



FEBRUARY, 1973

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conservationist



Twenty-five and one half pound channel catfish tops '72 list and ranks second on all time list. Glen Harms caught this fish and also all time record!



FEBRUARY, 1973



conservationist

ROGER SPARKS, EDITOR
WAYNE LONNING, PHOTOGRAPHER
JERRY LEONARD, PHOTOGRAPHER

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Fred A. Prievert, Director



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1972 A VERY GOOD YEAR

By Roger Sparks

Judging by the number of qualifying entries in the Iowa Conservation Commission Big Fish Contest, rain-soaked 1972 produced a bumper crop of trophy fish around the state. The largest number of finny heavy-weights ever recorded in a 12 month period weighed a whopping total of 1280 pounds, and that's a lot of fillets! Several fish were close to state records, but only two fish, a three pound 14 ounce white bass and a 31½ pound buffalo cleared the bar. The big white was taken from West Okoboji in Dickinson County by Bill Born of Milford. The state record buffalo was hauled out of the skunk river in Jefferson County by Dean Shafer of Brighton.

West Okoboji also yielded the top 1972 entries for muskellunge and smallmouth bass as well as many of the rest of the qualifying catches. David Mills of Spirit Lake, Iowa, caught the 11 pound 15 ounce musky and Don Idso of Milford nailed the five pound 15 ounce smallmouth while trolling. Just next door, Spirit Lake gave up a 30 pound 10 ounce buffalo to

Biggest Fish of the Year. Norm King caught 50 lb., 4 oz. flathead from Des Moines River.

2 5 YEAR

Dennis Pedersen of Ringsted as well as a number of other notable entries.

But Dickinson County doesn't have a corner on the big fish market. While fishing the Des Moines River just above the Grand Avenue bridge, Norman King of Des Moines set the hook on just about as much flathead as he could handle. After the long struggle a 50 pound four ounce, 49½" monster was dragged ashore (observers say the river lowered a foot!). Norm fishes for big cats using a heavy line baited with a chub and has landed big flatheads before, including a 40 pounder.

Glen Harms of Shenandoah proved his 1971 entry, the 30 pound all-time record channel catfish, was no fluke by landing a pair of big cats again last year. Glen took the top 1972 channel cat, a 25 pound 8 ounce trophy, and followed up with a 22 pound plus entry, both from Viking Lake.

Russ Blake of Sheldon was fishing a sand pit in O'Brien County when what must have seemed like a world record bullhead picked up the nightcrawler



big

Lorraine Becknal and nine pound seven ounce walleye she caught in Des Moines River in Palo Alto County.



baited rig. When the dust cleared, Russ had narrowly missed owning a state record for northern pike. The 23 pounder measured 45½" from tail to toothy snout and fell just a half pound short of the all-time record.

Jim Hasik of Omaha, Nebraska took the best bass of 1972, a nine pound three ounce lunker, from Lake Manawa, in Pottawattamie County. Jim was casting a Mepps Spinner when he hooked the 24-inch largemouth.

Bait Does Well

Besides those already mentioned, live bait accounted for some best-of-1972 entries in other categories. Leon Brockman used a nightcrawler to entice his six pound brown from Bankston creek in Dubuque County. A nightcrawler also lured the top bluegill, a one pound 10 ounce dandy, from a Guthrie County farm pond for Steve Geers of Perry.

Merlin Tucker of Sioux City was still fishing a live minnow on the Missouri River when he caught his four pound two ounce sauger. A minnow also did the trick for Bob Schenck of Stanton.

His two pound 14 ounce crappie from Viking Lake heads that list.

1972 was certainly the year of the walleye, particularly in West Okoboji. Twenty-five entries over the eight pound minimum were received, topped by the 11 pound two ounce trophy landed by Robert Willbee, Jr. of Waverly. Bob was casting an orange spoon on the Cedar River in Bremer County when he "struck gold."

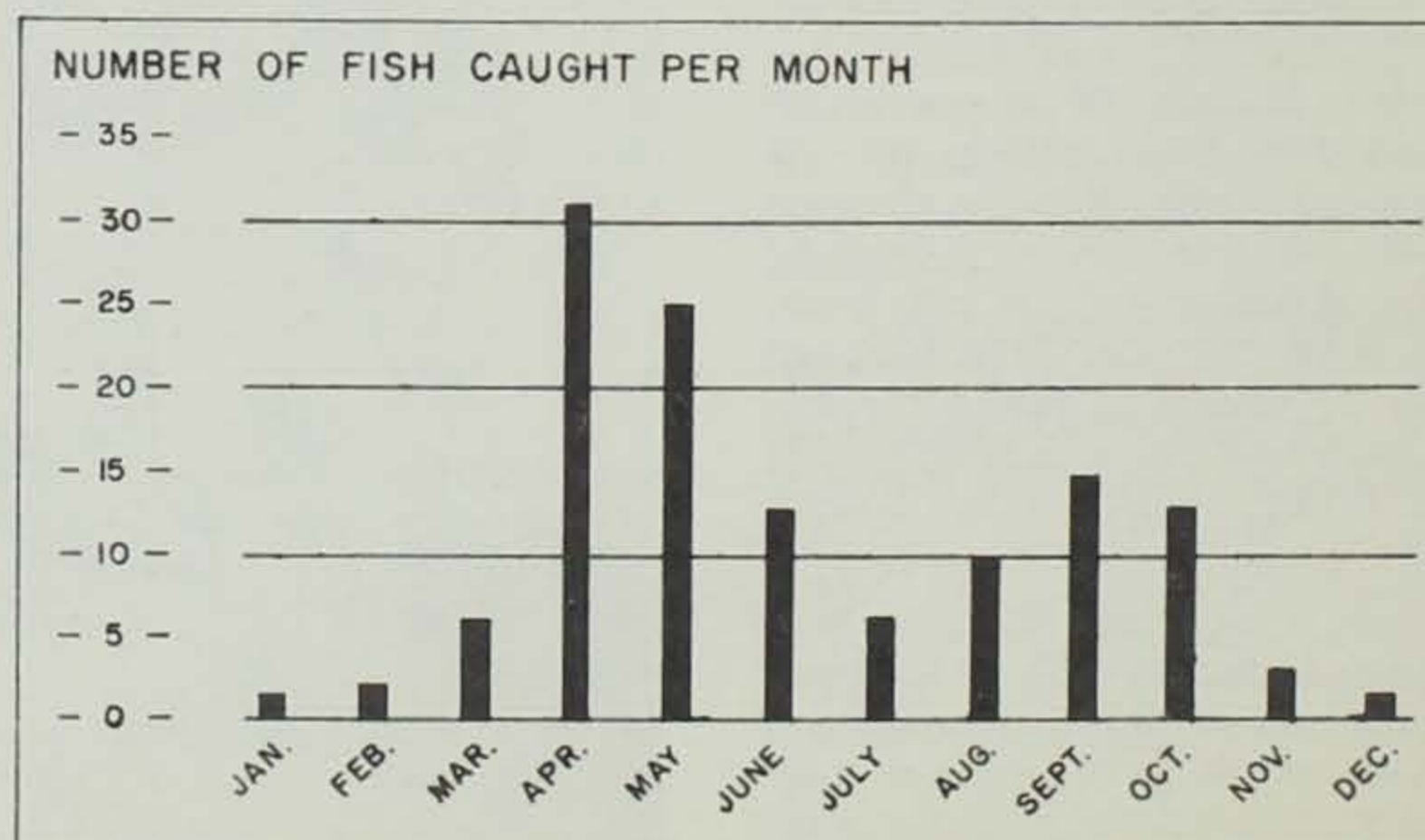
Spring and Fall "Hot"

A summary of the dates the big fish were caught indicates the

productivity of spring and fall angling. From April 1 through mid-June fishing in general reaches a dramatic peak. From late August through mid-October, action warms up again, at least for braggin' size fish.

