

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2000

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES





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## COVER

"Big City Bucks" by Larry Zach. See page 9 for more information.



4



34



42

## FEATURES

- 4** 2000 Hunting Forecast  
by Terry Little
- 11** 2000 Season Dates and Limits
- 15** 1999 Record Deer Racks
- 22** Putting Fish and Wildlife Thieves Out of Business  
by Steve Derman
- 25** Protected Status Granted to Iowa Timber Rattlesnakes  
by Lowell Washburn
- 28** Something to Boom About  
by Mel Moe
- 34** Rising Energy Prices: What Can We Do? A Lot.  
by Sharon Tahtinen
- 36** Blue-winged Teal: Iowa's Perfect Gamebird  
by Lowell Washburn
- 40** Iowa EarthYear 2000: A Testimony to Environmental Volunteers  
by Stefanie Forret
- 42** The Falcon's Return  
by Lowell Washburn

## DEPARTMENTS

- 50** Parks Profile
- 53** Practical Conservationist
- 55** Classroom Corner
- 57** Conservation Update
- 62** Warden's Diary
- 63** Parting Glance





2000 Hunting Forecast

# 2000 Hunting Forecast



The outlook is good,  
but . . .



Article by Terry Little  
Photos by Roger A. Hill

**S**eldom in my 15 years of summarizing the prospects for the upcoming hunting season has the outlook been so uncertain as this year. Weather and habitat conditions are the two key factors determining the abundance of most game and furbearing animals, and last year's weather was unsettled, to say the least. A cold, wet, late spring in 1999 gave way to an extremely dry and warm fall and winter, followed by one of the earliest springs on record in 2000.

Then in late May, just as the state was on the verge of a severe drought, the rains came. The rains were unevenly distributed — portions of northeast Iowa were inundated repeatedly in June, while northwest and southern Iowa remained very dry. Much of the remainder of the state was hit with severe local storms in June and July.

Habitat conditions are in a state of flux also. Iowa has lost a half-million acres of idled grasslands in the past four years as USDA 10-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts expired. These acres have been replaced to some extent by 300,000 acres of Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Emergency Wetland Reserve (EWR) and Continuous Conservation Reserve easements as new federal land retirement programs developed.

The CRP acres were concentrated in large fields and provided much-needed nesting cover for a variety of game and nongame wildlife. The WRP, EWP and continuous CRP acres tend to be smaller tracts, including buffer strips in flood plains along streams. In wet years, these areas can often flood during the nesting season. Their value as wildlife cover is better than no habitat at all, but will likely not match that of the now-defunct CRP fields.



A mild winter meant a good carry over of brood stock for pheasant, quail and partridge. Some pheasant broods were seen as early as late May and could mean more pheasants across most of the state.



The result of these unsettling circumstances was a 1999 hunting season somewhat unproductive by Iowa standards. Iowa lost its status as the number one pheasant state in the nation; rabbit and squirrel harvests were at all time lows; duck hunting was far poorer than predicted; and the goose harvest declined for the second consecutive year. On a positive note, more than half of the fall turkey hunters

took a bird for their Thanksgiving table, and deer hunters set an all-time record for the number of deer harvested.

Normally, a mild winter and early spring bode well for the production of game birds, so the outlook for this fall is favorable. But, unsettled and untimely weather, changing habitat conditions and smaller breeding populations of some game birds have produced a level of uncertainty that won't be

cleared up until hunters take to the field this fall and winter.

## Upland Game

Last year's wet, cold spring resulted in a substantial decrease in the number of pheasant, quail and partridge broods counted during the DNR's August roadside surveys. Not only were there fewer birds, the unseasonably warm weather on into the new year made it

unnecessary for birds to congregate in heavy cover, making them harder for hunters to find.

The reported kill of 899,000 rooster pheasants, the lowest harvest since the CRP program began in 1986, was eerily close to the DNR's pre-season prediction of 900,000 birds in the bag. With 1.5 million roosters harvested, South Dakota took over bragging rights as the number one pheasant state in the country. For the first time in years, the average bag for a pheasant hunt was less than one bird per hunter per day. Quail and partridge harvests, at 110,000 and 20,000 respectively, were at or near record lows for the past 30 years.

On the bright side, a mild winter resulted in a good carry over of brood stock for all three species and the early, dry spring apparently prompted nesting to begin somewhat earlier than usual. Some pheasant broods were seen as early as late May, and early hatches generally mean strong hatches. While a numerical prediction can't be made until this year's August survey results are compiled, there should be more pheasants this year across most of the state.



# 2000 Hunting Forecast

A couple of exceptions should be noted. Breeding populations were quite low in parts of southwest and south-central Iowa as a result of several consecutive wet springs. A major recovery there in just one year is unlikely. Extreme northeast Iowa could see lower production because of heavy May and June rains. Bird hunters elsewhere should expect noticeably better hunting than last year.

Rabbit and squirrel hunting continued a three-decade trend of declining popularity. Rabbit hunters took 355,000 cottontails, the lowest on record. Much of the reason for the low harvest can be attributed to the fact rabbits are often taken incidentally by bird hunters, and fewer hunting trips last fall meant fewer bunnies in the bag.

Only 242,000 fox and gray squirrels were taken last year, the lowest harvest on record. Like the rabbit, squirrels have lost much of their popularity with hunters. The trend of fewer people hunting squirrels is probably more responsible for the low harvest than last year's weather. Populations of rabbits and squirrels remain good and represent a vastly under-harvested resource.

## Waterfowl

Last fall, waterfowlers were drooling. Several wet years on the Canadian and Dakota prairies had produced breeding habitat conditions that hadn't been seen for decades. Arctic-nesting geese had excellent spring weather and a good hatch was predicted. Iowa marshes were also in good condition and breeding populations of ducks and geese were high continent wide. A fall flight of more than 100 million ducks was predicted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Both duck and goose hunting fell far short of those expectations. For the third consecutive year, extremely mild fall weather allowed ducks and geese to stay far north of Iowa nearly to the end of the hunting seasons. Late summer drought dried up many of Iowa's marshes. Corps of Engineers reservoirs

had high water so late into the summer that seeding of millet and other waterfowl foods was largely ineffective. As a result of these factors, habitat conditions were inhospitable for those ducks and geese that did arrive on time and their stay was short.

Waterfowlers took 106,000 ducks and 41,500 geese, down 43 and 18 percent respectively from 1998. Both harvests are far above record lows, however, and are nearly double the take of ducks and geese during the drought years of the late 1980s. But given the predicted fall flights, hunters expected much better.

**Teal numbers are at all-time highs this year.**



Pilot projects for Iowa's Electronic Licensing System for Iowa (ELSI) are underway at 42 locations across Iowa and one in Minnesota. The system, which will be unveiled statewide in late October, is expected to make it quicker and easier to buy conservation licenses, including most deer and wild turkey tags (see page 60). Pilot project locations include:

**Cabela's**, Owatonna, Minn.  
**Car Go Express**, Sutherland  
**Car Go Express**, Spencer  
**Century Hardware**, Clarksville  
**Cresco Amoco**, Cresco  
**Faeth's Cigar Store**, Fort Madison  
**Fin & Feather**, Cedar Rapids  
**Fin & Feather**, Iowa City  
**Hanks Live Bait & Tackle**, Waterloo  
**Hy-Vee Food Store**, Osceola  
**J & L Sports**, Oelwein  
**K & K True Value Hardware**, Bettendorf  
**Keith's Super Value**, Bloomfield  
**Gas-N-Mor**, Bloomfield  
**K-Mart**, Carroll  
**K-Mart**, Marshalltown  
**Nordquist Sports & Marine, Inc.**, Fort Dodge  
**Ozzies Outdoors**, Decorah  
**Safari Iowa Hunting Farms**, Parnell  
**Scotts Outdoors**, Muscatine  
**Spencers Grocery**, Shenandoah  
**Troublesome Creek Outfitters**, Keosauqua  
**Wal-Mart**, Sioux City

**Wal-Mart**, Spirit Lake  
**Wal-Mart**, Des Moines  
**Wal-Mart**, Council Bluffs  
**Wal-Mart**, Dubuque  
**Woodward OK Hardware**, Woodward  
**DNR Clear Lake Field Office**, Clear Lake  
**Lake Anita State Park**, Anita  
**DNR Central Office**, Des Moines  
**Adams County Recorder**, Corning  
**Allamakee County Recorder**, Waukon  
**Black Hawk County Recorder**, Waterloo  
**Cerro Gordo County Recorder**, Mason City  
**Dallas County Recorder**, Adel  
**Iowa County Recorder**, Marengo  
**Louisa County Recorder**, Wapello  
**Lucas County Recorder**, Chariton  
**O'Brien County Recorder**, Primghar  
**Page County Recorder**, Clarinda  
**Pocahontas County Recorder**, Pocahontas  
**Worth County Recorder**, Northwood



# 2000 Hunting Forecast

The outlook for this fall is similar to last year. Continental duck breeding populations remain strong at nearly 42 million, 27 percent above the long term average. The prairies were drier this spring because of the generally warm, dry winter experienced across north-central North America. A slightly lower hatch of ducks will likely result. Arctic-nesting geese, on the other hand, ran into snow and cold weather on their breeding grounds and will also experience lower production. Iowa-nesting giant Canada geese continue to expand their range southward. Spring populations of giant Canadas are now estimated at 78,000 in Iowa.

The final fall flight estimate for ducks and geese was not available as of this late July writing. Expectations for both will be somewhat lower than 1999, but still strong enough to support liberal hunting seasons similar to last year in terms of days and bag limits. (See pages 13 and 14.) Young hunters should note the addition of a second day for the youth hunt, allowing more flexibility to avoid school scheduling conflicts and potential bad weather that could spoil a single day's hunt.

How successful will this year's waterfowl seasons be? The past three

years have shown the folly of predicting the uncertainties of weather and habitat conditions that are out of the DNR's control. As of this writing, the flood-control reservoirs are once again holding high water into mid-summer to provide emergency water supplies in case of an extended drought. Some marshes in extreme northwest Iowa are dry and undergoing a much-needed revegetation process. Late summer rains will be needed to replenish water there.

Other wetlands in north-central and central Iowa have adequate water now, but will need continued rainfall in late summer to maintain water for hunting. Only time will tell whether this will finally be the year waterfowlers have been waiting for, or whether it will be another year that "might have been."

Iowa's home-grown Canada geese present a special case worth noting. Nearly 40 years of restoration efforts by the DNR have resulted in the expansion of nesting geese from a single site in northwest Iowa in the 1960s to breeding

pairs in every county by 2000. In excess of 30,000 young geese are produced each year from a spring population that numbers nearly 80,000. These locally produced giants now make up the bulk of Canada geese taken by Iowa hunters, and nearly half of that harvest occurs during the two-day special early Canada goose season in September. At the same time that populations are expanding, numbers of breeding geese appear to be declining where flocks were first established in northern Iowa. The most intense hunting pressure centers around these older flocks.

Concern that too much hunting pressure may be causing these flocks to decline initiated a proposal to close the two-day September season this year. After careful consideration, it was decided to continue the season for another year and try to determine whether hunting pressure, poor production caused by high water last spring or just a natural dispersal of flocks from



Ty Smedes

Only time will tell whether this will finally be the year waterfowlers have been waiting for, or whether it will be another year that "might have been."



# 2000 Hunting Forecast

the established areas is the cause for declining goose numbers there. If hunting pressure is the culprit, some creative methods may be devised to continue the season while deflecting harvest away from these vulnerable flocks. Look for more information prior to the announcement in next year's hunting regulations.

## Furbearers

For the past decade, little has changed in the outlook for furharvesters. Low pelt prices in response to light demand for furs in the fashion market have reduced the number of Iowans actively hunting or trapping furbearing animals to 18,000, roughly half that of two decades ago. Because of light trapping and hunting pressure, populations of most furbearers

have increased substantially, several to nuisance status. Seasons are liberal as a result and furharvesters find little competition for space or time to pursue their sport.

## Deer and Turkey

Good hunting seasons were predicted for deer and turkey hunters in 1999, and fortunately, both forecasts came true.

**PAUL LITTLE KNEW HE WAS WITNESSING** a spectacular display of nature that fall day in 1998.

Little, a Des Moines police officer, was patrolling the streets of Des Moines near Terrace Hill when the massive figure first caught his eye. It slowly made its way down the road before ducking into a grassy draw. An avid hunter, Little immediately realized the magnitude of the animal. "It was just a tremendous buck."

As Little watched the 11-pointer, an even more impressive shape materialized seemingly out of nowhere. The buck in the background was smaller in body but heavier in rack. An accomplished bow hunter and knowledgeable antler scorer, Little knew the 20-pointer was a true trophy and a potential record. Over the next several weeks, Little monitored the bucks during his free time and captured the pair on videotape.

Although the bucks typically roamed an area inside city limits, where hunting was not allowed, Little knew the temptation to harvest either of the bucks would be great. As hunting season approached, he shared his video with the hunting community to thwart potential illegal activity.

**DNR CONSERVATION OFFICER CRAIG LONNEMAN** took the call on a winter day in mid-January. Des Moines Animal Control officials had responded to a call from a Des Moines resident who wanted a fallen deer removed from her property. The large-bodied deer had already shed its antlers.

But as authorities scanned the area, across a ravine about 20 yards away laid a second deer, its body and antlers half buried in snow. It turned out to be the 20-pointer. Although unconfirmed, it is theorized by some the first deer may have been the 11-pointer. Despite tissue sampling, the cause of death for both deer remains a mystery.

**WHEN RENOWNED WILDLIFE ARTIST LARRY ZACH** of Ankeny learned of the find, he approached Lonneman about the story. Intrigued by the sheer size of the bucks, and the fact they thrived in an urban environment, he decided to use both monster bucks in his next painting. The result is his latest print release, "Big City Bucks," featured on the cover of this issue.

For more information on this or other Zach artwork, contact any local Zach wildlife art dealer or call Zach Wildlife Art at (515) 964-1570.

## SCORECARD\*

Gross Typical .....	213 6/8
Deductions .....	6 7/8
Net Typical .....	206 7/8
Net Nontypical .....	238 1/8

\* Four of the 20-point buck's tines were 13 inches or longer.



Cover was reversed to accommodate magazine format.



# 2000 Hunting Forecast

Fall turkey permits are strictly limited to protect flocks from the over-harvesting that originally eliminated turkeys from Iowa in the 19th century. Bow, gun and free licenses to landowners and tenants totaled just 10,000 in 1999, the highest in a decade but still conservative compared to the 60,000 permits allowed in the spring. Fall hunters took 4,000 turkeys, also the highest in a decade.

Turkey production has been average or above for the past two years and turkey numbers are good wherever habitat exists. The early onset of spring seemed to result in an earlier-than-usual nesting season and should result in another good hatch.

Deer hunters set a new record harvest of more than 121,000 whitetails in 1999 despite complaints from many hunters that deer were hard to find. Warm weather seemed to retard the

onset of the rut and had bow hunters complaining that the bucks were not showing up around their tree stands. Gun hunters complained of mild weather that had deer scattered out of the timber and bedding in pastures or drainage ditches. But nearly all types of hunters — youth, bow, shotgun and muzzleloader — did very well and contributed to the record kill.

Last year's record harvest doesn't mean deer will be much harder to find in 2000. The number of deer killed per billion vehicle miles driven on Iowa's primary highways declined about 9 percent in 1999, but winter aerial surveys and spring spotlight counts indicate the herd is still in good shape numerically.

Liberal hunting regulations the past few years have stopped the growth of the herd in most of the state. Additional pressure has been placed on does through antlerless-only licenses issued for special urban and state park hunts, depredation tags issued to landowners who have extensive crop damage caused by deer and antlerless tags to hunters in southern Iowa counties where the regular harvest was not controlling the herd.

Because the herd is mostly stable,

there will be few changes in hunting regulations in 2000. Seasons and bag limits will stay the same, with two exceptions: A few counties in northwest and northeast Iowa have been declared "buck only" for the first three days of the first shotgun season. Hunters must check their deer application brochure to see which counties are affected. And, the special late season in January has been eliminated in all counties in the special antlerless zone (southern two tiers of counties) except Davis and Van Buren counties. Hunters will still be able to purchase antlerless licenses in these counties for the bow, second shotgun and late muzzleloader seasons. All other regulations and procedures remain the same as 1999.

*See the following four pages for season dates and limits.*

*Terry Little is the department's wildlife research supervisor.*





# Iowa 2000-2001 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	SHOOTING HOURS	BAG LIMITS	
			DAILY	POSSESSION
Youth Rooster Pheasant (age 15 or younger)*+	Oct. 21-22	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	1	2
Rooster Pheasant	Oct. 28 - Jan. 10, 2001		3	12
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2001		8	16
Gray Partridge	Oct. 14 - Jan. 31, 2001		8	16
Turkey (Gun)*	Oct. 16 - Nov. 30	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset	One Turkey Per License	One Turkey Per License
Turkey (Bow Only)*	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1 and Dec. 18 - Jan. 10, 2001	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to One-half Hour After Sunset		
Deer (Bow)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1 and Dec. 18 - Jan. 10, 2001			
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Oct. 14 - Oct. 22* (early) or Dec. 18 - Jan. 10, 2001 (late)			
Deer -- Youth (age 12-15) and Severely Disabled	Sept. 16 - Oct. 1			
Deer (Shotgun)	Dec. 2 - Dec. 6 (first) or Dec. 9 - Dec. 17 (second)	Sunrise to Sunset	3	6
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 7 - Jan. 31, 2001			
Rabbit (Cottontail)	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28, 2001			
Rabbit (Jack)	Oct. 28 - Dec. 1			
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, 2001	None	10	20
Groundhog	June. 15 - Oct. 31		2	4
Crow	Oct. 15 - Nov. 30 and Jan. 14 - March 31, 2001		6	12
Pigeon**	Oct. 1 - March 31, 2001		None	
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 4 - Jan. 31, 2001	None	(Open 8 a.m. First Day Only)	None
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 4 - Jan. 31, 2001	None		
Coyote	Continuous Open Season	None		

\* Residents Only.

\*\* Within 100 yards of buildings and bridges, pigeons may be taken year round.

+ See regulations for complete requirements

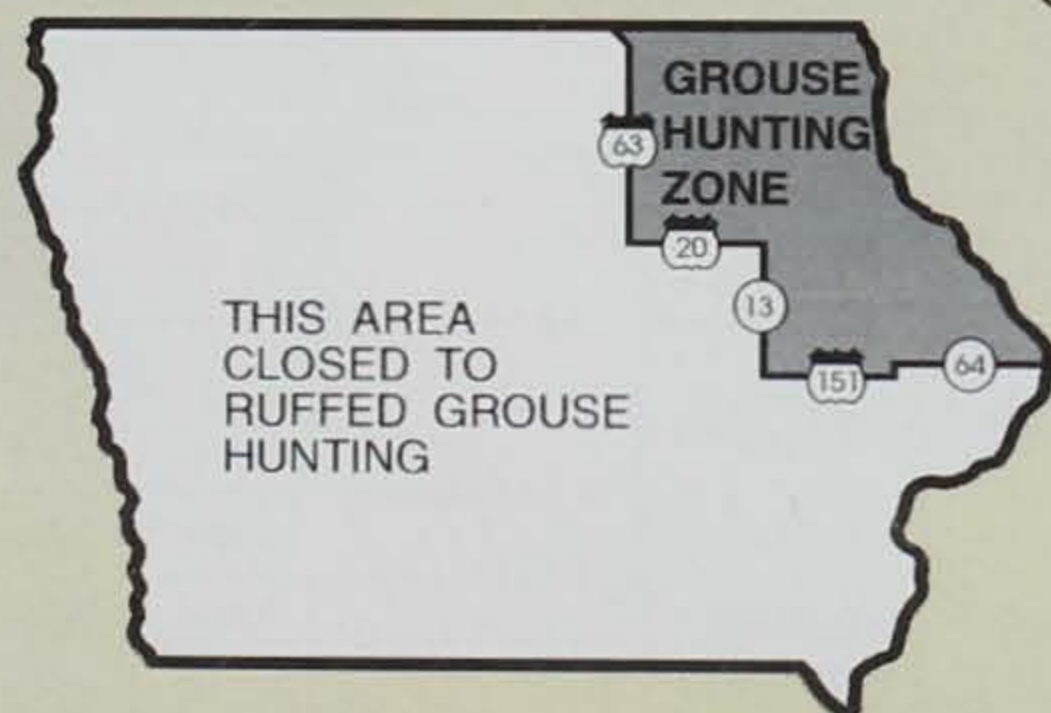


## 2000-2001 TRAPPING SEASON

SPECIES	OPENING	CLOSING
Mink, Muskrat*, Raccoon, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Badger, Opos- sum, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote	Nov. 4, 2000	Jan. 31, 2001
Beaver	Nov. 4, 2000	April 15, 2001
Civet Cat (Spotted Skunk), Bobcat and Opossum	Continuous Closed Season	
Arctomys	June 15, 2000	Oct. 31, 2000

ALL FURBEARER SEASONS OPEN AT 8 A.M. ON THE OPENING DATE. THERE ARE NO DAILY BAG OR POSSESSION LIMITS

\*SELECTED AREAS MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY FOR MUSKRAT TRAPPING ONLY.



THE RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING ZONE IS THAT PORTION OF NORTHEAST IOWA BORDERED BY U.S. HIGHWAYS 65, 20 AND 151, AND IOWA HIGHWAYS 13 AND 64.

## 2000-2001 Hunting Licenses and Fees

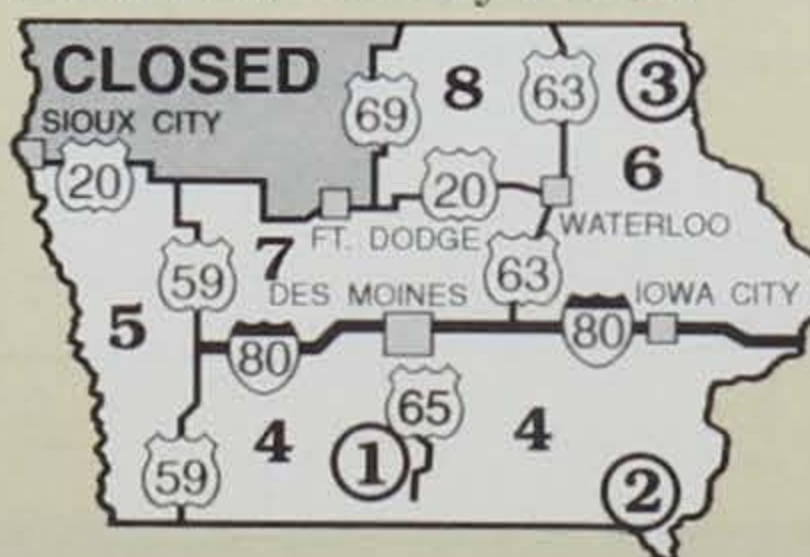
## RESIDENT

Resident Hunting	\$12.50
Lifetime Combination (disabled military veteran or P.O.W.)	\$30.00
Lifetime Hunting License (65 years of age or older)	\$50.50
Deer License	\$25.50
Turkey License	\$22.50
Fur Harvester License	
Resident age 16 and older	\$20.50
Resident under age 16	\$5.50
Wildlife Habitat Fee	\$5.50
Migratory Game Bird Fee	\$5.50
Annual free Fishing or Combined Hunting and Fishing licenses are available for low income 65 or older and low income permanently disabled. Call 515/281-8688 for information/qualifications.	

## NONRESIDENT

Nonresident Hunting Preserve	\$5.00
Nonresident Hunting (18-years-old or older))	\$60.50
Nonresident Hunting (under 18)	\$25.50
Nonresident Fur Harvester	\$180.50
Wildlife Habitat Fee	\$5.50
Migratory Game Bird Fee	\$5.50
Nonresident Deer License	\$150.50
Nonresident Turkey License	\$75.50

## 2000 Fall Turkey Zones



Fall turkey season is closed to nonresidents in 2000.

**ZONE 1** is all units of Stephens State Forest west of U.S. Highway 65 in Lucas and Clarke counties.

**ZONE 2** is all units of Shimek State Forest in Lee and van Buren counties.

**ZONE 3** is units of Yellow River in Allamakee County.

**BOW-ONLY** fall turkey licenses are valid statewide.



# 2000-2001 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

STATEWIDE		
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	Sept. 23-27 Oct. 14 - Dec. 7	
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day	Oct. 7-8	
Light Geese (snow [both white and blue phase] and Ross' geese)	Sept. 30 - Jan. 14, 2001 Feb. 15 - April 15, 2001	
Woodcock	Oct. 7 - Nov. 20	
Snipe	Sept. 2 - Nov. 30	
Rail (Sora and Virginia)	Sept. 2 - Nov. 10	
	NORTH ZONE	SOUTH ZONE
Special Canada Goose Season	Sept. 9-10 <sup>1</sup>	CLOSED
Canada, White-fronted and Brant geese	Sept. 30 - Dec. 8	Sept. 30 - Oct. 15 Nov. 4 - Dec. 27

<sup>1</sup> In that portion of the north zone west of Iowa Highway 63, excluding the Big Marsh Wildlife Area (see map below).

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset for all species except woodcock, which is sunrise to sunset.

## Daily Bag and Possession Limits:

**Ducks:** Daily limit is 6, including no more than 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 may be female), 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 black duck, 1 pintail, 3 scaup and 1 canvasback. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**Mergansers:** Daily limit is 5, including no more than 1 hooded merganser. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**Coots:** Daily limit is 15; possession limit is 30.

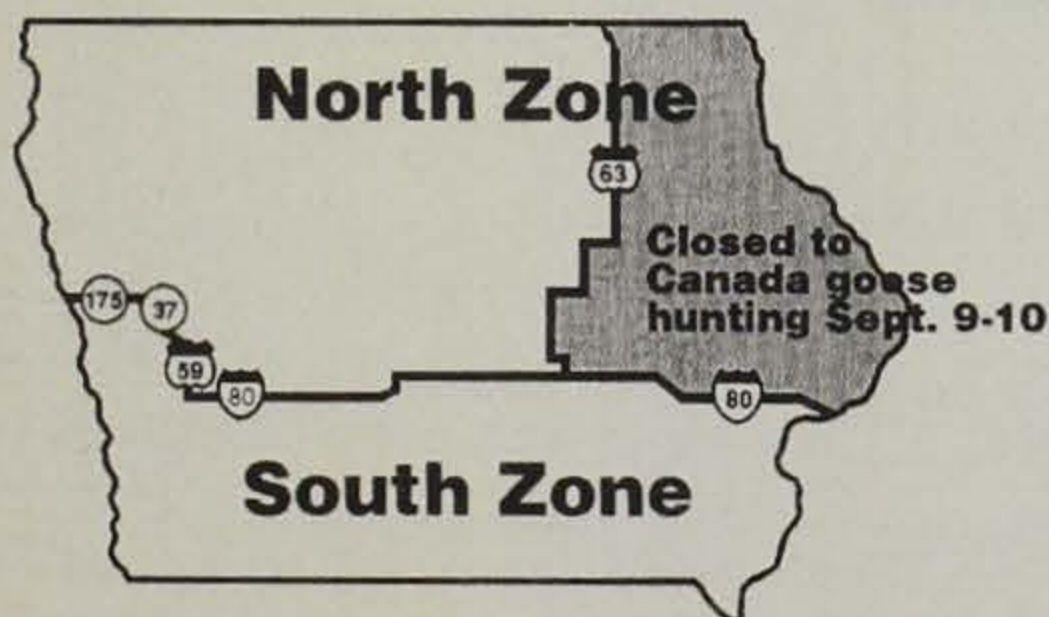
**Geese:** Daily limit for Canada geese is 2. For other geese, the daily limit is 2 white-fronted, 2 brant and 20 light geese (both white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese). Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, except for light geese for which there is no possession limit.

**Woodcock:** Daily limit is 3; possession limit is 6.

**Snipe:** Daily limit is 8; possession limit is 16.

**Rail (Sora and Virginia):** Daily limit is 12; possession limit is 24.

**Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days:** Shooting hours and daily bag limits will conform to those set for the regular waterfowl seasons.



**Waterfowl zone description.** The state will be divided by a line beginning on the Nebraska-Iowa border at State Highway 175, east to State Highway 37, south-east to U.S. Highway 59, south to I-80 and along I-80 east to the Iowa-Illinois border. A portion of the north zone east of Iowa Highway 63 will be closed to Canada goose hunting Sept. 9-10.



**Nontoxic shot only.** You can only use nontoxic shot approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), including **STEEL OR STEEL COATED WITH LESS THEN 1 PERCENT COPPER, NICKEL, ZINC CHROMATE OR ZINC CHLORIDE; BISMUTH-TIN; TUNGSTEN-IRON; AND TUNGSTEN-POLYMER**, to hunt any migratory game birds except woodcock. You cannot have in your possession any shotshell loaded with other than nontoxic shot approved by the USFWS when hunting any migratory game birds, except woodcock, on any land or waters of the state of Iowa. Approved nontoxic shot must be used to hunt any game animal or furbearer, except deer and wild turkey, on selected public hunting areas in northcentral and northwest Iowa. See the "2000 Hunting and Trapping Regulations" for details.

**Migratory game bird stamps and fees required.** If you are 16 years of age or older, you need to pay the **state migratory game bird fee** (\$5.50) and possess a **federal** (\$15) **migratory waterfowl stamp** (duck stamp) to hunt or take any migratory waterfowl within Iowa. The state migratory game bird fee box on your license must be marked and the federal stamp must be in your possession while hunting. Your signature must be written in ink across the face of the federal stamp. Federal stamps can be purchased at post offices.

**Youth Waterfowl Days.** Youth Waterfowl Day will be Oct. 7-8, 2000. Hunters 15 years of age or younger may hunt certain waterfowl in the state and are not required to have a hunting license, federal duck stamp or pay the state habitat or migratory game bird fees. The youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. The adult must have a hunting license and habitat stamp if normally required to have these to hunt waterfowl, and have paid the state migratory game bird fee. The adult may not hunt ducks but may hunt other gamebirds if there is an open season. The bag limit is six ducks for the youth hunter only, with the same species restrictions as other duck seasons, two Canada geese and 15 coots. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Additional copies of 2000-2001 Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits can be downloaded and printed by logging onto the DNR's Fish and Wildlife website at [www.state.ia.us/dnr/fwdiv](http://www.state.ia.us/dnr/fwdiv) and following the prompts to the waterfowl seasons and bag limits page.

Did you shoot a  
banded duck or goose?

