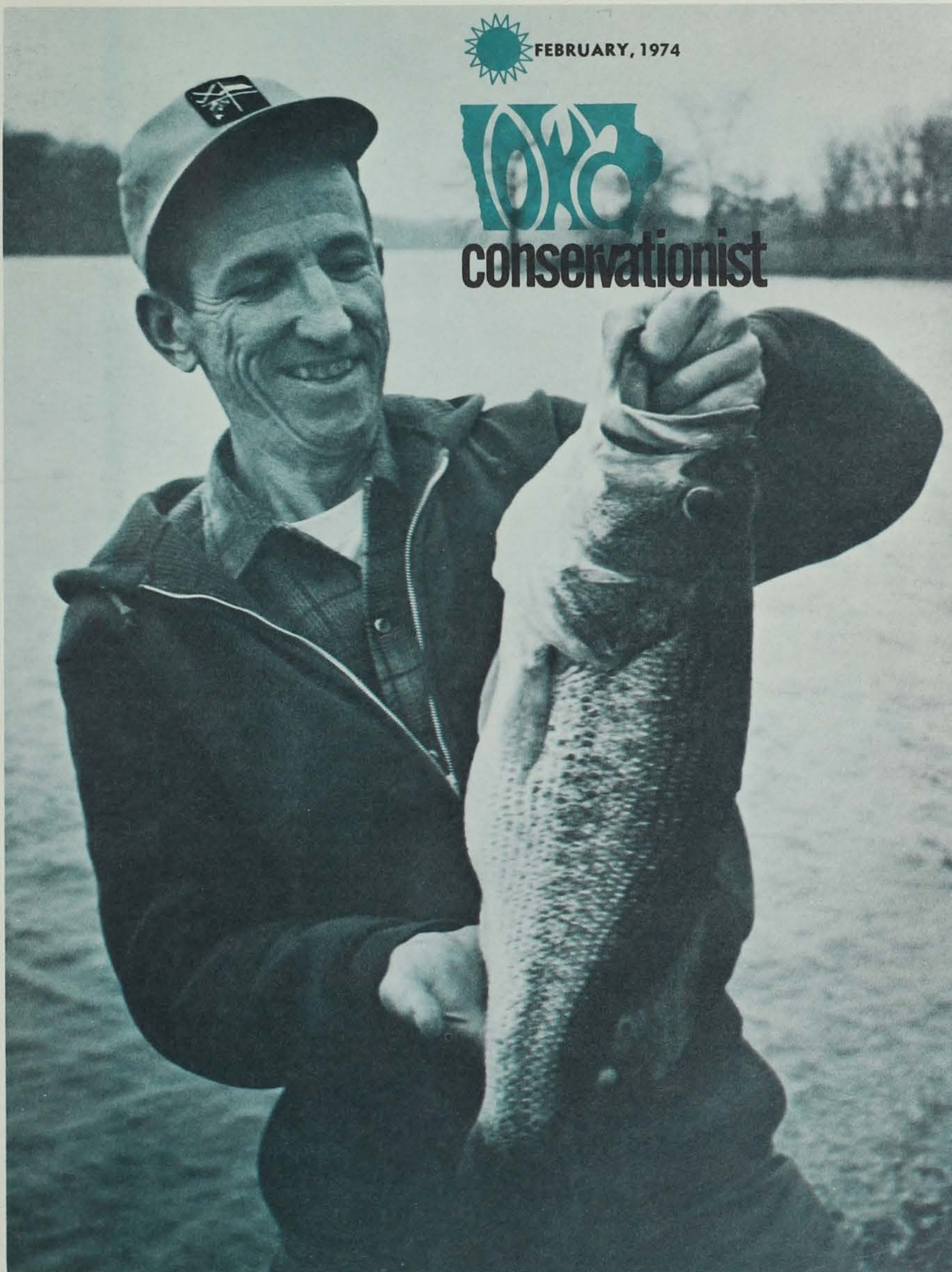




FEBRUARY, 1974



conservationist





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iowa waters produced good "yield" in '73

five new state records set

By Sonny Satre Information Specialist

For many of us, 1973 will be remembered for headlined events such as the end of the Vietnam War, the Watergate hearings and the beginning of the energy crisis. Judging from the number of entries in the Iowa Conservation Commission's annual Big Fish Records Registry, many Iowa anglers will remember 1973 from the standpoint of the very productive fishing they experienced from the state's lakes, ponds, and streams. Highlights included five new state records from among 164 — the most ever — qualifying entries submitted. This is the 11th consecutive year Iowa anglers have rewritten the state's big fish records book. New records were established for smallmouth bass, rock bass, buffalo, channel catfish and paddlefish while other entries just missed by a few, mere ounces.

Duane Duneman's six pound four ounce smallmouth bass surpassed the old record by one ounce. The 20 inch bronzeback

was caught by the Cresco angler during the month of May from an undisclosed area on the Upper Iowa River in Howard County. A mepps spinner lure did the trick.

Another May entry shattered the paddlefish record by two pounds for Lawrence Bonham, Missouri Valley while he was fishing for bullheads at DeSoto Bend in Harrison County. Bonham knew right away it couldn't be a bullhead as the ensuing tussle and muscle strain began. Witnesses vow it was a "whale" of a battle before the 83 pound, 66¾ inch odd looking creature was dragged ashore.

Jim Driscoll, Dubuque, was responsible for establishing a brand new fish category for Iowa's record listings June 10 when he hooked a one and one-half pound rock bass from the Mississippi River in Dubuque County. He fooled the 10½ inch red-eyed member of the sunfish family with a yellow leadhead jig.

A remote area along the Cedar



Three and a half pound crappie caught by Al Fassler took '73 honors.

River in Linn County was the scene September 19 where Ella Mae Pidima, Cedar Rapids, caught a record-breaking 36 lb. 8 oz. buffalo. The enormous fish topped the old record by four and one-half pounds. She landed the monster from the deep using only eight pound test monofilament line.

Mike Simpkins, Farmington, established a new record for channel catfish — beating the old record by one ounce. His prize catch weighed 30 pounds 1 ounce and measured 39 inches long. The big cat was taken from the Des Moines River in Van Buren County on a line baited with a small bluegill.

Although the following fish weren't record breakers, they were excellent catches in anyone's book and they represented the top species for their respective divisions in the 1973 statistics. George Marzeck, West Burlington, outsmarted a nine pound three ounce largemouth with a

COVER PHOTO

George Marzeck's 9 lb. 3 oz. largemouth was tops for '73.

Lawrence Bonham's paddlefish, 83 lb. monster is all time state record.

Garcia spinner lure from a Henry County farm pond to head the "bucketmouth" list. The largest crappie honor went to Albert Fessler, Pella, when he landed a three pound eight ounce slab-sized "calico bass" from a Marion County farm pond on a beetle spin.

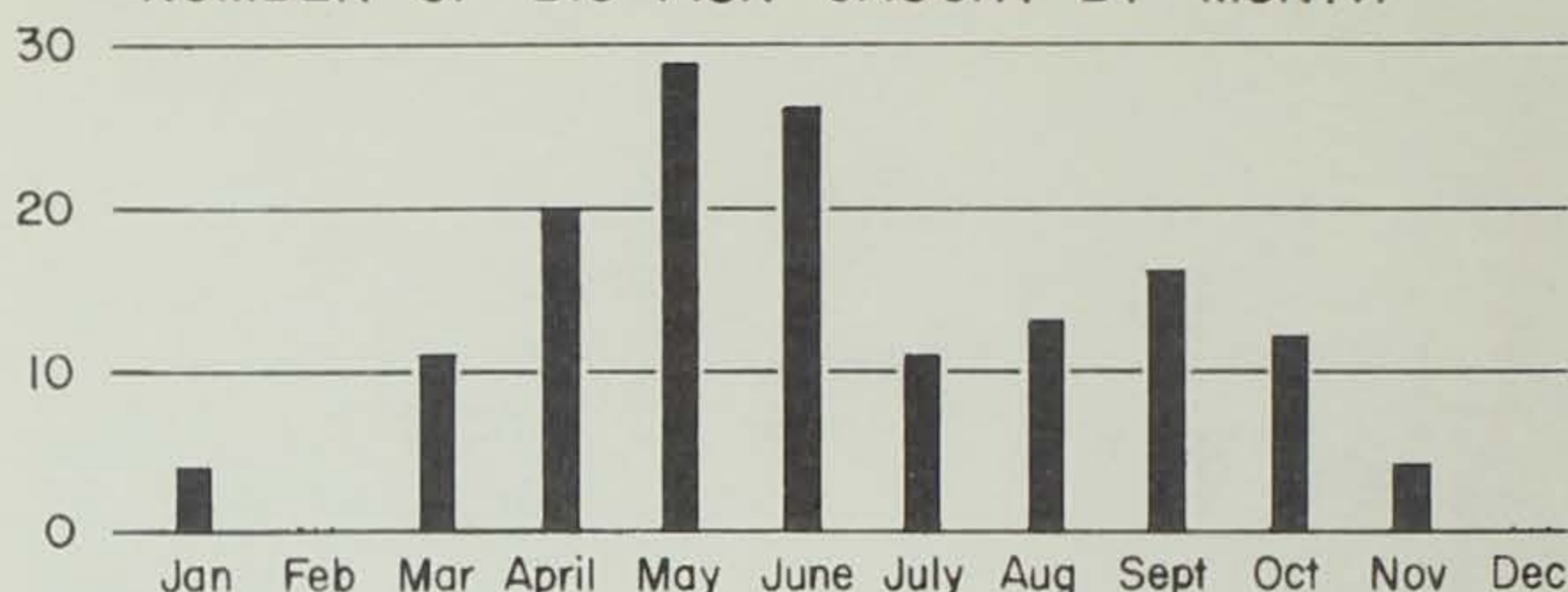
A worm proved too tempting for a plump one pound 14 ounce bluegill taken from Spirit Lake by Mike Brower of Spirit Lake. From among 46 walleyes submitted, Spirit Lake also had the distinction of yielding the biggest in this category too. A Minnesota angler, Harry Boell, Jackson, found Iowa fishing much to his liking. While ice fishing in January, using a miniature daredevil, he nailed a 12 lb. 8 oz. walleye. Just down the street at West Okobojo, Gay Knudson of Spirit Lake caught the largest white bass of the season, a three pound four ounce beauty.