Where to Go

Natural lakes produced over half the entries, with impoundments, streams, pits and farm ponds all being well represented. The Big Fish Contest proves one point — good fish are available from every type of Iowa water in every part of the state.



g fish for '72

Weight	Length	County Where Caught	1972 Date	Angler
BASS (Largemouth)				
9 lb. 3 oz.	24"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie County	April 19	Jim Hasik Omaha, Nebraska
8 lb. 8 oz.	23¾"	Lake Wapello Davis County	April 11	Leo J. Welch Burlington
8 lb. 4 oz.	24¼"	Grant Quarry Montgomery County	March 25	Robert D. Reimers Griswold
8 lb. 2 oz.	24"	Halletts Pits Sac County	April 8	Pat Riley Schaller
8 lb.	24"	Ashton Pit Osceola County	April 14	Clarence H. Winkel Sanborn
7 lb. 13 oz.	24"	Farm Pond Iowa County	October 15	John R. Benn Cedar Rapids
7 lb. 12 oz.	23"	De Soto Bend Harrison County	April 15	John Sutherland Blair, Nebraska
7 lb. 10 oz.	22¼"	Spring Lake Green County	May 6	Bob Haines Marcus
7 lb. 10 oz.	22½"	Lake Geode Henry County	March 21	Leo J. Welch Burlington
7 lb. 8 oz.	21½"	Farm Pond Lee County	April 13	Ralph W. Kempf Fort Madison
7 lb. 6½ oz.	22"	Fairfield Reservoir Jefferson County	September 23	Richard A. Garbett Colona, Illinois
7 lb. 4 oz.	23"	Farm Pond Woodbury County	May 9	Harold Standt Sioux City
7 lb. 2 oz.	22¼"	Farm Pond Lee County	October 2	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
7 lb. 1 oz.	22"	Springbrook Lake Guthrie County	April 22	Chuck Kakac Panora
7 lb. 1 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 2	Richard W. Weiss Council Bluffs
7 lb.	22"	Lake Wapello Davis County	April 15	Lawrence R. Bell Burlington
7 lb.	24"	De Soto Bend Pottawattamie County	April 16	Michael McGranaghan Omaha, Nebraska
7 lb.	23¼"	YMCA Lake Des Moines County	June 26	Warren Mehmken Sperry
BASS (Smallmouth)				
5 lb. 15 oz.	22"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 29	Don Idso Milford
5 lb. 13 oz.	23"	Cedar River Floyd County	July 17	Charles Heidt Cedar Falls
4 lb. 15 oz.	23"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 10	Jim Fassett Webster City
4 lb. 12 oz.	21¾"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 19	Dave Comes Milford
4 lb. 12 oz.	19½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	February 13	Don Idso Milford
4 lb. 9 oz.	21¾"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 1	Larry Eckard Royal
4 lb. 8 oz.	21½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 15	Dave Comes Milford
4 lb. 8 oz.	21½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	August 31	Ray T. Spurlock Storm Lake
4 lb. 7 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 24	Bob Fitzgerald Milford
4 lb. 5 oz.	20½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 23	Orville Belken Spencer
4 lb. 4 oz.	22"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 3	Louise Benz Melvin
4 lb. 4 oz.	20½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 10	Dave Comes Milford
4 lb. 4 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	March 11	Larry Eckard Royal

* New State Record



Nine pound, three ounce largemouth topped '72 entries and was taken by Jim Hasik of Omaha, Nebraska.



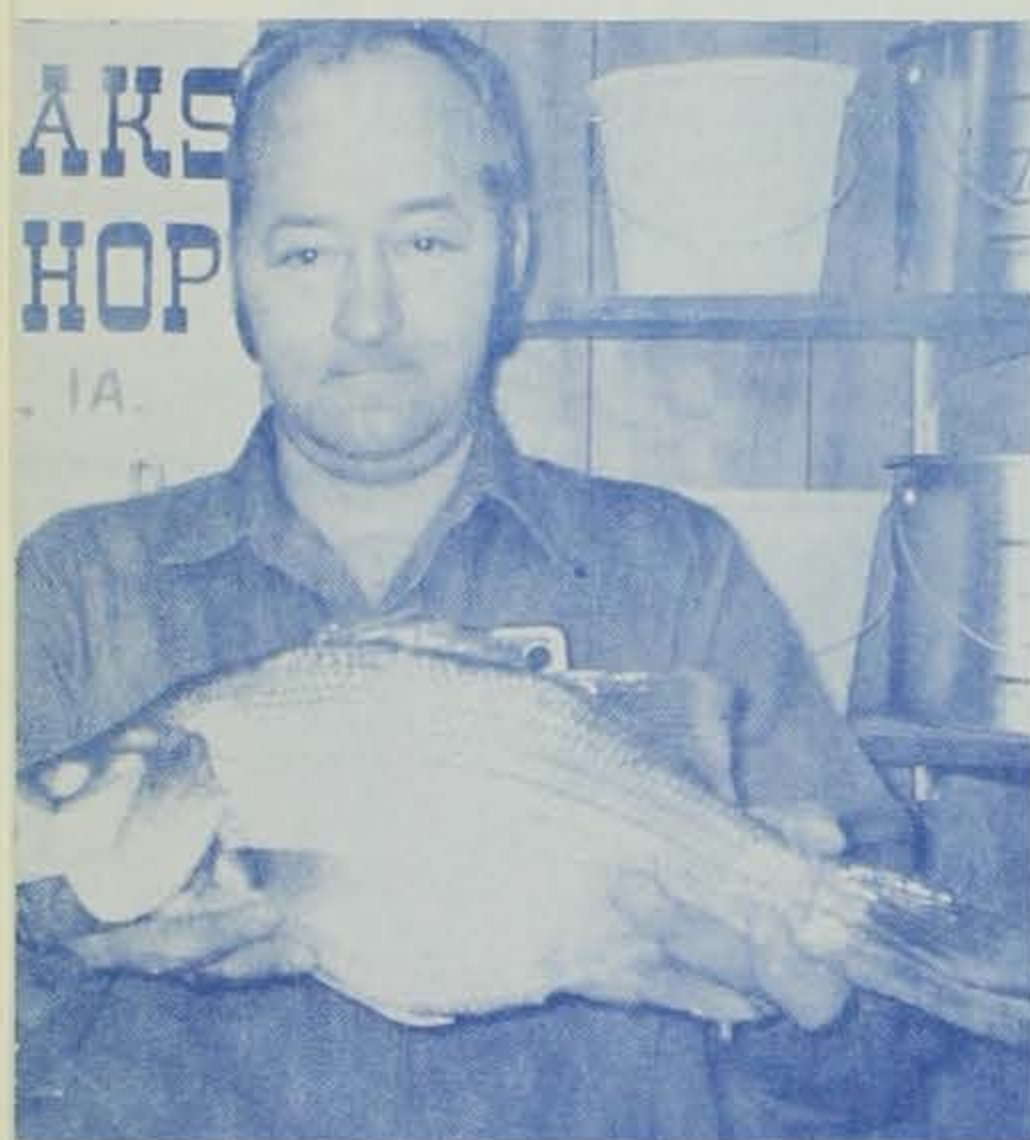
Number two bass — 8½ lbs. — caught by Leo J. Welch of Burlington in Lake Geode.

Bob Reimers took eight pound, four ounce largemouth from Quarry in Montgomery County.