Call

**1-800-327-BAND (2263).**

**Reporting the harvest of banded waterfowl  
provides valuable information which helps  
sustain populations and hunting for the future.**

**This information is available in alternative  
formats upon request by contacting the DNR  
at (515) 281-5918 (TDD number (515) 242-  
5967) or by writing the DNR at 502 E. 9th,  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.**

# HIP

(Harvest Information Program)

**All migratory game bird  
hunters must register with the U.S.  
Fish and Wildlife Service's  
Harvest Information Program  
(HIP) each year and carry proof  
of registration while hunting.  
Information about the HIP  
program is contained in the 2000  
Iowa Hunting and Trapping  
Regulations brochure. To register  
with HIP, call 1-800-WETLAND  
(938-5263).**





# 1999

## Record Deer Racks

Photos by Roger A. Hill

\* New entry into the All-Time top 10 Racks

### BOW, NON-TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 155 pts.

Name	City	County Taken	Total Score	Year
Jason Davelaar	Rock Valley	Sioux	202 7/8	1999
Jarod J. Pedersen	Huxley	Story	201 7/8	1999
Brian Bailey	Chariton	Lucas	196	1998
Doug Thomas	Pleasantville	Marion	191 5/8	1999
Cody Bisher	Tama	Tama	191	1999
Jeff Loeffelholz	New Vienna	Clayton	188 7/8	1999
Randy Kern	Eldon	Wapello	188 6/8	1999
Brad Nelson	Brighton	Jefferson	186 5/8	1999
John Bailey	Centerville	Appanoose	186 1/8	1999
Dwayne Bechtol	Winterset	Madison	185 3/8	1999
Richard Stanton	Johnston	Warren	184 7/8	1999
Dan Watson	Keota	Washington	181 4/8	1999
Jack Lukenbill	Lamoni	Decatur	181	1998
Rob Tiberio	Kinnelon	Monona	180 7/8	1999
Joe Kriener	Britt	Fayette	180 6/8	1998
Everett Rickhelm Jr.	Wapello	Louisa	179 2/8	1998
John Zapf	Littleport	Clayton	177 7/8	1999
Nick Hemann	Iowa City	Johnson	177	1999
Troy D. Anderson	Maile	Warren	176 6/8	1999
Duane J. Smith	Burlington	Des Moines	176 4/8	1999
Don Nettleton	Algona	Kossuth	176	1995

Name	City	County Taken	Total Score	Year
Eric J. Tweet	Sioux City	Monona	171 5/8	1999
Philip Vardell	Chambersburg	Montgomery	170 7/8	1999
Greg Fowler	Harlan	Crawford	169 4/8	1969
Gary Swigart	Sidney	Fremont	168 3/8	1975
Brian R. Luers	Burlington	Des Moines	168 1/8	1999
Chad Johnston	Knoxville	Marion	168 1/8	1998
Jeff Jorgensen	Des Moines	Clarke	167 2/8	1999
Greg Van Tomme	Brooklyn	Poweshiek	166 6/8	1998
Dave Hoffman	Clear Lake	Cerro Gordo	164 7/8	1999
Gary Pavlovic	Fort Atkinson	Fayette	164 6/8	2000
Gregory Bombei	Keota	Keokuk	163 1/8	1999
Mike Groenwoldt	Blue Grass	Scott	163	1999
James Kattelmann	Cedar Falls	Black Hawk	162 4/8	1994
Clark Lewey	Decorah	Winneshiek	160 5/8	1999
Tom Foster	Des Moines	Lucas	160 3/8	1996
Jim Gerardy	Maquoketa	Jackson	159	1998
Dick Rote	Redfield	Guthrie	156 5/8	1997
Kevin Green	Monticello	Jones	155 7/8	1999
Curt Ikerd	Brighton	Washington	155 6/8	1998
David Paulson	Walcott	Scott	155 4/8	1997



## BOW, TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 135 pts.

Name	City	County	Total Score	Year
*Dan A Whalen	Des Moines	Dallas	195 1/8	1998
Jonathan R Richardson	Ledyard	Kossuth	175 6/8	1997
Randy Andreini	Indianola	Appanoose	173 4/8	1999
Chris Wigg	Osceola		172 3/8	1999
Jim Norman	Spring Grove	Allamakee	172 1/8	2000
Jeff Butler	Albia	Monroe	172 1/8	1999
Ned Peters	Harlan	Pottawattamie	170 3/8	1997
Michael Butler	Albia	Monroe	170 1/8	1999
Rod Clay	Waterloo	Marshall	169 1/8	1999
Terry C Williams	Melrose	Monroe	167 7/8	1999
Ted Love	Council Bluffs	Mills	166 5/8	1996
Joseph G. Gunzenhauser	Waterloo	Linn	165 2/8	1991
Gary Knoll	Earlham	Madison	164 3/8	1999
Terry L Gordon	Harlan	Taylor	164	1999
Forrest Goodman	Waukon	Allamakee	163 4/8	1999
Doug Lange	Bernard	Jackson	163 3/8	1999
Thomas E Peters	Lansing	Allamakee	163 1/8	1998
Phil Sage	Pleasantville	Marion	162 7/8	1999
Phil Sogl	Pleasantville	Marion	162 7/8	1999
Dave Waters	Clive	Decatur	162 2/8	1999
Will F Pirtle	Carlisle	Warren	161 2/8	1999
Jim Keiser	Marengo	Iowa	161 2/8	1980
Larry Galliant	Zwingle	Jackson	160 4/8	1999
Richard S Aalbers	Ottumwa	Wapello	160 2/8	1998
Kirt Dell	Clinton	Clinton	160 1/8	1999
Clifford Kippack	Neola	Pottawattamie	159 7/8	1998
Deborah Sampson	Blakesburg	Wapello	159 7/8	1998
Richard Edwards	Menlo	Guthrie	159 6/8	1997
James E Howie	Burlington	Henry	159 3/8	1999
Todd Stammer	Muscatine	Muscatine	159 1/8	1999
Roger V Carlson	Jefferson	Greene	158 6/8	1999
Joe Crippen	W. Des Moines	Guthrie	158 6/8	1997
Paul A Bruns	West Branch	Allamakee	158 4/8	1999
August Cooper	Leon	Decatur	158 4/8	1998
Gary L Mezera	Harpers Ferry	Allamakee	158 3/8	1995
Joe D Hakes	Cedar Rapids	Linn	158	1999
Keith E Mc Intosh	Ottumwa	Wapello	157 4/8	1999
Roger De Moss	Knoxville	Marion	157 2/8	1998
Chris Lane	Des Moines	Polk	157 1/8	1998
Mike Forney	Tabor	Fremont	157	1998
Trevor G Skalberg	Red Oak	Page	157	1999
Jerry Kaster	Moravia	Appanoose	156 7/8	1997
Joe Crippen	W. Des Moines	Warren	156 3/8	1998
Chad Miller	Moravia	Appanoose	156 3/8	1998
L Brian Schlueter	Dyersville	Clayton	155 6/8	1999
Bryan Person	Urdandale	Dallas	155 3/8	1999
Terry Danielson	Redfield	Dallas	155 1/8	1997
Matt Carlson	Jefferson	Greene	155	1997
Dan Warren	Mitchellville	Polk	155	1999
Jeff French	Johnston	Marion	155	1999
Cory Busch	Boone	Boone	154 6/8	1999
Bryan Till	Bellevue	Jackson	154 4/8	1999
Dan Gilbert	Swisher	Des Moines	154 3/8	1999
Nathan Goedken	Aplington	Clayton	154 3/8	1999
George Cline II	Norwalk	Warren	154 2/8	1998
Rickey W Flanders	Plano	Appanoose	154 2/8	1999
Craig Scott	Moscow	Muscatine	154 1/8	1998
Rich Albright	Washington	Washington	154	1995
Darrell Moose	Waukon	Allamakee	153 6/8	1999
Danny R Kunze	Council Bluffs		153 4/8	1997
Jason Gritsch	Belle Plaine	Des Moines	153 3/8	1999
Gary L Mezera	Monona	Clayton	153 3/8	1998
Ron Marolf	Clio	Wayne	153 2/8	1998
Wayne Squires		Fayette	153 1/8	1998
Mark Seefeldt Jr	Muscatine	Muscatine	153 1/8	1998



Name	City	County	Total Score	Year
David W Diercks	Shell Rock	Butler	153 1/8	1999
Shawn Hornberg	Ames	Boone	153	1999
Jeff Adler	Lovilia	Monroe	152 7/8	1998
Jeff Feickert	Postville	Winneshiek	152 3/8	1999
Ron Johnson	Durango	Dubuque	152 3/8	1999
Kenny Robison	Malcom	Poweshiek	151 7/8	1999
Gerald T Dowell	Pella	Marion	151 6/8	1999
Mark Kuckler	Cedar Rapids	Delaware	151 4/8	1999
Jerry Ohlendorf	Waterloo	Monroe	151 4/8	1998
John Fry	Corydon	Appanoose	151 3/8	1998
Kevin Mc Donald	Amana	Iowa	151 3/8	1999
Tim Marshall	West Burlington	Des Moines	151 2/8	1999
Rich Lewis	Newton	Marion	151 2/8	1995
Harold Barnes	Ottumwa	Monroe	151 1/8	1996
James Elders	Green Mountain	Marshall	151 1/8	1998
Rob Crabb	Winterset	Union	151 1/8	1998
John M Myers	Ankeny	Polk	151	1999
Jason Hesselberg	Long Grove	Scott	150 6/8	1999
Robert D Deskin	Carlisle	Decatur	150 5/8	1999
Troy Matter	Fort Madison	Lee	150 5/8	1999
Chuck Friedman	Cedar Rapids	Linn	150 5/8	1999
Mark Boswell	Davis City	Decatur	150 4/8	1998
Doug Riggen	Knoxville	Marion	150 3/8	1998
Brian P Burke	Waukon	Allamakee	150 1/8	1999
Kelly Smith	Moulton	Appanoose	149 7/8	1999
Richard Pustka	Runnells	Polk	149 7/8	1996
Rollie Schultz	W. Des Moines	Guthrie	149 4/8	1998
Ben Barnhill	Numa	Appanoose	149 3/8	1999
Lyle Askelson	Decorah	Winneshiek	149 2/8	1999
Mark Parette	Coweta	Taylor	149 1/8	1999
James T Finn	Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	149	1999
Rich Albright	Washington	Washington	148 7/8	1993
Jerry Newton	Charles City	Floyd	148 5/8	1999
Dave Cain	Davenport	Muscatine	148 4/8	1998
Steve Pearson	Winterset	Madison	148 2/8	1999
David Luke	Woodward	Boone	148 2/8	1992
Paul M Tegland	Forest City	Winnebago	148	1997
Monty Mc Intire	Afton	Union	147 6/8	1998
Vic Boeding	Scotch Grove	Jones	147 6/8	1999
Bruce Cox	Logan	Harrison	147 5/8	1989



Total  
Score Year  
153 1/8 1999  
153 1999  
152 7/8 1998  
152 3/8 1999  
152 3/8 1999  
151 7/8 1999  
151 6/8 1999  
151 4/8 1999  
151 4/8 1998  
151 3/8 1998  
151 3/8 1999  
151 2/8 1999  
151 2/8 1995  
151 1/8 1996  
151 1/8 1998  
151 1/8 1998  
151 1999  
150 6/8 1999  
150 5/8 1999  
150 5/8 1999  
150 5/8 1999  
150 4/8 1998  
150 3/8 1998  
150 1/8 1999  
149 7/8 1999  
149 7/8 1996  
149 4/8 1998  
149 3/8 1999  
149 2/8 1999  
149 1/8 1999  
149 1999  
148 7/8 1993  
148 5/8 1999  
148 4/8 1998  
148 2/8 1999  
148 2/8 1992  
148 1997  
147 6/8 1998  
147 6/8 1999  
147 5/8 1989

Name	City	County	Taken	Score	Year
Scott Fahrmeister	Solon	Johnson		147 3/8	1999
Ronald G Hellweg	Clinton	Clarke		147 2/8	1999
Chad Seidel	Cedar Falls	Chickasaw		147 2/8	1999
Chris Brown	Grimes	Dallas		147 1/8	1997
Jeff Schaaf	Griswold	Pottawattamie		147 1/8	1999
John Smith	Dixon	Scott		147	1999
Shannon Shepard	Nichols	Van Buren		146 7/8	1998
Dave Despenas	Mason City	Cerro Gordo		146 6/8	1998
Terry Eastin	Clive	Clarke		146 5/8	1999
Joe Smith	Fairfax	Benton		146 5/8	1999
Robert Weaver	Birmingham	Henry		146 2/8	1999
Lane Ostendorf	Sioux City	Harrison		146 1/8	1999
Chuck Seipp	Dubuque	Dubuque		145 6/8	2000
Dennis Strause Jr	Fruitland	Muscatine		145 5/8	1999
Mike Kemble	Yale	Guthrie		145 4/8	1999
Darrell Langworthy	Wauke	Polk		145 4/8	1985
Fred Thompson	Donnellson	Lee		145 4/8	1989
Stan Brown	Polk City	Adair		145 3/8	1999
Jim F Roth	Dubuque	Dubuque		145 2/8	1999
Don Allen II	Mason City	Cerro Gordo		145 1/8	1998
Todd Tobin	Maryville	Taylor		144 7/8	1999
Daryl Roney	Decorah	Winneshiek		144 5/8	1999
Kevin Ellenwood	Indianola	Warren		144 4/8	1998
Paul Ewing	Unionville	Appanoose		144 4/8	1999
Wade Eagle	Muscatine	Muscatine		144 4/8	1999
Marvin Woolridge	Rembrandt	Clay		144 4/8	1999
Jim Keiser	Marengo	Iowa		144 1/8	1973
Michael Driscoll	Brighton	Washington		144 1/8	1999
Gary Pavlovic	Fort Atkinson	Winneshiek		144	1993
Gary Forke	Carroll	Guthrie		143 7/8	1999
Gary Bolden	Cedar Rapids	Van Buren		143 7/8	1998
Andrew B Carpenter	Fayette	Fayette		143 7/8	1999
Rick Dudley	Ottumwa	Wapello		143 7/8	1998
Brad Franson	Villisca	Montgomery		143 6/8	1998
Terry Luke (Crossbow)	Woodward	Dallas		143 6/8	1998
Mike Nelson	Elkhart	Polk		143 6/8	1997
Treve Gray	Allerton	Wayne		143 6/8	1998
Jeffrey Steckel	Dubuque	Dubuque		143 6/8	1999
Mark Larson	Forest City	Winnebago		143 5/8	1999
Dale Caraway	Maquoketa	Jackson		143 4/8	1999
Jim Box	Bloomfield	Appanoose		143 4/8	1999
Tracy Meyers	Cedar Rapids	Jones		143 3/8	1999
Dwayne Wimpey	Miles	Jackson		143 1/8	1998
Kevin Hentland	Iowa Falls	Hardin		142 7/8	1999
Tim Collins	Lynnville	Webster		142 7/8	1999
Mike Nelson	Elkhart	Polk		142 6/8	1997
Harold Luke	Woodward	Boone		142 5/8	1980
Bill Knight	Centerville	Appanoose		142 5/8	1998
Todd Crill	Corning	Adams		142 5/8	1999
Patrick J Sweeney	Dubuque	Dubuque		142 4/8	1999
Tom Kirvin	Windsor Heights			142 3/8	1994
Kevin Forke	Carroll	Guthrie		142 3/8	1999
Leonard Hickey	Shenandoah	Page		142	1999
Gary Havlik	Cedar Rapids	Delaware		141 7/8	1999
Joseph M Sheesley	Knoxville	Marion		141 6/8	1998
William Rowe	Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie		141 5/8	1999
Larry Bird	Dubuque	Clayton		141 5/8	1999
Ronald G Uthe Sr	Dubuque	Jackson		141 4/8	1999
Craig A Owens	Blue Grass	Des Moines		141 3/8	1997
Kent Miller	Sanborn	O'Brien		141 2/8	1999
Robert R Sherrard	Boone	Boone		141 2/8	1998
Tracy Miller	Albion	Marshall		141 1/8	1999
Darrell Brase	Grandview	Louisa		141 1/8	1999
Joe Case	Des Moines	Polk		141	1999
Jeffrey R Coonts	Buffalo	Scott		141	1999
Rick Hammons	Chariton	Lucas		140 6/8	1997
Art Beek	Madrid	Boone		140 6/8	1997
John Mc Ginn	W. Des Moines	Dallas		140 5/8	1994
Jerry Hora	Maquoketa	Jackson		140 4/8	1999

Name	City	County	Taken	Score	Year
Paul J Dirksen	Mason City	Cerro Gordo		140 4/8	1999
Joe Rettenmeier	Dubuque	Jackson		140 3/8	1999
Bryan Stanley	Shenandoah	Fremont		140 3/8	1997
Dean Brittenham	Garwin	Black Hawk		140 3/8	1999
John W Rogers	Blue Grass	Iowa		140 2/8	1997
Michael Davis	Mason City	Worth		140 1/8	1999
Mark Leeper	Webster City	Hamilton		140	1998
Dave Smith	Crescent	Pottawattamie		139 7/8	1998
Jim Davis	Ottumwa	Davis		139 7/8	1999
James E Quinn	Davenport	Muscatine		139 7/8	1998
Marc Headington	Van Meter	Madison		139 5/8	1998
Craig A Owens	Blue Grass	Des Moines		139 5/8	1998
Jeff Conger	Agency	Monroe		139 4/8	
John Byers	Chariton	Wayne		139 2/8	1999
Byron Dean	Griswold	Pottawattamie		139 2/8	1999
Greg Hughes	Charlotte	Clinton		139 1/8	1999
Dennis Strause Jr	Fruitland	Muscatine		139	1999
Robert Smith	Albia	Monroe		139	1999
Chad Fulton	Villisca	Adams		139	1999
Pat J Reiland	Onawa	Wright		138 5/8	1999
Gary Woodson	Elgin	Fayette		138 5/8	1999
Pat Mullin	Charlotte	Clinton		138 4/8	1999
Terry J Meyer	Dubuque	Dubuque		138 1/8	1999
Jace Ohlert	Bellevue	Jackson		138 1/8	1999
Robert Cook	Muscatine	Louisa		137 6/8	1994
Cory J Chilton	Council Bluffs	Monona		137 5/8	1999
Tony A Flesjer	Sioux City	Woodbury		137 5/8	1999
Gary Martin	North Liberty	Johnson		137 5/8	1998
Stuart J Nitzschke	Horrick	Woodbury		137 4/8	1999
Mark Kenyon	Earlham	Madison		137 4/8	1998
Steven L Hardy	West Burlington	Van Buren		137 4/8	1999
Tim Carlson	Blairtown	Benton		137 3/8	1998
Brian Liles	Fairfield	Henry		137 2/8	1999
Gary Dusil	Cedar Rapids	Johnson		137 2/8	1998
Paul Van Hamme	Tama	Tama		137 1/8	1996
Johnny Cook	Maquoketa	Jones		137	1999
Larry Hermanstorfer	Cedar Rapids	Henry		137	1999
Robert H Mace	Dubuque	Dubuque		137	1999
Kevin Bjornsen	Marion	Linn		136 7/8	1999
Mel Miller	Kalona	Washington		136 7/8	1999
Dan Herrmann	Ottumwa	Wapello		136 6/8	1997
Kurtis S Kurschinski	Des Moines	Clarke		136 6/8	1997
George R Briggs	Lisbon	Cedar		136 5/8	1999





## BOW, TYPICAL (continued)

Minimum Qualifying Score - 135 pts.

Name	City	County	Taken	Total Score	Year
Ronald R Hasselbusch	Clarence	Jones		136 5/8	1999
Bill Gadiant	Anamosa	Jones		136 4/8	1999
Dennis Vandenburg	Ottumwa	Lucas		136 3/8	1990
Mike Clapsaddle	Marshalltown	Marshall		136 3/8	1998
Don Allen III	Mason City	Cerro Gordo		136 1/8	1999
Matthew Harms	Forest City	Hancock		136 1/8	1999
Dan Flesch	Duluth	Montgomery		136 1/8	
Kim Olberding	Dyersville	Dubuque		136 1/8	1999
Curtis Athen	Hamburg	Fremont		136 1/8	1997
Jerry Latch	Mason City	Winnebago		136	1999
Eugene Hingtgen	Dubuque	Dubuque		135 6/8	1999
Shane T Millard	W. Des Moines	Polk		135 6/8	1999
Brandon C Moon	Mason City	Floyd		135 4/8	1998
Rick Swarts	Moulton	Appanoose		135 3/8	1998
John F Hoskins	Knoxville	Lucas		135 2/8	1999
Ron Clark	Des Moines	Lucas		135 1/8	1999
Kent Young	Independence	Buchanan		135 1/8	1998
Brant Wobig	Rochester	Winneshiek		135	1998
Tommy Thompson	Bloomfield	Davis		135	1999
Ken Reistroff	Centerville	Davis		135	1997



## PISTOL, NON-TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts

*Bill Fahrenkrog	Davenport	Scott	206 3/8	2000
*Jim C De Fosse	Mediapolis	Des Moines	170 2/8	1999

## PISTOL, TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts

*William H Fahrenkrog	Davenport	Scott	171 4/8	1998
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## MUZZLELOADER, NON-TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts

Name	City	County	Taken	Total Score	Year
*Troy M Matter	Fort Madison	Lee		196 5/8	1998
Gary Martin	North Liberty	Van Buren		193 6/8	1998
Mike Niemann	Underwood	Pottawattamie		193 3/8	1999
Wayne M Lau	Guttenberg	Clayton		189 1/8	1999
Gerald Miller	West Union	Fayette		185 1/8	1999
Jim Wages	West Point	Lee		180 2/8	1999
Randy L Baty	Ottumwa	Wapello		174 7/8	1999
Robert F Hilbert	Clinton	Jackson		173 7/8	1999

## MUZZLELOADER, TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts.

Name	City	County	Taken	Total Score	Year
*Bret Seufferer	Chariton	Wayne		168	1999
Dale Hauptert	Altantic	Cass		167 1/8	1999
Neal Smith	Des Moines	Jones		166 6/8	1999
David Loyd	Perry	Guthrie		162 6/8	1999
David Hill	Independence	Clayton		162 2/8	1999
Jeff Miedema	Pella	Marion		160 6/8	1998
Richard Heckethorn	Brighton	Jefferson		159 4/8	1998
Richard Pustka	Runnels	Appanoose		159 3/8	1997
Kevin Upton	Mystic	Appanoose		158 6/8	1999
Michael J Parker	Dubuque	Dubuque		157 6/8	1998
Richard E Floss	Baxter	Jasper		157 1/8	1999
Travis R Turner	Dysart	Tama		157	1998
Shane Hunter	Pleasant Hill	Boone		155 5/8	1999
Gordon Bolton	Creston	Union		155 3/8	1998
Brian Wehr	Waterloo	Bremer		155	2000
David Fletcher	Chariton	Lucas		154 4/8	1999
Terry Carnagey	Lineville	Decatur		154 4/8	1999
Jack Cahalan	Waterville	Allamakee		153 4/8	1999
Kevin Christensen	Cleghorn	Cherokee		151 6/8	2000
Gene Huling	Denmark	Lee		150 6/8	1999
Bruce Hupke	Carlisle	Warren		150 3/8	2000
Richard E Floss	Baxter	Jasper		150 2/8	1999
Dennis Clayton	Allerton	Wayne		150 2/8	1995

## SHOTGUN, NON-TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 170 pts

Name	City	County	Taken	Total Score	Year
*Donny Grant	Turin	Monona		240	1996
Dennis Case	Keokuk	Lee		208 4/8	1999
Donald Butler	Independence	Lee		207 3/8	1999
Terry Adams	Guthrie Center	Guthrie		206 5/8	1998
Benjamin Christopher	Decorah	Winneshiek		204 2/8	1999
Bob Mc Williams	Deep River	Van Buren		203 3/8	1982
Richard Williams	Villisca			202	1998
Garry Fry	Van Wert	Decatur		200 2/8	1999
Rick King	Clarinda	Page		198 7/8	1984
Harlan Schmadeke	Clarksville	Butler		198 6/8	1999
Larry Joe Lautenbach	Pella	Marion		197 2/8	1998
David L Wetsch	Des Moines	Union		194 3/8	1999
Brad Pruisman	Webster City	Lucas		192 4/8	1999
Bla Ying Yang	Pella	Marion		191 2/8	1998
Jerry Van Muyden	Hawarden	Sioux		190 6/8	1965
Lloyd Patrick	Ottumwa	Wapello		188 5/8	1998
Jerry A Cavin	Clarinda	Page		187 5/8	1998
Frank Kinney	Greenfield	Adair		187 3/8	1999



Total Score Year  
 96 5/8 1991  
 93 6/8 1991  
 93 3/8 1991  
 89 1/8 1991  
 85 1/8 1991  
 80 2/8 1991  
 74 7/8 1991  
 71 7/8 1991  
 68 1991  
 67 1/8 1991  
 66 6/8 1991  
 62 6/8 1991  
 62 2/8 1991  
 60 6/8 1991  
 59 4/8 1991  
 59 3/8 1991  
 58 6/8 1991  
 57 6/8 1991  
 57 1/8 1991  
 57 1991  
 55 5/8 1991  
 55 3/8 1991  
 55 2000  
 54 4/8 1991  
 54 4/8 1991  
 53 4/8 1991  
 51 6/8 2000  
 50 6/8 1991  
 50 3/8 2000  
 50 2/8 1991  
 50 2/8 1991

Steven D Morris	Clarinda	Page	185	1/8	1999
John Mc Elvain	Council Bluffs	Mills	185	1/8	1999
Jason Wulf	Norwalk	Jackson	183	6/8	1999
Bob West	Davenport	Scott	183	3/8	1999
John Stewart	Burlington	Des Moines	183		1970
Greg Gilbert	Osceola	Madison	181	6/8	1998
Joseph Moore	Russell	Lucas	181	5/8	1998
Tom Schmidt	Madrid	Clayton	181	2/8	1993
Nancy Olson	Saint Charles	Madison	180	7/8	1997
Chris Guenther	Des Moines	Warren	180	1/8	1999
Michael Gridley	Cummings	Adams	179	7/8	1996
Mark P Cedar	Cherokee	Cherokee	179	2/8	1998
Dale Schiltz	Bancroft	Kossuth	179	1/8	1998
Frank Stever	Batavia	Van Buren	179	1/8	1997
Russ Walker	Cedar Rapids	Linn	178	3/8	1999
Don Kocour	Missouri Valley	Harrison	178	2/8	1997
Steve Mc Cann	Greenfield	Adair	178	2/8	1997
Greg Gilbert	Osceola	Clarke	177	4/8	1998
Chad Machart	Anamosa	Jones	177		1998
David Wandrey	Schaller	Monona	176	7/8	1989
Kelly Mick	New Sharon	Mahaska	176	4/8	1997
Dave Nelson	Exira	Audubon	176		1995
Gary Coffman	Earlham	Madison	175	5/8	1998
Ed Peterson	Wyoming	Jackson	175	2/8	1999
Steve J Mc Dowell	Keota	Wapello	175	2/8	1998
Keith E Smith	Marion	Winneshiek	174	3/8	1998
Bob Nonneman	Melvin	Lyon	174	1/8	1959
Jack Kuhns	Des Moines	Story	174	1/8	1975
James K Nicholls	Carlisle	Warren	173	7/8	1999
Jerry Lloyd	Jefferson	Guthrie	173	6/8	1999
Dan Dingman	Pella	Marion	173	3/8	1998
Wayne Flatt	Indianola	Adair	172	7/8	1996
Larry Decker	Carbondale	Madison	172	6/8	1997
Loren Brown	Swisher	Johnson	172	3/8	1997
Drexal Wall	Blockton	Taylor	172	2/8	1999
Andy Gabel	Marshalltown	Marshall	172	2/8	1999
Jeff Meyer	Corwith	Humboldt	171	7/8	1999
Benjamin L Dales	Milo	Warren	171	3/8	1999
Chris Rankin	Tracey	Lucas	171	3/8	1995
Allan Johnson	Janesville	Black Hawk	170	6/8	1995
Bill Cook	Blythedale	Decatur	170	2/8	1999
Alex Schaefer	Mc Gregor	Clayton	170	1/8	1998
Jeff Risbeck	Norwalk	Lucas	170		1998

Clint Mohn	Lansing	Allamakee	174	5/8	1999
Jason Ewing	Ortho	Webster	174	5/8	1998
Ted Howell	Sabula	Jackson	174	4/8	1999
Hugh Conway	Harpers Ferry	Allamakee	174	1/8	1998
Charles E Evermann	Winterset	Madison	173	7/8	1995
David Wetsch	Des Moines	Union	173	7/8	1999
Glen A Mc Elroy	Marengo	Monroe	173	4/8	1999
Wayne Van Rees	New Sharon	Mahaska	173	1/8	1980
Grant Mork	Postville	Allamakee	173		1999
Joe Zadina	Corning	Adams	172	7/8	1998
Steve Berkley	Dubuque	Dubuque	172	4/8	1999
Kenneth Paxson	Des Moines	Ringgold	172	4/8	1993
Brandon Slaubaugh	Richland	Jefferson	172		1998
Jason Hazelett	Washington	Washington	171	6/8	1997
Andy Mc Kenzie	Chariton	Wayne	171	5/8	1998
Mike De Moss	Albia	Monroe	171	3/8	1997
Darren Martin	Mount Ayr	Ringgold	171	1/8	1998
Paul Demiter	Webster City	Palo Alto	171		1998
Kevin O'Connell	Melrose	Appanoose	170	5/8	1997
James M Wagner	W. Des Moines	Lucas	170	3/8	1998
Mike J Leshe	Knoxville	Marion	170	2/8	1999
Brent Snow	Lineville	Wayne	170	1/8	1999
Paul Ewing	Unionville	Appanoose	170	1/8	1998
Darron Meinsma	Albia	Monroe	169	5/8	1995
Vince Feehan	Melrose	Monroe	169	1/8	1994
Dwight Peterson	Ottumwa	Wapello	168	4/8	1999
Doug Blegen	Decorah	Winneshiek	168	1/8	
Robert Temple	Davenport	Des Moines	167	5/8	1998
Scott D Clements	Fairfield	Jefferson	167	4/8	1998
John Firth	Centerville	Appanoose	167	2/8	1998
Rick R Baker	Sperry	Des Moines	166	5/8	2000
Max Marlin	Blakesburg	Wapello	166	5/8	1996
Danny D Staruevic	Albia	Jasper	166	5/8	1990
Paul Vander Streek	Pella	Marion	166	3/8	1999
Kevin Gossling	Calmar	Winneshiek	166	1/8	1999
Steve Demoss	Maquoketa	Jackson	166		1999
George De Vore	Wapello	Louisa	165	7/8	1998
Kurt Walderbach	Mason City	Decatur	165	6/8	1998
Kurt W Schmidt	Ionia	Allamakee	165	3/8	1999
Jake Fisher	Sioux City	Monona	164	7/8	1999
Jim Pulscher	Woodbine	Harrison	164	4/8	1996
Ezra Schrock	Wellman	Johnson	164	4/8	1997
Todd Vande Noord	Pella	Marion	164	2/8	1995
Jack E Boyd	Lucas	Lucas	164	2/8	1999
Lynn Telleen	Waverly	Lucas	164		1999
Darrell Deiger	Belmond	Wright	163	5/8	1998
James J Streif	Dubuque	Dubuque	163	5/8	1999
Steve Kleidosty	Oskaloosa	Mahaska	163	5/8	1992
Sean Ide	Oskaloosa	Wapello	163	4/8	1989
Drevel Wall	Blockton	Taylor	163	3/8	1998
James Leger	Dike	Grundy	163		1999
Dick Schmidt	Roland	Allamakee	163		1988
Mark Hartman	Merrill	Plymouth	162	6/8	1998
Rush Brentlinger	Iowa City	Washington	162	4/8	1993
Dale Clark	Corydon	Wayne	162	3/8	1997
Jim Springer	Waverly	Bremer	162	3/8	1999
Jay Cowan	Des Moines	Guthrie	162	2/8	1999
Josh Schneider	Dallas	Marion	162		1999
Mike Burgart	Waterloo	Clayton	162		1996
Mike Bries	New Vienna	Clayton	162		1999
John Jamieson	Lovilia	Monroe	161	6/8	1995
Bill Saddler	Harpers Ferry	Allamakee	161	5/8	1999
Chris Wing	Des Moines	Jasper	161	4/8	1996
Jim Shipley	Burlington	Lee	161	3/8	1997
Raymond Cooper	Marshalltown	Allamakee	161	2/8	1959
Russ Mussmann	Camanche	Jackson	161	1/8	1999
Glen Petersen	Milford	Cherokee	161	1/8	1999
Danny Robertson	Malvern	Taylor	161	1/8	1999
Darin Vorwald	Garber	Clayton	161		1999
Wade De Heer	Dallas	Marion	161		1999
Barry Nelson	Melcher	Marion	160	7/8	1999

## SHOTGUN, TYPICAL

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts.

Name	City	County	Total Score	Year
*Dean Wetzel	Guthrie Center	Guthrie	199	3/8 1998
*Mark Mc Danolds	Mystic	Appanoose	192	1984
Wayne R Watson	Stockport	Van Buren	186	1/8 1992
Troy Mc Kinney	Macksburg	Madison	186	1997
Scott O Poush	Okaloosa	Mahaska	181	3/8 1998
Brent Pettyjohn	Lovilia	Monroe	181	1/8 1998
Robert Hefel	Dubuque	Clayton	180	7/8 1998
Joel Booth	Oxford	Jefferson	180	1/8 1996
Mike Hatzky	North Liberty	Cedar	178	5/8 1999
J.Hakes	Cedar Rapids	Linn	178	2/8 1978
Chris Pruitt	Redfield	Dallas	177	3/8 1995
James H Roberts	Council Bluffs	Mills	177	2/8 1998
Terry Rose	W. Des Moines	Keokuk	176	5/8 1999
Rudolph C. Ashbacher	Hiawatha	Linn	176	1/8 1998
Tom Siefkas	Osceola	Clarke	175	6/8 1968
Jerry D Jackson	Peru	Madison	175	5/8 1998
Dennis P Troyna	New Hampton	Chickasaw	175	3/8 1999
George Hebl	Solon	Johnson	175	2/8 1999
Craig Pollitt	Russell	Lucas	174	7/8 1999

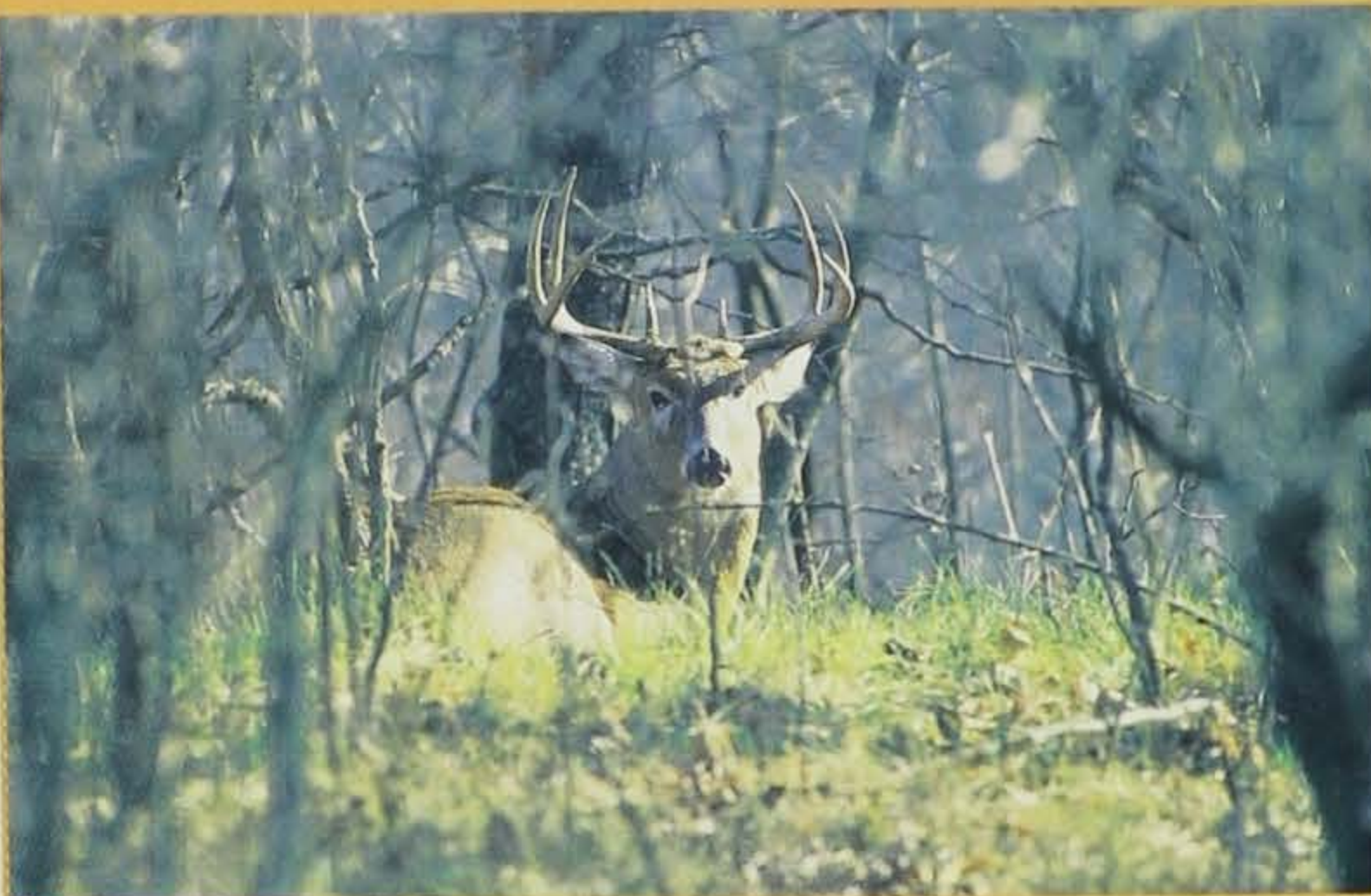
Total Score Year  
 240 1991  
 208 4/8 1991  
 207 3/8 1991  
 206 5/8 1991  
 204 2/8 1991  
 203 3/8 1991  
 202 1991  
 200 2/8 1991  
 198 7/8 1991  
 198 6/8 1991  
 197 2/8 1991  
 194 3/8 1991  
 192 4/8 1991  
 191 2/8 1991  
 190 6/8 1991  
 188 5/8 1991  
 187 5/8 1991  
 187 3/8 1991



## SHOTGUN, TYPICAL (continued)

Minimum Qualifying Score - 150 pts.

