first aid.

Perhaps it's not so unusual that anglers concern themselves with superstitions and folk tales. After all, they pursue finny creatures much smarter than themselves.

Some of man's oldest and oddest beliefs center around hunting. Our en-



This hunter doesn't take chances with the fates—shotgun over right shoulder, pheasant feather, sprig of mistletoe and rabbit's foot for good luck.

estors were hunters first and foremost, out of necessity more than anything else. Here is a suggestion for starting the New Year out right. According to legend, if you draw the blood of any animal on New Year's Day, it will bring luck when you hunt and fish in the coming year. Of course, you will be especially lucky if you remember to buy licenses for these sports.

Many strange beliefs originate in California. Indians from that state once considered it unlucky if a hunter ate the same he killed himself. Therefore they always hunted in pairs to exchange game.

Good luck charms should not be overlooked. Numerous hunters carry a rabbit's foot for luck or a feather or claw from the last fowl killed. Some Indians carried the wishbone of a prairie chicken. In Germany hunters carried mistletoe to insure success.

When quail hunting you might keep this in mind. Folklore says that if a hunter fires into a flock of quail and kills one, but cannot find it, he will get no more quail from that covey. A few Jimrods have probably had that experience. Beware of the white deer, goes an ancient saying. We learn that if a hunter kills a white deer, he will have bad luck hereafter—and to top it off, he will soon die. Fortunately the chances of seeing a white deer are remote, let alone killing one.

North American Indians believed that one draws a picture of a deer on bark and then shoots at it and hits it, the hunt on the morrow will prove successful. If they do not hit it the first time, the hunt will be called off because they won't find any game.

Superstitions also get involved with other outdoor recreation. From Legend-rouded Transylvania comes this advice for campers. Gypsies believed at one time that if an accident happens just as the party is about to camp, it's a bad omen and they will move on to another place.

Interestingly enough, swimming has its share of superstitions—some rather drastic. To prevent cramps while swimming one should put mud on his head before entering the water. If a person wears snake rattles on his ankles when going swimming they will not be drowned as a result of cramps. Of course, you may be bitten while trying to remove the rattles from the snake. If when going swimming you put your right foot in the water first, you will not be drowned. And finally, if you swallow a fish bladder you can learn to swim easily and well. There ought to be a better way.

Well, there you have it. Just a few of the superstitions that still have that age-old power of persuasion.

Am I superstitious? Of course not. It's just because I always hunt during the full moon in November and never carry a gun on my left shoulder doesn't mean I'm superstitious. Just cautious. After all, why trifle with the fates.



HOW NOT TO HUNT PHEASANTS

By David Evans

Willie Spentshot loved to hunt pheasants. And why not? He grew up in Iowa's ringneck heartland and considered himself quite a pheasant hunter.

But, Willie was concerned. He was convinced that he was becoming the last of the great hunters and it seemed that people just didn't care to hunt with him any more. At least no one wanted to go hunting with him.

The coming season was going to be different though. His wife's second cousin, Rodney Hailfellow from Gotham City, was coming west with some friends to hunt pheasants and Willie was eager to show them how it's done.

The morning of the hunt finally arrived. Willie was planning to hunt in an area about 70 miles from his home in East Overshoe. He didn't get along with the local farmers any more. He loaded the visitors in his Super-Charged Eight automobile and zoomed down the road at a conservative 90 miles per hour. "You need a real fast car so you can beat the other hunters to the best spots," explained Willie to his worried passengers.

Willie roared up to a public shooting area about a half an hour before the legal shooting hour. "Always pattern your gun," instructed Spentshot as he blasted holes in a sign.

"The best way to hunt pheasants is from a vehicle," expounded Spentshot. "That way you cover more territory and don't get so tired."

Making like General Patton leading his tanks into Germany, Willie drove wildly across the field with much horn honking and shouting. Willie would occasionally slam on the brakes, grab his gun and blaze away into the bushes.

"You can hear the pheasants just as well as see them," said the self-styled expert. "So I just shoot anyway. If it's not a pheasant, there is always a chance it will be your mother-in-law," he laughed. Willie considered himself a great comedian.

In spite of their panzer-like attack on the field and numerous shotgun blasts at birds that flushed out of range, the group

didn't score. Spentshot stopped for a moment.

"It sure is hot and we haven't had any rain for weeks," he said as he flipped his cigarette into the grass. Before you could say "Smokey Bear," he and his friends were busily engaged in putting out a small grass fire.

