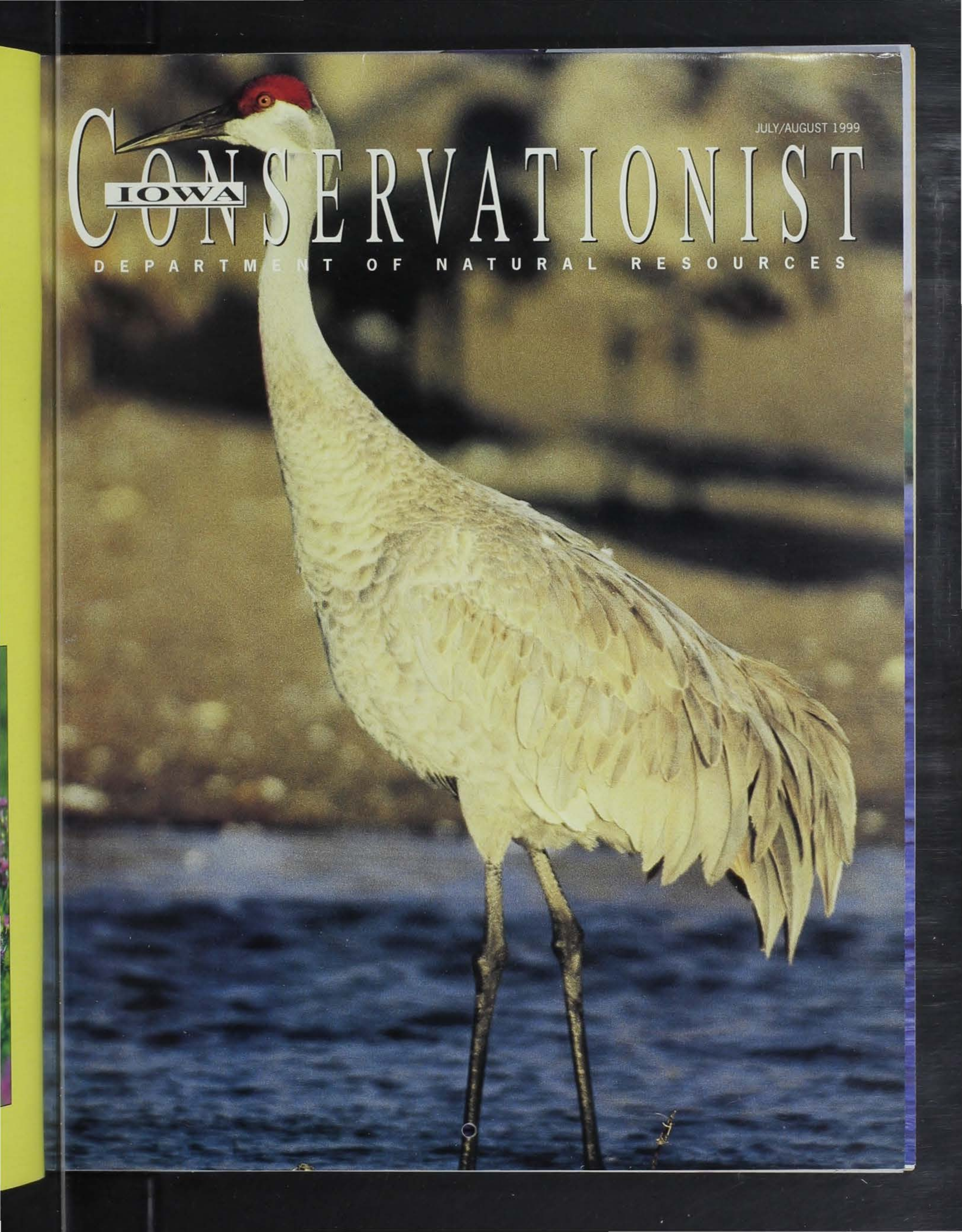


CONSERVATIONIST

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JULY/AUGUST 1999

IOWA



By the late 1800s, deer were rarely sighted in this state, and in 1936 the entire Iowa deer population was estimated at 600 animals. This population grew steadily and in 1953 the first modern deer hunting season was held. Through carefully regulated hunting seasons, the deer herd has grown to an estimated 300,000 animals. The present harvest is more than 100,000 deer each year, and there are still plenty for wildlife viewing. Whitetails are truly a wildlife success story. *Photo by Roger A. Hill*