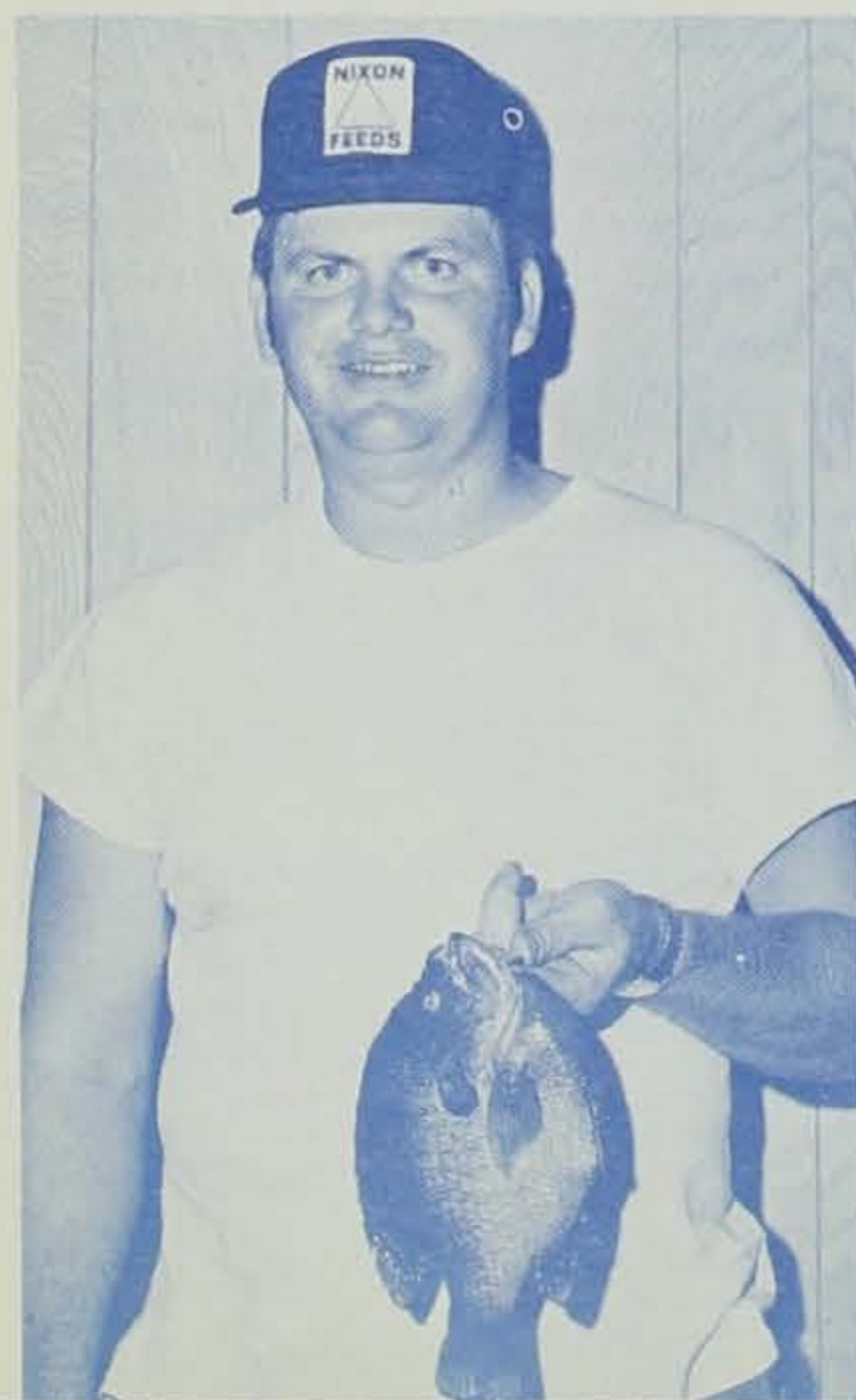


Don Idso missed state record by four ounces with 5 lb., 15 oz. West Okoboji Lake smallmouth.



State Record White Bass caught by Bill Born of Milford. Fish weighed 3 pounds, 14 ounces.

Steve Geers of Perry and his one pound, ten ounce bluegill.



Weight	Length	County Where Caught	1972 Date	Angler
BASS (Smallmouth) — Continued				
4 lb. 4 oz.	20 1/4"	Cedar River Mitchell County	May 17	Terry Reams
4 lb. 4 oz.	20 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	June 27	Marion VanZandbergen
4 lb. 4 oz.	21"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	June 21	Larry Vodraska
4 lb. 3 oz.	21"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 22	Cap Kennedy
4 lb. 3 oz.	21 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 15	Greg Taylor
4 lb. 3 oz.	21 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May 20	Mrs. Donald Trupke
4 lb. 2 oz.	22 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	August 18	Dwane Bramer
4 lb. 1 oz.	20 1/2"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 12	Dave Comes
4 lb.	20 1/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 2	Richard W. Weiss
BASS (White)				
*3 lb. 14 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May 7	Bill Born
3 lb. 7 oz.	19 3/4"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	August 5	Perry Knutson
2 lb. 13 oz.	18"	Lower Gar Dickinson County	April 16	Terry Cook
2 lb. 12 oz.	17 3/4"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	May 29	Ben I. Guise
BASS (Yellow) NO ENTRIES				
BLUEGILL				
1 lb. 10 oz.	10 1/2"	Farm Pond Guthrie County	August 16	Stephen A. Geers
1 lb. 8 oz.	12"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	July 23	Art Rottunda
1 lb. 4 oz.	11 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	June 26	Jim Ellenwood
1 lb. 3 oz.	10 1/4"	Gravel Pit Muscatine County	May 4	James R. Stricklin
BULLHEAD				
2 lb. 10 oz.	15"	Farm Pond Adams County	March 17	Darwin Snyder
BUFFALO				
*31 lb. 8 oz.	37 1/2"	Skunk River Jefferson County	May 27	Dean Schafer
30 lb. 10 oz.	36 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	May 16	Dennis Pedersen
28 lb. 9 oz.	36"	Mississippi River Clayton County	March 17	Richard Hach
25 lb.	35 1/2"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie County	September 3	Mark Mahan
24 lb. 8 oz.	34 1/2"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie County	September 4	Mark Mahan
CARP NO ENTRIES				
CATFISH (Channel)				
25 lb. 8 oz.	38"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	August 26	Glen Harms
24 lb.	35"	Cedar River Linn County	May 29	Jim Kimball
22 lb. 10 oz.	34"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	September 23	Glen Harms
21 lb. 8 oz.	35"	Green Valley Lake Union County	July 17	Glen Heinbuch
20 lb. 1 oz.	35"	Chariton River Appanoose County	July 14	Richard Thomas
17 lb. 8 oz.	32 1/2"	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie County	July 15	Harold C. Howard
17 lb. 8 oz.	32"	Halletts Pits Sac County	September 17	Marvin Johnson
16 lb. 9 oz.	36"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May 16	Dr. Ken Hansen
16 lb. 1 oz.	31"	Meadow Lake Adair County	July 7	Harold Alexander
15 lb. 4 oz.	31"	Farm Pond Crawford County	June 22	George Brink

Dave Mills and 11 lb., 15 oz. musky.