After this interlude, Willie decided to hunt a cornfield he saw a pheasant run down. On his instructions the men spaced themselves about a quarter of a mile apart and rushed through the field making slightly less noise than a herd of buffalo enroute to water.

Of course the ringnecks took the air at the end of the field where Willie had neglected to place blockers. Although the birds were out of range, Willie blasted away.

As a result his shotgun pellets rained down on the side of a nearby farm house. The owner, understandably upset, came out to discuss the matter with Willie. Willie not only failed to get permission to hunt, but the fact that he drove over a fence added a certain amount of color to the discussion.

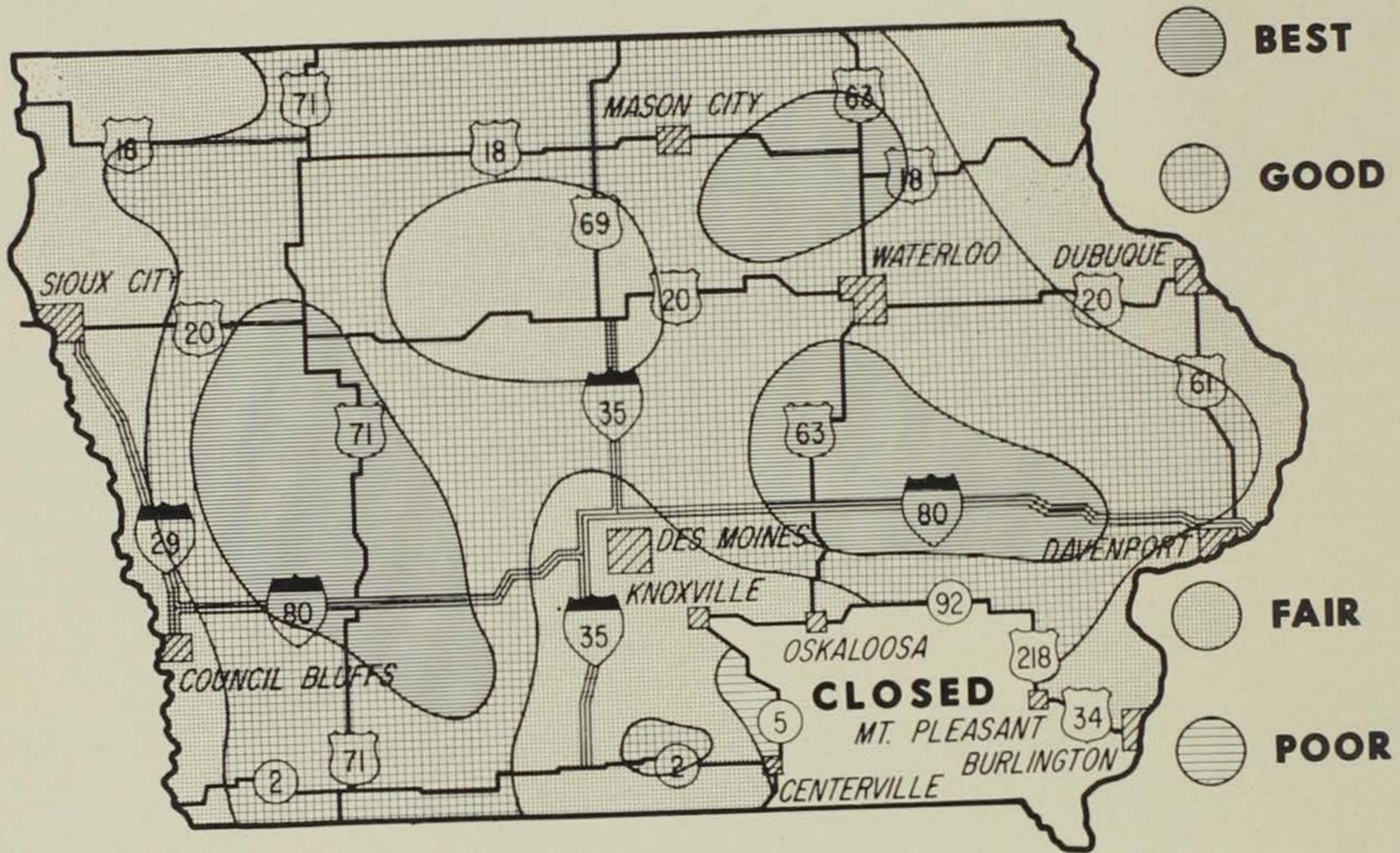
Later while hunting a shelterbelt, Willie heard something coming through the trees. He hadn't gotten any birds yet and was a little trigger happy. He quickly shouldered his smoketube and fired. Hailfellow let out a scream. Three of Willie's pellets had hit him in the thigh.