Instead of hunting pheasants on opening day, Ervin Matson, Dows, decided to try his angling skill at the Iowa River in Wright County. His trip proved to be very worthwhile — hooking into a trophy sized 17 pound 5 ounce northern pike which was tops in its class for 1973. Clear Lake lived up to its reputation for holding big muskies (Clear Lake produced the existing state record—23 pound 2 ounce muskellunge in 1971). While casting a rapala, John Colby, Clear Lake, received a savage strike and when the action subsided he had a prized 15 pound 12 ounce, 39¼ inch "tiger by the teeth".

Trout topping the 1973 list were an eight pound brown taken by Randy Pribyl, Davenport, from the Maquoketa River, Delaware County and a three pound four ounce rainbow which was enticed from Richmond Springs, Delaware County by Richard McGee, Waterloo.

Big fish entries were received from almost every area in the state, which goes to prove there probably are some lunkers lurking nearby just waiting to provide the challenge. Natural lakes

NUMBER OF BIG FISH CAUGHT BY MONTH



were responsible for the most rod bending action with 78 qualifying entries. Besides the new all-time paddlefish record, top '73 species taken included walleye, bluegill, muskellunge, white bass, carp and sheepshead.

Fishermen submitted 43 entries which were caught from the river and stream category. Included were four new all-time records

for rock bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish and buffalo and top 1973 catches for flathead catfish, northern pike, sauger, brown and rainbow trout. Man-made impoundments such as farm ponds, artificial lakes and federal reservoirs produced 43 big fish entries. The largest largemouth bass, crappie, and bullhead were taken from this grouping.

1973 BIG FISH R

Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	1973 Date	Angler
BASS (Largemouth)				
9 3	24	Farm Pond Henry County	April 7	George L. Marzeck West Burlington
8 2	25	Farm Pond Union County	Mar. 27	Mike Pershin Creston
7 8	22½	Farm Pond Lee County	April 19	Bob Consbrock Ft. Madison
7 8	23½	Lake Wapello Davis County	March 27	Leo J. Welch Burlington
7 7	22	West Okobojo Dickinson County	May 11	Wayne Ostendorf Ames
7 5	21¾	Lake Geode Henry County	April 16	Leo J. Welch Burlington
7 4	22½	Farm Pond Lee County	June 27	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
7 4	22	Lake Wapello Davis County	Mar. 27	Leo J. Welch Burlington
7 3	22¾	Sand Pit Des Moines Co.	April 18	George L. Marzeck West Burlington
7 2	22¾	Farm Pond Lee County	Aug. 5	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
7 1	21½	Farm Pond Van Buren Co.	Sept. 1	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
7	21½	West Okobojo Dickinson Co.	May 19	Chuck Wood Des Moines
7	21¼	Farm Pond Lee County	May 21	Paul Burgund Fort Madison
BASS (Rock)				
*1 8	10½	Mississippi River Dubuque County	June 10	Jim Driscoll Dubuque
BASS (Smallmouth)				
*6 4	20	Upper Ia. River Howard County	May 19	Duane Duneman Cresco
6 1	22½	Spirit Lake Dickinson County	April 28	Rod Romine Nisswa, Minn.

* New State Record



Duane Duneman's new state record smallmouth bass. Weight - 6 lbs., 4 oz.

Mike Simpkins, Farmington, established a new record for channel catfish 30 pounds 1 ounce

RECORDS

Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	1973 Date	Angler
5 2	22	Sand Pit Carroll County	May 20	Gene Bayer Glidden
5 2	21	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	April 26	Rod Romine Nisswa, Minn.
5 1	21	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Sept. 21	Bob Fitzgerald Milford
4 12	20½	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	April 12	Orville Belken Spencer
4 12	21¼	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Oct. 1	Dave Comes Milford
4 11	20½	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Sept. 22	Leo Kofoot Spirit Lake
4 10	19½	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May 22	Chuck Hubbard Emmetsburg
4 8	20	Upper Ia. River Winnebago Co.	April 29	Bill Doran Boone
4 6	20	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Sept. 18	Raymond Harrison Eaglerock, Mo.
4 6	20	Cedar River Mitchell Co.	May 13	Terry Reams Nora Springs
4 4	20½	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	July 28	Joe Lucas Fort Dodge
4 2	20¾	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	April 14	Orville Belken Spencer
4 2	18	Maquoketa River Delaware Co.	June 9	Richard D. Long Cedar Rapids
4	20	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Sept. 23	Don Idso Milford
4	20½	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	Sept. 25	Tom Perrin Spencer

BASS (White)

3 4	19	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May 5	Gay Knudson Spirit Lake
3 1	19	Rock Quarry Louisa Co.	Oct. 9	Leo W. Harms Muscatine
2 10	17½	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May 17	Doug Fox Sibley

BASS (Yellow) — No Entries

Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	1973 Date	Angler
BLUEGILL				
1 14	11¼	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	June 10	Mike Brower Spirit Lake
1 9	11	Farm Pond Des Moines Co.	July 19	George L. Marzeck West Burlington
1 5	10¼	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	Aug. 31	Mrs. D. Hansen Cedar Rapids
1 3	11¼	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	May 30	Forrest Conover Correctionville
1 2	11¼	Prairie Rose Lake Shelby Co.	May 13	Arnold L. King Avoca
1 2	10	Farm Pond Woodbury Co.	Nov. 24	Keith D. Uhl Sioux City
1	9	Farm Pond Jones Co.	May 19	Ricky Busch Onslow

BULLHEAD

4 7	23	Farm Pond Keokuk Co.	July 15	Albert Engle Sigourney
3 8	15	Farm Pond Clay Co.	June 13	Glen Mason Greenville
2 12	16	Farm Pond Benton Co.	May 10	Lewis Wernett Center Point
2 12	17	Lake Anita Cass County	Sept. 21	Margaret Wildrick Omaha, Nebr.
2 12	15¾	Farm Pond Iowa Co.	May 19	Wayne Kuhnle Ladora
2 9	13½	Middle Park Lagoon, Scott Co.	June 20	Jeff Biehl Bettendorf
2 9	14	Farm Pond Union Co.	July 8	Ed James Creston
2 8	14½	Middle Park Lagoon, Scott Co.	Aug. 17	Jeff Biehl Bettendorf
2 8	13¾	Hickory Hills Tama Co.	Aug. 17	Coleen Lewis LaPorte City

BUFFALO

*36 8	41½	Cedar River Linn Co.	Sept. 19	Ella Mae Pidima Cedar Rapids
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CARP

41	39¼	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	May 25	George Van Gorp Spirit Lake
34 8	36½	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	June 7	Jeff Hanson Estherville
29 12	36	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	April 24	Henry Wu Beloit, Wis.
29 2	36	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Nov. 3	Mike Baiotto Arnolds Park
27	35	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	Sept. 20	John Dunlevy Lansing

CATFISH (Channel)

*30 1	39	Des Moines River Van Buren Co.	May 26	Mike Simpkins Farmington
25 6	37	Cedar River Black Hawk Co.	April 19	Alan W. Gruber Waterloo
24	33	Lake Wapello Davis Co.	April 24	Jerry Arbogast Centerville
23 7	37	Viking Lake Montgomery Co.	Oct. 5	Glen Harms Shenandoah
21 9	37	Lake Manawa Pottawattamie Co.	Sept. 24	Roland Hansen Council Bluffs
21 8	34	Wolfe Lake Marshall Co.	June 12	R. S. (Sim) Smith Marshalltown
19 7	34½	Lake Geode Henry Co.	Aug. 17	Mrs. Ethel Bjork Burlington
17 10½	33	Cedar River Floyd Co.	Aug. 3	Gerald J. Bailey New Hampton
17 8	33	Lake Wapello Davis Co.	June 20	Gary Feehan Eddyville
17	33	Des Moines River Polk Co.	May 21	Jimmy L. Chapman Des Moines
15 9	19½	Diamondhead Lake, Guthrie Co.	Aug. 7	H. H. Snelson Dexter

CATFISH (Flathead)

43 12	43	Cherry Lake Tama Co.	June 6	Jerry B. Glass Brooklyn
23 12	33	Cedar River Black Hawk Co.	Mar. 2	Leo Halligan Hudson
22	36	Prairie Creek Benton Co.	Aug. 8	Tom Simon Watkins



Rod Romine and pair of nice smallmouth. Largest weighed 6 lb. 1 oz. near state record.