Weight	Length	County Where Caught	1972 Date	Angler
CATFISH (Flathead)				
50 lb. 4 oz.	49½"	Des Moines River Polk County	September 4	Norman King Des Moines
29 lb.	40"	Des Moines River Van Buren County	June 2	Steve Proper Boneparte
24 lb. 12 oz.	37"	Wapsipinicon River Jones County	June 2	John A. Dirks Oxford Junction
24 lb. 8 oz.	38"	Cedar River Linn County	June 9	Louis Floden, Jr. Mount Vernon
CRAPPIE				
2 lb. 14 oz.	18"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	April 24	Bob Schenck Stanton
2 lb. 7 oz.	16"	Lake Geode Henry County	May 21	Gary L. Costas Nichols
2 lb. 3 oz.	16½"	Dale Moffitt Reservoir Polk County	May 23	Rick Hoffman Des Moines
2 lb. 3 oz.	16"	North Twin Lake Calhoun County	October 14	Sol Hendricks Rockwell City
2 lb. 2 oz.	15½"	Mississippi River Clinton County	May 10	Louis Kraciun, Sr. Camanche
2 lb. 1 oz.	16"	Twin Lakes Calhoun County	June 25	C. Henry Jorgensen Fort Dodge
2 lb.	15¾"	Lake Wapello Davis County	April 22	Ed Hoffman Des Moines
MUSKELLUNGE				
11 lb. 15 oz.	34½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	November 20	David Mills Spirit Lake
9 lb. 13 oz.	37½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 16	Ron Peterson Fort Dodge
9 lb. 10 oz.	33"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 9	Jack Perrin Cherokee
8 lb. 9 oz.	36"	Center Lake Dickinson County	April 29	Bob Schmid Spencer
6 lb. 3 oz.	33"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 1	Roger Gathman Hartley
NORTHERN PIKE				
23 lb.	45½"	Sand Pit O'Brien County	April 9	Russell J. Blake Sheldon
18 lb. 2 oz.	42½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	September 9	Walter Gruver Rockford
18 lb.	35"	Mississippi River Jackson County	May 20	Mary Lee Dubuque
17 lb.	39"	Smith Lake Kossuth County	May 16	Ed Holecek Algona
16 lb.	43"	Lewis & Clark Lake Monona County	May 2	Milo Stanislav Little Sioux
15 lb. 8 oz.	39"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	February 5	Danny Steinberg Cherokee
14 lb. 4 oz.	37"	Storm Lake Buena Vista County	June 1	Alfred "Bud" Dick Storm Lake
14 lb. 1 oz.	38"	Upper Pine Lake Hardin County	May 21	Robert Barnhart Urbandale
14 lb.	39"	Diamond Head Lake Guthrie County	April 16	Larry Bougher Des Moines
13 lb. 11 oz.	37½"	Winnebago River Winnebago County	April 27	George Meinecke Forest City
11 lb. 14 oz.	37"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May 27	Ernest Jacob Melbourne
11 lb. 7 oz.	38½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	June 14	Charles Gustafson Morrison
10 lb. 11 oz.	35½"	Lower Gar Dickinson County	May 6	Kenneth Hanson Linn Grove
10 lb. 8 oz.	36"	Wapsipinicon River Chickasaw County	June 12	Dan Mahoney New Hampton
10 lb. 4 oz.	37"	Badger Lake Webster County	August 25	Albert J. Husske, Sr. Fort Dodge
10 lb. 4 oz.	34"	Mississippi River Jackson County	May 30	William E. Schmidt Clinton
10 lb. 2 oz.	35"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	June 2	Charlie Warren Spencer

PADDLEFISH NO ENTRIES

PERCH (Yellow) NO ENTRIES

(Continued on Page 10)

Missouri River sauger caught by Merlin Tucker weighed four pounds, two ounces.



Russel Blake's 23 lb. northern just missed state record.



Walter Gruver of Rockford, Illinois and Big northern pike — weight: 18 lb., 2 oz.



Bob Schenck and best crappie of the year, two pounds 14 ounces, from Viking Lake.



IOWA

ALL TIME RECORD FISH

Weight	Length	County Where Caught	Date	Angler
BASS (Largemouth)				
10 lb. 5 oz.	24 1/4"	Farm Pond Lee County	August, 1970	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
BASS (Smallmouth)				
6 lb. 3 oz.	21 5/8"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	June, 1966	Marvin Singer LeMars
6 lb. 3 oz.	22"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May, 1971	Roger Mahnke Altoona
BASS (White)				
3 lb. 14 oz.	20"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May, 1972	Bill Born Milford
BLUEGILL				
2 lb. 3 oz.	11 1/2"	Farm Pond Jefferson County	April, 1971	Bob Adam Fairfield
BULLHEAD				
4 lb. 8 oz.	17 3/4"	Farm Pond Taylor County	April, 1966	Dennie Karas Massena
4 lb. 8 oz.	22 1/2"	Boyer River Harrison County	August, 1971	Ralph Cooney Woodbine
BUFFALO				
31 lb. 8 oz.	37 1/2"	Skunk River Jefferson County	May, 1972	Dean Schafer Brighton
CARP				
50 lb.	44"	Glenwood Lake Mills County	May, 1969	Fred Hougland Glenwood
CATFISH (Channel)				
30 lb.	39"	Viking Lake Montgomery County	August, 1971	Glen Harms Shenandoah
CATFISH (Flathead)				
62 lb.	46"	Iowa River Johnson County	July, 1965	Roger Fairchild Coralville
CRAPPIE				
4 lb. 1 oz.	19 1/4"	Farm Pond Tama County	May, 1969	John Lenhart Tama
MUSKELLUNGE				
23 lb. 2 oz.	45"	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo County	June, 1971	Brian Buehler Clear Lake
NORTHERN PIKE				
23 lb. 8 oz.	44"	Cedar River Bremer County	August, 1970	Fred Stifter Waverly
PADDLEFISH				
81 lb.	65 1/4"	De Soto Bend Harrison County	April, 1971	Duane Fisher Blair, Nebraska
PERCH (Yellow)				
1 lb. 13 oz.	14 3/4"	Mississippi River Allamakee County	September, 1963	Neal Palmer Maynard
SAUGER				
5 lb. 2 oz.	22 1/2"	Mississippi River Dubuque County	November, 1963	Art Hurlburt Dubuque
SHEEPSHEAD				
46 lb.	38 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	October, 1962	R. F. Farran Clarion
TROUT (Brown)				
12 lb. 14 1/4 oz.	28"	Elk Creek Delaware County	November, 1966	Billy Lee Marion
TROUT (Rainbow)				
13 lb. 8 oz.	32"	Richmond Springs Delaware County	November, 1968	C. Melvin Vaughn Waterloo
WALLEYE				
14 lb. 2 oz.	31 1/2"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	October, 1968	Herbert Aldridge Spirit Lake