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
East 12th & Grand
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6 new moon	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18	19	20	21 full moon	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
				2	0	0

In the late 1800s, deer were nearly extirpated in its state, and in 1936 the entire Iowa deer population was esti-



When pioneers reached Iowa, beaver were abundant along river systems throughout the state. Overexploitation by trappers and hunters reduced beaver numbers and by the 1850s they were considered "nearly extinct." In 1872, aided by legislative protection, beaver "re-invaded" most of the Missouri River drainages. Populations increased rapidly, and by 1949 there was an open season on beaver for the first time in many decades. With regulated trapping, the beaver population has remain relatively high. While beaver create considerable habitat for many fish and wildlife resources, their tree-cutting and dam-building characteristics sometimes create conflicts with lowans. Beaver are, in fact, another excellent example of a restored Iowa wildlife species. *Photo by Lowell Washburn*

February

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

4

5 new moon

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14 Valentine's Day

15

16

17

18

19 full moon

20

21 Presidents' Day

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29



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Wood ducks were considered very rare in Iowa in the 1920s and 1930s. Through a control on hunting and a successful nest box program, the population grew. Today, wood ducks are one of Iowa's most common nesting ducks and make up the third most common species in the hunter's bag. Considered by many to be the most beautiful of all ducks in Iowa, they grace nearly every backwater and pond in the state. *Photo by Lowell Washburn*

March

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

5

6 new moon

7

8 Ash Wednesday

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17 St. Patrick's Day

18

19

20 full moon

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31



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Proclaimed as a "harbinger of spring," the Eastern bluebird's mellow notes are among Iowa's most welcome signs of warmer weather. This wasn't always the case, however. Bluebird numbers declined drastically in the late 1800s due to a severely cold winter. Rebounding from this natural phenomenon was hindered by the growing number of house sparrows taking over prime nest cavity locations. Harmful pesticides, like DDT, compounded the problem. Recognizing the plight of this beautiful bird, wildlife enthusiasts nationwide began establishing bluebird nest box trails. The birds responded tremendously to well-maintained boxes placed in suitable habitat. Today, Iowans can count on enjoying the "harbinger of spring" as well as the warmer weather! *Photo by Ty Smedes*