Ervin Matson took this 17 lb. 5 oz. Northern from the Iowa River. 41 inch pike ranked No. 1 in '73.



Ella Mae Pidima wrestled this huge Buffalo from the Cedar River. Fish weighed 36 lb. 8 oz.



Unusual Iowa entry is Jim Driscoll's rock bass. 11 lb. 8 oz. fish is largest ever recorded for that species.

Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	1973 Date	Angler
CRAPPIE				
3 8	19	Farm Pond Marion Co.	May 31	Albert Fassler Pella
3 7	17 1/4	Hannen Lake Benton Co.	June 3	Hugh Wright Cedar Falls
3	17 1/2	Lake Geode Henry Co.	Oct. 29	Floyd Funkhouser Fort Madison
2 14	17 3/4	Viking Lake Montgomery Co.	June 28	Harry C. Hiner Neola
2 10	17	Hallet Pits Sac Co.	April 19	Wayne Waite Lake View
2 8	15 1/2	Farm Pond Clarke Co.	April 14	Ron Copley Des Moines
2 4	15 3/4	Lake Odessa Louisa Co.	Sept. 15	Mrs. Adelia Klipstein Letts
2 3	16	Lake Keomah Mahaska Co.	June 9	William Carruthers Oskaloosa
2 2	18 1/2	Chariton River Appanoose Co.	Aug. 4	Bruce Burgher Centerville
2 2	18 1/2	Rock Creek Jasper Co.	July 1	Lloyd Schreckhise Des Moines
MUSKELLUNGE				
15 12	39 1/2	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	Aug. 29	John R. Colby Clear Lake
14 6	40 1/4	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Aug. 29	Ron Berkenpas Spencer
7 8	31	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May 12	Don Gray Lake City
NORTHERN PIKE				
17 5	41	Iowa River Wright Co.	Nov. 12	Ervin Matson Dows
16 8	37	Mississippi R. Allamakee Co.	Mar. 1	Harold N. Peters New Hampton
15 11	37	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	Sept. 11	Pete Schwitters Storm Lake
15 11	45	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	Sept. 2	Don M. Smith Jefferson
15	41	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	June 20	Jeff Thelen Estherville
14	38	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	May 6	C. E. Melcher Clear Lake
13 12	39	Cedar River Mitchell Co.	Sept. 23	Bernard Anderson Osage
13 8	37	Wapsipinicon R. Scott Co.	July 11	Jerry Geist Eldridge
13	37	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	June	Lanny Hill Manson
13	37 1/2	Little Spirit L. Dickinson Co.	June 17	Victor Noland Jackson, Minn.

Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	1973 Date	Angler
12 10	36	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	June 8	Russ Lessmeier Storm Lake
12 8	37	Wapsipinicon R. Chickasaw Co.	Oct. 26	Clarence Hahn Fredericksburg
12 6	39	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Oct. 27	Earl Rose Arnolds Park
11 10	36	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	Nov. 8	Gilbert Bentley Rembrandt
11 8	36	Cedar River Bremer Co.	Oct. 30	Mrs. Dorothy Starr Waverly
11 1	37	East Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May 24	Verle Matthiesen Milford
10	39 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	July 23	Tom Ahrens Waterloo
10	37	Shellrock River Butler Co.	Aug. 11	Robert Vossberg Shell Rock
PADDLEFISH				
*83	66 3/4	DeSoto Bend Harrison Co.	May 29	Lawrence J. Bonham Missouri Valley
PERCH (Yellow)				
1	2 1/2 12 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Mar. 5	Jim P. Christensen Milford
SAUGER				
3	7 1/2 20 3/4	Mississippi R. Clayton Co.	April 8	Robert W. Peet Martelle
SHEEPSHEAD				
21	34 1/2	Lake Manawa Pottawatomie Co.	May 22	Dan Quinlan Council Bluffs
TROUT (Brown)				
8	26 1/4	Maquoketa R. Delaware Co.	April 26	Randy Pribyl Davenport
7 15	26	Elk Creek Delaware Co.	April 14	Jeffrey C. Duncan Manchester
7	25 1/2	Waterloo Creek Allamakee Co.	June 17	Ed Schulte Dorchester
5 6 1/2	22 3/4	Waterloo Creek Winnesheik Co.	May 27	Ronald Johnston Des Moines
5 6	23 5/8	Waterloo Creek Allamakee Co.	May 27	William Stoutenberg Des Moines
5 1/2	23	Richmond Springs Delaware Co.	June 1	Michael S. Stodola Cedar Rapids
5	21	Richmond Springs Delaware Co.	April 8	Larry Millage Davenport
4 8	20 1/2	Buck Creek Clayton Co.	April 6	Brian DeCook Guttenberg
4 8	22 1/4	Waterloo Creek Allamakee Co.	Mar. 17	Carl Myers Omaha, Nebr.



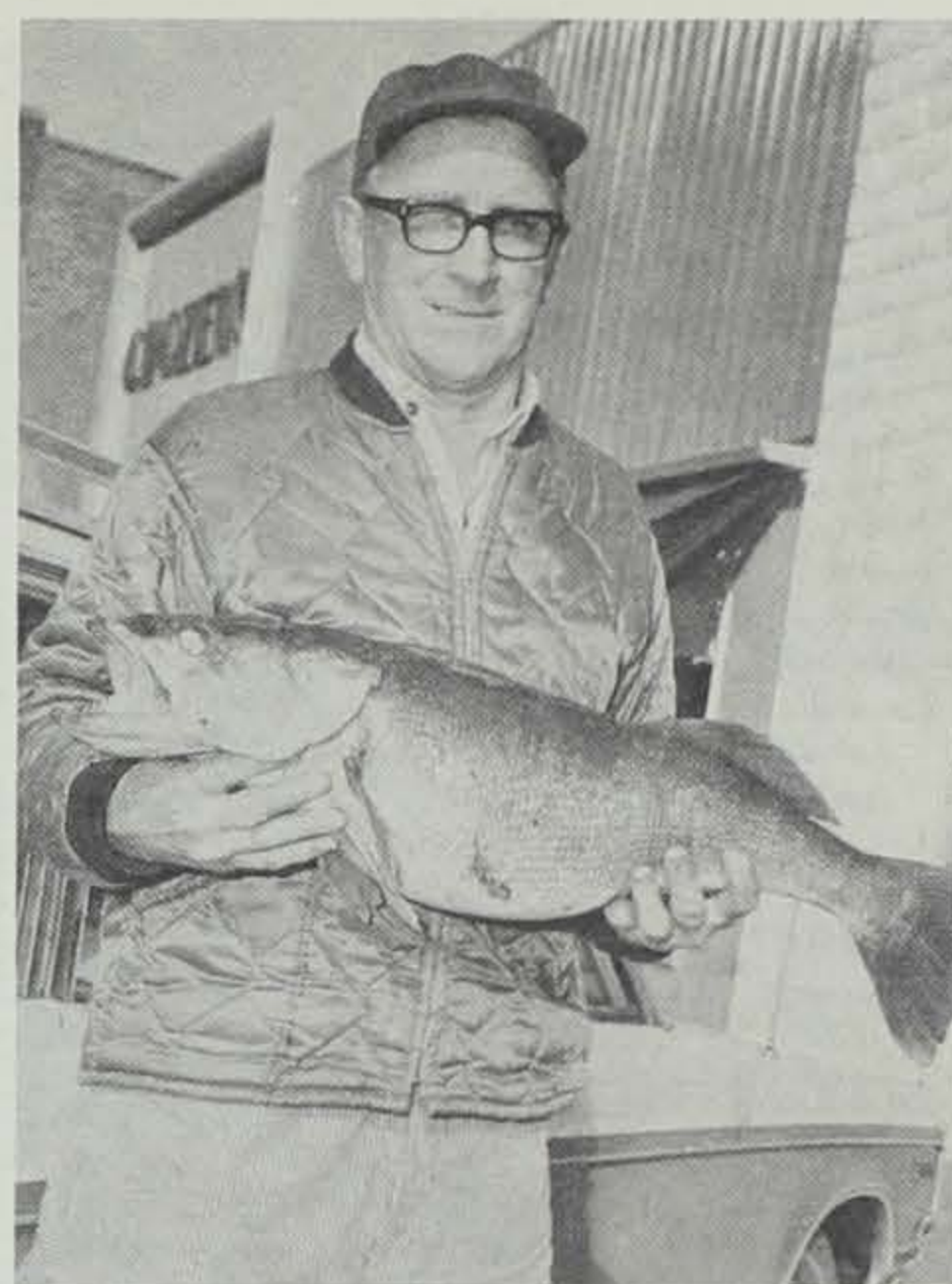
Three pound 4 ounce white bass ranked No. 1 in '73. Lucky angler is Gay Knudson.