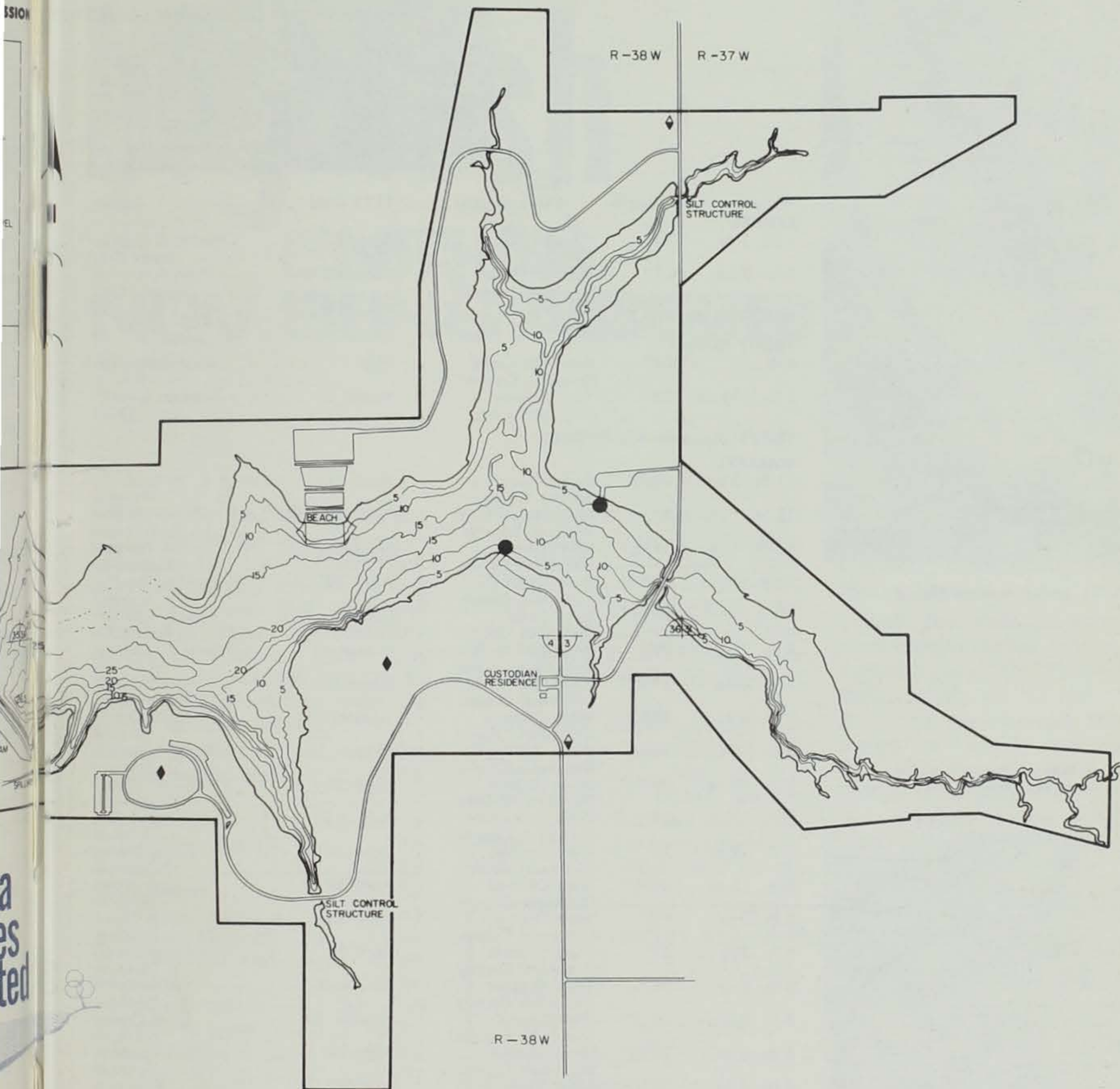
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LEGEND	
	STATE OWNED LAND
	SECTION CORNER
	PUBLIC PARK
	PUBLIC ACCESS
	PUBLIC CAMPING
	BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP
	BOAT LIVERY
	ROCK REEF
	SCATTERED ROCK AND GRAVEL
	SUBMERGENT VEGETATION
	EMERGENT VEGETATION
	MUCK
	SAND
	BENCH MARK
NOTES	
SOUNDINGS BY SURVEY PARTY 1971 ADJUSTED TO A CREST OF 1228.0'	
4.9 MILES OF SHORELINE	
218 ACRES OF WATER	
443.1 ACRES OF STATE LAND	
4,490 ACRES OF WATERSHED	
MAX. DEPTH OF 26.5'	

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PRAIRIE ROSE STATI PA
SHELBY COUNTY



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Darwin Brand's 11 pound walleye placed second in '72.

Bob Willbee, Jr. of Waverly and 11 pound 2 ounce walleye from the Cedar River — tops in 1972.



Leon Brockman and six lb. brown trout.



Weight	Length	County Where Caught	1972 Date	Angler
SAUGER				
4 lb. 2 oz.	23"	Missouri River Woodbury County	April 22	Merlin J. Tucker Sioux City
3 lb. 3 oz.	21"	Missouri River Woodbury County	December 2	Tom R. Luther Sioux City
SHEEPSHEAD NO ENTRIES				
TROUT (Brown)				
6 lb.	24"	Bankston Creek Dubuque County	May 1	Leon Brockman Sherrill
5 lb. 1½ oz.	23"	Turkey River Clayton County	March 23	Norman Lincoln Delhi
TROUT (Rainbow) NO ENTRIES				
WALLEYE				
11 lb. 2 oz.	28½"	Cedar River Bremer County	April 11	Robert E. Willbee, Jr. Waverly
11 lb.	30"	Des Moines River Webster County	April 16	Darwin Brand Fort Dodge
10 lb. 4 oz.	29½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	November 12	Spike Johnson Estherville
10 lb. 1 oz.	30"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 29	Clarence Bendlin Spencer
10 lb.	28½"	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	October 4	Spike Johnson Estherville
9 lb. 9 oz.	29"	Wapsipinicon Rivver Buchanan County	August 4	Thomas C. Stilwell Waterloo
9 lb. 7 oz.	29¼"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	November 19	Lorraine Becknal Emmetsburg
9 lb. 6 oz.	28¾"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	January 11	Dave Comes Milford
9 lb. 1 oz.	30"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 10	Dr. Earl Clayton Spencer
8 lb. 12 oz.	29½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 29	Orville Belken Spencer
8 lb. 12 oz.	29"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	August 21	Dave Comes Milford
8 lb. 12 oz.	30"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 11	Elmer Steven Spencer
8 lb. 10 oz.	29¾"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 29	Tom Howe Spencer
8 lb. 9 oz.	30"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 30	Tom Howe Spencer
8 lb. 8½ oz.	31"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 29	Francis Roth Spencer
8 lb. 8 oz.	28½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 4	Galen Groth Spencer
8 lb. 6 oz.	29¼"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	October 24	Dave Comes Milford
8 lb. 6 oz.	28½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 29	Red Sampson Spencer
8 lb. 4 oz.	27"	Lake Cornelia Wright County	May 20	Bonnie L. Filbrandt Dows
8 lb. 3 oz.	29"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 30	Larry Bendlin Spencer
8 lb. 2 oz.	30"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	August 18	Dave Comes Milford
8 lb. 2 oz.	29¼"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May 14	Donald Idso Milford
8 lb. 2 oz.	29"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	April 30	Rollie Thomas Greenville
8 lb. 1 oz.	28½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	May 13	Jim Taylor Spencer
8 lb.	28½"	West Okoboji Dickinson County	August 21	Luther Gammon Glenwood

1973 big fish

ENTRIES NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Entries for the 1973 Official Big Fish Records are now being accepted by the Iowa Conservation Commission. Any species of fish taken by hook and line and caught in state or boundary waters is eligible. There are, however, minimum weight or length limitations on certain species as listed below.

Bass, largemouth	7 lbs.
Bass, smallmouth	4 lbs.
Bass, white	2½ lbs.
Bass, yellow	1 lb.
Bluegill - Sunfish	1 lb.
Buffalo	20 lbs.
Bullhead	2½ lbs.
Carp	25 lbs.
Catfish, channel	15 lbs.
Catfish, flathead	20 lbs.
Crappie	2 lbs.
Muskellunge	30 inches
Northern pike	10 lbs.
Paddlefish	25 lbs.
Perch, yellow	1 lb.
Sauger	2½ lbs.
Sheepshead	15 lbs.
Trout, brown	5 lbs.
Trout, rainbow	5 lbs.
Walleye	8 lbs.

Any potential 1973 state record fish must be weighed to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade. The weighing must be witnessed by two persons.

The angler must fill out an official entry blank or facsimile and send it and a glossy black and white photo of himself and the fish to Official Big Fish Records, Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by January 1, 1974.