Name	City	County	Taken	Score	Year
Scott Reed	Albia	Monroe		160 6/8	1999
Guy Schurz	Spencer	Van Buren		160 6/8	1999
Randy Evans	Story City	Hardin		160 5/8	1999
David L. Schaffer	Milo	Warren		160 4/8	1999
Pete Nelson	Fairfield	Wapello		160 4/8	1998
William A. Navin	Des Moines	Jefferson		160 4/8	1997
Chris Cummings	Elgin	Clayton		160 3/8	1998
Bob Fluegge	Albia	Appanoose		160 3/8	1994
Eugene Wuchter	Delhi	Delaware		160 3/8	1983
Wayne Sterling	New Sharon	Mahaska		160 2/8	1998
Jim M. Berendes	Bellevue	Jackson		160	1998
Eugene Goos	Glenwood	Mills		159 6/8	2000
Wayne Langstraat	Columbia	Marion		159 5/8	1995
John Michaelson Sr.	Guthrie Center	Boone		159 5/8	1994
Kevin Lundin	Bellevue	Jackson		159 3/8	1987
Jeremy Belloma	Mystic	Appanoose		159 1/8	1999
Nathan Jones	Ackworth	Warren		158 7/8	1997
Vern Bertelsen	Underwood	Pottawattamie		158 4/8	1998
Dwayne Wimpey	Miles	Jackson		158 2/8	1995
Shane Clark	Urbana	Lucas		158 2/8	1998
Chad Mc Clintock	Essex	Page		158 1/8	1998
Tim Thompson	Donnellson	Henry		157 7/8	1998



Dale Cress	Center Point	Linn		157 7/8	1999
Rick Davis	Missouri Valley	Harrison		157 6/8	1998
Donnie Brinning	Brighton	Washington		157 5/8	1999
Randy Suchomel	Van Home	Fayette		157 3/8	1999
Richard Gaunitz	Lansing	Allamakee		157 2/8	1972
Don Henderson	W. Des Moines	Dallas		157 1/8	1998
Kevin King	Clarinda	Page		157 1/8	1998
Alan Illum	Marshalltown	Marshall		156 7/8	1999
Casey Kirkmann	Massena	Cass		156 6/8	1998
Ryan Bennett	Melrose	Wayne		156 6/8	1998
Don Angel	Waukon	Allamakee		156 5/8	1998
John Bakley	Osceola	Clarke		156 4/8	1997
Jeffrey De Ronde	Russell	Lucas		156 4/8	1998
Doug Christiansen	Sioux City	Monona		156 2/8	1999
Steve Devcore	Barnes City	Mahaska		156 1/8	1997
Eric Fry	Corydon	Wayne		155 7/8	1998
Paul Fountain II	Doubs	Van Buren		155 7/8	1997
Rod Youngberg	New Hartford	Butler		155 6/8	1999
Farrel Gabriel	Conesville	Louisa		155 6/8	1997

Name	City	County	Taken	Score	Year
Gerald K. Allen	Cedar Rapids	Henry		155 6/8	1999
Wayne Bain	Ankeny	Madison		155 5/8	1994
Mike Raue	Vinton	Van Buren		155 4/8	1999
Arnold Meyer	Dyersville	Dubuque		155 3/8	1963
Tim Clausen	Des Moines	Clinton		155 3/8	1998
Duane C. Baumler	Decorah	Winneshiek		155 3/8	1999
Eric Mathis	Marion	Allamakee		155 1/8	1999
George Frye	Albia	Monroe		155	1999
Tarrell Keuning	Prairie City	Polk		155	1996
David Schildroth	Thorton	Worth		154 6/8	1999
Randy Hall	Creston	Union		154 6/8	1991
Mack Teachout	Farragut	Fremont		154 5/8	1999
Kent Vander Leest	Prairie City	Jasper		154 5/8	1997
Bob Fletcher	Cedar Rapids	Clinton		154 3/8	1999
Scott Schultz	Creston	Union		154 2/8	1998
Brian Walker	Bloomfield	Davis		154 1/8	1998
Tim Irvine	Castalia	Allamakee		154	1999
Randy Hixson	Cedar Rapids	Johnson		154	1999
Ken Davis	Marshalltown	Marshall		153 6/8	1998
Bruce Main	Des Moines	Ringgold		153 6/8	1996
Dan Conway	Lansing	Allamakee		153 5/8	1999
Pat Mc Larnand	Milo	Warren		153 4/8	1999
Brett Koch	Waukon	Allamakee		153 4/8	1999
Thomas Polito	Berwick	Appanoose		153 3/8	1998
Garry Fry	Van Wert	Decatur		153 3/8	1997
Laurel L. Ely	Kellogg	Jasper		153 2/8	1997
William H. Biwer	Charles City	Floyd		153 2/8	1998
Richard Bishop	Indianola	Monroe		153 2/8	1999
Dale L. Christiansen	Anamosa	Jones		153 1/8	1999
Dan Sheekles	Strawberry Point	Clayton		153 1/8	1999
Robert Creveling	Osceola	Clarke		153	1975
Mike Morales	Grimes	Polk		152 7/8	1996
Mike Kelley	Onawa	Monona		152 7/8	1998
Craig Spangler	Bennett	Cedar		152 6/8	1996
Chuck Cornelius	Bellevue	Jackson		152 6/8	1999
Rick Evers	Mystic	Appanoose		152 5/8	1998
Bob Neville	Odebolt	Monona		152 5/8	1998
Mike First	Clarinda	Page		152 3/8	1999
John M. Porter	Sioux City	Woodbury		152 2/8	1964
Bruce A. Sanburn	Mitchellville	Warren		152 2/8	1996
Jerry Kaster	Moravia	Appanoose		151 6/8	1995
Rob Lee	Carlisle	Warren		151 6/8	1989
Dennis Troyna	New Hampton	Chickasaw		151 6/8	1975
Dude Hoehns	Knoxville	Marion		151 6/8	1999
Eric Fry	Corydon	Lucas		151 5/8	1996
Adam Henle	Toledo	Tama		151 4/8	1998
Brian Jackson	Peru	Madison		151 4/8	1997
Eric Lonnevik	Meservey	Montgomery		151 3/8	1999
Kevin Dykstra	Decorah	Allamakee		151 3/8	1987
Bruce Hagemeyer	Pella	Decatur		151 2/8	1998
Jerry D. Jackson	Peru	Madison		151 2/8	1966
Richard Gaunitz	Lansing	Allamakee		151 1/8	1973
Ivan Eden	Center Junction	Jones		151	1997
Greg L. Brazzel	Dunlap	Crawford		150 6/8	1998
Bruce Buntmeyer	Camanche	Clinton		150 6/8	1999
Duane Fisher	West Chester	Washington		150 6/8	1998
Jerry Hannen	Ankeny	Delaware		150 5/8	1999
Brian Howell	Cedar Rapids	Linn		150 3/8	1998
Brent Wurster	Mount Ayr	Ringgold		150 3/8	1998
Daniel Thomas	Delta	Davis		150 2/8	1998
Clinton R. Lilyquist	Longville	Marshall		150 2/8	1999
Doug Jaeger	Keota	Keokuk		150 1/8	1983
Ron Mc Ginnis	Dubuque	Dubuque		150	1999
Kevin Hedrick	Dubuque	Jackson		150	1999
Eric Rediske	Mabel	Winneshiek		150	1995
Randy Foote	Stanton	Montgomery		150	1999
Lance Heilik	Garner	Allamakee		150	1997
Dennis L. Litterer	Nashua	Allamakee		150	1979
Cory Ellison	Moravia	Appanoose		150	1998



# ALL-TIME TOP 10 RECORD RACKS

## SHOTGUN, TYPICAL

Name	City	County	Year	Total Score
Harold Dickman, Sr.	Woodbine	Harrison	1964	200-2/8
Wayne A. Bills	Des Moines	Hamilton	1974	199-5/8
*Dean Wetzel	Guthrie Center	Guthrie	1998	199 3/8
Kenneth Tilford	Lamoni	Decatur	1985	198-1/8
Michael R. Edle	Danville	Des Moines	1989	196-4/8
George L. Ross	Ottumwa	Wapello	1969	195-1/8
Forest N. Richardson	New Virginia	Warren	1989	194-3/8
W Eugene Ziegrowsky	Washington	Van Buren	1997	192-7/8
John Chase	Glenwood	Mills	1997	192 2/8
*Mark McDanolds	Mystic	Appanoose	1984	192

## MUZZLELOADER, TYPICAL

Name	City	County	Year	Total Score
Jerry W. Conover	Sioux City	Monona	1990	182-7/
Ron Murray	Missouri Valley	Harrison	1998	179 1/8
John Russell	Blue Grass	Muscatine	1997	172-4/8
Ric Bishop	Eldridge	Keokuk	1997	172-1/8
John S. Cook	Maquoketa	Jones	1997	170-6/8
Bruce L. Hupke	Carlisle	Warren	1994	170-3/8
Patrick G. Burkle	Earlville	Clayton	1990	170-2/8
Ben Puttmann	Washuta	Cherokee	1998	170 0/8
Charles Hixson	Chariton	Lucas	1989	170
*Bret Seufferer	Chariton	Wayne	1999	168

## PISTOL, TYPICAL

Name	City	County	Year	Total Score
*William H. Fahrenkrog	Davenport	Scott	1998	171 4/8
Dave Hotz	Cedar Rapids	Louisa	1998	161
Lloyd Hayes	Washington	Washington	1998	150-1/8

## BOW, TYPICAL

Name	City	County	Year	Total Score
Lloyd Goad	Knoxville	Monroe	1962	197-6/8
*Dan A. Whalen	Des Moines	Dallas	1999	195 1/8
Robert Miller	Wyoming	Jones	1977	194-2/8
Steven E. Tyer	North Liberty	Johnson	1994	194
Roy Allison	Knoxville	Monroe	1995	193-5/8
Jeffery L. Whisker	Clinton	Scott	1993	191
Richard B. Swin	Des Moines	Polk	1981	190-5/8
Randy Petersburg	Waukon	Allamakee	1996	189 1/8
Kevin Peterson	Mediapolis	Des Moines	1989	188-1/8
Dave Zima	Blair	Monona	1996	186-4/8

## SHOTGUN, NON-TYPICAL

Name	City	County	Year	Total Score
Larry Raveling	Emmetsburg	Clay	1973	282
Lyle Spitznogle	Wapello	Louisa	1982	258-2/8
David Mandersheid	Welton	Jackson	1977	256-7/8
Carroll Johnson	Moorhead	Monona	1968	256-2/8
Larry J. Caldwell	Des Moines	Warren	1990	248-6/8
Don Boucher	Albion	Marshall	1961	245-3/8
Carl Wenke	Cedar Rapids	Lee	1972	245
Robert Wonderlich	Oskaloosa	Monroe	1970	244-6/8
Donny Grant	Turin	Monona	1996	240 -0/
Wendell R. Prottzman	Mt. Pleasant	Henry	1988	231-1/8

## MUZZLELOADER, NON-TYPICAL

Name	City	County	Year	Total Score
Mike Moody	Hamburg	Fremont	1990	210-2/8
Vincent P. Jauron	Harlan	Monona	1990	209-1/8
Daniel Kauffman	Wapello	Louisa	1984	205-3/8
Jeff Tussey	Creston	Union	1995	205
Jeremy Williams	Clarinda	Page	1998	202 5/8
Denny Baum	Ottumwa	Wapello	1990	202-1/8
Mike Garber	Eldon	Wapello	1996	200 6/8
Dean Beyer	Osage	Mitchell	1991	200-5/8
*Troy M. Matter	Fort Madison	Lee	1998	196 5/8
Jim Evans	Muscatine	Muscatine	1995	196
Steve Mundell	Ottumwa	Monroe	1991	196

## PISTOL, NON-TYPICAL

Name	City	County	Year	Total Score
Bob C Garside	Greenfield	Adair	1998	211-5/8
*Bill Fahrenkrog	Davenport	Scott	2000	206 3/8
*Jim C. DeFosse	Mediapolis	Des Moines	1999	170 2/8

## BOW, NON-TYPICAL

Name	City	County	Year	Total Score
Russ Clarken	Desoto	Dallas	1994	236-7/8
Mike Hobart	Prole	Madison	1993	229-5/8
Terry M. Long	Des Moines	Polk	1995	229-4/8
Jack Schuler Jr.	Indianola	Decatur	1995	227
Jerry M. Monson	Clear Lake	Cerro Gordo	1977	222-1/8
Ric Porske	Davenport	Scott	1996	221 6/8
David Propst	Duncombe	Webster	1987	219-3/8
Blaine R. Salzkorn	Sutherland	Clay	1970	218-1/8
George A. Smith	Monona	Allamakee	1991	217-4/8
Chris Hackney	Allerton	Wayne	1983	215-5/8



# Putting Fish and Wildlife Thieves Out of Business



by Steve Dermand

Ken Formanek

From California to Connecticut, Alaska to Alabama, nearly every state in the nation has some form of "turn in poachers" or "operation game thief" program. In fact, most Canadian provinces and even a few European countries have programs aimed at catching fish and wildlife thieves.

Iowa is a member the International Association of Natural Resources Crimestoppers (IANRC), which serves as a common link between member states and countries. Fish and wildlife crime information can be easily exchanged in cases where poachers are active in more than one state or country. The alliance provides each state the ability to refer a caller to fish and wildlife law enforcement agents in the state where the poaching was witnessed.

The Iowa program, Turn-In-Poachers (TIP), began in August 1985. The organization was established by concerned sportsmen and sportswomen under the guidance of the DNR law enforcement bureau. Both organizations recognized the need for an additional tool to aid in the fight against poaching.

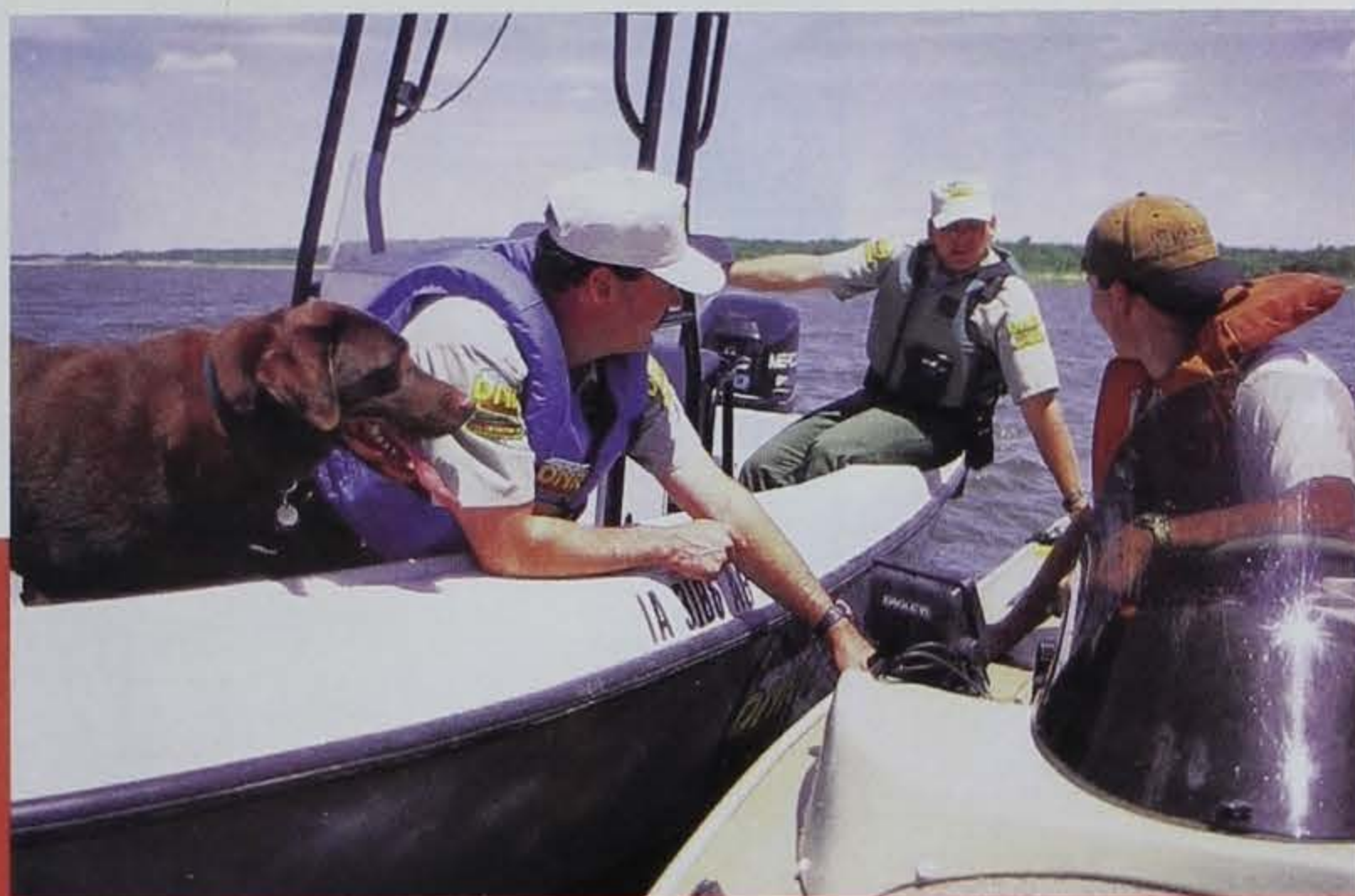
TIP is a private, nonprofit corporation of dedicated sportsmen and women from all over Iowa who serve as board members. Each board member represents a conservation organization from around the state, including the Iowa Bowhunters Association, Izaak Walton League of America, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Wildlife Federation, Iowa County Conservation Boards, Whitetails Unlimited, Iowa Trappers Association and others.

The responsibility for the Iowa TIP program is shared by the TIP Board of Directors and the DNR. The department

**LEFT:** Iowa's Turn In Poachers Program is determined to stop the theft of Iowa's precious natural resources.

**UPPER CENTER, UPPER RIGHT:** Whether it be fish or wildlife violations, conservation officers are on call 24 hours a day to investigate suspected violations.





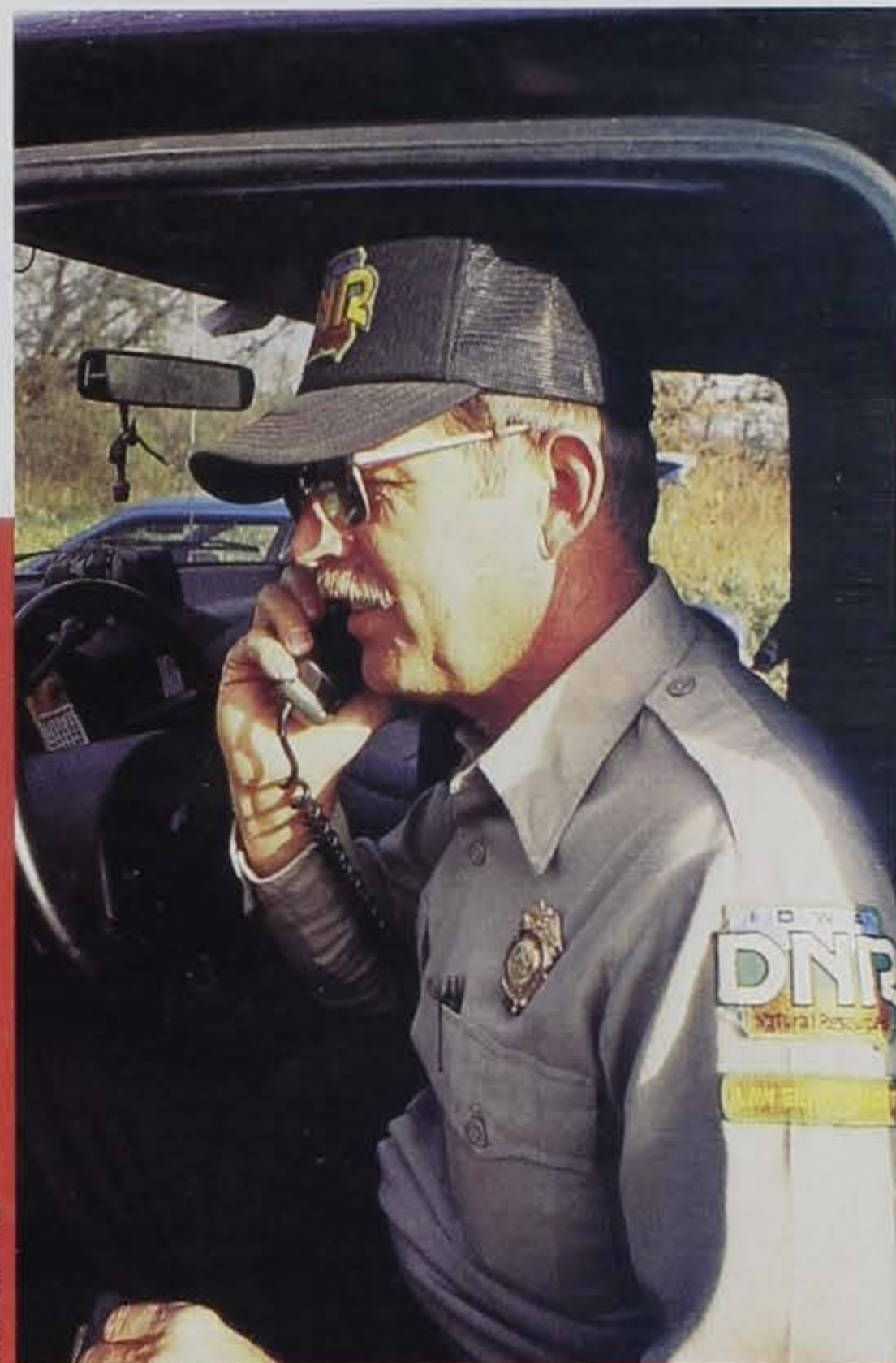
Clay Smith

receives and records reports of fish or game violations through a toll-free telephone number, routes the confidential information to DNR officers for investigation and arranges reward payments to informants through the TIP board.

A reward committee determines if payments should be approved and/or paid on a case-by-case basis. In order for a TIP report/case to be eligible for a cash reward, the investigating officer must have written at least one citation. A conviction is not required for a reward to be approved.

The TIP board establishes operating policies and also solicits private funds to support the program. All rewards paid to informants on successful cases are private funds, which the TIP board collects through membership fees, private donations and sale of promotional items such as T-shirts and caps. The TIP organization also promotes the program through videotapes, public service advertising, brochures and bumper stickers.

The department provides an employee to serve as TIP coordinator and the TIP "hotline" (800/532-2020). The



Ken Formanek

## The Fight Against Poaching Starts At Home

The key in the fight against poaching is stopping poachers before they get started. Educating Iowa's youth about the importance of respecting their environment helps shape attitudes for the future. Whether as a parent, grandparent, neighbor or simply a friend, set a good example for those who are just getting started in the outdoor sports.

- ◆ Take a youngster with you on an outing, whether it's hunting, fishing, camping, mushrooming or just walking in the woods.
- ◆ Be a teacher and mentor to those who look up to you for direction and guidance.
- ◆ Show them the legal and ethical way to hunt and fish. It will help them have a healthy and long-lasting appreciation for our fish and wildlife resources.

They, in turn, can pass these same values down to other young people to follow.

Roger A. Hill



toll-free TIP number is monitored 24 hours a day for citizens to report fish or wildlife crimes. Citizens are encouraged to use the toll-free line when reporting poaching information, however, it is not a general information number.

## What Is Poaching?

Poaching is the illegal hunting, fishing or trapping of any fish or wildlife, either game or nongame species. Poaching can involve fish, reptiles and amphibians, birds of prey, songbirds, waterfowl, upland game birds, small game, deer, turkey and furbearers.

Iowa fish and wildlife violations are classified into a few basic areas:

- hunting, fishing or trapping during closed season or in a closed zone
- hunting, fishing or trapping without the required licenses
- hunting, fishing, or trapping in a restricted area or on private land without permission
- using illegal methods to take fish or wildlife
- illegally possessing fish or wildlife
- taking or possessing protected nongame species

## Who is a poacher?

There is no single profile of a poacher. Anyone could be a poacher — men or women, from all walks of life, from all professions. In fact, Iowa has successfully prosecuted poaching cases involving teachers, truck drivers, doctors, lawyers, farmers, ministers, bankers, housewives and others.

What motivates these seemingly law-abiding people to break fish and wildlife laws? For some, the rationale is a once-in-a-lifetime chance at a trophy whitetail. For others, it might be the "thrill" of skirting the law during nightly raccoon spotlighting. Still others might be tempted by "head hunting" trophy deer during the off season for the sheer monetary value of their antlers. Maybe it's simply bragging rights.

Whatever the reason or whomever the person, whether it be keeping one-too-many catfish, taking a trophy buck out-of-season or shooting a trumpeter swan, it is still poaching. It is not sport



TIP organizers are always on the lookout for ways to make the program — and toll-free number — more visible. In the past, Hy-Vee Food Stores has helped by printing TIP information on grocery sacks.

hunting or sport fishing by any stretch of the imagination

## Why Get Involved?

Citizen involvement is a must for TIP to be effective. Iowans can take an active role in putting fish and wildlife thieves out of business. Anyone witnessing or having knowledge of poaching activity should call the TIP HOTLINE at 1-800/532-2020 immediately. The sooner the call is made, the better the chances of catching the violator.

TIP rewards typically range from \$100 for small game, fish, birds and furbearing animals; \$150 for wild turkey and raptors; \$250 for deer, elk, moose and black bear; and \$1,000 for threatened or endangered species or commercial poaching operations. However, rewards may vary depending upon the details of the case.

Remember, poachers are thieves stealing our fish and wildlife resources. And you can help stop them.

## TIP(ping) The Scales In Favor Of Fish And Wildlife

To report a violation simply call TIP on the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-532-2020. A TIP operator is available to answer calls 24 hours a day. Callers may remain anonymous. Be prepared to give the details of the violation to the TIP operator before making the call. Include:

- ✓ physical description and names of suspect(s);
- ✓ suspect vehicle description and license plate;
- ✓ exact time and location of the crime;
- ✓ the name of anyone who witnessed the crime take place;
- ✓ what type of fish or wildlife was poached;
- ✓ location of any evidence involved in the crime;
- ✓ any additional information that could help an officer make an arrest.

Reports are issued a case number and assigned to a state conservation officer in the area where the crime took place. All investigations are conducted under the same guidelines as any other law enforcement investigation.

*Steve Derman is the TIP coordinator for the department.*

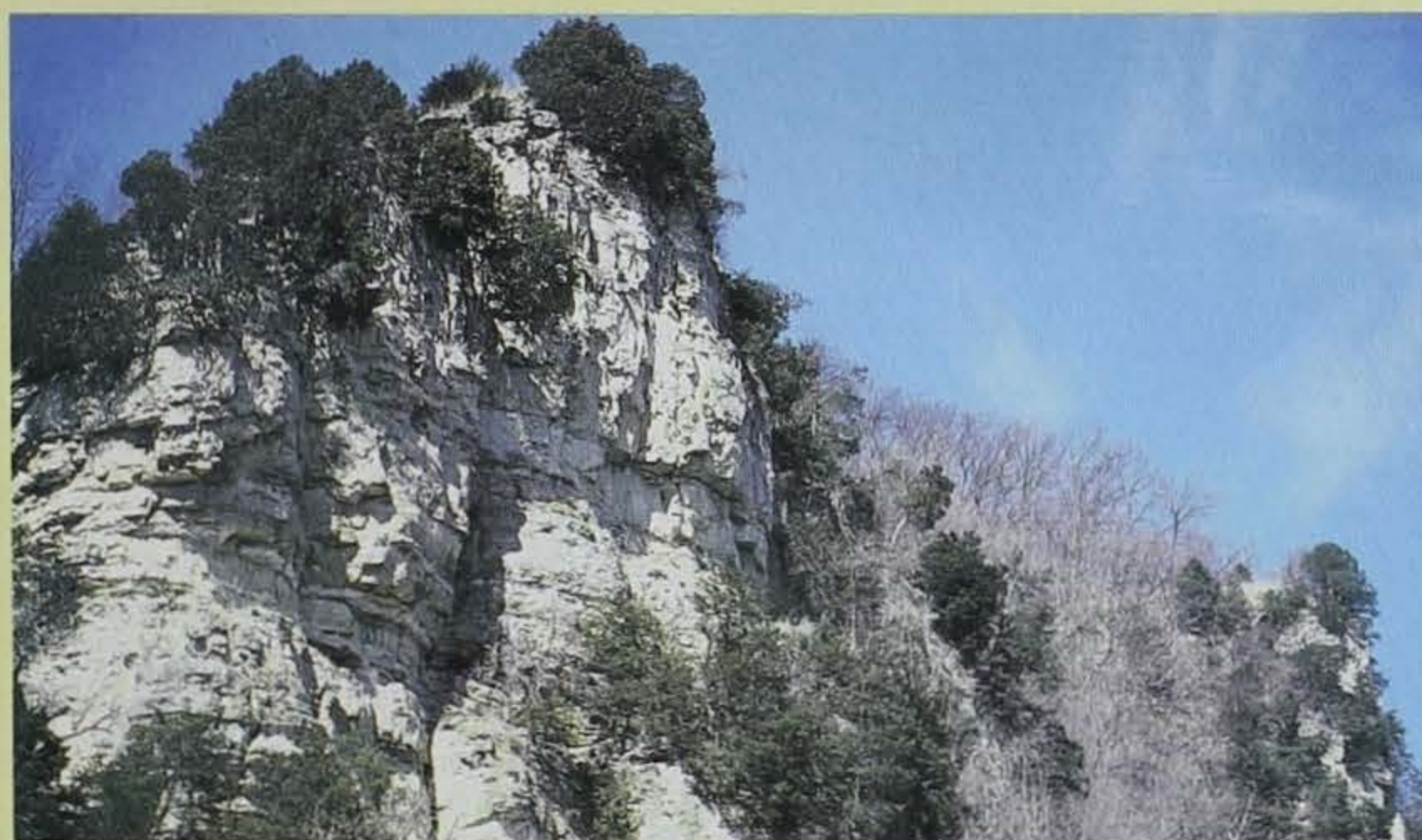
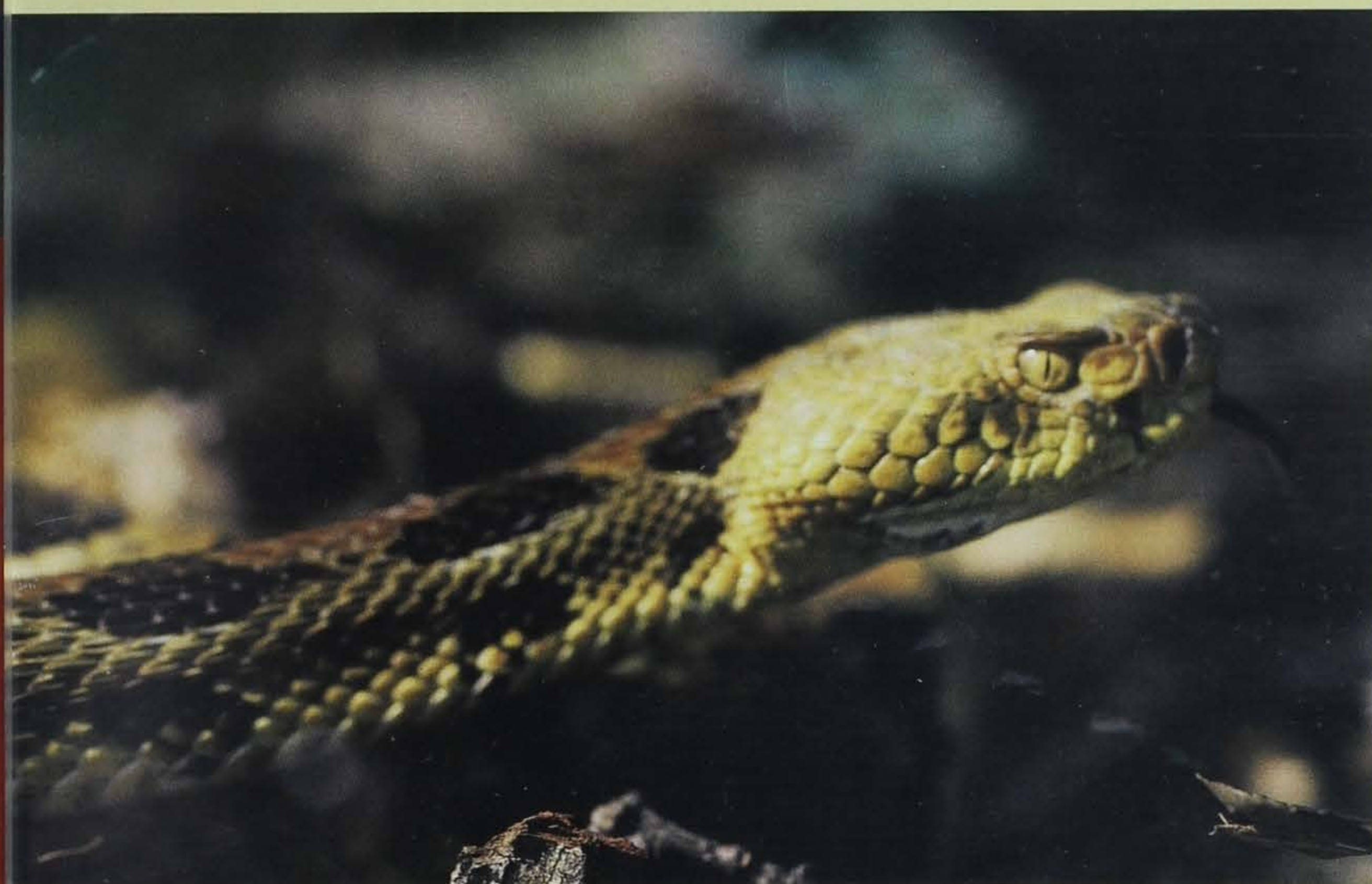