Top musky entry weighed 15 lbs. 12 oz. and was caught by John R. Colby of Clear Lake.

Walleye of the year honors went to Harry Boell for this 12½ pounder. The Minnesota angler hauled the lunker from Spirit Lake. →

Big drum weighed 21 lb. — largest in '73 contest. The angler, Dan Quinlan, Council Bluffs. ←



Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	1973 Date	Angler
3 12	20 1/8	Waterloo Creek Allamakee Co.	May 27	Steven Stoutenberg Des Moines
3 11	19 5/8	Bear Creek Winneshiek Co.	May 26	Steven Stoutenberg Des Moines

RAINBOW TROUT

3 4	19 1/2	Richmond Spgs. Delaware Co.	Oct. 9	Richard McGee Waterloo
3 2	20	Richmond Spgs. Delaware Co.	Oct. 9	Cathy Brooks Waterloo

WALLEYE

12 8	31	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	Jan. 15	Harry Boell Jackson, Minn.
12 4	32	Shellrock River Butler Co.	Mar. 27	Dennis Bronsema Parkersburg
11 14	32 1/4	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Nov. 13	Karl Thiessen Sheldon
11 4	31	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	June 16	Dennis E. Kirlin Council Bluffs
11 2	30 1/4	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	Nov. 13	LeRoy Betz Aurelia
11	28	Lost Island Lake Palo Alto Co.	Oct. 7	Dick Crail Algona
11	31 1/4	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Oct. 30	Jim Sweet Spencer
10 12	31	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Sept. 25	Dave Comes Milford
10 5	30	Wapsipinicon R. Buchanan Co.	July 16	Jerry Constant Newton
10 4	30	Lost Island Lake Clay Co.	Oct. 31	Robert C. Bendlin Spencer
10 4	29	Lost Island Lake Palo Alto Co.	May 4	Garold E. Hough Algona
10 1	30	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Nov. 12	L. J. Hackett Arnolds Park
10	28	Lost Island Lake Palo Alto Co.	Nov. 10	Dick Crail Algona
9 13	30	Shellrock River Butler Co.	Mar. 23	Bob Sullivan Shell Rock
9 12	28	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Dec. 30	L. J. Hackett Arnolds Park
9 12	27	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	Mar. 28	Dale Andera Cresco
9 11	27	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	April 28	Bob Strouse Terrill
9 8	29 3/4	Cedar River Bremer Co.	April 1	Raymond Thompson New Hampton
9 4	30	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Nov. 6	Orv Belkin Spencer
9 4	30	North Twin Calhoun Co.	June 2	Robert D. Burke Ft. Dodge

Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	1973 Date	Angler
9 3	29 1/4	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Oct. 23	Dick Bennett Spencer
9 3	28 1/4	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Oct. 26	Orv Belkin Spencer
9 3	31	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Nov. 6	Orv Belkin Spencer
9 3	30 3/4	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Aug. 28	Dave Comes Milford
9 2	29 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Dec. 28	Skip Oss Spirit Lake
9 2	28	Twin Lakes Calhoun Co.	July 25	Ed Bacon Ft. Dodge
9	26	Coralville Res. Johnson Co.	Sept. 15	Oscar Byam Marion
9	30	Storm Lake Buena Vista Co.	June 17	Bob Mead Lake City
8 14	29 3/4	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Jan. 1	Clarence Bendlin Spencer
8 12	29 1/2	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	July 4	Bob Jensen Estherville
8 10	29 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Jan. 18	Dave Comes Milford
8 9	30	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Oct. 29	Roy Keller Arnolds Park
8 9	28	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May 18	Tom Hamilton Hartley
8 8	30 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	June 30	Bill Nystrom Sioux City
8 8	28 1/4	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Oct. 20	Jim Sweet Spencer
8 8	26 5/8	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Nov. 12	Gene Traeger Arnolds Park
8 7	27	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Oct. 26	Jim Sweet Spencer
8 5	30	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May 9	Ed Feldhacker Spencer
8 4	28 1/2	Lost Island Lake Clay Co.	Oct. 10	Jim Taylor Spencer
8 4	28	Lost Island Lake Clay Co.	Oct. 26	Robert C. Bendlin Spencer
8 2	28 1/2	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Jan. 17	Dwight Hilliard Montgomery
8 1	30	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	July 18	Jack Barringer Atlantic
8 1	27 1/2	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	Mar. 24	Charles Langel Oelwein
8	29 1/2	Mississippi River Clayton Co.	June 21	Mrs. Robert Kuyper Waterloo
8	28	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	Nov. 23	Jim Taylor Spencer
8	26	Green Valley L. Union Co.	April 17	Ronald L. Latimer Creston

1974 BIG FISH ENTRIES

Entries for the 1974 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 qualifying weight or length limitations 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 1974 state record fish must be weighed to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade. The weighing must be witnessed by two persons.

If there is some doubt in species identification, the angler should contact the nearest Iowa Conservation Commission personnel in the area for verification.

The angler must fill out an official entry blank or facsimile and send it and a photo (preferably black and white) of the angler and the fish to Official Big Fish Records, Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, by January 1, 1975. 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 included in the 1974 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 release. All state records and the 1974 record fish will be published in the February 1975 issue of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST. Iowa Angling Award certificates and shoulder patches will also be sent to qualifying entries.

ENTRY BLANK FOR IOWA RECORD FISH

NAME	CITY
STREET/RFD	DATE
SPECIES	WEIGHT
COUNTY	WHERE CAUGHT
TOTAL LENGTH	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.)

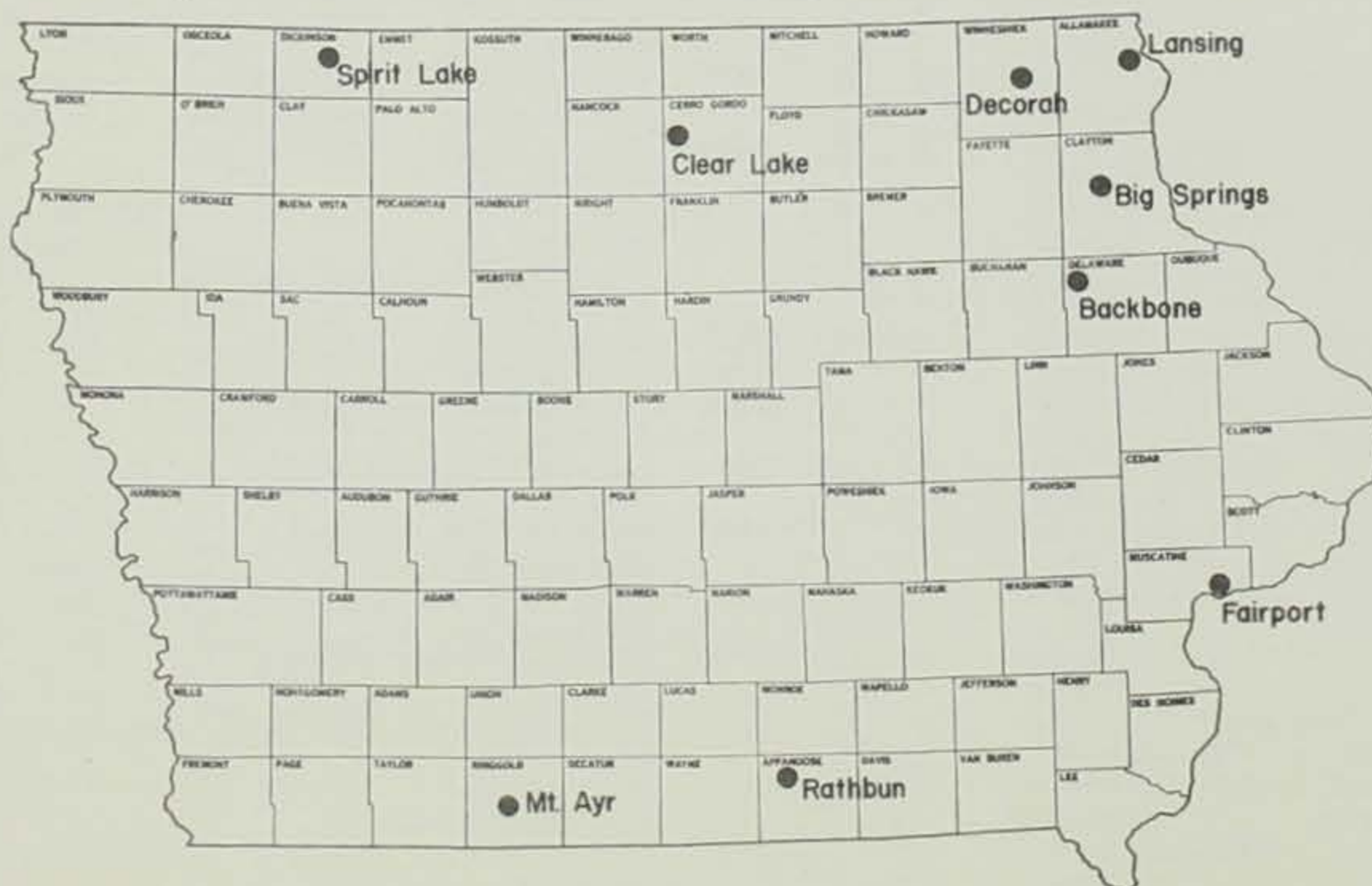
Iowa fish hatcheries 1973 production

By Terry Jennings Supervisor of Hatcheries

Every angler reading this article has thrilled to the excitement of capturing a fighting fish. Generally this excitement is re-

peated several times each fishing trip.