In spite of Spentshot's misguided organization and direction, the Gotham City residents did bag a few birds. Spentshot had one—a young rooster he ground-sluced later in the afternoon.

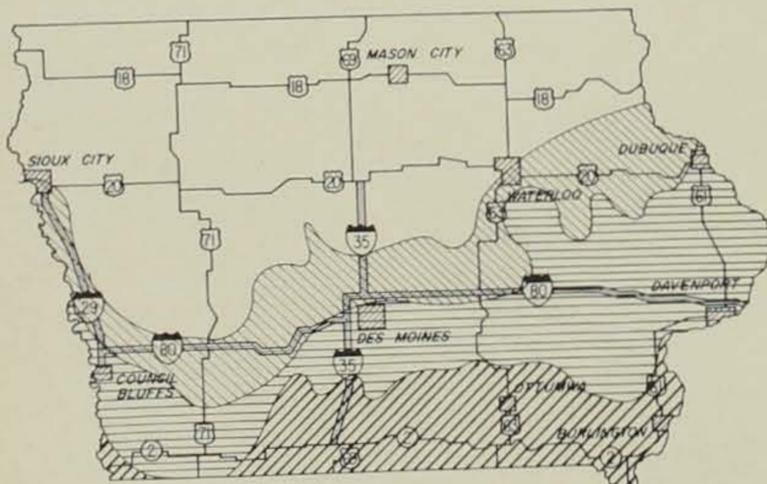
On the way home Willie was already thinking of how he would explain his bad luck to the boys at the local tavern. No birds, pheasants wild, no cover and posted land all seemed like good reasons he decided. Willie was sure it couldn't be because of his shooting or hunting ability.

Nevertheless, Hailfellow and his friends would be back to hunt pheasants in Iowa next year. But for sure, Willie Spentshot wouldn't be with them—great hunter or not.

1970 Upland Game Bird Maps

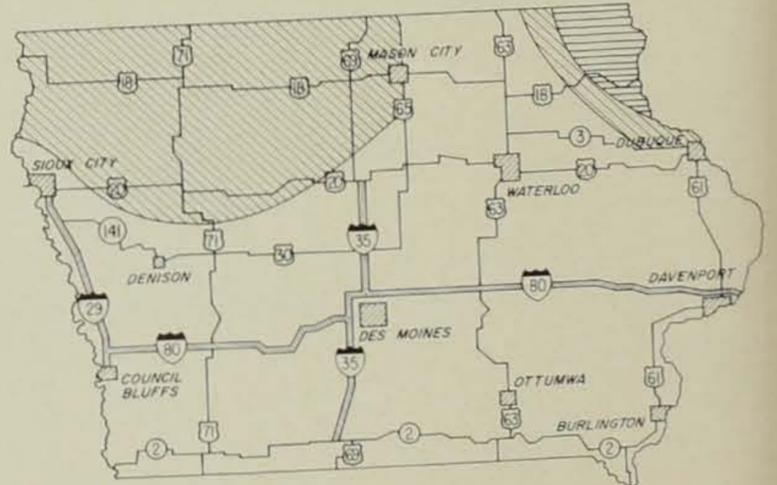


QUAIL DISTRIBUTION



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  GOOD
  FAIR
  POOR

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE DISTRIBUTION



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  GOOD
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RUFFED GROUSE DISTRIBUTION

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Businessman Who Cares

by David Evans

It would appear to be a big jump in time, space and philosophy from an office in Des Moines to a beautiful timbered area in the lush Iowa countryside. Or unusual for a businessman in a city to take an active interest in conservation and wildlife habitat.

But, it isn't very far at all for Jerry Larson, president of Collins and Company, Inc., Des Moines electric equipment and supply company. Larson has been carrying out conservation and wildlife habitat improvement practices in a mighty big way. And the results are impressive.

Larson's 1300-acre farm northeast of Winterset is becoming a prime example of wildlife habitat improvement and conservation. Primarily a cattle operation, his farm shows how wildlife areas and farming can be compatible.

He has set aside and fenced large areas for wildlife. Cover and food plantings have been made and ponds constructed. The attractive ponds have been stocked with bass and catfish. Plantings include orchard grass, a fast growing species for feed and erosion control; trefoil, another good pasture legume that aids in erosion control; and trees such as autumn olive. There are several thousand walnut trees on the farm. The heavy stands will be thinned where necessary.