Protected Status Granted to

# *Iowa Timber*

Article and photos by Lowell Washburn

# **RATTLESNAKES**

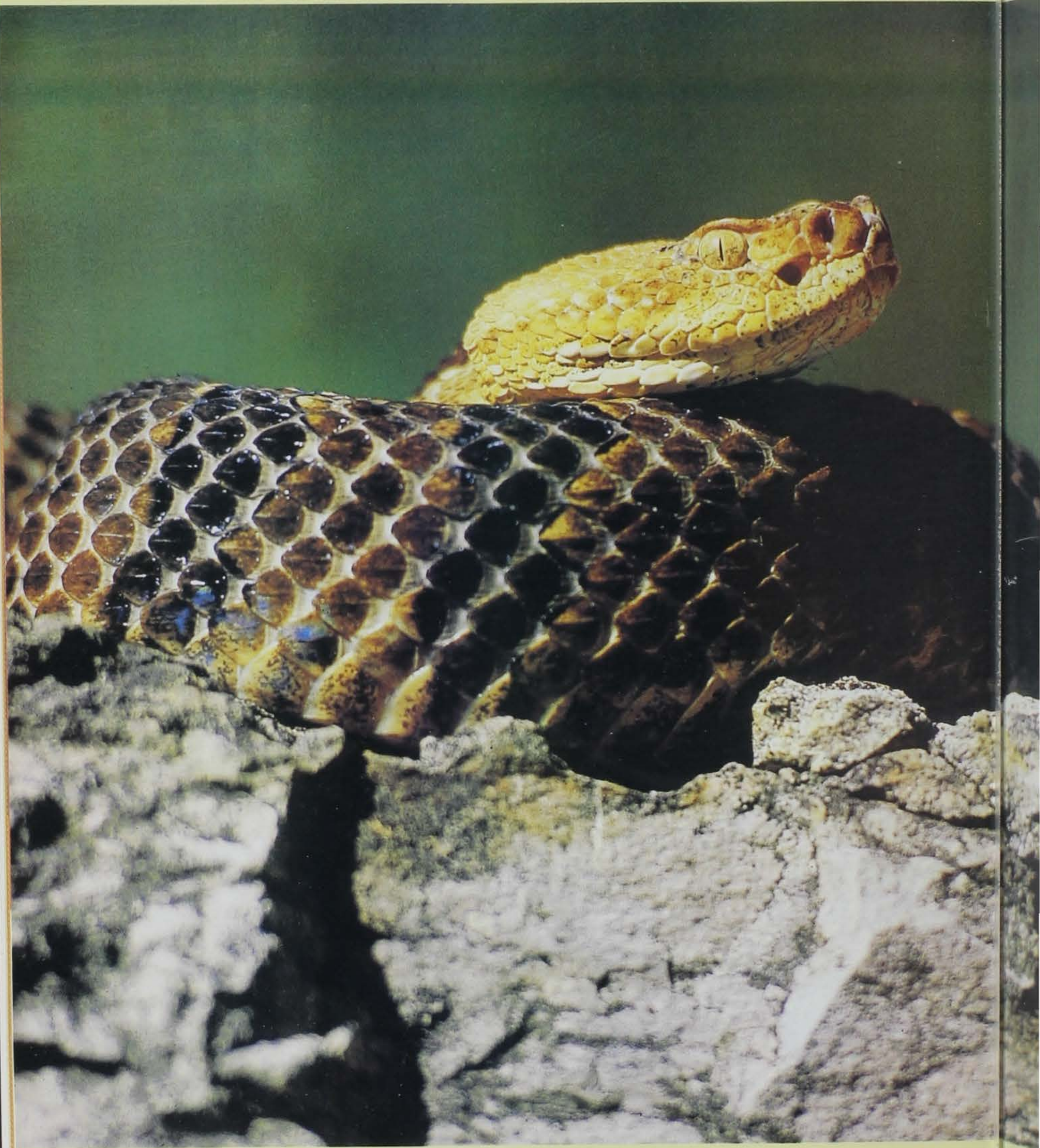


At its regular August meeting, the Iowa Natural Resource Commission unanimously approved a measure giving legal protection to common garter snakes and timber rattlesnakes. European starlings and house sparrows are now the only nongame wildlife species remaining unprotected in Iowa.

"This rule change simply gives garter snakes and timber rattlesnakes the same protection already afforded to all other nongame wildlife," says Kim Bogenschutz, DNR nongame wildlife biologist.

**Allamakee County river bluffs, typical rocky habitat of timber rattlers.**









"During the public comment period we heard from a number of Iowans regarding this rule. Nearly everyone was in favor of protecting garter snakes, and although the majority also favored protecting timber rattlers, that species was more controversial," says Bogenschutz.

Much of that controversy stemmed from misinterpretation of the rule. Several people, for example, were opposed to listing the timber rattler as an endangered species — which the rule does not. Others thought they would "be arrested" if they killed a rattler in self defense — also not the case.

"What we [DNR staff] are trying to do is protect the species before we see any major decline in numbers," says Bogenschutz. "In other words, we're trying to keep common species common."

There is no question the timber rattlesnake is a potentially dangerous reptile. But they are also an extremely nonaggressive and secretive species. Most Iowans, including those who live in the heart of "snake country," will never see one.

"Our rule change was mainly aimed at collectors who are intentionally seeking out and removing rattlesnakes from their habitats," says Bogenschutz. "Timber rattlesnakes are currently listed as endangered or threatened in 18 states. Until now, Iowa has remained vulnerable to the pet trade. Iowa has, in fact, been the only state where the species could be legally collected for commercial or private purposes." [The rattles, meat, hide and venom all have commercial value.]

DNR conservation officer Mike Ouverson has been studying Iowa timber rattlers for eight years — mainly near the Mississippi River in Allamakee, Dubuque and Jackson counties. In his assessment, the time to protect rattlesnakes is past due.

"Although we don't have a lot of background data on Iowa rattlesnakes, I think everyone agrees that they have declined," says Ouverson.

"Timber rattlesnakes have an extremely low reproductive rate. Most females don't breed until they're 8 to 11 years old, and will only mate every second or third year. They only bear six to 10 young, and most of

those will die during the first year. It doesn't take much imagination to see how a population could decline," he says.

According to Ouverson, timber rattlesnakes are most vulnerable at communal den sites — especially during spring and fall. Rattlers use the same sites year after year. However, upon emerging from spring hibernation, males may travel up to four or five miles from the site. Females, especially pregnant ones, remain at or near the den.

"When people go to a den site and pick up rattlesnakes, they're mainly collecting the pregnant females," says Ouverson. "It's easy to see how just one collector can have a huge impact. If snake numbers at a particular site are already reduced, a person who removes just three to five females can have a devastating effect."

Ouverson, along with two friends, are currently engaged in educational programs that bring live snakes — including timber rattlers — and Iowans together. The word is out and demand runs high. Although not every request is met, the trio does try to conduct at least 100 programs per year, mainly aimed at school-age kids. They've had to give up the smaller classroom presentations and now focus mainly on school assemblies or entire grade blocks.

"I guess that one of our main goals is to have people come away with the idea that snakes are beneficial, that they're worth having around," says Ouverson. "Rattlesnake venom is currently being used in research for heart disease, cancer, AIDS, MS, arthritis and in the production of medicines."


"The foremost idea is that Iowa's timber rattlesnakes are as much a part of the natural system as any other wildlife species. They are also a sentinel species. If the snakes are disappearing, then something is going on in that habitat that we need to be aware of."

"The timber rattlesnake is one of our last wilderness species, and we want to let Iowans know that it's worth saving."







A male prairie chicken is shown in profile, facing right. It has a large, bright yellow and red air sack on its neck, a yellow face with a black stripe through the eye, and a black crest. The bird is standing in a field of tall, dry grass. The background is a soft-focus landscape with more grass and a hazy horizon.

Article by Mel Moe  
Photos by Roger A. Hill

# Something to Boom About

**T**he birdwatchers shivered in the chilly dawn of the early April morning. Braving the chilled air was worth it, however. On a ridge top, a few hundred yards east of the observation deck where the group gathered, 14 male prairie chickens vied for the affections of the four hens visiting the site. These communal display areas -- booming grounds as they are known -- are where male prairie chickens can be found each spring during March, April and May. The booming comes from the sounds these birds make with special air sacks on their necks while they perform ritualistic movements and fighting. For close to 50 years, prairie chickens were not found in Iowa. How they returned to the state is an interesting wildlife management success story.

From the time of European settlement in the mid-19th century up to about 1900, prairie chickens commonly nested throughout Iowa. Their preferred habitat was an open, treeless expanse of grassland, something found across the state at that time, but quite scarce in Iowa now.

During the late 19th century, prairie chickens were the most abundant gamebird on the Iowa prairies and hunting and trapping them was very important to settlers, both for food and market. As agricultural land-use intensified, prairie chickens declined. By the 1950s the only known nesting prairie chickens were in the southern Iowa counties of Appanoose, Wayne and Ringgold. The last verified nesting prior to reintroduction attempts was in Appanoose County in 1952.

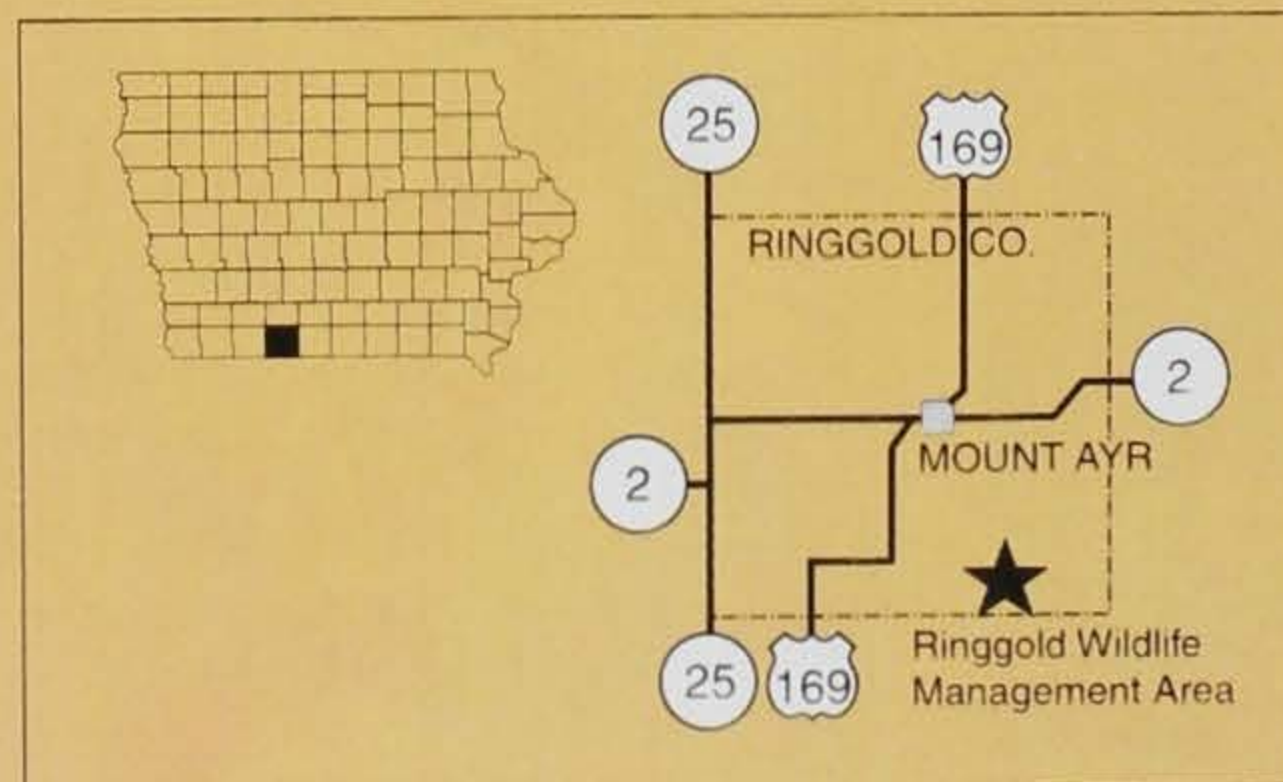
In the early 1980s, the Iowa Conservation Commission, now the Iowa DNR, made an unsuccessful attempt to restore prairie chickens in the loess hills of western Iowa. A second reintroduction program was initiated by the Iowa DNR in 1987. That release was on the Ringgold Wildlife Area two miles north of the Missouri border in Ringgold County. The DNR considered the



The Kellerton Bird Conservation Area is an initiative between the DNR and Partners in Flight, an international group focusing on saving nesting habitats. The viewing platform at the site is handicapped-accessible and continuously open to visitors.



Mel Moe



region to be the best potential prairie chicken habitat in Iowa. Recent times had brought positive changes in the grasslands of the area and it was hoped these changes would provide suitable habitat for prairie chickens once again. One of the changes involved the restoration of approximately 500 acres of prairie on the Ringgold Wildlife Area. Better pasture management by some area farmers and the Conservation Reserve Program — which converted thousands of acres of cropland into mostly undisturbed grasslands — also helped.

The birds targeted for reintroduction were obtained from Kansas. Crews from Iowa trapped the prairie chickens in the spring on booming grounds and immediately hauled them to Iowa where they were released. From 1987 to 1989, 254 prairie chickens were moved from Kansas to the Ringgold Wildlife Area. Another 295 birds were stocked in Ringgold and Adair counties from 1991 to 1993.

The program has proven successful. This spring there were several prairie chicken booming grounds in Ringgold and Decatur counties and in nearby areas of Missouri, as well as numerous sightings in Wayne County.

To ensure at least minimal habitat for prairie chickens and other grassland birds in the future, the DNR and Partners in Flight developed the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area. The goal of this project is to have a core area of 2,000 acres of publicly owned and managed grasslands within a 10,000-acre block containing at least another 2,000 acres of grassland habitat. To date, the DNR, in cooperation with numerous contributing partners, has acquired 680 acres. The area is being managed to provide optimal habitat. The DNR and WoodLink, Ltd., a manufacturer of quality bird houses and bird feeders, have constructed a raised viewing platform from which prairie chickens can be observed on the largest known



booming ground in Iowa. Viewing is best within an hour of sunrise or sunset during March and April, with some activity continuing through the end of May. On fair-weather mornings, males can also be seen on the site from mid-October through February. The viewing platform, which is handicapped-accessible, is open to visitors continuously. Visitors are asked to respect no trespassing signs which have been posted to avoid disturbance of the booming ground.



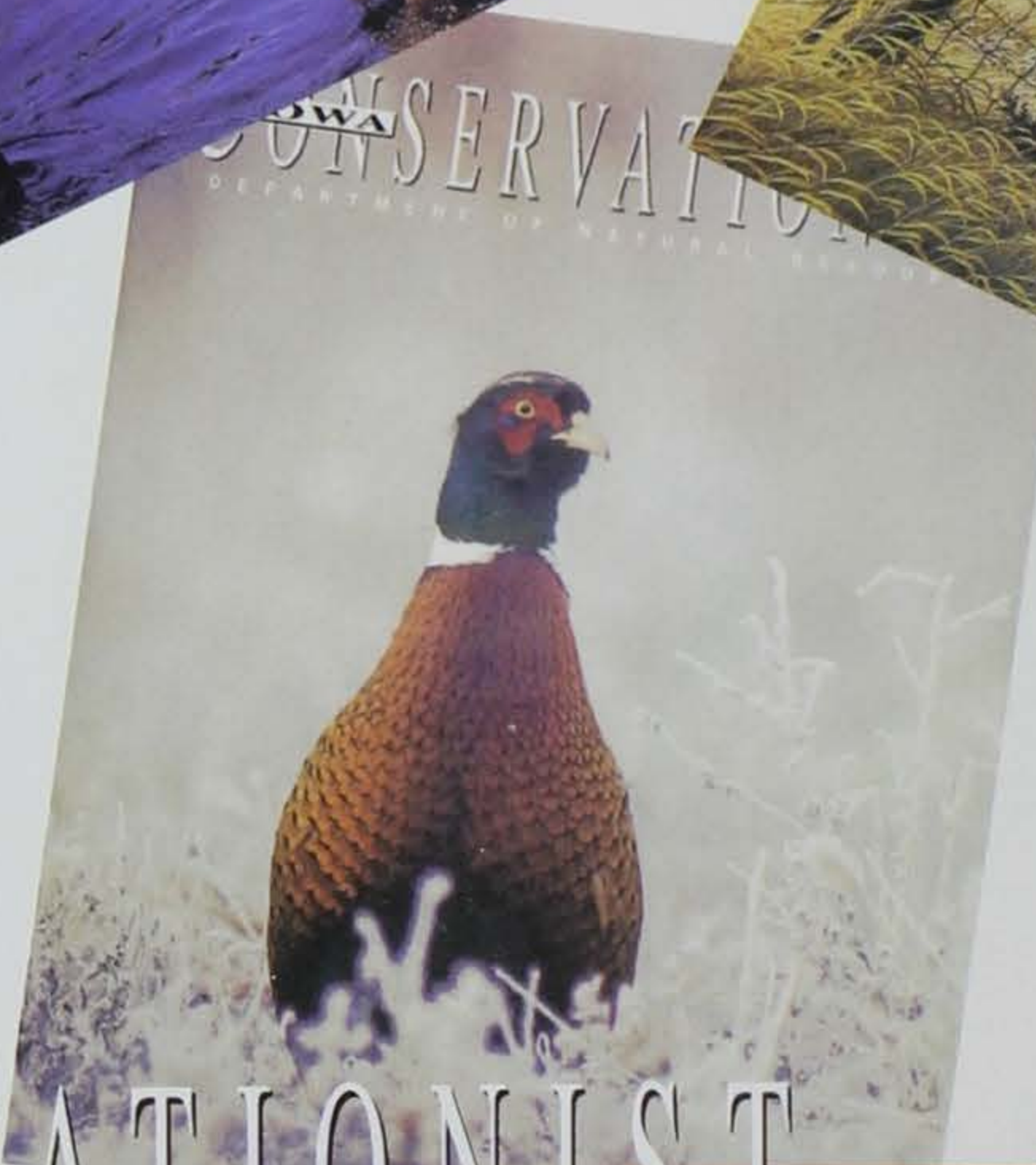
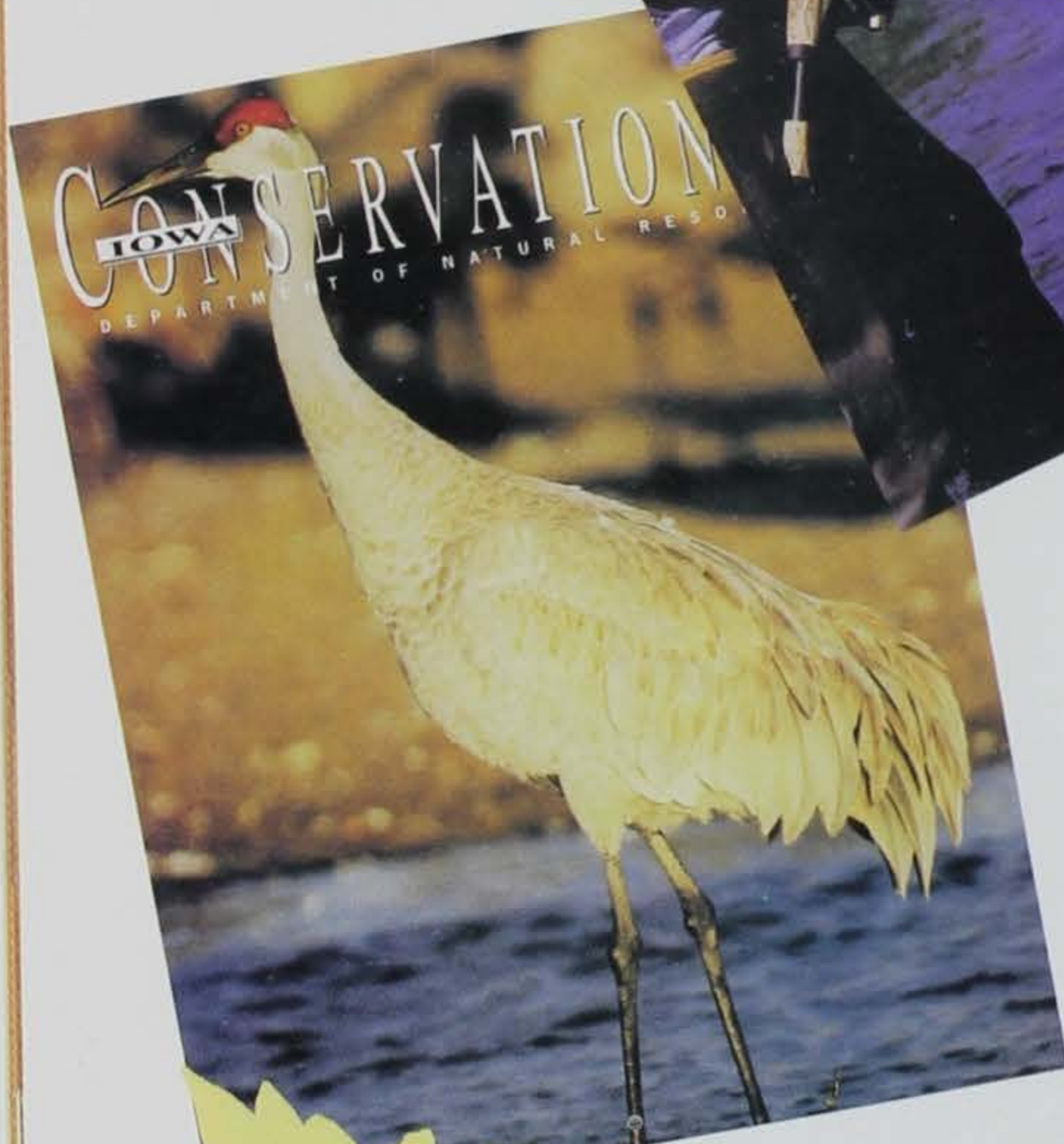
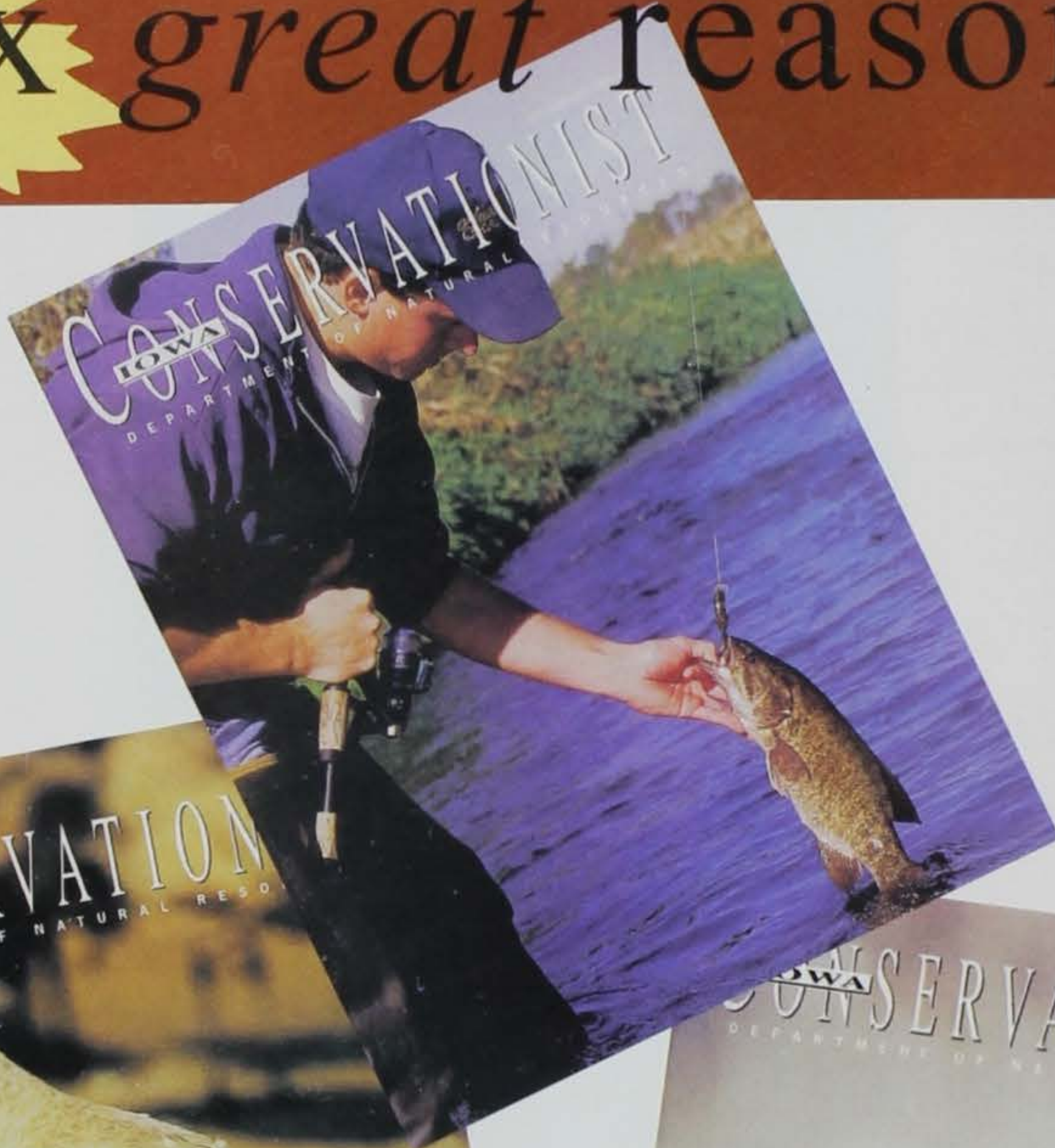
*Mel Moe is the wildlife biologist for the Mount Ayr Wildlife Unit in southern Iowa.*

**Communal display areas, known as booming grounds, are where male prairie chickens can be found each spring vying for the affection of females. Males can also be seen from mid-October through February.**





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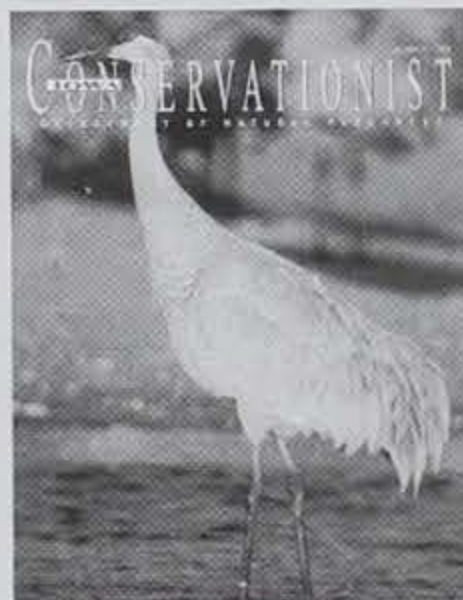
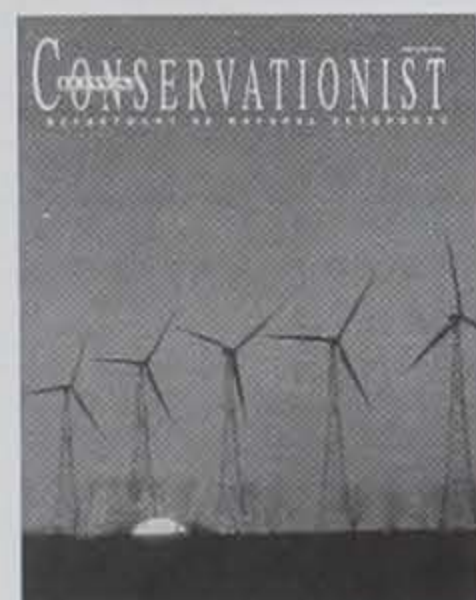
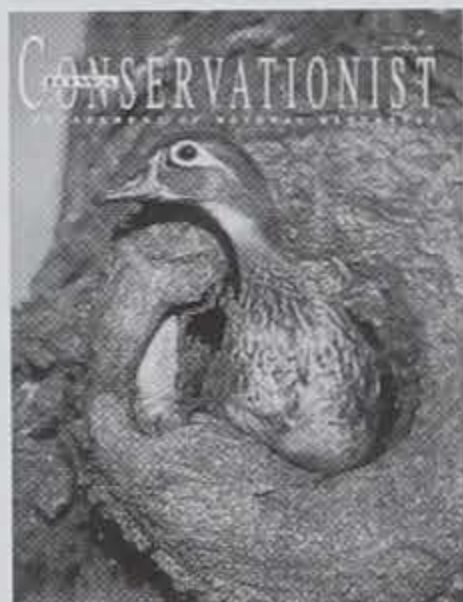
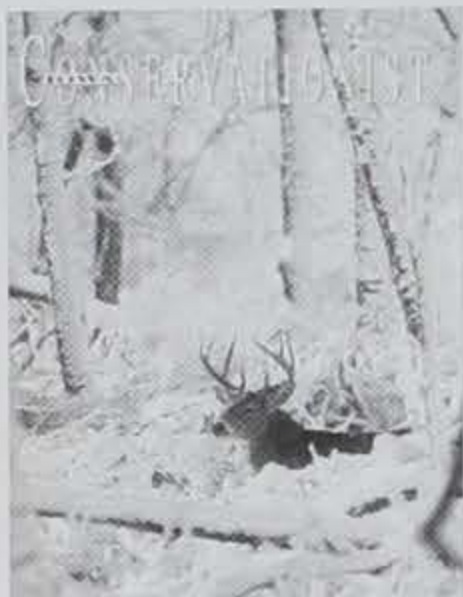
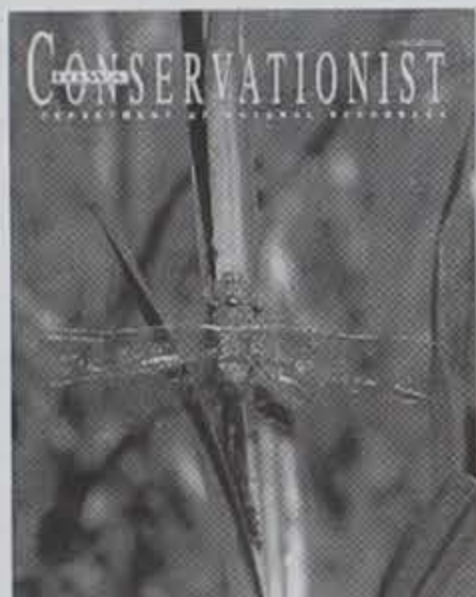