Most of us take good fishing for granted without stopping to



realize that in many instances good fishing is a product of man's manipulation rather than a natural occurrence. Within Iowa there are numerous examples where fishing for a particular species would be practically nonexistent if hatchery reared fish had not been stocked. Research conducted at Spirit Lake between the years of 1964 and 1971 indicated the walleye population in Spirit Lake is the result of massive annual plants of hatchery produced fry and not from natural reproduction. Also, it has been proven many times that successful natural reproduction of channel catfish in most Iowa lakes is rare. Without stocking hatchery reared channel catfish, the species would not be caught from most Iowa lakes. Also, without the regular stocking of hatchery reared trout, Iowa anglers would not enjoy the excellent trout fishing that we now have. The list of examples where the fish hatchery product is responsible for good fishing is endless. In heavily fished bodies

IOWA ALL TIME RECORD FISH

Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	Date	Angler	Weight Lbs. Oz.	Length (in.)	County Where Caught	Date	Angler
BASS (Largemouth)					CRAPPIE				
10 5	24 1/4	Farm Pond Lee Co.	Aug., '70	Paul Burgund Fort Madison	4 1	19 1/4	Farm Pond Tama Co.	May, '69	John Lenhart Tama
BASS (Smallmouth)					MUSKELLUNGE				
6 4	20	Upper Ia. River Howard Co.	May '73	Duane Duneman Cresco	23 2	45	Clear Lake Cerro Gordo Co.	June, '71	Brian Buehler Clear Lake
BASS (Rock)					NORTHERN PIKE				
1 8	10 1/2	Mississippi River Dubuque Co.	June, '73	Jim Driscoll Dubuque	23 8	44	Cedar River Bremer Co.	Aug., '70	Fred Stifter Waverly
BASS (White)					PADDLEFISH				
3 14	20	West Okoboji Dickinson Co.	May, '72	Bill Born Milford	83	66 3/4	DeSoto Bend Harrison Co.	May, '73	Lawrence J. Bonham Missouri Valley
BLUEGILL					PERCH (Yellow)				
2 3	11 1/2	Farm Pond Jefferson Co.	April, '71	Bob Adam Fairfield	1 13	14 3/4	Mississippi River Allamakee Co.	Sept., '63	Neal Palmer Maynard
BULLHEAD					SAUGER				
4 8	17 3/4	Farm Pond Taylor Co.	April, '66	Dennie Karas Massena	5 2	22 1/2	Mississippi River Dubuque Co.	Nov., '63	Art Hurlburt Dubuque
4 8	22 1/2	Boyer River Harrison Co.	Aug., '71	Ralph Cooney Woodbine	SHEEPSHEAD				
BUFFALO					46	38 1/2	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	Oct., '62	R. F. Farran Clarion
36 8	41 1/2	Cedar River Linn Co.	Sept., '73	Ella Mae Pidima Cedar Rapids	TROUT (Brown)				
CARP					12 14 1/2	28	Elk Creek Delaware Co.	Nov., '66	Billy Lee Marion
50	44	Glenwood Lake Mills Co.	May, '69	Fred Hougland Glenwood	TROUT (Rainbow)				
CATFISH (Channel)					13 8	32	Richmond Spr. Delaware Co.	Nov., '68	C. Melvin Vaughn Waterloo
30 1	39	Des Moines River Van Buren Co.	May '73	Mike Simpkins Farmington	WALLEYE				
CATFISH (Flathead)					14 2	31 1/2	Spirit Lake Dickinson Co.	Oct., '68	Herbert Aldridge Spirit Lake
62	46	Iowa River Johnson Co.	July, '65	Roger Fairchild Coralville					

of water, the importance of hatchery reared fish in maintaining populations of most predator species has repeatedly been demonstrated.

Iowa's Hatchery System

Iowa fish hatcheries can be classified as cold water, warm water, and combination stations. Cold water hatcheries are responsible for producing rainbow and brown trout that are stocked into the clear, cold, spring-fed streams of northeastern Iowa. Warm water hatcheries are responsible for producing species such as channel catfish and largemouth bass that thrive in Iowa lakes, rivers, and streams. The combination station is responsible for culturing both cold water and warm water species.

Iowa has two cold water hatcheries, Backbone Trout Hatchery and Big Spring Trout Hatchery, and one combination station, Decorah Fish Hatchery, rearing trout. Basically, all of the trout spawning, hatching, and rearing to fingerling size is ac-

complished at Backbone. When rearing space at Backbone becomes overly crowded, small trout are transferred to Big Spring or Decorah where they are reared to catchable size (10 to 12 inches).

There are four warm water hatcheries, Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery, Fairport Fish Hatchery, Mt. Ayr Fish Hatchery, and Decorah Fish Hatchery that culture warm water fish. In addition to the full-time hatcheries listed, a warm water hatchery near Rathbun Reservoir is under construction and will be ready for production in 1975. Also there are part-time warm water hatcheries at Clear Lake and Lansing. These stations function as hatcheries mainly during the spring months.

Walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, blue catfish, bluegill, and striped bass are hatched and reared at one or more of these warm water hatcheries.

This short narrative about Iowa's fish hatcheries is by no means complete. Detailed information about each station will be published in future issues of the "Conservationist."

1973 Fish Production

Fish production for 1973 from Iowa hatcheries is tabulated in the following table.

Cold Water Species	Number	Weight
Rainbow Trout	252,914	121,168
Albino		
Rainbow Trout	13,635	5,869
Brown Trout	68,541	30,704
Warm Water Species	Number	Weight
Channel Catfish	312,705	6,971
Blue Catfish	92,500	1,968
Largemouth Bass	32,068	386
Smallmouth Bass	294	9
Walleye	84,810,000	Unknown
Walleye	17,804	2,074
Northern Pike	7,925,000	Unknown
Northern Pike	10,031	100
Muskellunge	1,743	51
Bluegill	40,216	145

Although fish production has been listed, not all of these fish have been released and are awaiting Iowa anglers. The blue catfish and most of the channel catfish have been placed into hatchery ponds to be reared to a larger

(Continued on Page 15)



Photo by Jerry Leonard

land for the future

the open space land
acquisition program

By Jim Scheffler
Resource Planner

During the last six months of 1973, the Conservation Commission secured purchase options on over 7,000 acres of Iowa land. When negotiations are complete, Iowans will have new opportunities for a variety of outdoor activities. Hiking, hunting, nature study, primitive camping, and cross-country skiing are only a few that come to mind.

The sheer acreage involved is significant, since less than two per cent of Iowa's total acreage is public land. But of greater potential importance to the people of Iowa is the intent of the program under which the purchases are being made.

In July of last year, Governor Ray signed into law the Open Space Land Acquisition Program, proposed to the legislature by the Conservation Commission. The Act provided a sum of

\$2,000,000 to the Commission for the acquisition of land from willing sellers during the 1973-1975 legislative period.

The basic intent of the Open Space Program is to ensure through public ownership, the continued existence of both Iowa's significant natural areas and the recreational and resource qualities of its existing public lands. In essence, the program constitutes the formation of a "public trust" for future generations of Iowans.

Natural "target" areas include river valley and lakeside lands, marshes, forest lands, and prairies. Other desirable lands for public acquisition include: private inholdings within state areas, lands necessary to "block out" existing public ownership and to provide for needed expansion of existing areas, and lands with important archaeological or historical values. Acquisition is the primary intent of the program. Development of acquired lands will be minimal, primarily access and parking, and will not be funded under the program.

Why is a special acquisition program necessary for the purchase of such obviously needed lands? Basically it is a question of urgency. Every year, more and more of Iowa's remaining natural land disappears or is damaged as a result of agricultural, residential, or commercial pressures. Everyone has seen timber bulldozed for cropland and pasture, or river valley and lakeside lands endangered by pollution and erosion. "Progress" is taking an increasing toll. Local zoning is too often ineffective to prevent this type of thing from happening, especially in the absence of satisfactory land use programs at the federal and state levels. Public ownership, then, constitutes a very effective means of protecting desirable natural areas.