The entry blank includes the angler's name and address, the species of fish, date caught, where, county, total length, method of catch and the witnesses' signatures and addresses. Official entry blanks will be in-

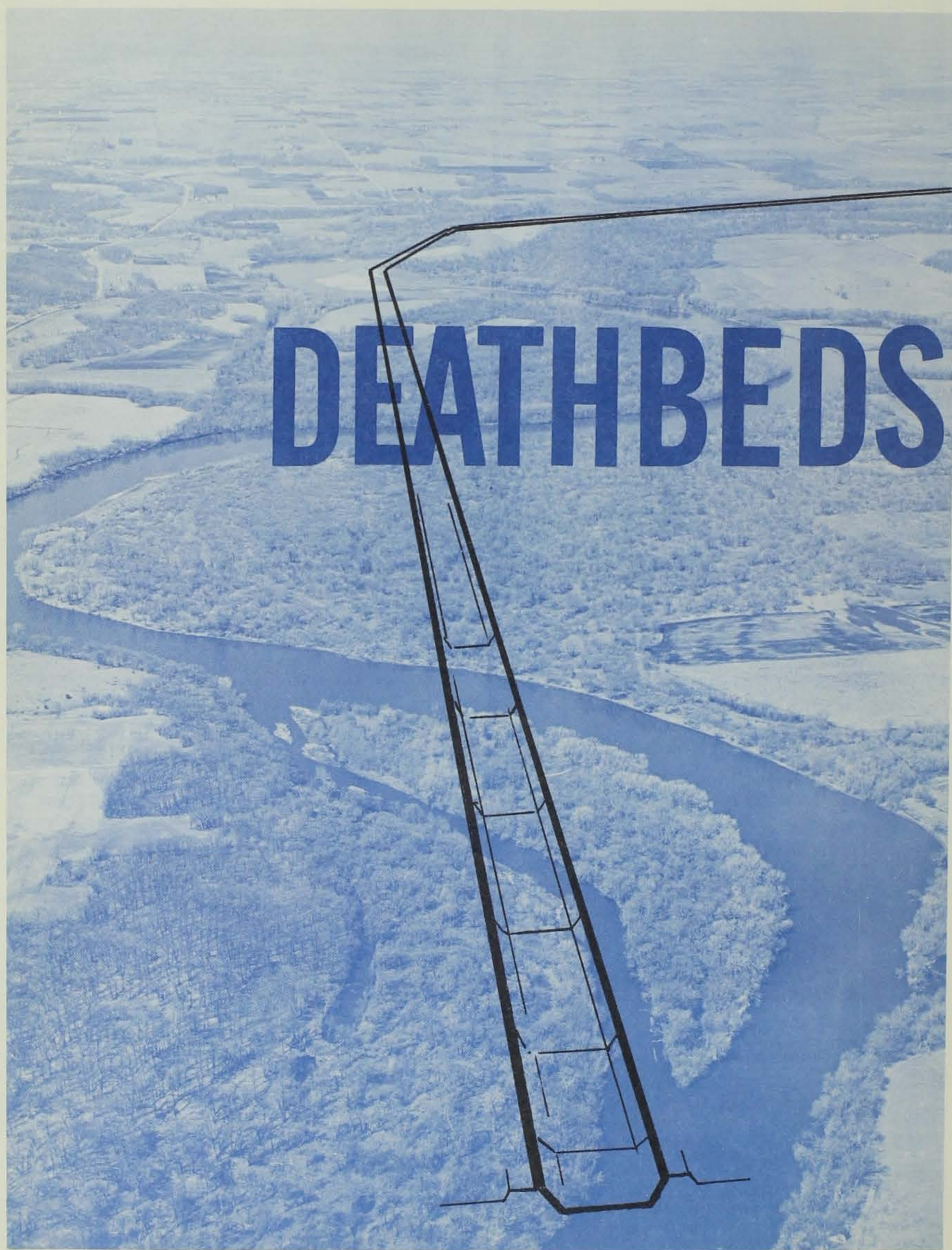
cluded in the 1973 Fishing Laws Synopsis brochure which will be available to the public wherever fishing licenses are sold.

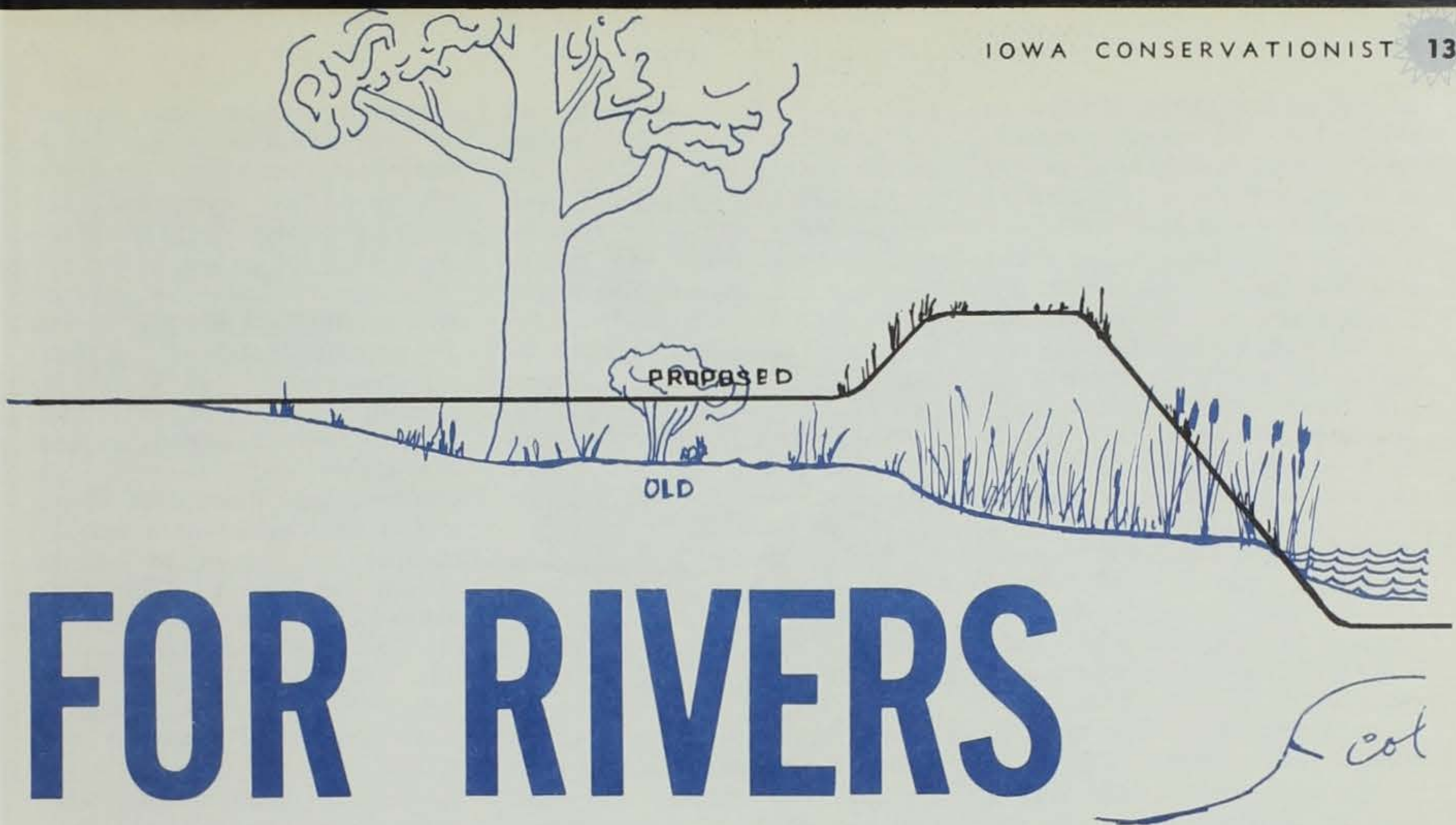
Any fish that surpasses the state official record will be publicized through the Conservation Commission's weekly news letter. All state records and the 1973 record fish will be published in the February 1974 issue of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST. Iowa Angling Award certificates will also be sent for each qualifying entry. ☆

ENTRY BLANK FOR IOWA RECORD FISH

NAME		
STREET/RFD		CITY
SPECIES		DATE
COUNTY		
WHERE CAUGHT		
TOTAL LENGTH		WEIGHT
METHOD OF CATCH		
Witnesses		
NAME		
ADDRESS		
NAME		
ADDRESS		

(Entries of fish caught during the year must be sent to the Iowa Conservation Commission before December 31.)