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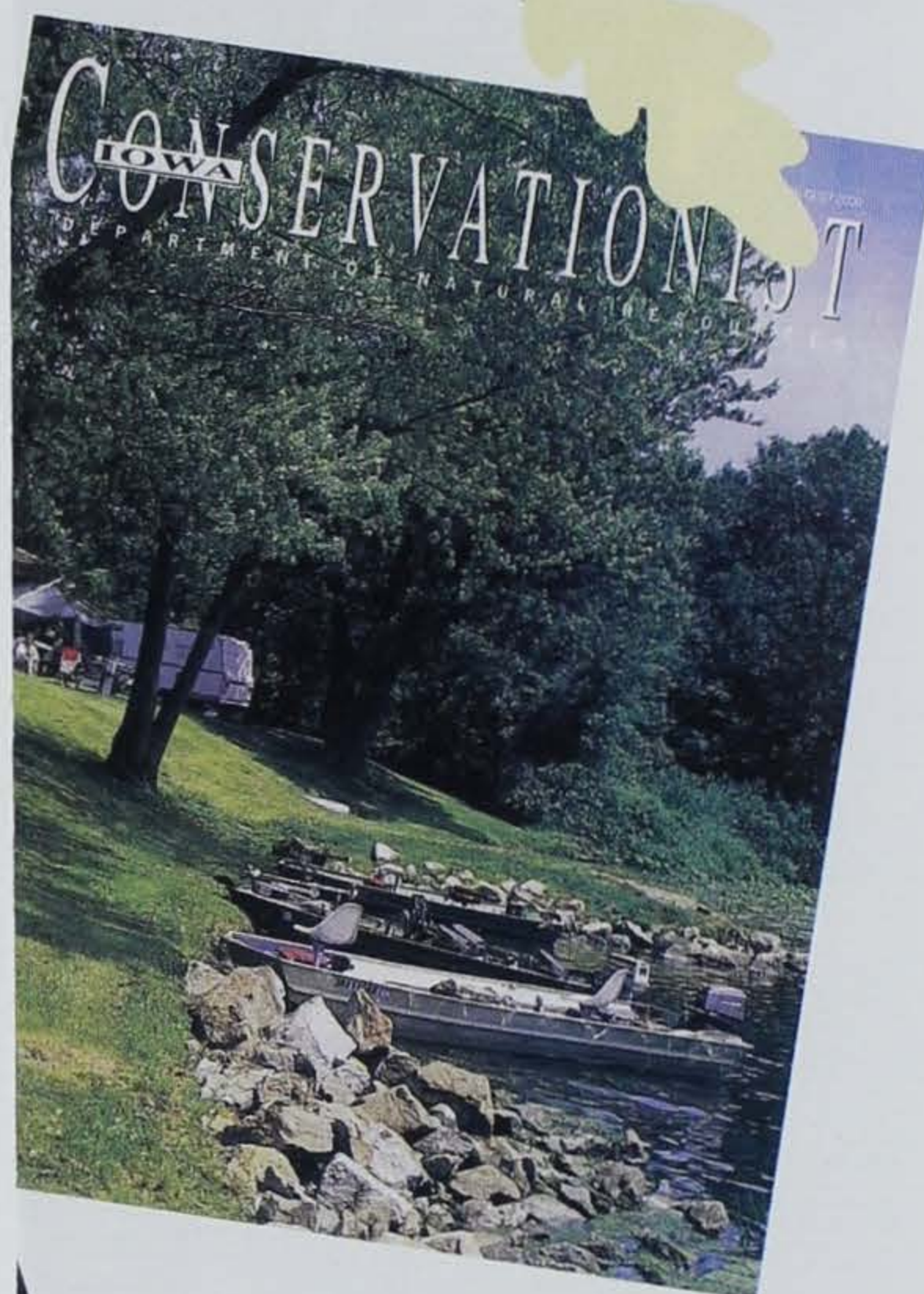
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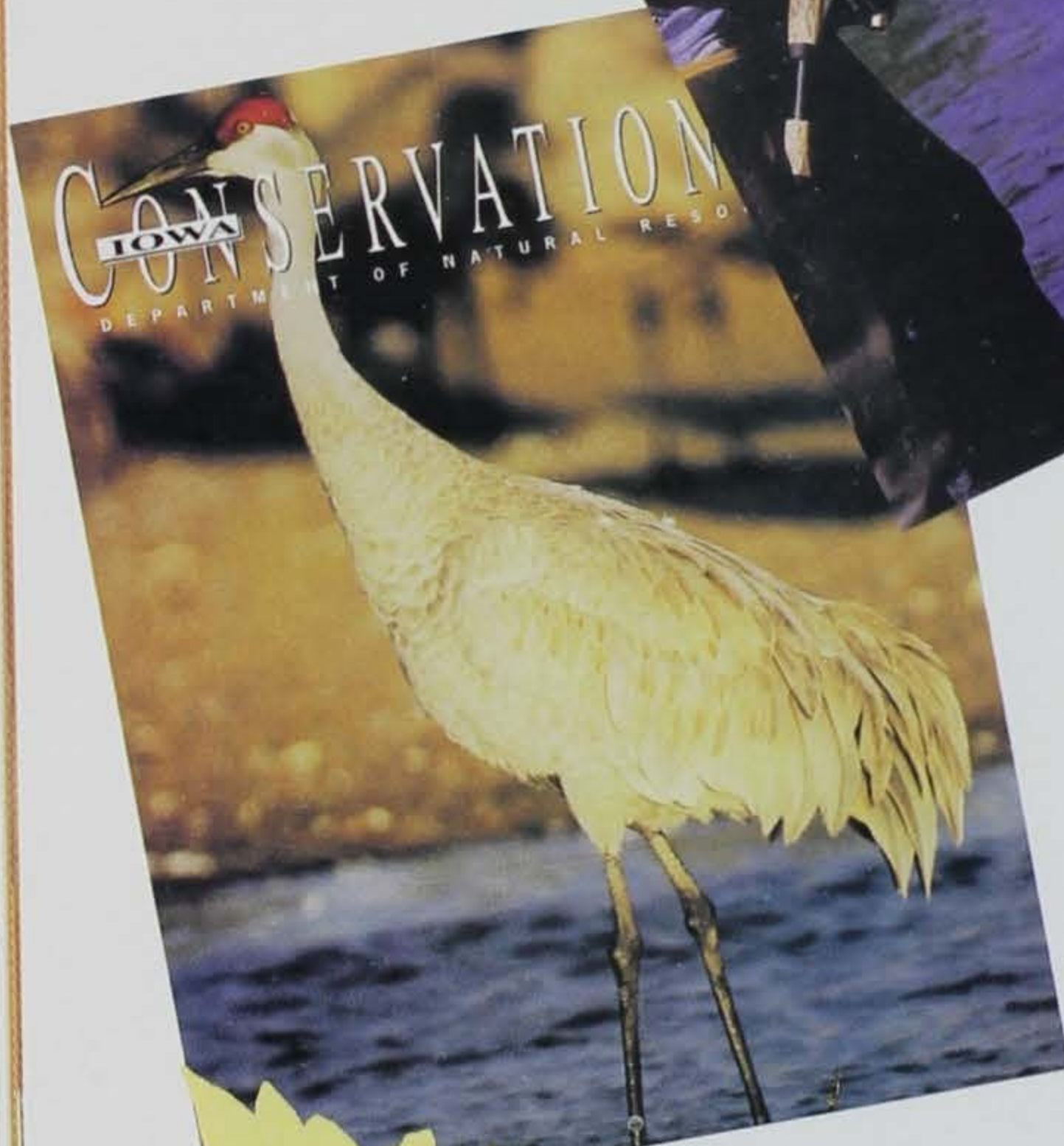
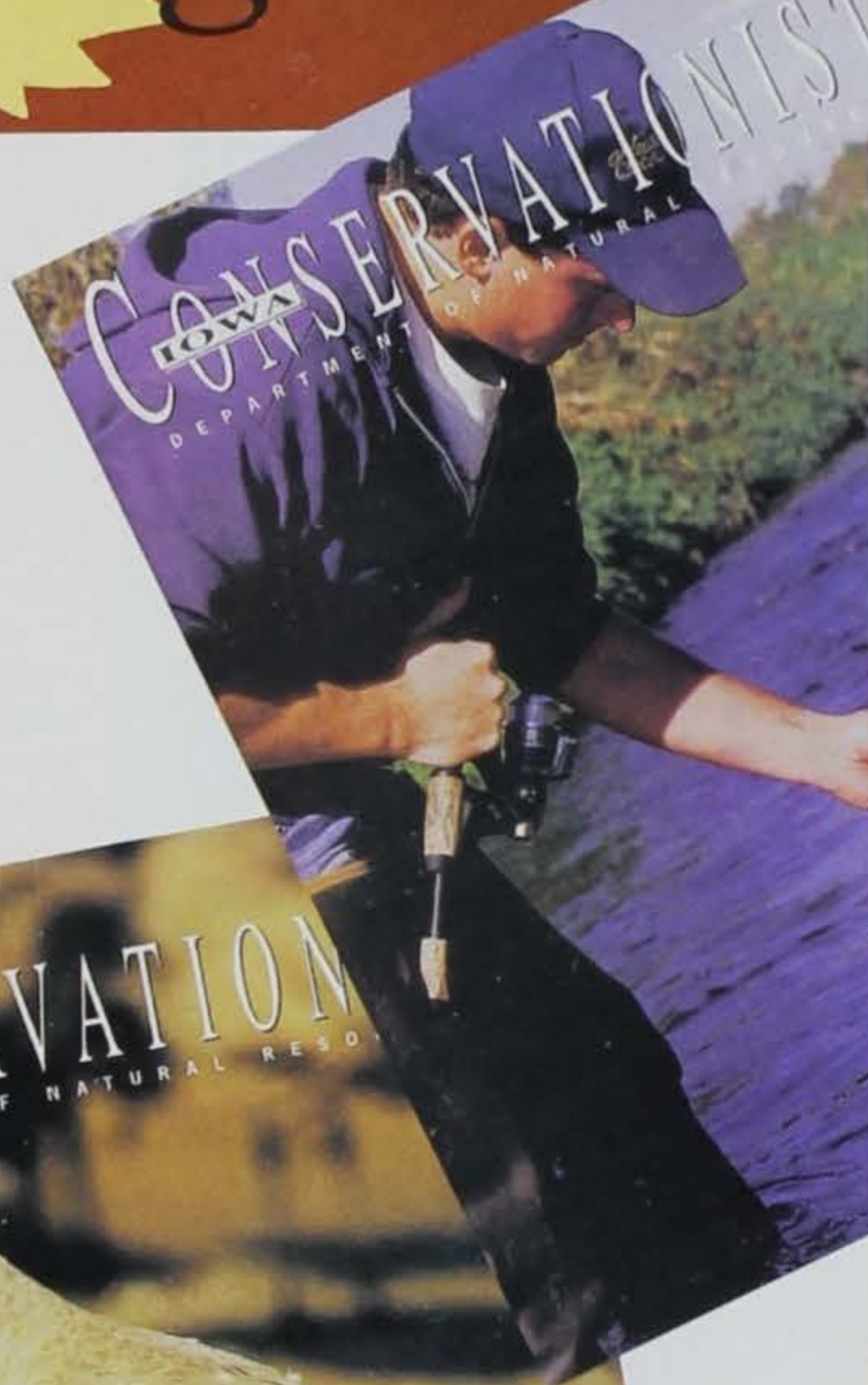


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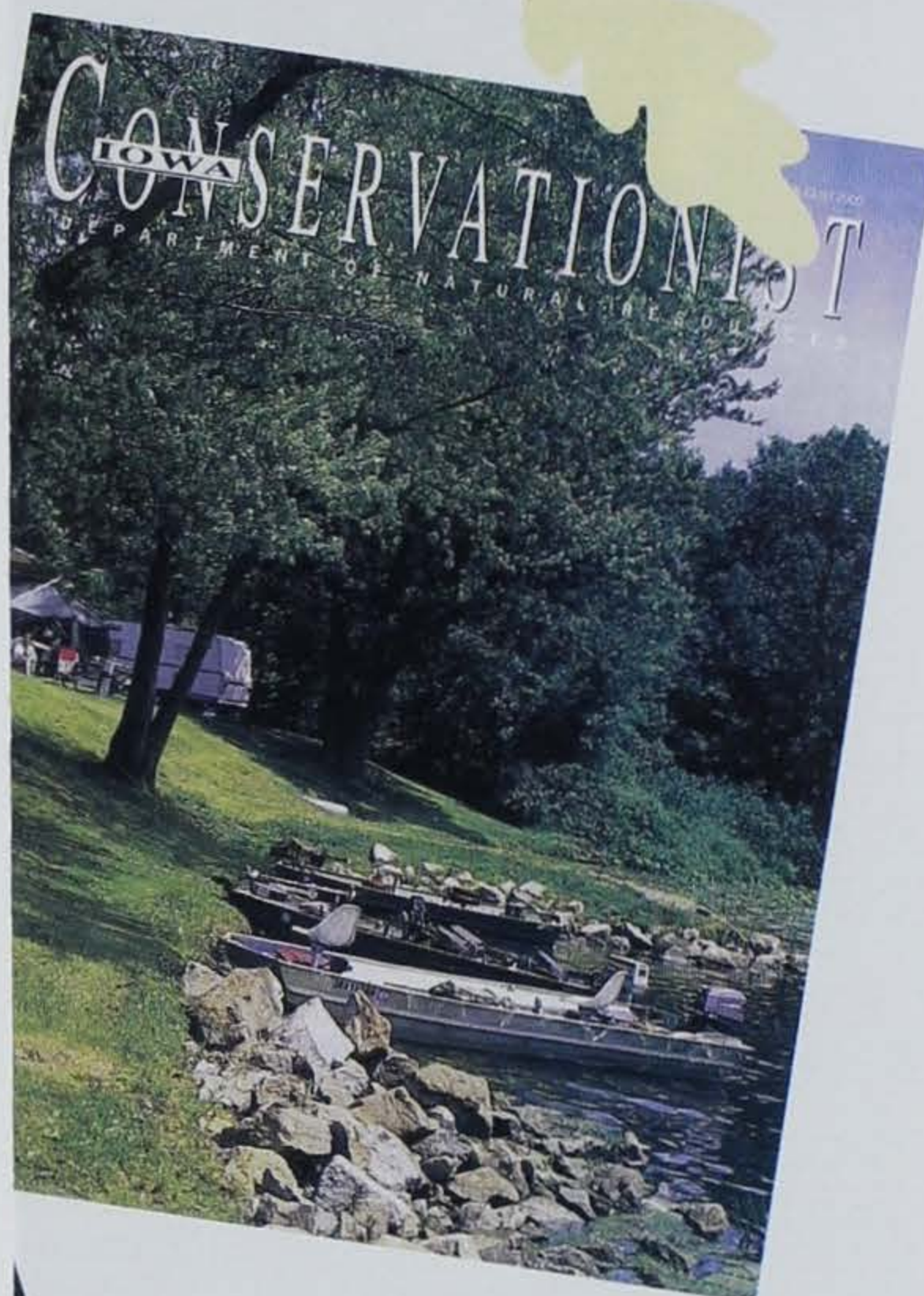
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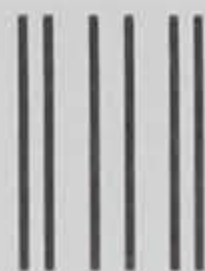
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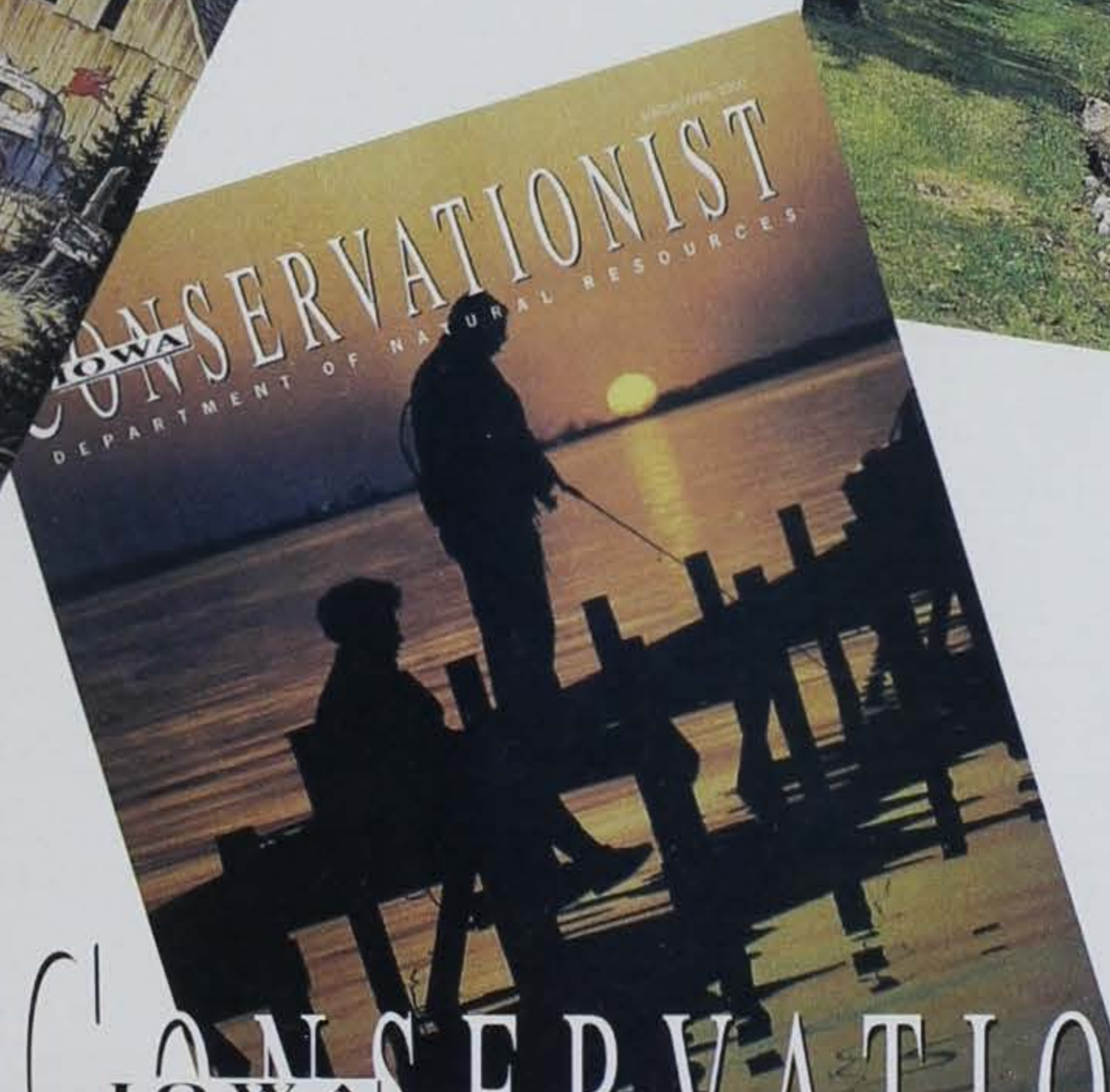
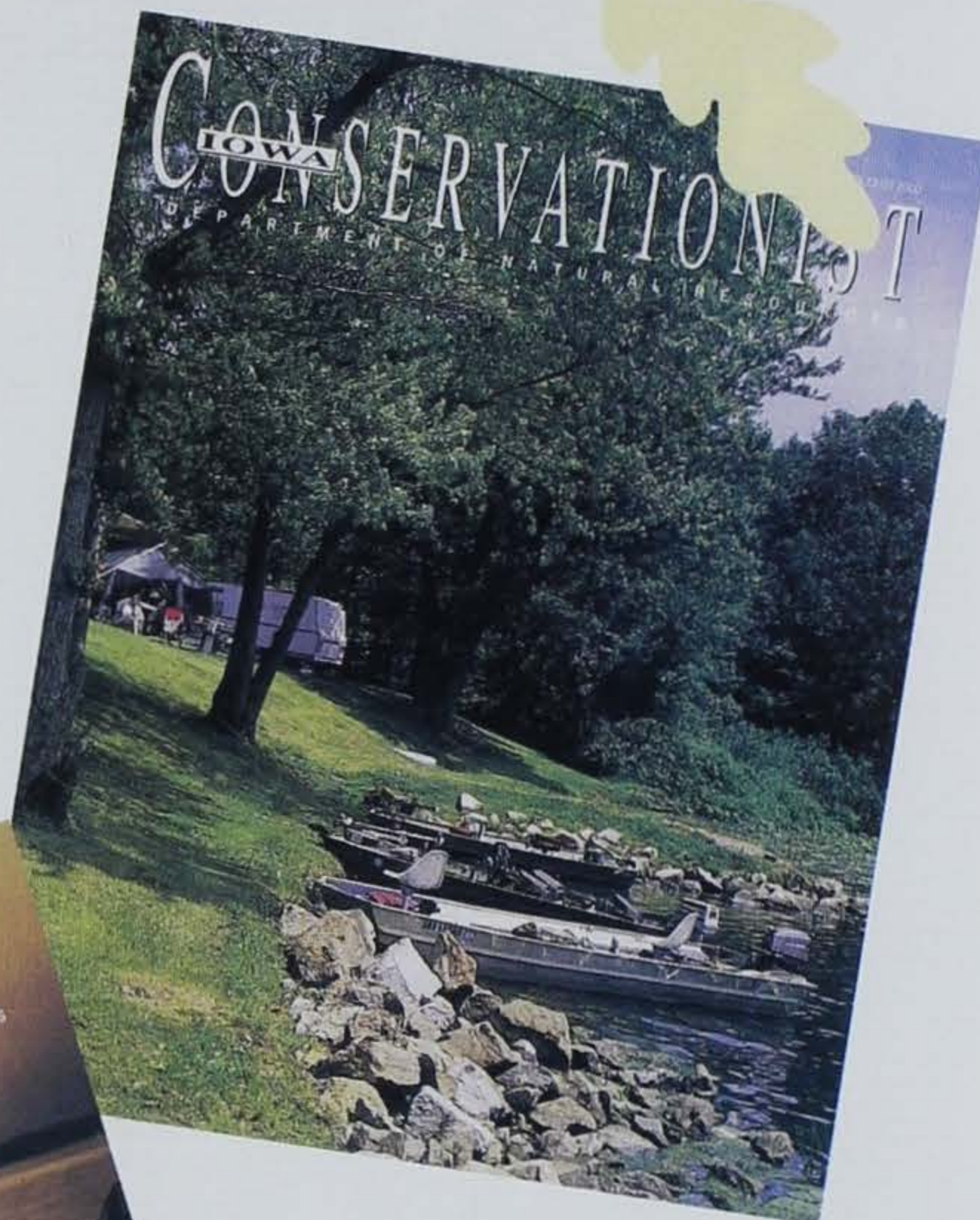
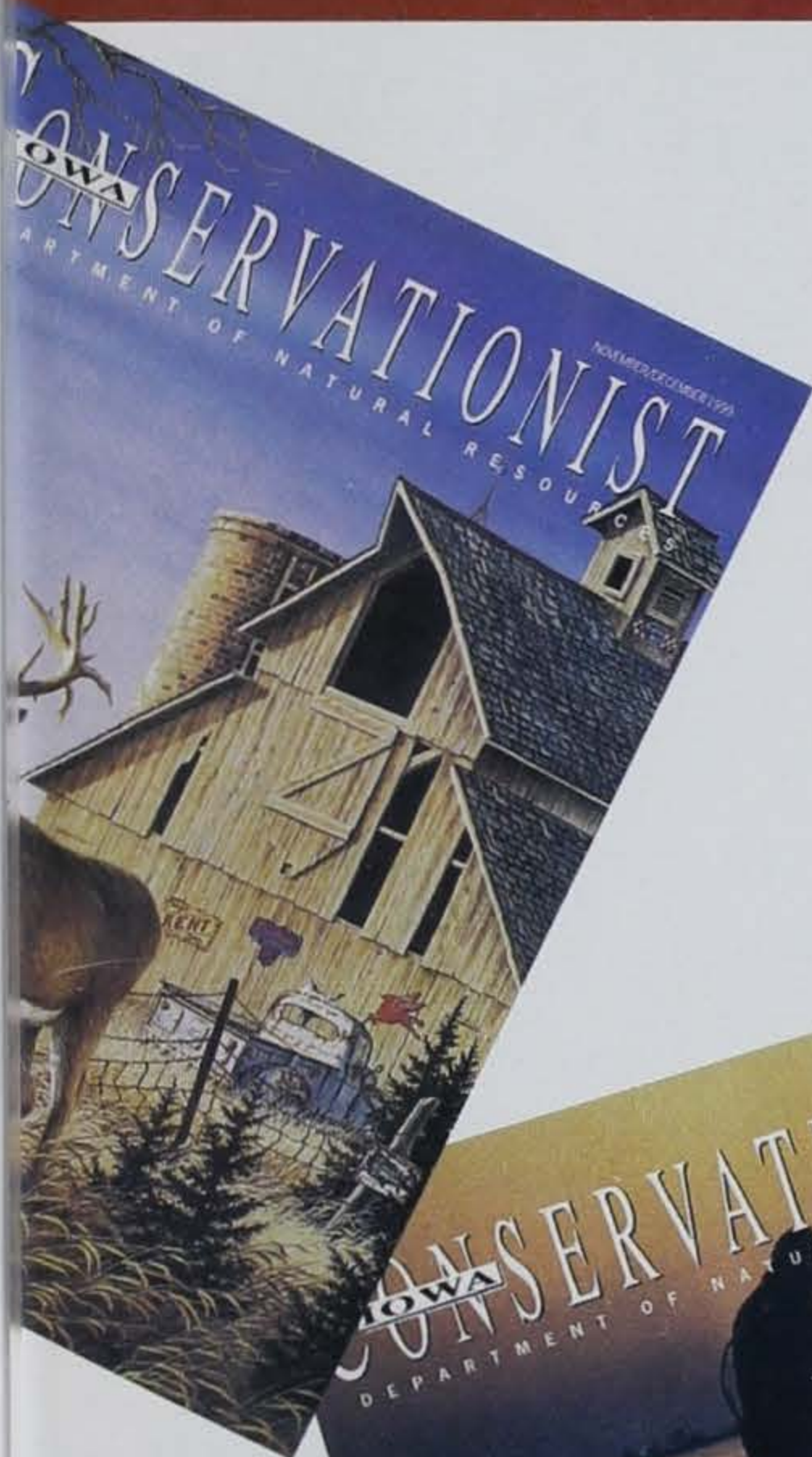


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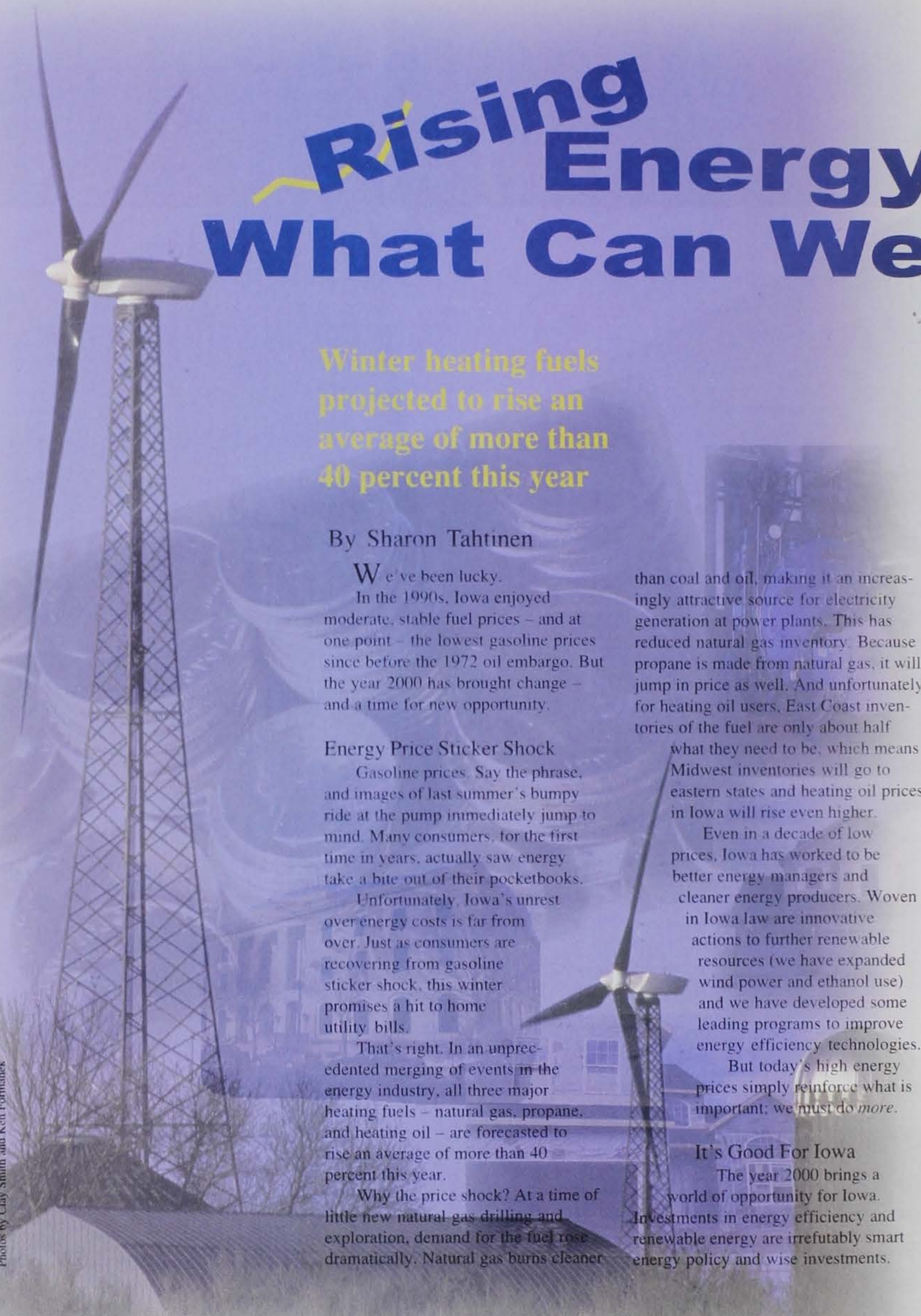
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# Rising Energy Prices

## What Can We Do

Winter heating fuels projected to rise an average of more than 40 percent this year

By Sharon Tahtinen

We've been lucky.

In the 1990s, Iowa enjoyed moderate, stable fuel prices – and at one point – the lowest gasoline prices since before the 1972 oil embargo. But the year 2000 has brought change – and a time for new opportunity.

### Energy Price Sticker Shock

Gasoline prices. Say the phrase, and images of last summer's bumpy ride at the pump immediately jump to mind. Many consumers, for the first time in years, actually saw energy take a bite out of their pocketbooks.

Unfortunately, Iowa's unrest over energy costs is far from over. Just as consumers are recovering from gasoline sticker shock, this winter promises a hit to home utility bills.

That's right. In an unprecedented merging of events in the energy industry, all three major heating fuels – natural gas, propane, and heating oil – are forecasted to rise an average of more than 40 percent this year.

Why the price shock? At a time of little new natural gas drilling and exploration, demand for the fuel rose dramatically. Natural gas burns cleaner

than coal and oil, making it an increasingly attractive source for electricity generation at power plants. This has reduced natural gas inventory. Because propane is made from natural gas, it will jump in price as well. And unfortunately for heating oil users, East Coast inventories of the fuel are only about half

what they need to be, which means Midwest inventories will go to eastern states and heating oil prices in Iowa will rise even higher.

Even in a decade of low prices, Iowa has worked to be better energy managers and cleaner energy producers. Woven in Iowa law are innovative actions to further renewable resources (we have expanded wind power and ethanol use) and we have developed some leading programs to improve energy efficiency technologies.

But today's high energy prices simply reinforce what is important: we must do *more*.

### It's Good For Iowa

The year 2000 brings a world of opportunity for Iowa. Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy are irrefutably smart energy policy and wise investments.



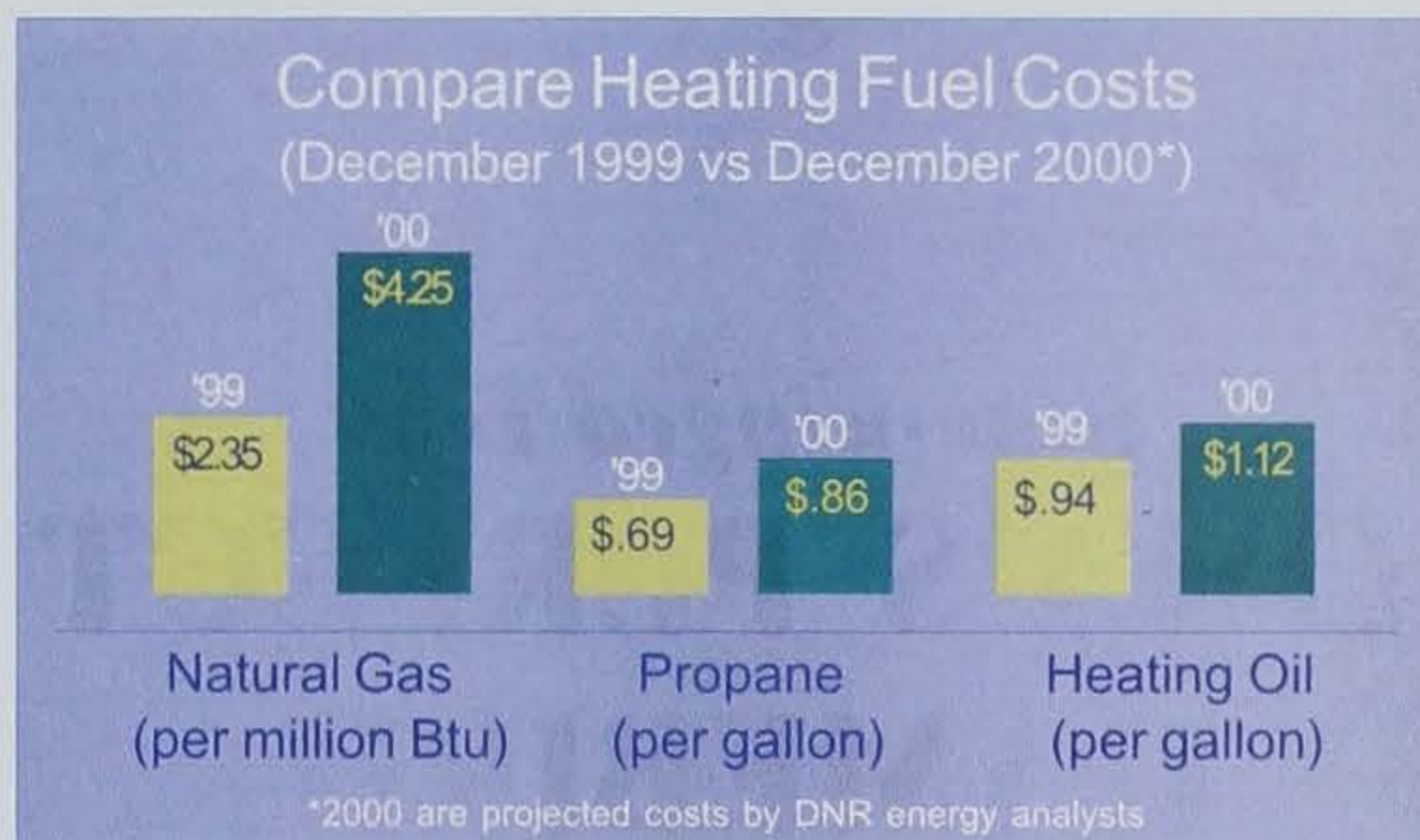
# Energy Prices: We Do? A Lot.