As a final point, recreational demands increase every year, especially for those activities which people enjoy in natural outdoor settings. Hunting, hiking, primitive camping, and nature study are only a few of these. The wor-

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Commission Photo

Loess Hills - area with significant recreation potential

sening "Energy Crisis" will almost surely intensify this trend, as more and more people recreate "at home," in Iowa. So, further pressures will likely be brought to bear on Iowa's existing recreation lands. This will further intensify the need for natural area acquisition. In summary, then, prompt action is necessary, and this is what the Open Space Land Acquisition Program constitutes.

A major source of Conservation Commission funding comes from legislative appropriation. Specific funding for land acquisition or development projects must be requested in each agency's biennial budget request. Commission askings are considered by the legislature along with those of all other state agencies. As a result, there is rarely enough money to go around. The funds that are appropriated must be utilized for their designated purposes. This

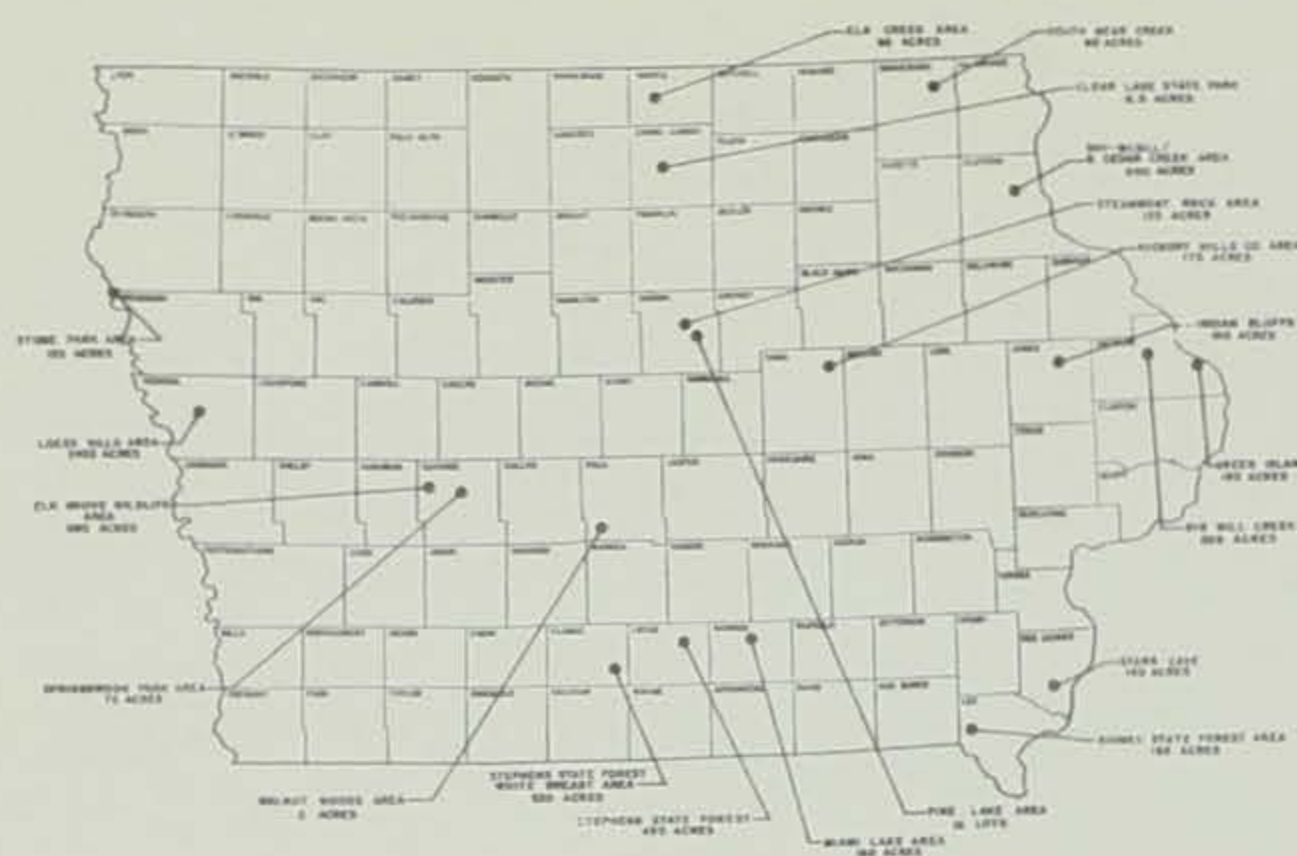
does not allow much flexibility for their use in the event of any worthwhile acquisition possibilities which may arise.

Federal funding assistance is also available for the purchase or development of recreational land. But, as with legislative funding, yearly amounts available can vary widely and, once obtained, must be used for designated purposes only. As a result, these funds are primarily used for the Commission's major development projects such as the Big Creek Recreation Area near Des Moines, the Volga River Recreation Area in northeastern Iowa, the Pleasant Creek Recreation Area near Cedar Rapids, and the Brushy Creek Recreation Area near Ft. Dodge.

A final major source of funding involves money which the Commission's Fish and Wildlife Division receives from license sales and from federal taxes

levied on hunting and fishing equipment. In this way, the hunters and fishermen of Iowa to a large extent "pay their own way." In recent years, economic pressures have resulted in decreased flexibility in the use of these funds for land acquisition. As a result, land purchases have primarily encompassed areas desirable from a fish and wildlife standpoint, but usually with little wider use potential for activities other than hunting and fishing. The basic problem has been one of finding other funding sources to provide wildlife oriented recreational opportunities for those who do not directly support the fish and game program through license sales or equipment purchases.

The Open Space Program has provided a very flexible source of funding for the purchase of desirable lands. As one of its basic "ground rules," individual pur-



OPEN SPACE PROGRAM LAND OPTIONS

AREA	COUNTY	ACRES	TYPE
1. Loess Hills	Monona	2452*	Natural-Wildlife Area
2. Indian Bluffs	Jones	410	Natural-Wildlife Area
3. Big Mill Creek	Jackson	509*	Trout Stream
4. Starr Cave	Des Moines	140	Natural Area
5. Stephens State Forest (White Breast Area)	Clarke	520	Forest
6. Stephens State Forest	Lucas	490*	Forest
7. Shimek State Forest	Lee	165*	Forest
8. Miami Lake	Monroe	160	Wildlife Area
9. Elk Grove	Guthrie	680	Wildlife Area
10. Green Island	Jackson	190*	Wildlife Area
11. Elk Creek	Worth	96	Wildlife Area
12. South Bear Creek	Winneshiek	80	Trout Stream
13. North Cedar/Sny McGill Creeks	Clayton	900*	Trout Stream
14. Pine Lake State Park	Hardin	18 Lots*	State Park
15. Walnut Woods State Park	Polk	2	State Park
16. Springbrook State Park	Guthrie	72*	State Park
17. Stone State Park	Plymouth & Woodbury	155*	State Park
18. Clear Lake State Park	Cerro Gordo	6.5	State Park
19. Steamboat Rock Area	Hardin	122	County Conservation Area
20. Hickory Hills Park	Tama	175	County Conservation Area
TOTAL		7328 Acres	

* More than

chases are not subject to Legislative approval, but are instead up to the Commission itself. So, the Commission can acquire land at prices it feels reasonable without specific and time consuming advance approval from the legislature. If for some reason a purchase falls through, the funds can be immediately shifted to another desirable acquisition project. This allows for obvious flexibility and speedy response to acquisition opportunities.

In the first half of 1973, the Conservation Commission staff drew up a list of priority areas for purchase negotiation should the Open Space program be approved. These encompassed all of the desirable land types described earlier. The initial listing included over 32,000 acres, in 49 counties. Upon legislative enactment of the program, Commission land acquisition personnel began to negotiate for the purchase of land from willing sellers. At the end of only six months, the initial two million dollar appropriation was already almost entirely committed.

The map and table show the locations and types of areas being purchased under the Open Space Program. An attempt has been made to acquire significant examples of all "target" types; and, that attempt has been quite successful.