FOR RIVERS

EDITORIAL

By John Madson

Conservation Department
Winchester - Western

As our streams and rivers go, so goes the cream of our wildlife habitat.

Natural streams are magnets for wildlife. In a desert, the free-running stream offers not only water but also lush streamside cover. And it's no different in humid farm regions where streams and their floodplain thickets are the only good game habitat in deserts of corn, soybeans and cotton.

Today, wherever a free stream runs, through cactus country or cornbelt, it runs under threat of death. In Arizona, where the Corps of Army Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation are stripping riverbanks of cover and ditching the channels, prime habitat of javelina, deer and wild turkey is vanishing. Along the

Santa Cruz River alone, as many as 33 species of birds may vanish or be reduced to remnants. Game managers in Missouri, Illinois and Iowa are deeply concerned about stream channelization in farm country where the bottomlands of small streams and rivers hold the best remaining habitat for pheasant, quail, deer, rabbits and other wildlife.

Such "stream improvement" is done in the name of flood control, although it rarely solves the problem. It just passes the problem farther downstream — after transforming fertile natural streams into sterile ditches, and replacing floodplain wildlands with fields of soybeans. Although Government-subsidized channelization is allegedly for flood control only, it often serves to bring

more land into farm production—trading natural streams for more surplus crops.

Past stream channelization was often a piecemeal effort by landowners, with little real effect. That began changing in 1944, when the federal Flood Control Act of 1936 was amended to involve the U. S. Corps of Army Engineers in major drainage problems. It was the first time that the Corps had really gotten into drainage work for flood control; until then, most of its flood control work had been limited to levees and dams.

The next blow to our natural streams was dealt in 1954, when the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act put the Soil Conservation Service of the USDA in the same pork-barrel

league as the Corps. Known as Public Law 566, that Act authorized the SCS to help local groups plan and carry out programs of flood control and drainage.

A lot of us were happy about P.L. 566, for it promised to improve many project watersheds for fish and wildlife. But the law had a hidden thorn: the cost of such flood control as stream channelization would be paid in full by Uncle Sam, but only half of any fish and wildlife habitat enhancement would be footed by federal funds. Landowners went for the biggest slice of federal subsidy and generally ignored parts of the plan for which they must pay half. Wildlife habitat destruction suddenly became far more attractive than wildlife habitat enhancement.

Armed with P.L. 566 and a pack of political tradegoods, the SCS began to shape new programs. Through the 1950's, with relatively tight reins on federal spending, the SCS did its homework and made plans. But beginning in the early 1960's, federal

pursestrings were loosened and the draglines roared into action on the watersheds.

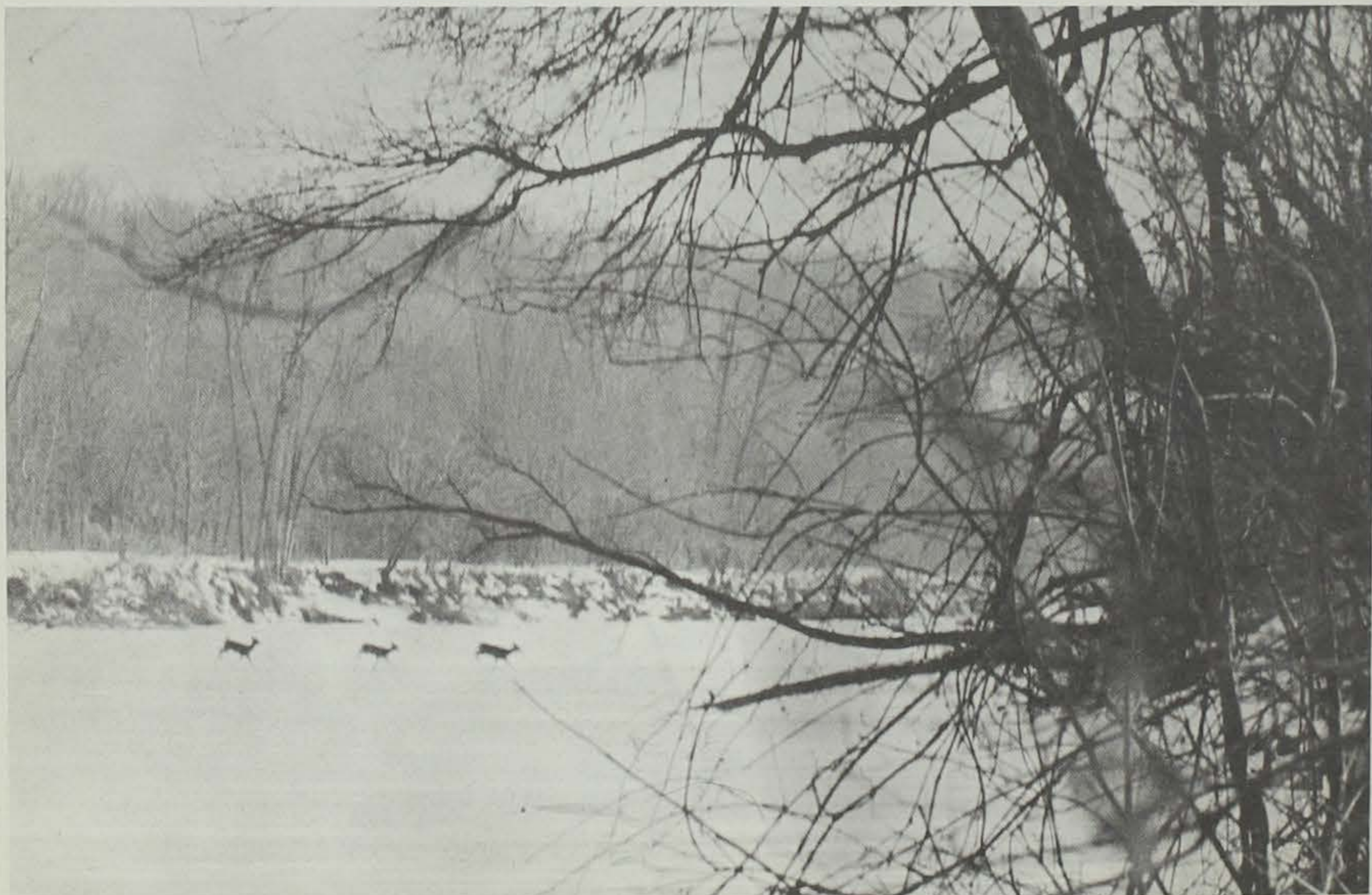
As usual, sportsmen and conservationists were a bit slow in getting their backs up. Before they knew it, mortal injury was being done to natural drainages that they could least afford to lose: farm creeks and streams, prairie wetlands, river swamps, desert streams, trout streams, and countless little flowages that often included the best wildlife habitat in whole districts.