Iowans can expect to pay more than \$6.4 billion for energy this year: 60 percent of those dollars leaves the state. By increasing energy efficiency and lowering dependence on exported fuels, Iowans can save millions of dollars over the years, protect the environment and even create investments in local economies.

It's not as difficult as it may seem. For years, Iowa companies have created programs and technologies that help consumers save money. Whether it is a fuel-efficient vehicle or a tightly constructed new home (which, by the way, can save 30 percent in home utility bills), Iowans need only to make energy efficiency a priority to find the opportunities.

But that's not all. Think of the effect higher natural gas prices will have on public sector facilities such as schools, city buildings and state-owned property. The DNR predicts that in two of the state's largest agencies, natural gas will increase heating bills by \$2.8 million. Who pays? Taxpayers, of course.

Again the opportunities are here now. Programs such as the DNR's Iowa Energy Bank show public-sector facilities how to save energy through efficiency improvements such as better insulation, more efficient heating and cooling equipment, and improved lighting. Iowa's public sector has already saved \$24 million annually through this program, while avoiding more than 7 million tons in the emission of carbon dioxide, sulfur oxides, nitrous oxides and particulates.



## It's Good For Business

As an agricultural state, Iowa has become a leader in developing many of the nation's renewable energy resources. Wind, switchgrass, corn and soybeans have all become energy sources for vehicles, businesses, homes and farms. The concept of rural economic development takes on a whole new meaning when Iowa becomes an energy exporter.

Additionally, many emerging Iowa businesses are changing the face of the energy industry. Companies such as Iowa Thin Film Technologies in Boone, Maytag Appliances and Pella Windows are exporting energy-saving products all over the world.

More importantly, many of these technologies are available today. Every Iowan can lower utility bills, improve fuel efficiency, and increase productivity in their businesses and farms by taking a closer look at how they use energy – and how that energy is produced. Those changes mean cleaner

air, lower emissions and a better environment for Iowa.

## There's No Better Deal

The bottom line is that the potential for Iowa is enormous – and so much more must be done. Rising prices only increase the visibility and importance for Iowa to focus on increased efficiency and development of homegrown energy resources. Low prices may come again; but regardless of prices, our economy and environment will be better off through strong energy policy.

There is no question that when looking for a good energy deal in the near future, energy efficiency and renewable energy will be the best bargains.

*Sharon Tahtinen is chief of the energy bureau at the Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines.*





## *Blue-winged Teal* **IOWA'S PERFECT GAMEBIRD**

Article and photos by Lowell Washburn

I may have forgotten a lot of things over the years — but my very first duck hunt isn't one of them.

This memorable event took place in 1959 on an open backwater of northern Iowa's Winnebago River. It was just Dad and I, and the hunt actually started with a Friday night camp-out. I was a revved-up 10-year-old who had waited long enough to hunt waterfowl. I didn't sleep a wink all night. I just thought about the ducks.

The pond was small and shallow. It only measured 50 yards or so in width and contained a scant 5 or 6 inches of water. However, Dad predicted, come morning, the place should be buzzing with teal. He was right.

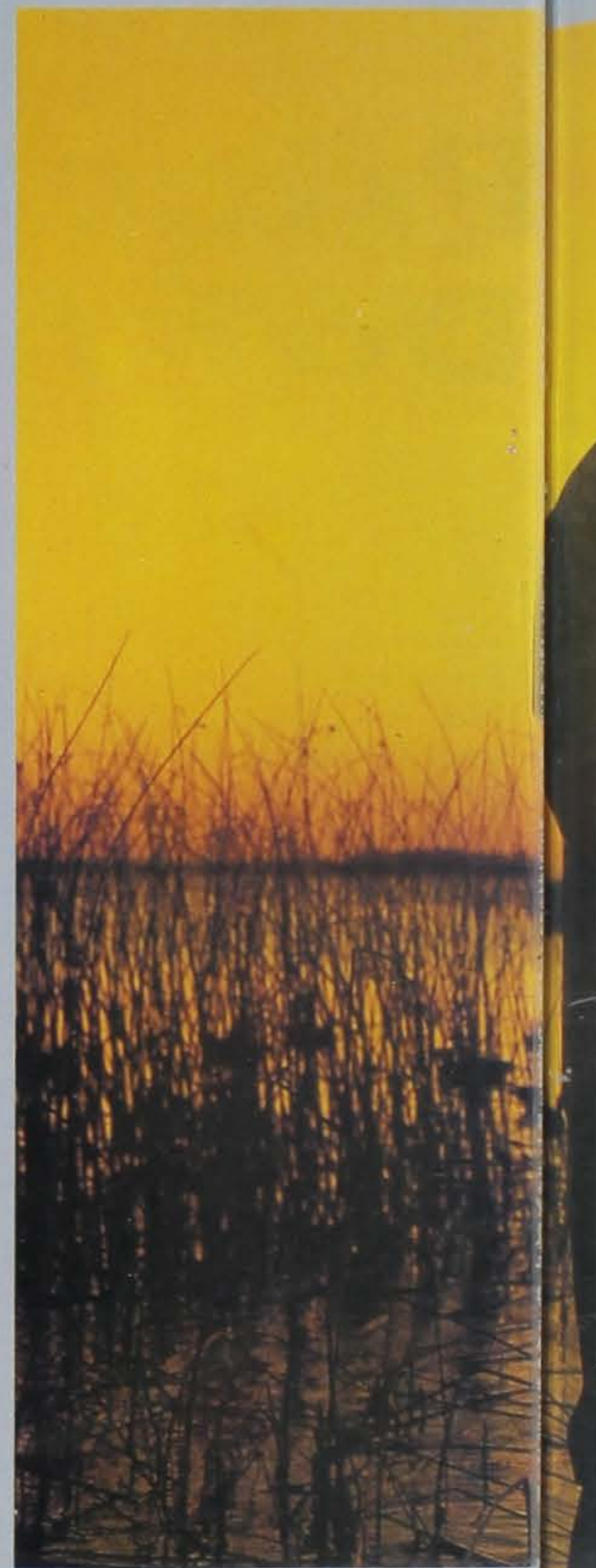
Saturday morning finally arrived and the place was buzzing. As I followed Dad through the vegetation that led to the pond, the air seemed alive

with the swish, whistle and roar of set wings. When we appeared at water's edge, the place literally erupted.

Back then, everyone carried their decoys in burlap potato bags — there wasn't anything else. We had two bags-worth that day, and our spread consisted of an assortment of Saint Louis AirDucks and factory-made balsa wood mallards. It took Dad forever to toss them out.

A bundle of leafy willow sprigs provided our blind, and the hunt was on. Like most youngsters of the day, I was packing a full-choke, .410 single-shot.

I had no more than settled in when the first ducks appeared. They were blue-winged teal — on the deck and traveling at warp speed. In less time than it takes to tell, the ducks were sizzling their way across the pond with no apparent desire to stop.



Suddenly, the flock spotted the decoys. In unison, the birds executed a hard right bank and came scorching back toward the blind. Within seconds, the teal — all 15 or 20 of them — were noisily splashing in among the blocks.

I remained motionless, completely mesmerized by my first encounter with wild ducks. Snapping back to reality, I realized here was an easy opportunity to collect my first duck dinner. I began to make my move at the same instant the





teal made theirs. By the time I managed to shoulder the .410, they were long gone. All that remained of the duck dinner were fading ripples on the water.

I was ready to cry. Dad laughed, and finally I did too.

The ducks kept coming, and I did eventually get off some shooting, mostly to no avail. My fourth duck finally hit the water about the same time I hit the third layer in my second

box of shells. Forget the terrible shooting. I was elated — my very first duck hunt and my very first limit of ducks. I celebrated by watching Dad bag his four-teal limit with four shells.

• • •

For the average American waterfowler, the blue-winged teal possesses all the characteristics of a "perfect gamebird." It is abundant,

**Blue-winged teal prefer shallow waters and marsh edges. This habit makes them accessible to hunters of all ages and levels of expertise — no expensive boats or tons of equipment needed.**



In all of North America, no other duck or goose travels farther or faster down the flyways than the blue-winged teal. Most migrate at least as far south as Central America or northern South America. Documentation of blue-wing migration has come from banded birds bagged and reported by hunters.



extremely accessible, challenging and provides excellent table fare.

In sharp contrast to the habits of most migratory ducks, the annual passage of the blue-wing is a fairly predictable event. By the time roadside patches of golden rod begin to turn color, you can be assured the first new bunches of teal will have already begun dotting the surface of local wetlands.

In fact, no other species of waterfowl embarks on an earlier migration. Adult males are the first to depart the nesting areas, followed by adult hens and juveniles. Most long-distance





More shots are taken with less effect on blue-winged teal than on any other waterfowl species. When this year's opening day arrives, plenty of Iowa hunters will be reminded of that fact.

movements begin at sunset and continue through the night. In the prairie marsh country of northern Iowa, the number of migrating blue-wings usually peaks during the last week of August or first week of September. And although the total numbers diminish throughout the fall, new flocks of teal will continue moving into Iowa through early October.

Blue-wings are notoriously restless and possess the frustrating habit of being here today and gone tomorrow. To them, it is of little consequence that today's weather is a balmy 65 degrees or that freeze-up is still a good month and a half into the future. In their minds it is time to head south, and south they go. Many of the teal that invaded Iowa earlier this month, have already arrived on the coastal wetlands of southern Louisiana.

There's good reason why blue-wing flocks get such an early start. In all of North America, no other duck or goose travels farther or faster down the flyways than this feathered speedster. Most blue-wings will migrate at least as far south as Central America or northern South America. Significant numbers will even journey below the equator, ending up in Brazil and Peru — an

incredible 4,000 miles from their summer nesting grounds.

The most amazing documentation of blue-wing migration has come from banded birds that were bagged and reported by hunters. Three of the most incredible reports came from right here in Iowa. All were banded at Winnebago County's Rice Lake.

The first bird, an adult male, was shot [just 21 days after it was banded] along the south coast of Old Harbor, Jamaica. The second bird was bagged a short time later at a lagoon near the tiny village of Iztapa, Guatemala. The third teal turned up in Ontario, Canada. Apparently the bird had decided to cruise north a few hundred miles just to see what pine country looked like before turning around to head for South America.

Blue-winged teal show a marked preference for shallow, duckweed-laden potholes, marsh edges and shallow backwaters. This habit makes them extremely accessible to hunters of all ages and at all levels of expertise; no expensive blind boat or tons of equipment needed here. In fact, when it comes to teal, a pair of hip boots and bag of decoys is all anyone needs to enjoy top-notch duck hunting.

One of the first things a hunter discovers is blue-winged teal lack the acute wariness observed in most other duck species. Their disposition ranges somewhere between very trusting to downright tame. Teal respond well to the call — especially teal calls — and are not the least bit shy about piling into the middle of a set of well-placed decoys.

However, it should also be noted this does not necessarily make the duck easy pickings. The turbo-charged, aerial prowess of the teal clan is legendary, and whatever the species lacks in presumed intelligence it more than makes up for with its wings. Upon discovering that it has been duped, a flock of BWTs will typically erupt into a display of aerobatics guaranteed to challenge the most accomplished wingshot. In fact, more powder and shot are expended with less effect on blue-winged teal than on any other waterfowl species. When this year's opening day arrives, plenty of Iowa hunters will be reminded of that fact.

I still miss more opening-day blue-wings than I manage to bag. Maybe it's because I'm tired. I still can't seem to sleep on those Friday night camp-outs. All I think about are the ducks.



# IOWA EARTH YEAR 2000: A TESTIMONY TO ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

by Stefanie Forret

Clockwise  
from top left:

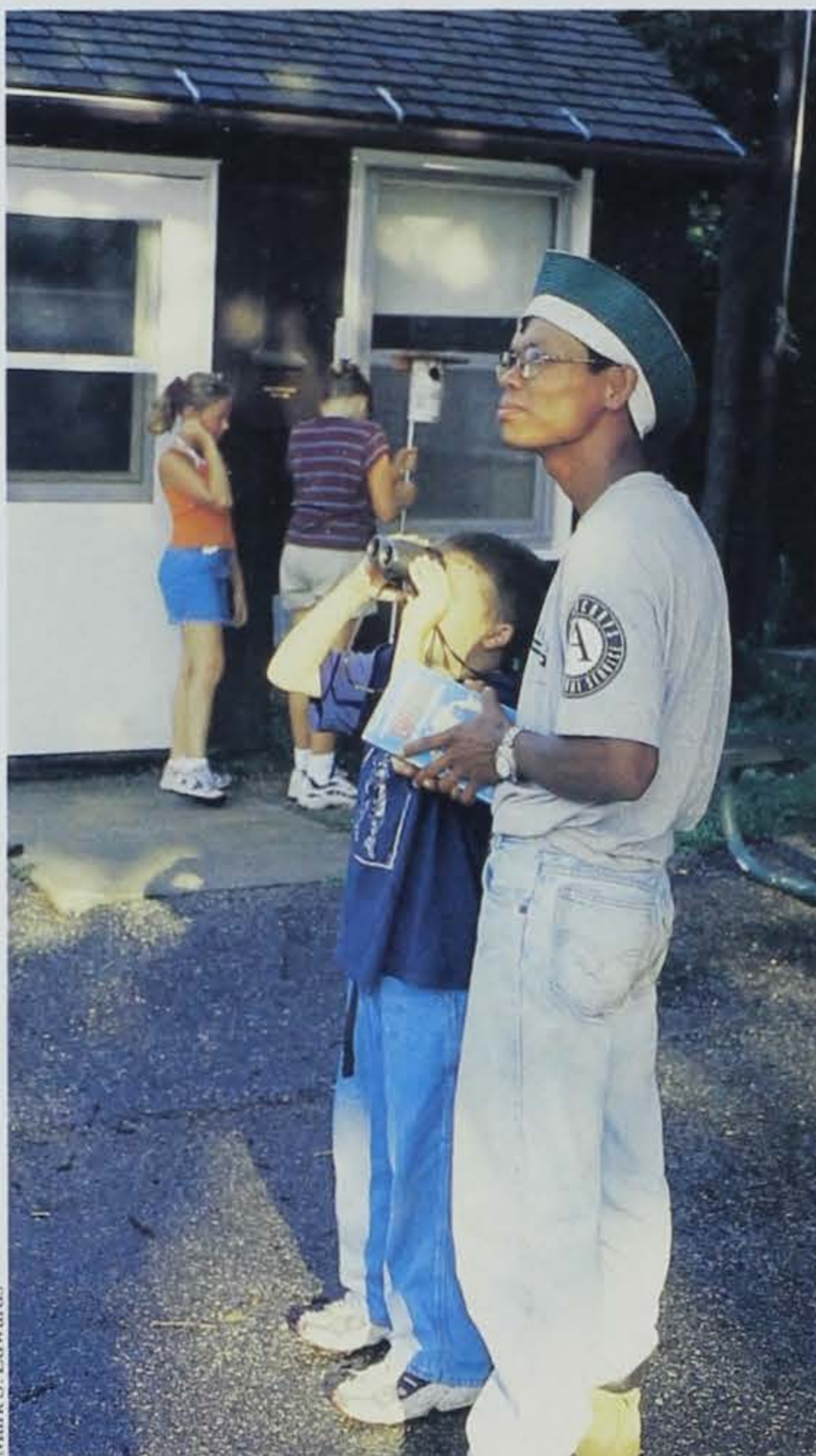
Bird identification  
with an AmeriCorps  
volunteer at  
Waubonsie State  
Park.

Building  
birdhouses with  
youth volunteers.

Volunteer working  
on trail restoration.

Volunteers from  
Webster City High  
School with Dolliver  
Memorial State Park  
staff restoring trails.

Building bird houses  
with AmeriCorps  
youth volunteers.



Mark S. Edwards



Mark S. Edwards





Mark S. Edwards



DNR Photo



Mark S. Edwards



Volunteers play an important role in improving the environment, a fact illustrated through the accomplishments of Iowa EarthYear 2000 volunteers.

Activists from more than 550 Iowa communities committed themselves to EarthYear 2000, agreeing to organize and implement projects across the state to benefit Iowa's environment. Projects have varied, from tree plantings and composting workshops to water quality testing. Whether it be buffer strip initiatives or roadside and river cleanups, EarthYear

volunteers have stepped to the plate for the betterment of Iowa.

"We'd ultimately like to see all Iowans become active in their environment all year, every year," said EarthYear Coordinator Stefanie Forrat. "Iowa EarthYear 2000 is really just the beginning of a new era of activism in Iowa. We are all responsible for the world around us, we all need to be stewards of the land."

To enlist participation and facilitate projects across the state, three AmeriCorps Promise Fellows have been working directly with the Iowa EarthYear 2000 initiative. AmeriCorps is a national service program helping meet the nation's critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, human needs and the environment. The Fellows' role has been to assist EarthYear volunteer coordinators with promoting their environmental projects, con-

necting them with resources, providing general support and recruiting new volunteers. The Promise Fellows have traveled across the state to achieve their goals and promote EarthYear 2000.

"It is also a goal of ours to give children an opportunity to feel a connection with the land, and take responsibility for its care," said Promise Fellow Brian Hill.

Mary McCarthy agreed. "As AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, we are challenged to create ongoing relationships with today's youth through effective education and community service. A strong environmental dialogue is of the utmost importance.

"To care for our earth is to consciously act to conserve, protect and restore our natural resources – a sort of 'CPR' for our earth," she said.

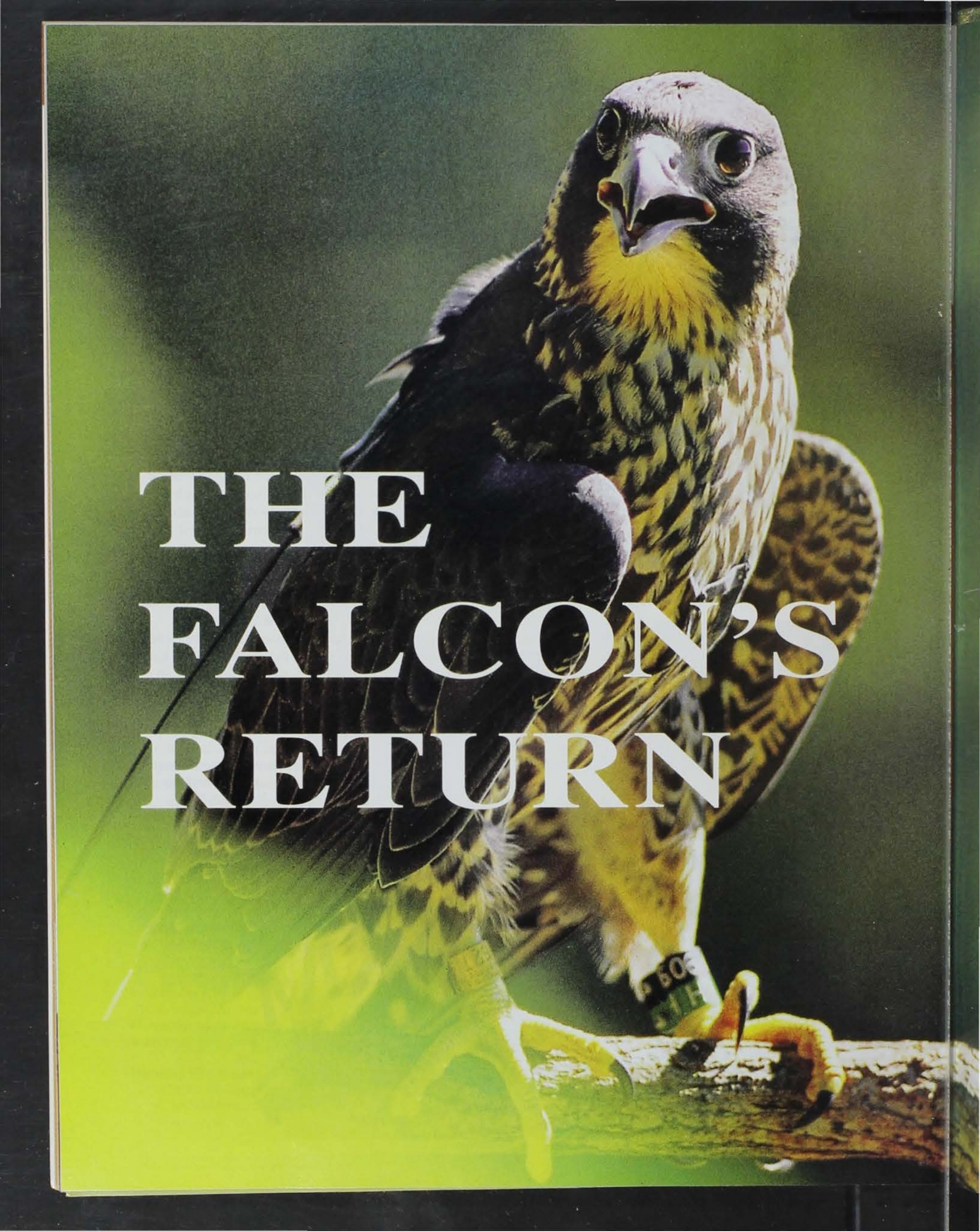
Douglas Nelson, the third member of the Promise Fellows team, adds EarthYear 2000 has something to offer all Iowans.

"The program (EarthYear 2000) is designed for all Iowans to participate and make a change in their local areas," he said. "(Participants) have initiated and completed hundreds of volunteer environmental projects all over the state. They should feel proud, and we need to recognize them for their tremendous accomplishments."

To see what's happening with EarthYear 2000, or learn how to can participate, visit the EarthYear Web site at [www.earthyear2000.com](http://www.earthyear2000.com), or call the EarthYear staff at (515) 281-8401. There is still time to get involved and make a difference in Iowa's environment.

*Stefanie Forrat is the EarthYear 2000 Coordinator for the department.*





# THE FALCON'S RETURN



The falcons were fitted with a color- and number-coded metal leg band and marked on the tail or shoulder with brightly colored, nontoxic paint. Several falcons were also equipped with radio transmitters.

After decades of absence, wild, free-flying peregrine falcons are reclaiming historic nest ledges.

For volunteers of Iowa's Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team, success has arrived . . .

Falcons have returned to the MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI!

Article and photos by Lowell Washburn

The effort to restore vanished populations of wild peregrine falcons to America's mid-continent has been one of the most complex, visionary and challenging wildlife recoveries ever attempted. And although the release of captive-bred, fledgling falcons has occurred in several states and at dozens of sites across the region, perhaps none has offered more excitement, challenge or gratification than Iowa's effort to return wild peregrines to their historic cliff ledge eyries on the upper Mississippi River.

Nowhere has the river recovery work been carried to such incredible extremes than at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque. During the past two summers, personnel with the Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team (a volunteer coalition of peregrine enthusiasts) have released 40 falcons at Eagle Point, making Dubuque one of the largest — and perhaps final — release points in the history of the restoration project.

As is the case with any significant resource project, no single entity can lay claim to the success of this ambitious endeavor. Instead, the effort has involved a diverse and complex collection of dedicated conservationists all working toward the common goal of returning Iowa's most endangered bird to its historic range.

The Dubuque project was first suggested by Tom Deckert — an Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team member, talented master falconer and Dubuque native. Following several months of planning and coordination by Iowa falconers, the release moved forward when Alliant Energy and the McElroy Trust provided funding to purchase 10, captive-reared peregrine falcon chicks for release.



**Peregrines are raising public awareness for a broad spectrum of environmental concerns, particularly the birds' threatened bluffland habitat.**



Further support was enlisted from the Great Lakes (Illinois) Falconers' Association and from the Iowa Wildlife Federation. The Iowa Falconers' Association, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Dubuque Chapter of the Audubon Society provided funds to construct the cliff-top hack site. They also guaranteed the daily supply of fresh frozen quail needed to sustain the young falcons while they learned to hunt on their own.

One of the overriding priorities of the Dubuque project was to release a cohort of falcons that were rock- (cliff face) orientated. Since fledgling peregrines imprint on their early surroundings, meticulous measures were employed to keep the hack site as natural as possible.

All other Iowa peregrines, for example, have been released from square, wooden hack boxes. At the Dubuque site, however, Recovery Team members went to the extreme of using sheets of synthetic rock to transform traditional hack boxes into "natural" cubbies. Square corners were eliminated on the inside, and imported live cedars were used to mask straight lines along the boxes' exterior.

Several hundred pounds of limestone were carried in, one rock at a time, to decorate the site. For all practical purposes, the Dubuque peregrines would be fledging from a hole in the cliff. Since Eagle Point supports a high-density raccoon population, a precautionary electric barrier was installed around the site.

In mid-June 1999, the first group of 35-day-old peregrine chicks began arriving at the site. Although falcons were obtained from a number of propagators across the nation, only anatum peregrines (the subspecies most closely resembling the original mid-continent birds) were purchased for release. Costs averaged \$1,100 to \$1,500 per bird.

Before being placed inside the "rock" hack boxes, each falcon was fitted with a color- and number-coded metal leg band and marked on the tail or shoulder with brightly colored, non-toxic paint. Several falcons were also equipped with radio transmitters. Students with the University of Dubuque's (UD) Department of Environmental Sciences served as daily hack site attendants. Without the continual coordination and vigilance of Dr. Larkin Powell and participating UD science students, the Dubuque project could not have occurred.

As the young falcons were released, UD students began intense monitoring that would document the fate of Iowa's



## SUMMER OF CELEBRATION

### Iowa Falcons Reclaim Upper Mississippi

Midwest raptor enthusiasts have been celebrating since early summer. For the first time in nearly four decades wild, free-flying peregrine falcons have successfully produced young from the rugged cliff ledges of the upper Mississippi River.

It is no accident the legendary "duck hawk" has returned to its home on America's Big River. For the dedicated volunteers comprising Iowa's Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team, this initial success represents the first fruit of nearly six years of intense work and planning.



bluffland peregrines. Overall survival was monitored at the hack site (leg bands and paint markings) as birds returned to feed on quail. Information on movements and habitat use was obtained through radio telemetry. Telemetry readings were gathered three times daily for each bird. Nighttime movements were monitored on a less-frequent basis. Additional hack site monitoring was conducted by Iowa falconers and Audubon volunteers. Iowa falconers also assisted with nighttime telemetry.

Some of the most surprising information was gathered during the falcons' maiden flights, such as the case of a radioed male, liberated at 39 days of age. After taking a morning bath and tanking up on fresh quail, the young falcon pumped his wings and enjoyed the sun until late morning. At 11:33 a.m., the bird finally launched from the cliff. As the falcon disappeared, UD students immediately gave chase — following the distinctive radio signal. They quickly found the male sitting in a tree nearly one mile down the ridge. An

hour later, the bird made his second flight, this time traveling one and a quarter miles in the opposite direction. Not bad for a first try.



**Iowa Falconers' Association president Tom Deckert and University of Dubuque environmental science senior Dawn Reding take telemetry readings on a Mississippi River peregrine.**

The fledging flights of two females were even more incredible. Although the birds didn't decide to fly until about an hour before sunset, their first attempt was a doozie. Without hesitation, both falcons climbed into the sky and launched directly across the broad expanse of the mighty Mississippi. The flight ended on a Wisconsin cliff ledge more than two miles away. The exhilaration of that initial flight must have

Cliff-nesting peregrines were first discovered in March at Queen's Bluff near Lamoille, Minn. Dr. Bud Tordoff and Matt Solensky, from the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center, visited the site but were unable to identify the falcons from the rock's base. Refusing to return empty handed, Solensky slung a spotting over his back and initiated a daring climb of the jagged cliff face. The end result was a positive (leg band) identification of both birds.

As it turned out, both Queen's Bluff falcons were the alumni of peregrine releases conducted in Iowa during the summer of 1998. The male was released at Effigy Mounds National Monument near McGregor and the female was hacked from silos at Holnam Cement at Mason City. Both captive-bred birds were produced for release at the Raptor Resource Project located near Decorah.

Historically, the rugged limestone blufflands of the upper Mississippi River

were home to one of the continent's greatest densities of peregrine falcons. From Dubuque to Lansing and beyond, these charismatic high-speed hunters dominated the skies.

But as a top-of-the-food-chain predator, the species itself fell prey — not to another hunter — but rather to the cumulative effects of insecticide (DDT) poisoning. Following World War II, populations declined sharply. When the last breeding pair of falcons failed to return to its nest site (near Lansing) during the mid-1960s, not a single peregrine could be documented anywhere from the Mississippi to the Atlantic.

The Iowa DNR released a total of 42 falcons at urban sites in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids beginning in 1989. Members of the Iowa Falconers Association released an additional eight birds in Muscatine. These combined activities were successful in establishing two

breeding pairs of falcons in Iowa (Des Moines and Cedar Rapids) and contributed to additional nesting pairs at urban sites from Winnipeg to St. Louis.

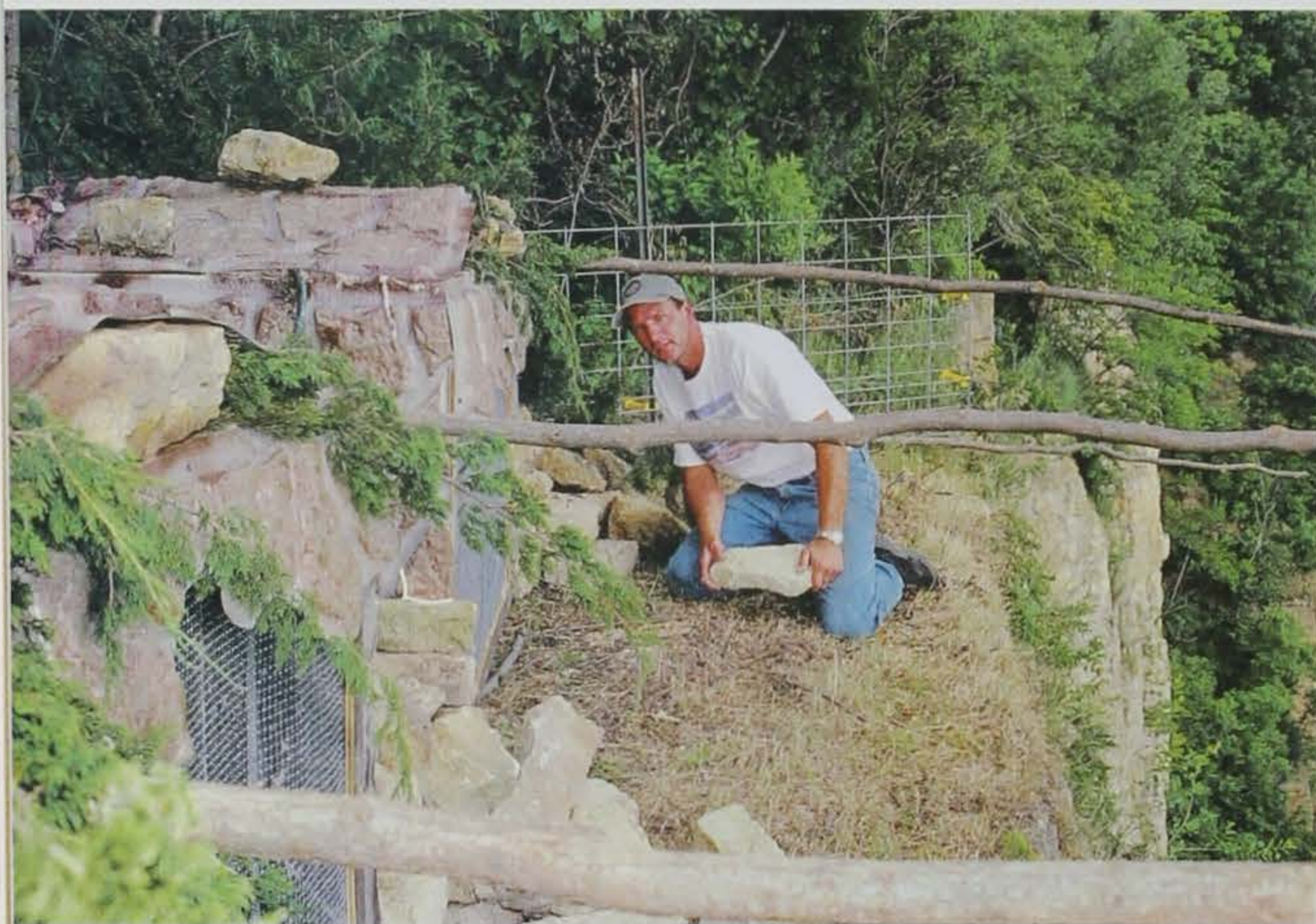
From the onset, it was hoped "surplus" falcons would pioneer Mississippi River cliff sites once the urban locations became saturated. However, in the decade following the releases, the desired cross-over never occurred as the state maintained its two-pair status quo.

But for some Iowans, the presence of a mere two pairs of urban-nesting falcons was not enough. After all, the upper Mississippi River had once held the distinction of being the very hub of America's mid-continent population. It was, in fact, where peregrine falcons belonged. It was where the birds had started and it was where they should return.