The state will now have, forever in the public domain, a number of areas with important natural and recreational values. Outstanding examples of desirable natural areas include a 2400-plus acre tract in Iowa's unique "Loess Hills," many miles of trout streams in eastern Iowa, major additions to the Stephens and Shimek State Forests, and the beautiful Starr Cave area near Burlington. Areas with great potential for fish and wildlife oriented use include major additions to the Elk Grove and Green Island Areas. Finally, the recreational values of a number of existing Iowa state parks will be enhanced by expansion or the elimination

Historic Star Cave Area

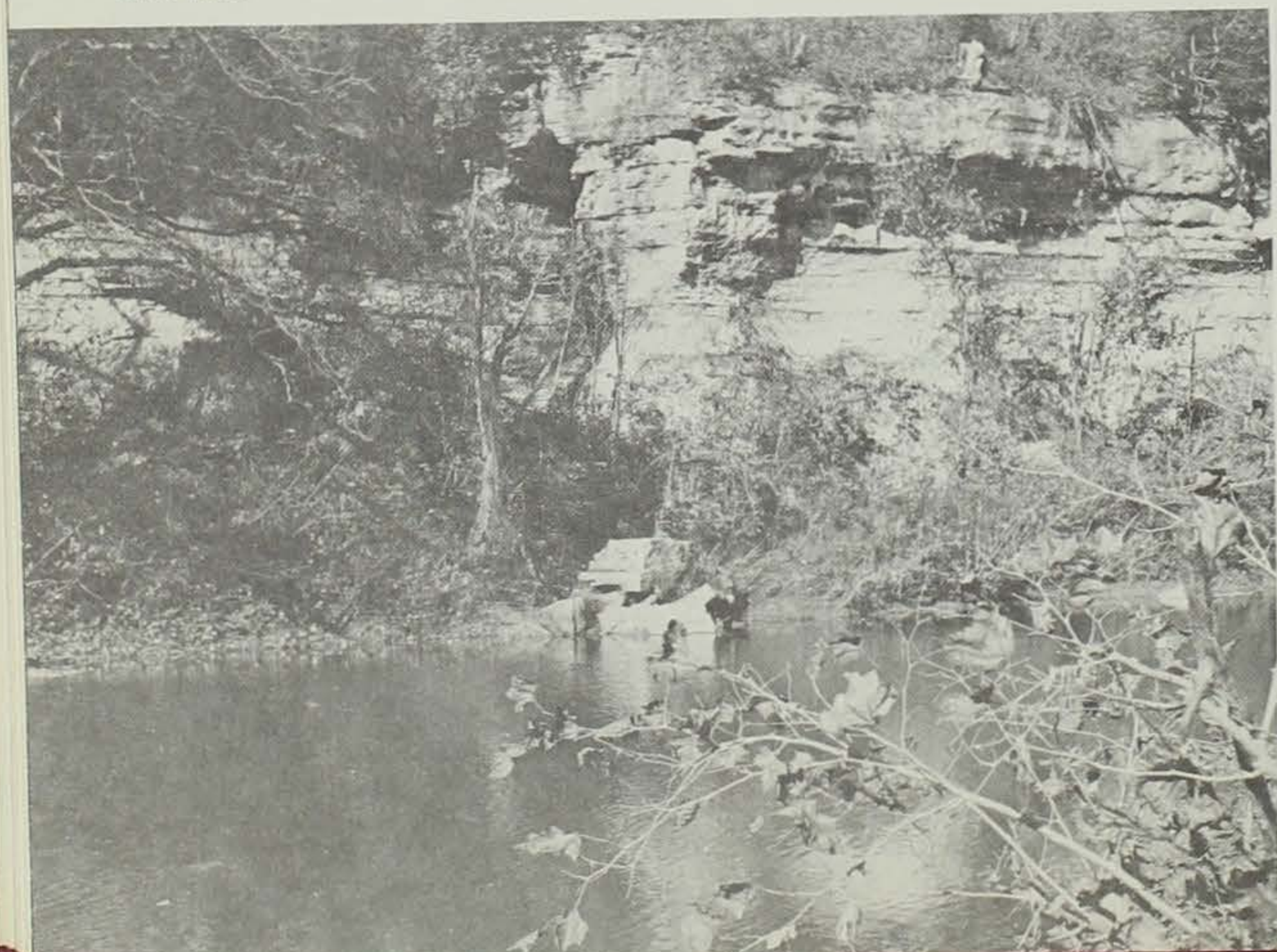


Photo by Jerry Leonard

of inholdings. These include, for example, Stone, Clear Lake, Pine Lake, and Springbrook State Parks.

The initial two million dollar appropriation for the Open Space Program was intended for use during the 1973-1975 biennium. Such was the need, and so great was the response by owners of

desirable lands throughout the state, that nearly the entire amount was committed by December, 1973.

Great need, however, still exists for the purchase of similar lands in Iowa. The Conservation Commission has a duty to ensure that the state's resources are available for the use and enjoy-

ment of future generations. Therefore, the Conservation Commission is seeking the continuance of the Open Space Program in the form of a standing appropriation for each legislative biennium. The Commission feels that the program has indeed "passed the test" of benefit to the public.



Editorial

An editorial appearing in the October 27, 1973 issue of *WALLACES FARMER* questioned the value of uncontrolled plant growth along railroad right-of-way.

"... these railroad tracks run right through some of Iowa's richest farmland. And there is no way farmers with land near the tracks can keep the weed seed from cutting yields and costing them extra money for extra cultivating and weed control."

Wildlife Management Biologist Art Roseland replied to this article, reflecting Iowa Conservation Commission views on the value of cover along railways. His comments are as follows:

Many plants which are weeds in corn fields have a high value within the limits of a flower garden or a railroad right-of-way. In this age of clean, wall-to-wall farming, railroad rights-of-way, ditch banks and a few odd areas are often all that are left to pro-

vide necessary habitat for the bare maintenance of some wildlife species. Variety of plant species on these non-crop areas may mean that nesting and winter cover, plus a winter food supply, can be available to birds like the pheasant. Plants we call weeds in corn fields, together with others in areas like railroad property, can make the difference in the presence or absence of wildlife species.

In my experience of being farm-raised, having most of my family and many friends engaged in farming, working daily with farmers in an extension capacity as well as living on a farm, I have met very few farm families who did not have some appreciation of all land resources, the problems with each, and perhaps a desire to share the burden of land management for all resource considerations.

It would seem that the economics of not controlling "weeds"

on railroad lands is not a large price to pay for the wildlife resource benefits harvested. In fact, it would appear that herbicides may be a perpetual necessity anyway, at least in the foreseeable future, when large monocultures of single plants are husbanded by agriculturists.

Most railroad rights-of-way actually are not serious reservoirs of "weed" species. Many have vegetative conditions in a relatively stable condition composed of many native prairie grass species, introduced grasses and legumes, shrubs and forbs.

Modern farmers have more control over the land, its productivity, and the species which co-exist there, than ever before. We CAN afford to maintain areas like railroad lands rather than despoiling them. It is good that we have this choice, for pheasants do not — they can only survive or die.



The Iowa Conservation Commission

From left to right:

CAROLYN T. LUMBARD of Des Moines is the commissioner most recently appointed. She was appointed to the commission in August, 1973 to fill the unexpired term of the late Dr. Keith McNurlen of Ames. Her term expires June 30, 1977.

Mrs. Lumbard is a graduate of Hollins College, Roanoke, Virginia, with a B.A. in French. Commissioner Lumbard has served as an assistant commissioner for the Polk County Soil Conservation District; Treasurer, Environmental Coordinating Council; Art Center Guide; and is a member of the American Association of University Women. Mrs. Lumbard is a part-time language instructor at Drake University.

Mrs. Lumbard and her husband, Dennis, have two children.

THOMAS A. BATES was appointed commissioner in August, 1972 to fill an unexpired term which runs to June 30, 1975.

Born and reared in Ohio, Mr. Bates attended Kent State University where his education was interrupted shortly after by World War II. He served in the Navy for a year in addition to three years in the Army. In 1946 he returned to Kent State and obtained a B.A. in Journalism.

Mr. Bates became the owner-publisher of the Bellevue Herald-Leader in 1950 and served in that capacity until October, 1973. Presently, Commissioner Bates is a free-lance writer and serves as president of the Bellevue Development Corp. (industrial) and president of the Riverview Development Corp. (nursing home). He is an active member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, and the Bellevue Rotary Club.

The Bates family includes wife Jeanne and three sons.

JOHN C. THOMPSON was appointed in July, 1973 for a six year term. He is the owner of the Thompson Agency, Incorporated, Forest City, which deals in insurance, loans, real estate, and accounting. The commissioner was educated in the Forest City Public School System before entering the U.S. Army, where he served

in the American, Asiatic, and Pacific theaters from 1942 to 1945. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Forest City Association of Independent Insurance Agents, the Iowa Association of Independent Insurance Agents, the National Association of Public Accountants, and the Accountants Association of Iowa. He was the founder of the Board of Directors at Mid-America Insurance Investors of Des Moines.

Commissioner Thompson is the Executive Director of the Winnebago Regional County Planning Commission. Organizations in which he is active include Truth Lodge, Eastern Star Chapter 255, Scottish Rite, Shrine, American Legion, and Rotary Club. He was elected in 1955 to the Forest City Park Board.

The Thompson family includes wife Loraine, a son and three step-daughters.

The Chairman of the Iowa Conservation Commission is **LES LICKLIDER**. He was appointed in July, 1969 for a six year term. He is one of three commissioners currently serving who were members of the honor group which was voted "Commission of the Year" by the Midwest Association of Fish and Game Commissioners in 1972.

During the years 1952-1970, the commissioner was a junior high school teacher at Cherokee where he earned the 1970 Outstanding Conservation Teacher Award. At the present time he is associated with Radio Station KCHE in an outdoor show and does a weekly television program for a Sioux City television station. In addition, he is an outdoor writer for the United Press International News Service. Commissioner Licklider is an NRA Hunter Safety Instructor, a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Outdoor Writers of America, and the former President of the Little Sioux Wildlife Association.