Today, under rising public pressure, the channelizing agencies show signs of modifying their programs. A few states are enacting stiff laws to protect their natural waters, and the federal Environmental Protection Act of 1969 is baring its teeth and forcing the river-wreckers to prove that any loss to a natural stream is **really** justified by the gains. Cynical cost-benefit ratios that were based solely on short-term economics, with no heed paid to long-term losses, are no longer acceptable.

Yet, it must be noted that not all channelization is bad. It is sometimes necessary, especially where urban streams flow through residential and industrial areas.

However, channelizing should be the final alternative. Before any actual engineering in a natural streambed, there should be careful weighing of losses and gains — with biologists, as well as engineers and economists, calling the tune. Floodplain zoning should be considered; it may be cheaper and better to let the stream live free in its floodplain instead of making that floodplain safe for soybeans and used-car lots. And even when channelization is the only answer, there are ways to ease its damage to a river system.

Natural streams do more than support wildlife; they **are** wildlife. They are alive and active, changing the land and giving it the features that make our country worth living in — for us as well as the wild creatures that we prize. ☆

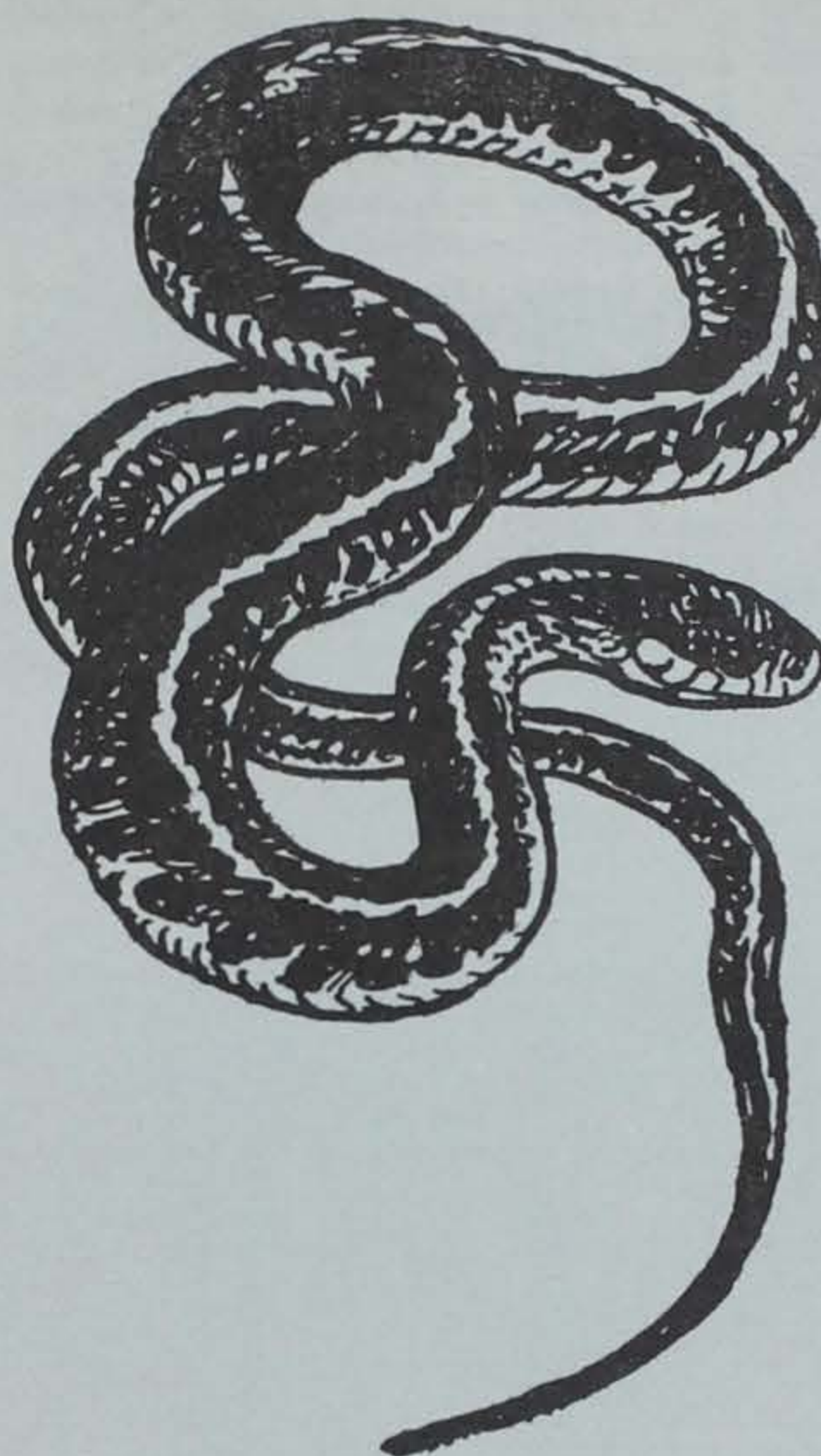


Classroom Corner

By Curt Powell

Administration

Conservation Education Center



GARTER SNAKE

Have you ever heard someone say that they're "cold blooded"? Does the term apply to human beings? Are there creatures that are cold-blooded?

A cold-blooded animal really is not cold-blooded in the sense that we might imagine. This type of creature's body temperature stays the same as the air around it. As you know, our body temperature maintains a constant body heat or temperature all the time (unless we're sick). A cold-blooded animal does not. Therefore, it is only as warm as its surroundings.

In the summer, this type of animal must seek shade if it is too warm in the sun. In the winter, it must seek protection from the cold. Cold-blooded creatures often burrow into the ground and hibernate until spring.

Reptiles are cold-blooded creatures and so are fish. A reptile that we are most familiar with would be a snake or perhaps a turtle. Iowa has several varieties

of snakes. Most of them are harmless such as the garter snake, but some can be dangerous such as the rattlesnake. One must be careful around rattlesnakes, since the venom they eject when biting is poisonous.

Did you know that reptiles swallow their food whole? They do not chew their food. Therefore, they must choose their dinner with care or it might be too large for them. You could say, that in that case, their eyes were too big for their mouth. Reptiles have a special lower jaw which, in effect unhinges to allow them to swallow such things as rats, mice, and other creatures. Because they do eat harmful rodents and insects, reptiles are helpful to man.

Let us see how temperature affects a cold-blooded creature. Remember, we said that a fish is cold-blooded. This experiment involves a gold fish and a beaker of water. Place the goldfish in the beaker of water and observe it at room temperature. How many

times a minute do the gill plates move on the goldfish? Then place the beaker of water (with the fish in it) in the refrigerator for about one half hour. Again observe the movement of the gill plates. Are they faster or slower? After that, heat the beaker of water very slowly over a candle. Does the fish become more active or less active? (Don't heat the water too much!) Can you observe, in this manner, how temperature affects a "cold-blooded" animal? Do you see why, when ice fishing, the fish do not "bite-hard" or are very active?

Are cold-blooded animals the only ones that hibernate?

Many creatures are useful to man as well as harmful. When treated with care and respect, even those harmful reptiles can be helpful. In the summer we see more of them and in the winter, few; but they are present and waiting until the weather warms. Keep in mind, they are all important in the balance of nature. ☆

A young wood duck popping out of it's nesting box is as much a part of Spring as the annual celebration of National Wildlife Week (March 18-24, 1973). Soon he will grow to become one of our most spectacular waterfowl. Photographed by Jack Dermid, this poster photo highlights the Wildlife Week theme, "DISCOVER WILDLIFE — It's Too Good To Miss," this year's spring reminder from the National Wildlife Federation.