Another nagging issue was the



Iowa falconer Rob Kirkman preps a peregrine falcon release site located atop a 200-foot limestone cliff at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque.



long-term success of city birds remained largely dependent upon continued nest box maintenance and intensive site management. During the spring nesting season the interaction between humans and falcons often became dicey as maintenance, window washing or roofing crews invaded the falcons' territory. This point was painfully apparent when a tragic, but unavoidable, set of human interactions led to the complete nest failure of the Des Moines peregrines in 1999.

In sharp contrast to the human-induced dilemmas constantly facing urban birds, it was theorized an established population of natural cliff-dwelling falcons would be free of these burdens and could ultimately survive on their own merit. On the historic rock ledges, there would be no nest box repairs, no retreating maintenance employees, no bio-politics, no nothing, — just free-flying, totally self-sustaining wild peregrines.

The Mississippi River Recovery project began in 1995 with the formation of the Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team — a group of unpaid, volunteer peregrine enthusiasts from across the state. The team's mission was to ensure the survival and growth of Iowa's existing (urban) peregrines as well as devise ways to restore birds to their historic cliff ledge nests along the upper Mississippi.

During the past five years, volunteers with the Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team have been directly responsible for the release of 105 peregrines in Iowa. The group has received approximately \$40,000 from the Iowa DNR, and through fund raising efforts, generated more than \$90,000 from private sector sources.

The first release of peregrine falcons in the rugged bluffs of Iowa's upper Mississippi River occurred during the summer of 1998 when Raptor Resource Project (RRP) Director Bob

stimulated their appetites. By sunrise the next morning, both birds were back at the hack site gorging on quail.

Another male, donated by Alan Pollard of Zoos America, proved equally interesting. The bird was released July 21, but disappeared from the hack site July 23. A week later after no sightings, the falcon was presumed dead. On Aug. 18, the bird suddenly reappeared to socialize with his cousins as if nothing had happened. From then on, the "Zoos" peregrine was observed at the hack site nearly every day until he disappeared for good about two and a half weeks later.

As the news of Iowa's cliff work spread, the level of support showed a proportionate increase — raising the number of falcons obtained for release during 1999 from 10 birds to a remarkable 21. Donated peregrines were especially helpful. One very important \$7,500 contribution came from Iowa falconers Ross Dirks and Lance Christensen, who each purchased and donated one anatum peregrine. Christensen also coordinated the acquisition of three additional per-

Anderson liberated 10 birds at Effigy Mounds National Monument near McGregor. The Raptor Resource Project has been heavily involved in peregrine recovery, supplying captive-bred birds for release, managing falcon nest boxes on power plant smoke stacks and conducting raptor educational activities.

Later in the summer of 1998, an additional four falcons were released by Jim Haack at Mid-America's Louisa Generating Station near Muscatine. Haack is a senior engineer at the facility, and for the past 15 years has been a tireless worker for raptor conservation. In 1999, a third release site was established on a 200-foot cliff overlooking the Mississippi at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque. As this combined volunteer effort concluded this summer, a remarkable 77 fledgling peregrines had been liberated on the Mississippi over the past three years.



egridines through the South Dakota Raptor Trust and Northern Plains Breeding Coop — a group of aviculturists that breeds birds of prey for conservation. Zoos America and the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center donated another three falcons. (Although immature falcons are rarely "heard from," the Dirks female and one of the males donated from the South Dakota Raptor Trust have been reported along the Mississippi this summer.)

From the onset, it was assumed cliff-released peregrines would suffer greater mortality than birds hacked in cities, mainly due to the presence of hawk-eating predators — especially great horned owls. Happily this was not the case. Of the 40 peregrines released at Dubuque, only four deaths were documented. Ironically, all but one were the direct result of human hazards — just like in the cities. One falcon was electrocuted, another drowned in a pasture horse tank and a third succumbed to chemicals. Their was strong circumstantial evidence that one peregrine was killed by a red fox when the remains of a first-day-out female

were found scattered near an active den site.

There were great horned owl interactions, but not of the nature anticipated. During both years of the Dubuque release, horned owls nested and produced young near the hack site. The owls fledged two young in 1999, and produced one fledgling in 2000. In

1999, the owls nested in a cliff face cubby about 125 feet directly below the hack site. This summer they nested in a different crevice 60 feet below and about 100 feet south of the site.

In a total of nearly 150 morning and 150 evening observations, there was not a single incident of a horned owl displaying territorial aggression or



### Releases of Peregrines on upper Mississippi River

	1998	1999	2000	Total
Effigy Mounds, McGregor	10	9		19
Eagle Point, Dubuque		21	19	40
Louisa Generating Station, Muscatine	4	8	6	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>77</b>

Carrying a small bird in its talons (above), a 65-day-old falcon returns from the Mississippi.

But that wasn't the end of it. As the summer of 2000 progressed, the inventory of breeding peregrines continued to soar — eventually ending with the confirmation of five cliff-nesting pairs. Leg band readings show founder populations are converging from a variety of habitats including power plant stacks, bridges and urban structures.

It is also gratifying to note a third Iowa peregrine is on the rocks. One of the new cliff-nesting females is the offspring of the pair which nests at the First Star Bank in Cedar Rapids. All in all, it has been an incredible first year for the Mississippi River's renewed population. Since many of the river's bluffs are extremely inaccessible, it's possible additional pairs may remain undetected.

There were also several sightings of immature (1999 hatch) falcons on the river during the past summer. During 1999, 38 peregrines were

released, and it could really get interesting next spring as the survivors of that year class hit breeding age and begin establishing territories of their own.

Most experts speculated it would likely take decades to reestablish wild peregrines to the upper Mississippi — if it could be done at all. The fact that five breeding pairs can be documented in the first year falcons returned to the river suggests the recovery may be more rapid than anyone dared dream. Therefore, it seems reasonable peregrine enthusiasts have been a bit giddy by this summer's initial success. American peregrine populations have had a rough go of it during the past few decades. But at long last it finally does appear as if the mid-continent recovery is about to complete its final and most important step.

--LW



**BOTTOM AND RIGHT:** In order to create a completely "natural" setting, hundreds of pounds of rock were carried in by hand and traditional wooden release boxes were lined, inside and out, with synthetic rock, square corners were eliminated on the inside, and imported live cedars were used to mask straight lines along the boxes' exteriors — an extreme measure unique to Eagle Point.

attempting to take a falcon. The owls were seen making kills, however, mostly from a population of bats frequenting the cliff's nooks and crannies.

It was also discovered that horned owls like fresh quail almost as much as peregrines do. Several observers witnessed adult owls fly to the hack site, take a quail, and deliver the item to its young. In most cases, the peregrines had left the area to seek nighttime roosts before the owls began their raids.

One hair-raising exception occurred when the adult male owl arrived with three just-released, but yet-to-fledge, peregrines still on the site. The baby falcons flared their wings and began angrily kacking at the intruder. After a quick assessment of the situation, the great horned owl gingerly stepped around the closest peregrine, grabbed a quail and took wing. Of course, the owl could have easily killed the baby

falcon. The best guess was the owl figured it was easier, and less risky, to grab a dead quail than a live peregrine. From then on, efforts were made to ensure the owls were as well fed as the falcons.

In July 2000, the Iowa Falconers Association held a summer cookout to commemorate the Dubuque project and the overall accomplishments of the mid-continent recovery. During the picnic, peregrine enthusiasts from three states had the opportunity to observe horned owls and falcons sharing the same cliff face. "I'd heard about this, but didn't believe it" was a frequent comment.

The flight skills of the peregrines progressed rapidly. Several falcons, usually males, began chasing small birds — mostly chimney swifts and tree swallows — within four days on the wing. When there weren't swallows or other birds to chase, the falcons chased each other. Serious hunting activities, along with occasional kills, began within two weeks. Most birds were nearly or completely self-sufficient after five to six weeks.

Although they had no intentions of actually catching and eating large quarry, the young peregrines loved to "terrorize" anything that flew. Cormorants, turkey vultures, gulls and herons ranked high on the list of preferred targets.

One exceptionally interesting observation occurred during a sunny August morning when Iowa falconers and Auduboners were each conducting spotting scope observations at the hack site. Suddenly, one of the falcons peacefully soaring above the site switched to "full combat mode" and began smoking toward the river.

"Chase on!" exclaimed an excited falconer. Everyone frantically searched the sky in an effort to be first to locate and identify the target. Suddenly, the intended mission became clear — the falcon was hurtling straight toward a trio of egrets nonchalantly lumbering their way across the river. Apparently the slow moving, white birds were just too much to resist. It wasn't until the last moment that the lead egret became aware of the stooping falcon. The egret





appeared ready to initiate some fancy evasive maneuvers when the peregrine struck. Feathers flew, the egret squawked!

The falcon pitched up, and raked the egret again — three times. With each pass, the panicked bird drew closer and closer to the water. Then, in the very nick of time, the big wading bird made the protective cover of the shoreline. It had been a stunning display. It was also a tense moment for all concerned. Egrets, of course, are the very symbol of the National Audubon Society, and no one was sure what the

attacks until the victim retreated back into its limestone fissure.

The frequent interaction between peregrine falcons and great horned owls at the Dubuque release site is of particular interest to science. For those who haven't heard, great horned owls were one of the main reasons peregrine falcons were released in cities instead of historic cliff habitats. In the recovery's early history, horned owls did indeed kill peregrines at a rural release site. From then on, all other mid-continent recoveries, including Iowa's restoration program, focused on urban releases.

nesting territories along the river. Also, a number of 2000 release birds were equipped with radio transmitters that "shut down" during late summer, but are programmed to restart in February 2001. When that happens students will begin flying the river corridor in an attempt to locate and monitor the movements of these birds. Support for the Dubuque project telemetry study has come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iowa College Fund and Iowa falconers.

In addition to attempting to bolster mid-continent peregrine numbers, the Dubuque project is also producing some interesting cultural impacts. For example, peregrines are currently raising public awareness for a broad spectrum of environmental concerns, particularly as they apply to the upper Mississippi River, its threatened bluffland habitats and the sensitive ecosystems they both support. In essence, the peregrine falcon has become a symbol — a living barometer of sorts — for an improved (cleaner) environment. And although the peregrine continues to serve as a grim reminder of past environmental transgressions, it has also become a symbol of renewal.

It's particularly inspiring that Iowa falconers and other peregrine enthusiasts were not content to wait for someone else to fix the problem. Instead, they seized the moment and used existing systems to unite city and state government, local educational institutions, industry, conservation entities and that vast cadre of dedicated, though seldom acknowledged, volunteers to initiate an important environmental mission.

The Dubuque peregrine project is one of our best examples of how all Iowans can work together for a better future, and for a better environment.

*Lowell Washburn is chairman of the Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team*



reaction to this "true life adventure" might be.

As the falcon returned to the hack site, someone asked, "What bird is that?"

"I can't see any markings," replied someone else. "But it's one of the females."

As the large falcon passed overhead, one of the birders — a rather small lady with white hair, binoculars and red tennis shoes — suddenly took off her hat, wildly waived it skyward and shouted, "You go girl!" Complete pandemonium erupted.

By mid-July, the older falcons (now three weeks on the wing) were also attacking the resident owl family. Whenever one of the owls would venture from a crevice to sit on a cliff ledge, the falcons would immediately begin a series of blistering, diving

Because little research has been conducted on Iowa falcons before they completely disappeared from the Big River, UD science students are currently gathering some very important information on the fledging behavior of cliff-oriented peregrines. During the next several months, UD seniors Irene Barry and Dan Calvert will begin to sort, sift and analyze two years of information regarding telemetry movements, survival, habitat use and dispersal. Their findings will literally help "write the book" on peregrine ecology for the upper Mississippi River — an incredible opportunity that is seldom, if ever, presented to undergraduate students.

Although no young falcons will be released on the Mississippi next summer, UD students will continue the work. Proposed activities include a search (from land and water) for new



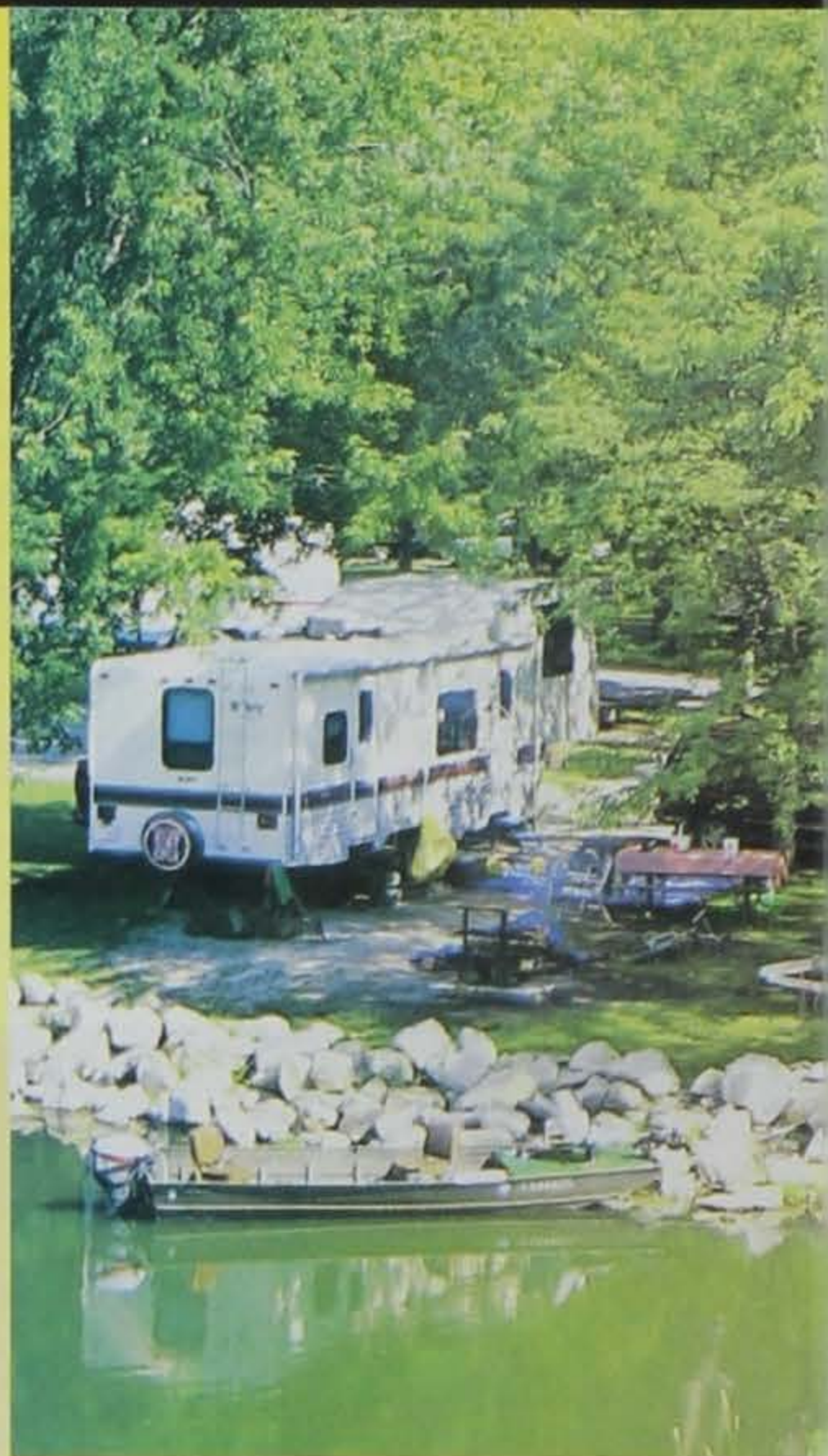
## Parks Profile

A Work In Progress  
A Half Century Later

# Viking Lake State Park

by Gary Poen and Todd Carrick

Located in the beautiful rolling hills of southwest Iowa, Viking Lake Recreational Area is a favorite spot of anglers, campers and those who enjoy the quiet of the woods, the whisper of the prairie grasses and the rippling waters reflecting the blue sky.



Located two miles east of Stanton on Iowa Highway 115, Viking Lake is one of the top 10 parks in the state based on camper and visitor numbers. The lake, which is 44 feet at its deepest point, has many bays and points dotting the shoreline. Much of the area has been left undeveloped and holds an abundance of wild flowers common to southwest Iowa.

### Area History

The history of Viking Lake dates back to 1949 when the Legislature appropriated \$25,000 for the Iowa Conservation Commission to find a suitable location for a state park in Montgomery County. After investigating four sites, the Commission settled

**ABOVE:** Viking Lake Recreational Area is among the top 10 parks in the state for camping.

**UPPER RIGHT:** An aerial view of the lake.

**RIGHT:** The addition of shoreline riprap has improved fishing.



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Clay Smith

on the south end of the lake. The dam also served as an access road to what was later to become a camping area.

### Four Decades Of Growth

Today, more than 40 years later, Viking Lake is probably best known for its fishing. Approximately four and one-half miles of shoreline provide easy access fishing for bass, bluegills, crappies, channel catfish, grass carp and bullheads. At one time, the state record channel catfish and white amur (grass carp) came from Viking Lake.

Despite Viking Lake's reputation as a quality fishing lake, steps have been taken to further improve fishing at the

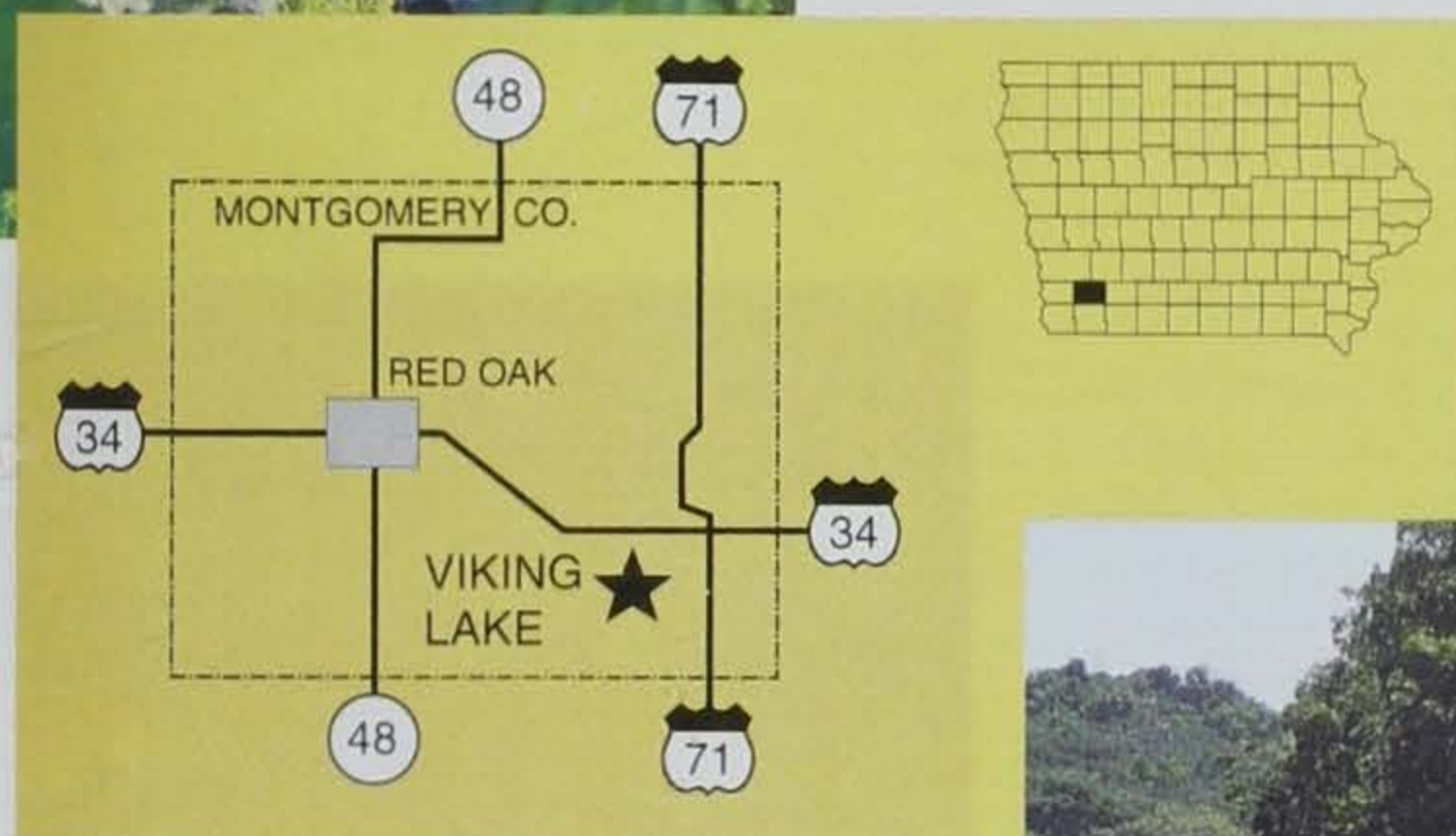
DNR photo



lake. A channel catfish rearing program is in its second successful year, raising fingerlings in cages during the summer and releasing them on the fall when they reach about 10 inches. In the fall of 1998, the lake was lowered 16 feet and approximately 280 cedar trees and stake beds were anchored to the lake bed and 800 tons of riprap placed. Anglers are already seeing benefits from the various management projects.

### More Than Just Fishing

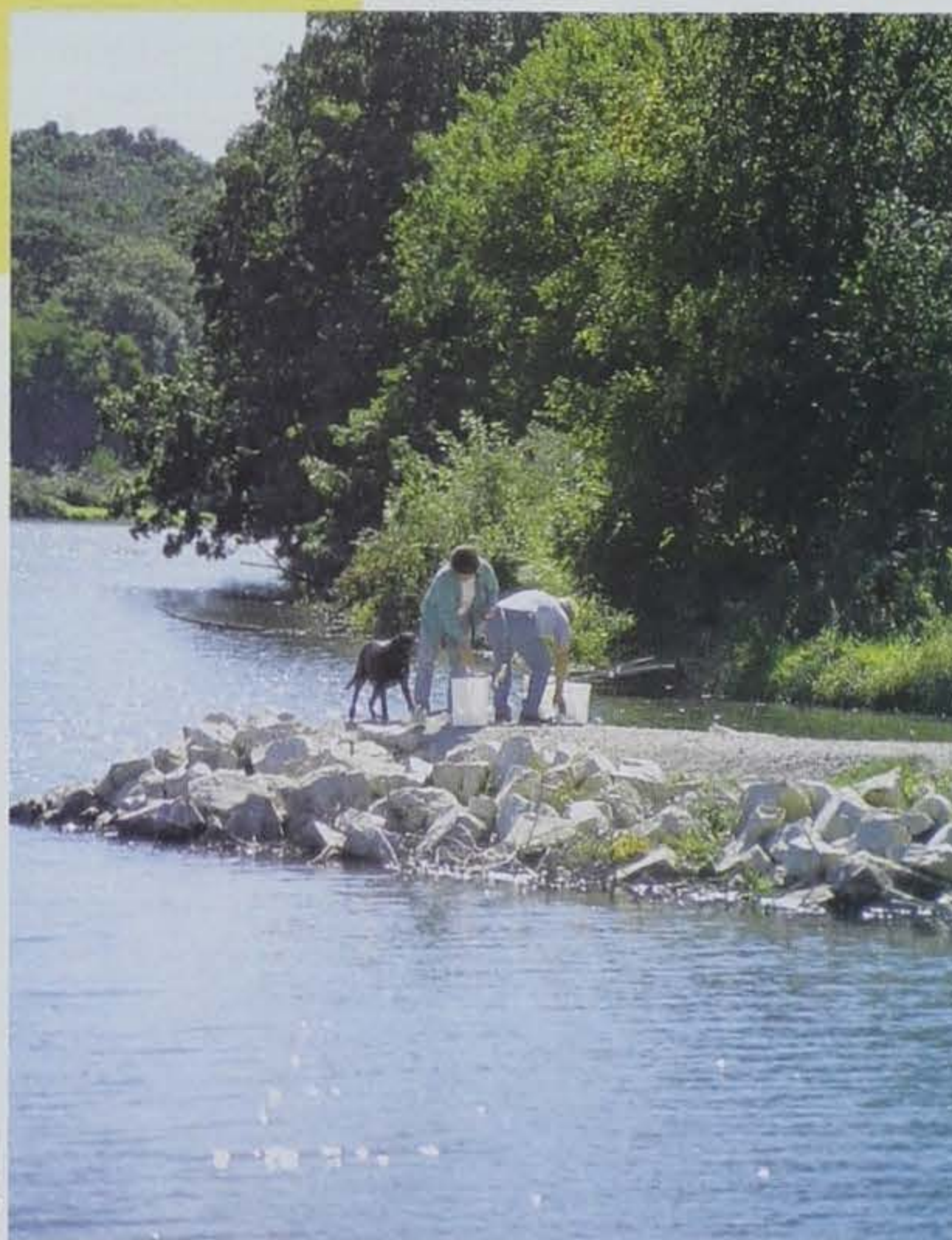
Fishing isn't the only thing that attracts visitors to Viking Lake. Plenty of other recreational opportunities



on the Viking Lake site.

In 1951, land for the park was purchased at a cost of \$115,000, and four years later, another \$275,000 was earmarked for site improvements and dam construction. Work on the dam started in February 1956 and was completed in October. Approximately 297,000 cubic yards of soil was moved to build the dam. With a base width of 400 feet, height of 55 feet and length of 1,250 feet, 770 cubic yards of concrete and 50 tons of steel were used to construct the spillway and sluiceway (for controlling water outflow). The cost was just under \$50,000. Road construction on the west side of the lake began in April 1957. Six months later, the 1,000-acre park and 150-acre lake were dedicated.

In 1962, the Legislature approved funding for an earthen dam and silt pond



Clay Smith



RIGHT: A caged catfish program has added another dimension to the fishing at Viking Lake.

BELOW: A young angler returns to the dock after a day on the lake.

BELOW RIGHT: Bait, beverages, food and boat rentals are available at the lakeside concession building.



Clay Smith

awaits park visitors. The campground offers 124 camp sites, 90 of which have electrical hookups, two shower facilities and a playground.

Hikers can explore the Bur Oak Interpretive Trail, which includes an observation tower featuring a panoramic view of the lake. The Whitetail Trail offers a great opportunity to view wildlife, including deer and wild turkeys, or cross country snow ski.

Pontoons, canoes, fishing boats and hydro-bikes can be rented from the concessionaire. The concession building is also a good place to replenish the tackle box, stock the bait cooler or fill up on pop, snacks and other camping supplies.

The lower picnic area, nestled on the far end of the lake, offers a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pit and plenty of shade from the native bur oak trees. The upper picnic area features an open shelter which can be rented.

DNR photo



## More To Come

To help meet growing and changing public needs and wants, the Viking Lake Renewal Planning Team met in October 1998 to discuss the park's future, taking into consideration visitor comments and current and anticipated funding status. Although comments centered around several main areas, campground improvements received the most mention, reinforcing the team's preliminary recommendations.

Viking Lake will again undergo renovations beginning this fall with the construction of a new concession building, including an indoor restaurant. Plans also call for the construction of a sidewalk to the beach, an open shelter house and a playground. Renovations of the lower picnic area will include moving the road to make room for a double shelter house with kitchenette.

Proposed campground improvements include upgrading the electrical system with 50-amp breakers, leveling and enlarging camping pads to accommodate modern camping units and adding 25 sites with water and sewer hookups. Plans call for shower facilities to be renovated to meet handicap accessibility guidelines and six "camper cabins" to be constructed. By 2005, plans call for the construction of six fishing jetties. In the future, a trail system is expected to be built around the park.

Already a popular camping and recreational area, planned renovations, improvements and additions will provide quality outdoor recreation facilities for park visitors far into the future.



Clay Smith

Gary Poen is ranger of park unit 13. Todd Carrick is park manager at Viking Lake Recreational Area.



## Right On Target!!

by A. Jay Winter

The humidity is fading, days are getting shorter, the nighttime air is getting crisper and before long, snow will be crunching under your feet. Now is the time to start thinking about hunting season in Iowa.



Roger A. Hill

There are many things you can do to prepare for the season, from preseason scouting to planning hunts. But don't overlook the obvious. Now is the time to make sure equipment is in working order and operating properly.

Sighting in a gun (followed by practice, practice, practice) is one of the most important preseason tasks. It is simple and takes a minimal commitment of time at the shooting range. It is far more rewarding and productive going into the field know-

ing you can hit exactly where you aim. Not only is it the ethical way to hunt, it can pay dividends at the moment of truth.

Following are 15 easy steps to make sure your gun is shooting accurately.

### 15 Easy Steps

1. Before sighting in a gun, first gather the proper tools:

- gun
- ear and eye protection
- ammo appropriate for the gun
- tools to adjust your sights
- large targets
- marker
- sandbags or something to rest the gun on while you shoot

2. Find a safe area to shoot, preferably a shooting range.

3. Determine the most common distance you will realistically shoot your gun and set your targets at that distance from the shooting bench.

4. Make sure your eye and ear protection are in place and properly fitted.

5. Practice aiming at the center of the target using the sandbags to support and stabilize the gun (remember you are not testing your accuracy, but the sights of the gun).

6. Load the gun and fire three slow, deliberate shots at the target, being very careful to aim before each shot.

7. Unload the gun and place it in a safe direction.

8. Check your grouping (the arrangement of the bullet holes make as they pass through the target).

9. Determine the center of the group and measure the distance up or down and left or right of the center (in inches).

10. Mark the holes with a marker so new holes can be identified.

**ABOVE:** Knowing your gun and its limitations is not only the ethical way to hunt, it can pay big dividends in the end.

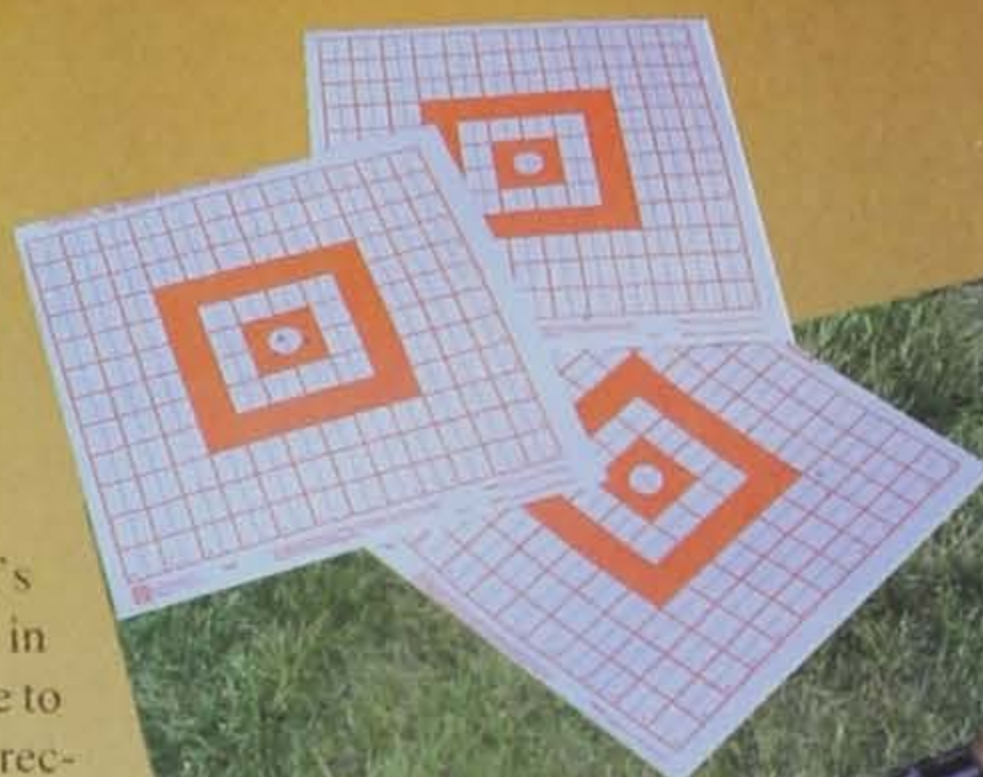
**RIGHT:** Sighting in a gun requires only a minimal commitment of time on the shooting range.

Clay Smith





# Practical Conservationist



Clay Smith

11. Adjust the gun's sights based on the tips in the box below. Make sure to read the manufacturer's recommendations printed on the scope or in the user's manual.