The commissioner's wife's name is Jan and he has two daughters and a son.

HERBERT T. REED was appointed to the seven-member commission for a six year term in July, 1973.

Mr. Reed is co-owner of the Circle "B" Cashway Lumber Company in Winterset. The Commissioner was born in Truro, Iowa, and attended the public school system there. He moved to Winterset in 1957. Mr. Reed is an active member of the Shrine and Blue Lodge organizations.

The Reed family includes wife Dorothy and four children.

JIM D. BIXLER was appointed as commissioner for a six year term in 1969 and was a member of the "Commission of the Year" honored by the Midwest Association of Fish and Game Commissioners in 1972. The commissioner is president of Jim Bixler and Associates Electrical Manufacturers Representatives located in Council Bluffs. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Nebraska-Iowa Electrical Council and the Board of Directors for the Lake Manawa Association. Commissioner Bixler belongs to the Lutheran Church, Masonic Lodge, 32nd Degree, Tangier Shrine, and the Elks Club. Mr. Bixler graduated from the Corning High School in 1950 and served for five years with the 34th Division of the National Guard.

The Bixler family includes his wife, Bea Ann and three sons.

JOHN G. LINK was appointed to the Conservation Commission in July, 1971 for a six year term. Mr. Link was born in Dubuque where he attended Loras Academy High School. He graduated in 1952 from Loras College in Dubuque with a B.A. After serving in the U.S. Army in Korea, he attended the State University of Iowa and obtained his degree in law in 1957. Mr. Link served on the Des Moines County Conservation Board from 1963 to 1967. He now practices law with the Burlington Firm of Hirsch, Wright, Link, and Adams.

The commissioner is an active member of Ducks Unlimited, Black Hawk County Club, Long Creek Conservation Club, Elks, Eagles, Knights of Columbus, and the Iowa Bar Association. He was also a member of the 1972 "Commission of the Year." The Link family includes wife Suzanne, a daughter and two sons.

HATCHERIES . . .

(Continued from Page 9)

size before being released in 1974. Iowa has negotiated trades involving species we have an abundance of in exchange for species we would like to experimentally release into this state. These trades are as follows:

Two million walleye fry to the State of Utah for 50,000 eyed albino trout eggs.

One million walleye fry to the State of Mississippi for wild turkeys.

One million northern pike fry to the State of Arkansas for 550 ten-inch white amur and 100 three-inch amur.

Five hundred thousand northern pike fry to the State of Virginia for 500,000 striped bass fry.

Goal of Iowa Fish Hatcheries

It is the responsibility of fisheries management and fisheries research biologists, after thorough study of scientifically collected data, to tell hatcheries where, when, how many, what species, and what size fish should be stocked to best utilize the hatchery product. It is the hatcheries' responsibility to fill the request with fish that are in the best possible condition.

The primary goal of Iowa's hatchery system, then, is to provide the product as requested by the field biologist. This sounds like a simple goal and it has nearly been obtained in trout production. But the production techniques for warm water species such as walleye, northern pike, and musky have not advanced to the point where predictable results can always be obtained. Considerable effort is being expended by this state and other organizations involved in fish culture to make warm water fish production more predictable. In the future, rearing techniques will be refined; but, until this occurs anglers and biologists will have to be patient and understanding when occasionally a hatchery does not supply the desired number or size of fish.

Remember, Iowa fish hatcheries are dedicated to insuring you good fishing.

Classroom Corner

By Curt Powell

Administration

Conservation Education Center

"Sugar and spice, and everything nice . . ." is a phrase that most of us have heard at one time or another during our lifetime. It is a very old saying and I'm certain that the sugar referred to must have been cane sugar.

Cane sugar is grown in areas that have climates much warmer than Iowa. What would the settlers have used for sugar if they were unable to obtain cane sugar? The settlers may have used honey as a sweetener. However, the American Indian taught them to make sugar from trees. Not just any tree, but specifically the maple trees; hence, maple syrup and maple sugar.

Classroom Corner had a number of questions concerning the use of maple trees for sugar and syrup. A number of books and periodicals were consulted. (You might check your local library for sources of information). We finally settled on "Stalking the Wild Asparagus" by Euell Gibbons and "Edible Wild Plants" by Oliver Perry Medsger.

Apparently, the production of maple sugar and syrup has been around for quite some time. The earliest mentioning of it appears in journals written in the 1700's. It was rather wide spread for some years thereafter. However, according to Mr. Gibbons, the industry is limited to certain sections of the United States today with the Northeast section being the most predominate. This does not mean, however, that Iowa does not have the maple trees in the state to produce maple syrup and sugar.

The Sugar Maple (*Acer Saccharum*) the Silver Maple (*Acer*

Saccharinum) and the Box Elder (*Acer Negundo*) are all varieties of the maple tree found in Iowa. Generally speaking, they are a lowland tree and therefore could be found along rivers. A good sized maple tree can be expected to yield a little over one gallon of finished syrup.

When and how is the sap collected from the maple trees? The collecting is usually started during the January "thaw" and continues even until the end of March. Warm days and cool nights are one of the secrets for good sap flow. The sap is usually collected in covered buckets as it drips from the hollow spigot or spile.

Maple trees are tapped using a one-half inch wood bit. You bore into the tree approximately three inches at a slightly upward angle. Place a four inch long spile in the hole. Attach a covered bucket to the exposed end so the sap will run into the bucket. Each day you should go to the trees you've tapped and empty the buckets.

How do you get syrup from sap and sugar from syrup? The term "boiling off" is applied here. You boil the excess liquid away until the sap reaches a syrup consistency. Try not to scorch the syrup. Sugar is made from the syrup. When the temperature of the syrup reaches 234°F., remove it from the fire and pour into molds. Processing sap into syrup takes about 30-40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Therefore, would it be advisable to do this in the house? What could happen to your wallpaper?

The Iowa Conservation
Commission's
Conservation Education
Center designated a

National Environmental Education Landmark



The Iowa Conservation Commission's Conservation Education Center located adjacent to Springbrook State Park in Guthrie County has been designated a National Environmental Education Landmark by the U. S. Department of the Interior.

The National Environmental Education Landmark (NEEL) Program, administered by the National Park Service, provides national recognition for sites with outstanding environmental education programs.

The Center, administered by Curtis Powell of Yale, Iowa, consists of a 200-acre area of woodlands, brooks, marshes, ponds and a lake located within Springbrook State Park. The educational program is operated by the Commission for all ages of children and adult education.

There are only 20 "outdoor classroom" NEEL designations in the U. S. In order to be officially designated, all NEELs must have the following characteristics:

1. Distinctive value in relating man to the environment of America.

2. Sufficient size and quality to achieve the education objective and accommodate the educational uses without impairment of the essential integrity of the resources.

3. Set aside and used regularly as part of education programs dealing with the total environment.

4. Environmental education is its primary purpose.

This is the third award the Center has received in the past year.



IOWA MAPLES

The colorful maples form one of the most common families of trees in Iowa. Sugar Maple, Silver Maple, Norway Maple, Boxelder, Red Maple, Black Maple and even the little Mountain Maple are present in the state. Note the different leaf structures in the three common Iowa maples shown below.

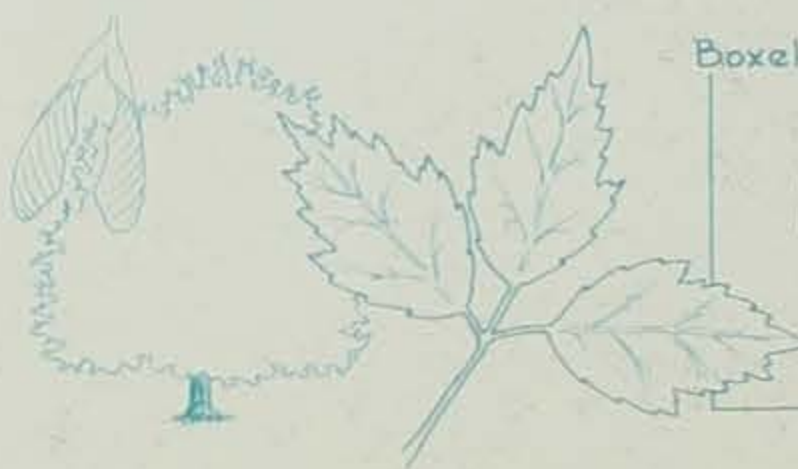


Sugar Maple

Sugar Maple or hard maple commonly grows in the eastern half of Iowa. Most "Maple" wood used for lumber is taken from the sugar maple. Although the sap from other maples can be tapped, the sugar maple is the tree which produces delicious maple sugar.

Silver Maple

The Silver or Soft Maple is well represented in Iowa woodlands. It is a relatively fast growing tree, often used in farmstead windbreak planting. The wood is sometimes used in furniture. The leaves are deeply cut and are often used in autumn decorations.



Boxelder

Boxelders grow naturally throughout the Hawkeye State. Unlike other maples, the leaves are compound, composed of three to seven short, irregularly toothed leaflets. The winged seeds, however, are typically "maple".