As a result deer and small game such as quail, squirrel, rabbits and some pheasants have found a home.

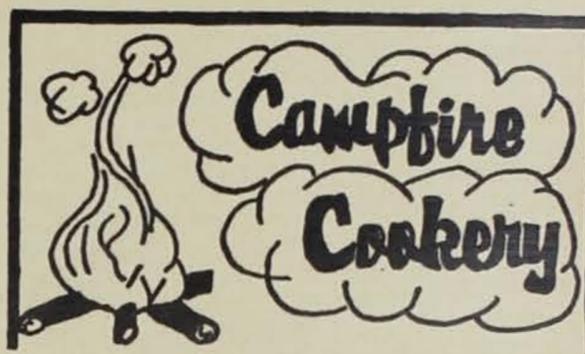
Why would a busy businessman in Des Moines have such an interest in conser-

vation?

"I've always been interested in the outdoors and wildlife," explained Larson, a pleasant and articulate man. He emphasized that areas must be set aside now if we are to have wildlife in the future.

Not exactly a newcomer to agriculture, he was raised on a farm near Bassett, Nebraska, and received a degree in agriculture from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Whether talking with Larson in his office or while walking through a timber stand on his farm, one is impressed with his belief in conservation and the need for good management practices. His enthusiasm for conservation is refreshing in a world too often oriented toward the rat race for the dollar and neglect of natural resources. Larson works closely with conservation agencies in developing his farm and keeps himself informed on latest developments with U. S. Department of Agriculture bulletins.

Too often we fail to realize the importance of the businessman-farmer and his efforts to improve our natural surroundings. Larson is a businessman with farming interests who does care about conservation and the necessity of providing a place in our world for wildlife. The future of wildlife will depend in no small measure on people who take the time and effort to develop conservation measures on the land. Through good practices, wildlife can continue to be an important part of Iowa, a part of our heritage.



A DOG OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

by Dick Ranney

The month of November signals the start of another fall and winter pastime. It is called a variety of names—stag party, game party, or wild game dinner. A wild game dinner often boasts a menu of exotic foods. Who can resist a fricassee of fox, the mouth watering aroma of a scalded skunk, pickled 'possum, or barbecue of beaver? Anything that walks, crawls or flies seems to be fair game.

One of the finer dishes that all should try is beer basted crow. There are two types of crow and it is suggested that one is as hard to eat as the other. The eating of crow will provide several moments of fun just trying to chew it. Round two begins when its time to swallow. This can be verified by the various fish and wildlife clubs around the state. Crow is indeed one of the more exotic meats and once consumed gives strength to the conviction that most of Mother Nature's friends should be seen and not eaten.

There is however a recipe for the cooking of dogs that merits consideration. Build a large outside fire from dry wood scraps. Cut a green stick about three feet long and sharpen the end. Place one or more dogs on the stick and hold over the flame until cooked. Grasp a bun in your hand and slide the dog into the bun. Cover with catsup, mustard and pickles. This requires little effort to chew or swallow. Eat slowly while enjoying the glow of a warm fire on a cool evening, the smell of burning wood, and perhaps some guitar music. (And don't forget the marshmallows).



That's what I call recoil!



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Pheasant season opens November 14. This colorful import from China will provide enjoyment for a mass of hunters from near and far. At this time of the year every outdoorsman must make an attempt to understand the farmer's side of the coin. It is of the utmost importance that permission to hunt is secured and that all the practices of courtesy and common sense be strictly followed. There are a few people in all walks of life who feel they can trespass and transgress against the rights and property of others. These deplorable creatures are a thorn in all sides.

Because of just one of these irresponsible few, hunter-farmer relationship can be torn beyond repair. The landowner obviously cannot tolerate small fires caused by discarded cigarettes, closed gates left open or untied, shooting towards buildings, littering, the cutting of fences, or the almost unimaginable crime of shooting at livestock. Such incidents result in permanent "No Hunting" signs.

Land is being acquired by the State Conservation Commission for the purpose of wildlife management; and where possible public hunting areas are opened. But the large majority of hunting in Iowa must be done on private property. Fortunately, a great many conscientious, conservation minded landowners allow hunting (by permission of course), but occasionally the situation is threatened.

If you observe someone cutting fences, shooting livestock, defacing or destroying property, or breaking any law, do this:

- 1) identify them by car license if possible.
 - 2) call the nearest conservation officer, sheriff, or other local authorities.
- Don't wait, do it immediately. Let's stop jeopardizing our fine sportsman-landowner relationships. Let's get these spoilers out of the fields and into court!