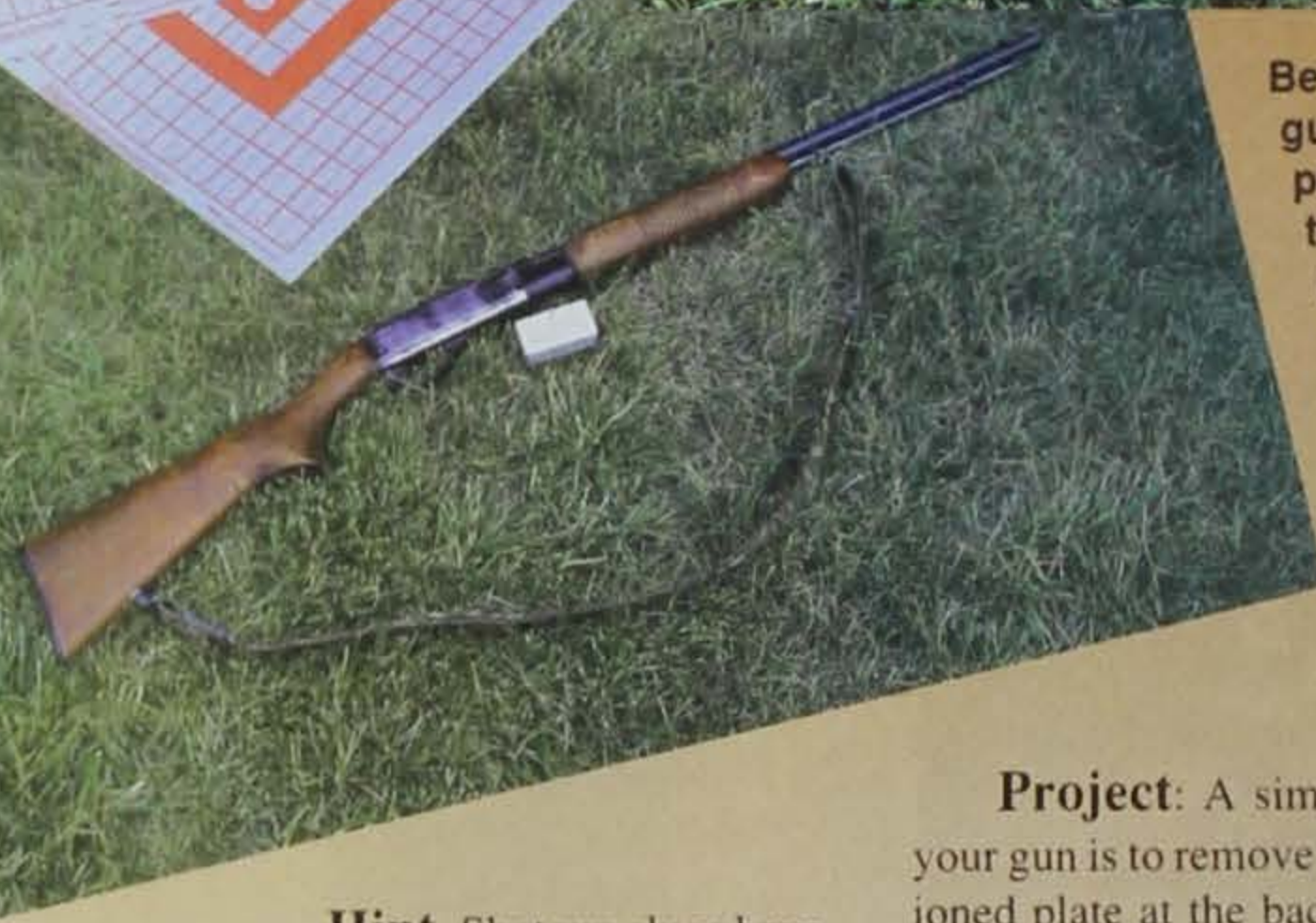
12. After adjusting the sights go back to the bench and carefully shoot three more shots.

13. If the center of the group is at the center of the target you are done. If not, repeat steps 6 through 13.

14. Tighten all screws and replace all caps.

15. Practice, practice, practice!!! The only way to become a good shot is through good practice!

Enjoy the fall and winter knowing you are right on target!



**Before sighting in a gun, gather the proper tools to do the job, including gun and proper ammo, eye and ear protection and targets.**

**Hint:** Shotgun slugs have traditionally been thought of as inaccurate and limited to short range. You can make the most of your shotguns' capabilities by going to the range and seeing where it shoots. This involves the same process listed, but you will not be able to adjust the sights. To make it more accurate, install a scope or open sights that clamp onto the barrel.

**Project:** A simple way to identify your gun is to remove the butt plate (cushioned plate at the back of the stock) and place an identifying mark in that place. This can be an engraved metal plate, trap tag or any other mark that would identify you.

## Scopes

A. Open the scope caps on the top and side of the scope.

B. One of the screws will be labeled elevation, which will adjust the hole up and down. The other screw will be labeled windage, which will adjust the hole left and right.

C. Adjust the screws slowly in the proper direction.

## Open Sights

A. Examine the back sight and determine how to move the notch at the back.

B. Move the back notch in the same direction you want the holes to move on the target.

Remember to always adjust your sights slowly. Minor adjustments to your scope will make a big difference in your shot placement.



## Animals Know To Follow Their Nose

### BACKGROUND:

Smell is the most important sense for mammals. Smell helps animals detect predators or prey, distinguish between family and non-family members, to find mates and to recognize their own territories as well as those of other mammals. In this activity, students put their own noses to work learning how and why a sense of smell is important to mammals.

Begin the lesson by discussing how a mammal's sense of smell works. Explain how deep inside a mammal's nose is an area called an "olfactory region," which contains lots of "smelling" nerves. When mammals breathe through their noses, odors in the air "turn on" these special nerves. Biologists believe mammals can distinguish between thousands of different odors.

Next, discuss how specific mammals use their sense of smell, such as detecting predators, or locating and tasting food. But smell is also important for many other reasons. For example, most male animals can tell when a female is ready to mate by a certain odor she gives off. And many animals "mark" their territories with fluids from their bodies or special scent glands. Smell also helps some mammal family members recognize each other. When most animals meet, they identify each other by sniffing. Many mammal "mothers" learn to recognize the sight, taste and smell of their young as soon as they are born.

The following exercise will give students the chance to "work" their own noses and apply their new knowledge.

### AGES:

Grades kindergarten through 7th

### SUBJECTS INVOLVED:

Science

### OBJECTIVES:

Explain how a mammal's sense of smell works. Describe some ways smell is important to mammals.

### MATERIALS:

- ◆ several different scents
- ◆ cotton balls
- ◆ paper and pencils
- ◆ yarn
- ◆ markers
- ◆ reference books
- ◆ cardboard
- ◆ paper punch
- ◆ stockings (optional)

## SNIFFING OUT A TRAIL

In this exercise, students get a chance to follow a scent trail to find clues.

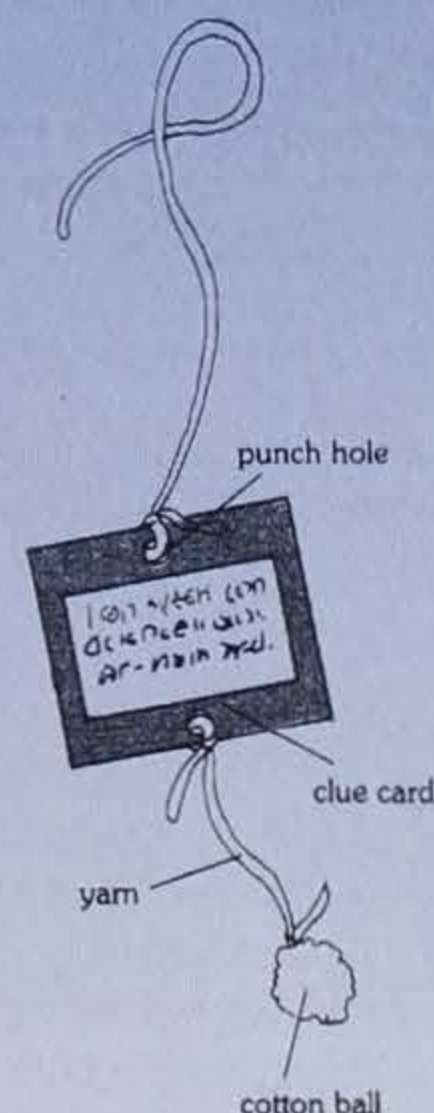
1. Cut out 25 5-inch-by-5-inch cardboard squares and 50 8-inch strands of yarn. Punch a hole in the top and bottom of each card.
2. Tie a piece of yarn through each hole and copy each of the clues listed on the next page on a separate card. This activity is designed to have five clue cards for each species, but it can be adjusted so the number of clue cards fit the number of students in a group.
3. Pick five scents (EX: vanilla, peppermint, lemon, maple, etc.) to use for the sniffing trail, either five similar scents to make the exercise more challenging or five all-together different scents. Soak six cotton balls in each scent.
4. Tie each cotton ball of the same scent to the five clue cards for that mammal. The sixth cotton ball will be used as a "sample scent." **NOTE:** If a scent changes the color of the cotton balls, cover each cotton ball with a stocking to camouflage the color.
5. Set up a trail outside, one the students can easily follow, like a nature trail or a path around the building. Pick five stations along the way. At station one, hang the habitat clues; station two, food clues; station three, description clues; station four, reproduction clues; and station five, special facts clues.

### HOW TO PLAY

Divide the group into five teams each representing a different species of female animal. The goal is to have team members follow the correct scent trail, collecting clues along the way, and then determine which mammal fits the clues.

To begin, assign each team a different scent and have team members smell the sixth cotton ball soaked in their assigned scent. A member from each team will start at each station. Each team member must sniff all the cotton balls at their respective stations until they find the one that matches their scent. When they find the right scent, have them write down the clue that appears on the card the scent is attached to.

Each person must visit all five stations to collect all five clues. Once all team members have visited all five stations, have the students regroup to determine which mammal they are. End the lesson by going over all the clues with the entire group.





# Classroom Corner

## OTTER

**DESCRIPTION:** I have a long body, prominent whiskers, small ears, long tail and short legs. My coat is dark brown to nearly black when wet.

**HABITAT:** While I can live both on land or in water, I am best suited for life in the water. I often make my home in holes in the river bank, beneath rocky ledges or under fallen trees. I can be found in mostly small populations across much of the United States and Canada.

**FOOD:** Fish and crayfish are my favorite foods, but I will also eat frogs, salamanders, snails, clams, snakes, turtles, muskrats, birds, aquatic insects and earthworms.

**REPRODUCTION:** It takes almost a year for my young to be born. I usually have two to four young at a time.

**SPECIAL FACTS:** After eating, I always wash my face and whiskers by rubbing them on grass or snow.

Ron Johnson

## COYOTE

**DESCRIPTION:** I have a medium- to large-size body and my coat is light gray to dull yellow.

**HABITAT:** I live in brushy country, along the edge of timber and in open farmlands. I am found across most of the western three-quarters of the United States, most of South America and much of Canada.

**FOOD:** I am primarily a carnivore, meaning I eat mostly other animals. I prefer rabbits and rodents, but I have been known to eat other wild mammals, poultry and occasionally a plant or insect.

**REPRODUCTION:** It takes about two months for my young to be born. I can have anywhere from two to 19 young at a time, but I usually have five to seven.

**SPECIAL FACTS:** When I "speak," my voice can carry two to three miles. I have been known to live up to 10 years in the wild and 18 years in captivity.

Ty Smedes

## RACCOON

**DESCRIPTION:** I have a plump body with a grayish coat.

**HABITAT:** I live in woodlands and like to hang around streams, ponds and lakes. I'm found in most parts of the United States and in parts of South America and Canada. I sometimes visit people's backyards.

**FOOD:** I eat small fish, crayfish, frogs, eggs, mice, fruits, nuts and some plants.

**REPRODUCTION:** It takes a little more than two months for my young to be born. I have three to six young at a time.

**SPECIAL FACTS:** Some people say I wash my food before I eat it, but I really don't.

Ty Smedes

Roger A. Hill

## WHITETAIL DEER

**DESCRIPTION:** I am so well known that I need little introduction. I am a fairly large animal with long legs and hooved toes. I am typically reddish-brown to tan in color and I have a white "collar."

**HABITAT:** I can adapt to different habitats, but I prefer the less-dense woodlands, timber clearings and grassy areas.

**FOOD:** I am a browsing animal, feeding on the leaves, twigs and fruits of trees, shrubs and plants. I also like corn, acorns and green grasses and plants. I have also been known to eat seeds, fungi, moss and, on rare occasions, animal foods such as snails and fish.

**REPRODUCTION:** It takes six and a half to seven months for my young to be born, typically in late May or early June. I usually have twins, but sometimes may have single offspring or triplets.

**SPECIAL FACTS:** I am a ruminant, which means I have a four-chambered stomach I use to digest my food. I can run as fast as 35 mph and jump more than 10 feet high.

Roger A. Hill

## FOX SQUIRREL

**DESCRIPTION:** I have a small but plump body with a reddish-yellow or orange coat.

**HABITAT:** I live in woodlands, especially those with a lot of oak and hickory trees, wooded ridges and timbered draws. I'm found across much of the eastern half of the United States. I enjoy the city life as much as the country life.

**FOOD:** I prefer corn, nuts and the fruit of the Osage orange tree (hedge apples), but I also eat eggs, mice, other fruits and some plants. I get most of my water needs from plants.

**REPRODUCTION:** It takes 44 to 45 days for my young to be born. I have three to six young at a time.

**SPECIAL FACTS:** If built properly, my home will last six to 10 months with little upkeep. If I perform routine maintenance, it could last two to three years.



## Small Game Harvest Numbers Down; Pheasant Take Off 27 Percent

Pheasant hunters in Iowa harvested nearly 900,000 pheasants during the 1999-2000 season, a 27 percent decline from the 1998-1999 season.

The lower pheasant harvest can be traced back to poor spring weather and the change in the farm program in 1996,

kind of habitat is better than none," Bogenschutz said.

Another factor reducing the pheasant harvest was the warm, dry fall weather.

"Warm weather kept the birds dispersed and not in their usual wintering areas," Bogenschutz said.

Preseason harvest estimates were 900,000 to 1 million birds, "so we were right in the ball park," he said.

"Hunters in northwest, central and east-central Iowa had the most success while hunters in northeast, west-central and southern Iowa had less," Bogenschutz said.

This is the first time since 1995 Iowa has not led the nation in the number of pheasants harvested. South Dakota led the nation with an estimated 1.5 million pheasants harvested last season.

Other small game harvest estimates were also lower than last year. The gray partridge harvest was down 21 percent from 1998-1999 and the number of rabbits harvested was down 7 percent. Only bobwhite quail had an increased harvest, a 9 percent jump from 1998.



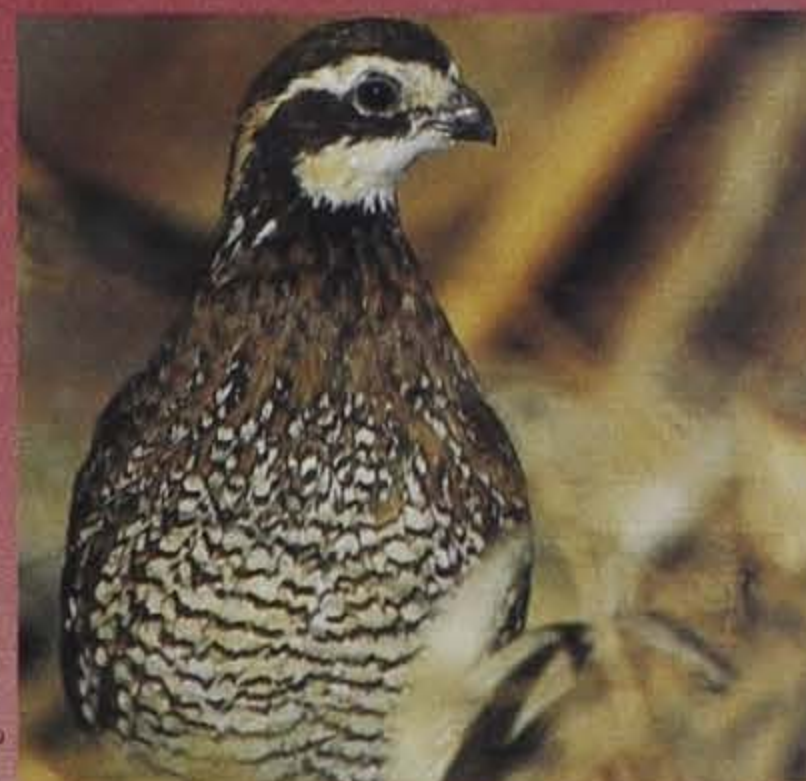
Roger A. Hill

**Iowa's pheasant harvest dropped to under 1 million during the 1999-2000 season for the first time since 1992.**

according to Todd Bogenschutz, wildlife biologist at the DNR's Boone wildlife station. Statewide, wet weather during the 1999 nesting season greatly reduced nest success. The wet weather only accentuated Iowa's habitat loss. When the farm program changed, an estimated 800,000 acres of ground were taken out of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and put back into production.

"That is equal to a strip of grass four miles wide that runs from Davenport to Council Bluffs, and most of it was in the northern two-thirds of the state where we need it the most," said Bogenschutz.

The impact of losing the CRP ground wasn't felt until the spring of 1997 when pheasants were nesting, and the loss continues to be felt today. There has been some ground returned to critical habitat through continuous CRP and other federal programs, but at a different level. Earlier, entire fields were in CRP, and now it is mostly in strips. The strips make pheasants easier to find for predators. "But any



Roger A. Hill

**Quail harvest actually increased 9 percent last season, yet the population still remains 70 percent below the long-term average.**

## Bobwhite Quail

Iowa's quail numbers remain almost 70 percent below the long-term average. "Changing land use, mainly intensified agriculture, is a leading factor in Iowa's declining quail populations," said Bogenschutz.

## Gray Partridge

"The lower harvest in 1999 was expected," said Bogenschutz. "Roadside surveys showed partridge numbers were down more than 50 percent from the previous year, mostly due to poor reproduction from wet spring weather in 1998. Forecasts of low bird numbers also reduced the number of hunters, which reduced the harvest," he said.

## Rabbits

A slightly higher rabbit harvest was expected this past year because of higher populations reported from roadside surveys, but lower hunter numbers and trips reduced the harvest. Bogenschutz said rabbit hunter and harvest numbers have declined steadily since the 1960s. "It's not a lack of rabbits," he said. "Folks simply don't take their kids rabbit hunting anymore."



Roger A. Hill

**Although surveys indicated a higher rabbit population, last season's harvest was down 7 percent.**



# Conservation Update

## Iowa Hunters Set Record Deer Harvest

Hunters in Iowa harvested a record 121,308 deer during the 1999-2000 deer hunting season, topping the old record by nearly 3,000, DNR officials said.

Richard Bishop, chief of the DNR's Wildlife Bureau, said hunters took 119,684 deer during the regular deer seasons and an additional 1,624 from special local management and depredation hunts.

"We sold more licenses last year and people had pretty good success rates," he said. The 1999 harvest eclipsed the previous record of 118,404 set in 1997.

The harvest also addressed a number of complaints regarding too many deer in specific areas of the state.

"This is part of the DNR's deer management plan to reduce the number of deer in areas where deer numbers have exceeded locally accepted levels," Bishop said.

"Success rates were good everywhere," said Willie Suchy, natural resources biologist specializing in deer management at the DNR's Chariton wildlife research station. "It went pretty good, better than we expected."

There were 7,100 non-resident hunters who harvested 3,763 deer.



Roger A. Hill

**Deer hunters set a new Iowa harvest record with more than 121,000 deer taken during the 1999-2000 season. The record harvest helped meet the DNR's deer management objectives for the year.**

## Change In Rearing Practices Nets Most Productive Year Raising Walleye At Two Iowa Lakes

A few changes in the DNR's walleye rearing practices resulted in the most productive year ever raising fingerlings at Welch and Sunken lakes, two walleye rearing lakes located in Dickinson County.

"We approached things a little bit differently this year," said Bob Benedict, fisheries technician at the Spirit Lake fish

hatchery. "We monitored the water quality, didn't fertilize the lake and transported the fry in tanks on a live fish truck, instead of in bags, and pumped water into it every 15 minutes or so to climatize the fish."

Water samples showed high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen already in the lakes, meaning the DNR did not have to add any extra. The nitrogen and phospho-

rus encourage zooplankton and phytoplankton growth to feed the young walleyes.

The results were dramatic.

"This is the most successful year in a number of years at Sunken Lake," Benedict said. "The previous record for walleyes seined was 146,000. This year we seined 393,000."

The DNR seined slightly more than 600,000, 2-inch fingerlings from Welch and Sunken lakes, which have since been stocked in several Iowa lakes. The remaining fish in the lakes, about 150,000, will be raised until late September or early October at which time they will be netted and stocked as 6- to 7-inch fish.

The larger fish survive better than the fingerlings and fry, Benedict said, but they are more expensive to raise because they are switched to a diet of minnows.

The 6- to 7-inch walleyes will be stocked at the following lakes: East and West Okoboji (total), 47,675; Clear Lake, 36,840; Storm Lake, 30,000; Five Island Lake, 9,500; North Twin, 9,000; Ingham Lake, 5,600; Center Lake, 5,450; and Black Hawk, 5,000.



Mick Klemesrud

**Thanks to a change in walleye rearing practices, the DNR experienced the most productive year raising walleye fingerlings at Welch and Sunken lakes.**





## DNR Waste Management Assistance Division Approves Funding For Four Regional Collection Centers

With recent funding approval of four new regional collection center (RCC) projects, the state has surpassed a milestone in a goal to provide continuous hazardous materials disposal and education to all Iowa counties.

Almost \$487,000 in grant assistance from the DNR's Waste Management Assistance Division will provide support to an additional 14 Iowa counties, bringing the total number of counties with RCC service and benefits to 57.

The largest grant — \$198,750 — was awarded to the Des Moines County Regional Solid Waste Commission and Great River Regional Waste Authority in Burlington for the placement of a new RCC. The facility will support a five-county area and serve more than 48,000 households. Along with Des Moines County, the other affected counties include Henry, Lee, Louisa and Van Buren.

The central Iowa Metro Waste Authority, which currently operates a regional collection center in Bondurant, serving 13 counties, will receive \$166,201 to expand its service and main facility and to add new satellite facilities and mobile services to support Crawford, Carroll, Shelby and Adair counties.

Approximately \$87,000 was granted



Nearly \$500,000 in DNR grant assistance will help start four Regional Collection Centers in Iowa for the collection of household hazardous waste materials.

to the Union County Landfill Commission for placement of a new RCC. The facility will serve 9,668 households in Taylor, Union and Adams counties.

The Bremer County Sanitary Landfill was awarded \$35,000 to launch a satellite facility supporting 4,873 households in Grundy County.

The continued expansion of the regional collection center program is expected to divert approximately 181,454 pounds of hazardous materials from Iowa landfills.

Household hazardous materials generally include some of the most toxic, flammable and dangerous wastes. If disposed of improperly in municipal landfills, dumped on the soil or down a sewer, they pose a significant threat to Iowa's groundwater.

Since 1994, 13 regional collection centers have been established across Iowa. Eleven facilities are operational with two more slated to open later this fall. All grants awarded to set up new facilities must be matched by local funds.

## DNR's Rebuild Iowa Program Reaches Milestone: \$7 Million In Energy Efficiency Improvements

Rebuild Iowa, a DNR program helping communities become more energy efficient, recently announced it has achieved more than \$7 million in improvement projects since the program began in 1996.

"Iowa communities are reaping fantastic economic savings through these efficiency programs, while helping the environment," said Heather Silberhorn, Rebuild Iowa coordinator for the DNR.

Currently, Muscatine, Akron-

Westfield, Hamilton County, Cedar Falls and Webster City are Rebuild Iowa participants. Through the program, communities identify ways to save energy in local buildings and businesses. Hospitals, schools, city administration buildings, industries and small businesses are candidates for energy efficiency improvements.

"Iowa's program creates real dollar savings and new jobs," said Silberhorn. "Our participating communities can expect to save as much as 25 percent in their utility bills."

Rebuild Iowa began as an extension of the U.S. Department of Energy's Rebuild America program. Communities develop action plans targeting areas for improvement, outline roles for local contractors and suppliers and identify local financing of projects.

The \$7 million in improvements means nearly \$700,000 in annual energy cost savings, and the elimination of more than 14,000 tons of greenhouse gases that would have been generated from fossil fuels.



# Conservation Update

## Electronic Licensing Expected To Unveil Statewide In October

Iowa's electronic licensing system is moving forward with the recent introduction of pilot programs across the state.

The Electronic Licensing System for Iowa (ELSI) was installed at 42 sites in Iowa and one in Minnesota (see page 7 for a list of pilot sites) in late August to begin final testing on the system. ELSI is expected to be unveiled statewide by the end of October.

Although electronic licensing has been in planning for the past five years, in the past year the DNR, in conjunction with Central Trust Bank of Jefferson City, Mo., has worked aggressively to design and test the system. Internal testing over a two-week period in July uncovered only minor problems, which have since been corrected. The pilot programs will further test the system for any additional problems.

ELSI is expected to make it quicker and easier to buy and sell conservation licenses in Iowa. The DNR will be able to collect more reliable and accurate harvest data to set seasons and bag limits and recover revenue in a timely manner, thereby helping fund important DNR programs.

In the interim between the pilot program and full implementation, some hunt-

ers, anglers and trappers will be licensed under the new electronic system and some under the old paper system. Also, a 50-cent administration fee will be charged on all privileges sold through ELSI which will not be charged on paper licenses.

One of the highlights of the new system is the license agents' ability to sell more privileges. All state conservation licenses and fees, including most deer and wild turkey tags, will be sold over the counter. Selling specialty tags through ELSI is also expected to increase the time allowed for purchasing tags.

Subscriptions to the *Iowa Conservationist* magazine will also be available online through ELSI. And as a thank you to Iowans for using the new system, the magazine will be offered during the first year of the program at the one-year discounted rate of \$6.

There are two important requirements hunters, anglers and trappers need to be aware of when buying an electronic license for the first time. First, license buyers will need to provide a social secu-



Chay Smith

**All conservation licenses, including most deer and turkey tags, will be sold through the new Electronic Licensing System for Iowa beginning later this year.**

rity number or valid Iowa driver's license or identification card. A unique Iowa DNR number will be issued to each license buyer. On future license purchases, the Iowa DNR number is all that is needed. In addition, anyone born after Jan. 1, 1967, will be required to show proof of having successfully completed a hunter safety course before buying a hunting license.

## DNR, UHL Announce Expanded Web Sites For Current Air Quality Conditions

Iowans can check online at four different websites to see current air quality conditions for several common air pollutants in Iowa and 30 other states thanks to a new graphical and interactive web site hosted by the University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) in Iowa City.

Current air quality conditions are posted for four common air pollutants, including microscopic soots and dusts, sulfur dioxide and ozone, which is the main chemical in smog. The data originates from numerous pollution monitors run by the DNR and UHL.

The new web site has educational information about air quality and health, air quality data and current air conditions

based on the national Air Quality Index or AQI. The index puts the air into six categories such as good, moderate and several unhealthy levels. The web site also links to similar sites run by air pollution control programs in Polk and Linn counties.

All sites link to EPA's national ozone smog mapping project that shows current smog levels in a format similar to weather radar, and even forecasts smog levels for select cities. Iowa began participating in the national smog mapping this summer.

Air data for Polk and Linn counties can be found on the county air pollution control web sites at [www.co.polk.ia.us/departments/pubwks/airquality/](http://www.co.polk.ia.us/departments/pubwks/airquality/) and [www.air.linn.ia.us/](http://www.air.linn.ia.us/). The UHL site is

[www.uhl.uiowa.edu](http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu) and the national smog map is at [www.epa.gov/airnow](http://www.epa.gov/airnow).

**CORRECTION:** A map pictured with the "Check the Smog Map" article in the July/August issue was incorrect. The correct map is shown below.

3 pm Sept 4 1999





## REAP Congress 2000

The Congress for Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program reaffirmed its stance that the program is of great benefit to the state, but that funding has been lacking in recent years. The consensus was reached during the semiannual REAP Congress July 15 at the State Capitol in Des Moines.

"Congress delegates agreed the program is of great benefit, but made it clear they were disappointed with the level of funding the program is receiving from current appropriations," said Kevin Szcodronski, REAP coordinator for the DNR.

Legislation authorizes \$20 million to be allocated to REAP each year, but the program has consistently received less than half that amount. Appropriations to REAP for the last three years have been \$9 million to \$10.5 million and the Congress urges the Legislature to fully fund the program at \$20 million.

"The Congress was also informed that sales of the natural resource license plate, of which REAP is a beneficiary, are down drastically from previous years," Szcodronski said. REAP receives about \$800,000 a year from the sale of the natural resource license plate featuring Iowa's state bird and flower, the goldfinch and wild rose. About 68,000 vehicles currently carry the plate, but only 3,000 have been sold each year in 1998 and 1999.

In an effort to promote the sale of the license plate, the REAP Congress recommended the \$35 fee for the initial purchase of a REAP license plate be given to the county REAP committee where the plate was sold. Individual REAP committees could then use the funds for projects identified in their five-year plan pending project approval from the Iowa Natural Resource Commission.

The REAP Congress took action on two issues. The Congress recommended forming a 5- to 10-member committee of REAP Congress delegates to study ways to promote REAP. They will share their findings with the DNR. Another study committee of REAP Congress delegates and City Grant committee members will look at the current rules pertaining to the City Parks and Open Spaces grant program. Their findings and recommendations will be presented to the 2002 REAP Congress for discussion.

Two other issues not directly a part of the REAP program, but related in that they affect Iowa's natural environment, were also acted upon by the REAP Congress. Szcodronski said the Congress endorsed a resolution of support for the development of procedures and enforcement of strong water quality rules and the IOWATER initiatives.

REAP began in 1989 and has received national recognition for its progressive investment in the state's natural and cultural resources. The REAP Congress is made up of 85 people elected during 17 public meetings held throughout the state this last winter. These 17 meetings are held every other year, with the Congress held the following summer. This was the sixth REAP Congress since the program's inception. The responsibility of the Congress, as specified in state law, is to "organize, discuss and make recommendations to the governor, the general assembly and the Natural Resource Commission regarding issues concerning resources enhancement and protection." Action and recommendations of the 2000 REAP Congress will be provided to the governor and Legislature for their consideration during the legislative session that begins in January 2001.

### Upcoming NRC and EPC Meetings

The dates and locations have been set for the following meetings of the Natural Resource Commission and Environmental Protection Commission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Agendas for these meetings are set approximately 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting date. For additional information, contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

#### Natural Resource Commission:

- September 7  
Ft. Dodge
- October 12  
Sidney
- November 9  
Des Moines
- December 7  
Des Moines

#### Environmental Protection Commission:

- September 18  
Des Moines
- October 16  
Des Moines
- November 20  
Des Moines
- December 18  
Des Moines



## Coming Up Short

It was an early summer Sunday afternoon, and I decided to check fishing licenses at Pine Lake State Park. In keeping with my usual practice, I parked my truck in a secluded portion of the park and made my way downhill through the woods to a trail circling the lake.

I noticed a couple standing next to the beach. I watched the man fish for awhile, then approached him. After exchanging small talk, I asked to see his license. I suspected his response, given fishing seemed to be secondary to working on his tan, and I figured he didn't have a license in his swimsuit.

"It's up in my car in the parking lot," he told me. We agreed to meet later to settle the issue after I finished my rounds through the park.

Passing the beach, I found a lone angler rigging up a fishing line. He had just arrived, but I told him I'd like to feel satisfied knowing he had a license. He reached into his tackle box and handed me the fishing license. We talked awhile, and I wished him good luck and went on.

Ahead of me, I could see a couple fishing on the point of a fishing jetty extending into the lake. I noticed the man was just removing a fish from the hook. It appeared to be a largemouth bass, and from where I stood, it looked to be a little shy of the minimum length limit required to keep a bass. I decided to stay at my vantage point in the trees and watch with binoculars for awhile.

The guy was holding the fish, and he seemed to be considering his options. He looked left, then right, then behind him. Quickly, he picked up a stringer, strung the bass and tied the end of the stringer around a rock next to the water's edge.

Apparently satisfied all was well, he picked up his fishing rod. He looked right. Clear. He looked behind. Clear. He looked left. Game Warden!

The "deer-in-the-headlights" look he flashed was visible even from a distance. I had emerged from behind the trees and was making my way to the end of the jetty. He paced back and forth. After seemingly coming to the conclusion there was no escape, and jumping into the lake was not an option, he apparently opted for plan B.

"Say, can you help me?" he asked.

"Aha," I thought. The "divert-the-warden's-attention-from-the-real-problem-at-hand" play. I'd seen the tactic before. It's similar to the "how-could-I-know-when-sunrise/sunset-is-when-I-don't-have-a-watch" defense used during hunting season.

"Sure, what can I do for you?" I answered.

"Well, I caught this fish, and I don't know if it's long enough. Do you have a ruler with you?"

"I certainly do have a ruler," I answered. I sensed this wasn't the answer he wanted to hear. The possibility of the warden responding, "Looks pretty close to me," had gone out the window.

"I noticed you tied your stringer up down there," I said, pointing to the edge of the water. "Bring it up here, and we'll measure it. But, I have to tell you now, if you had doubts about its length, you were required to release it immediately."

He pulled up the stringer. Sure enough a largemouth bass looking a little short of the required 15-inch minimum length hung from the cord.

Kneeling down, I pulled out my tape measure. I stretched out the fish giving the man every possible benefit of the doubt I could. Even with that, it was an inch and a quarter short of the minimum. I explained again that short fish had to be released immediately, which certainly didn't appear to be his intention since he had put it on the stringer. I asked for his fishing license, and I pulled out my ticket book. We took the bass, put it in the water, and moved it back and forth to get oxygen flowing through its gills. With a flip of its tail it headed for deeper and safer reaches of the lake.

I gave the ticket to the man to sign, and he said, "I didn't have a ruler."

I explained to him how length limits help ensure the future of good bass fishing in the lake, and that it was his responsibility to have the means to measure the fish he caught. I also asked him if he had a dollar bill on him. He looked surprised, like "Is the warden a little short on cash?"

"A dollar bill is 6 inches long," I said, "which can help you estimate the length of the fish."

He was a pleasant guy, and he apologized for taking a short fish. I told him it wasn't necessary to apologize, and I thanked him for his cooperation.

Walking back, I passed the man I had checked earlier. He was already packing up. "Any luck?" I asked.

Grinning, he reached down and pulled up a stringer. Attached to it was a XXL-size channel catfish. His smile was nearly as big.

"This will be dinner for tonight," he said. "You must have brought good luck when you checked me. I'm really glad to see you!"

At least somebody was happy to see me, I thought, and I disappeared down the trail.

---

by Chuck Humeston



## Parting Glance



Ty Smedes

**... and the first “branch potato”  
is born.**