A p r i l

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

3

4 new moon

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16 Palm Sunday

17

18 full moon

19

20 Passover

21 Good Friday

22 Earth Day

23 Easter

24

25

26

27

28 Arbor Day

29

30

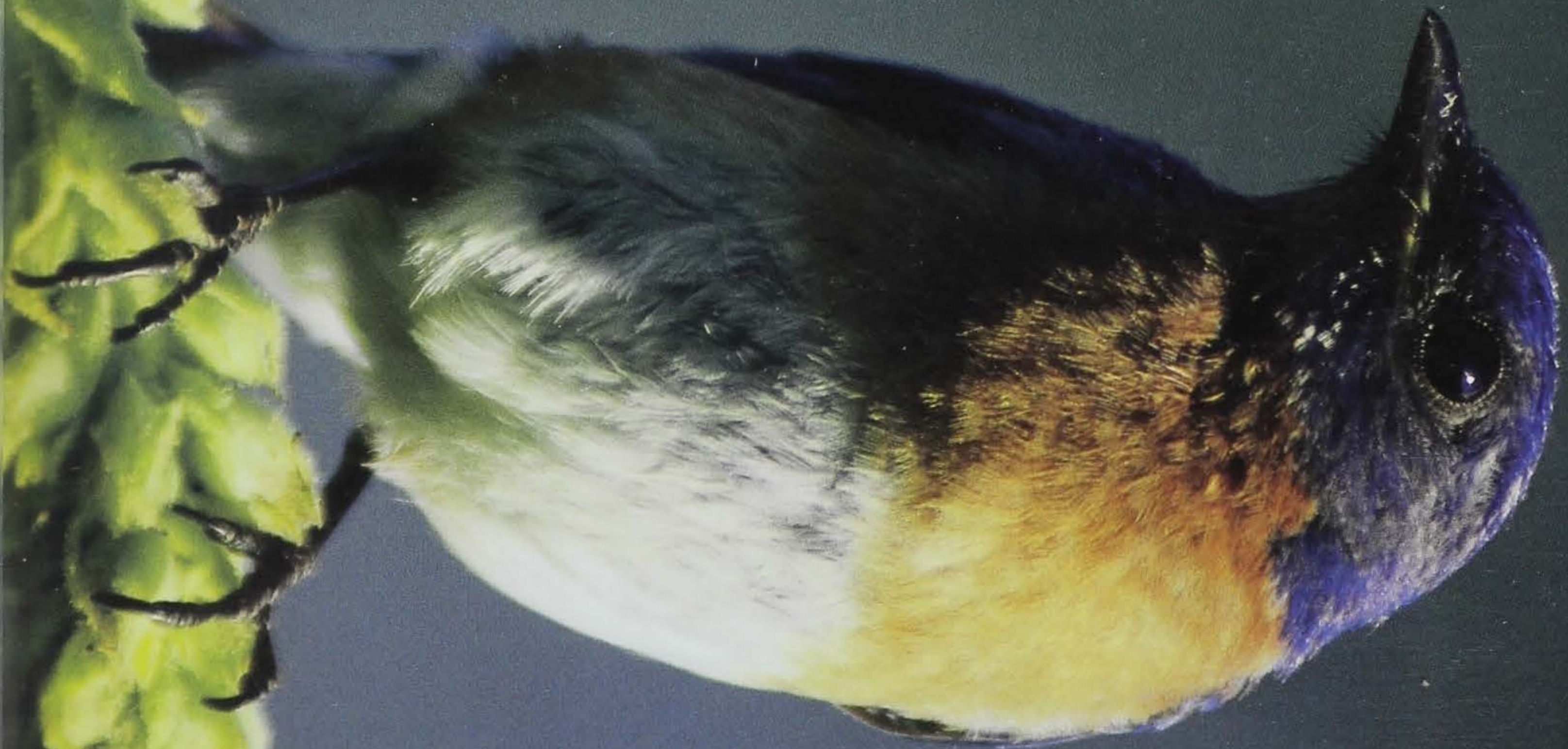


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Proclaimed as a "harbinger of spring," the Eastern bluebird's mellow notes are among Iowa's most welcome signs of warmer weather. This isn't always the case, however. Bluebird numbers declined drastically in the late 1900s

Wild turkeys were common in this state when European settlers first arrived in Iowa. Through unregulated hunting and extensive habitat loss, they were eliminated from Iowa by the early 1900s. The first successful release of wild turkeys in Iowa was in 1966. Since then, more than 3,000 wild turkeys have been released at nearly 250 sites across Iowa. Turkeys can now be seen in nearly every county of the state. *Photo by Lowell Washburn*

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 May Day	2	3	4 new moon	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18 full moon	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day (Observed)	30	31			
				2	0	0



Wild turkeys were common in this state when European settlers first arrived in Iowa. Through unregulated hunting and extensive habitat loss, they were driven and from Iowa by the early 1900s. The first successful reintroduction of wild turkeys to Iowa was in 1915.

The last giant Canada goose nested in Iowa prior to 1900. The Department of Natural Resources brought these magnificent birds back to Iowa in 1964 and the population has grown steadily since then. They now nest in every county of the state, and each Iowan can have the opportunity to thrill at the sight of these birds in flight and listen to their distinctive call. Wildness has once again returned to Iowa skies. *Photo by Lowell Washburn*

June

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

4 Free Fishing Day

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14 Flag Day

15

16 full moon

17

18 Father's Day

19

20

21

22

23

24

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29

30



Visit Iowa's State Parks

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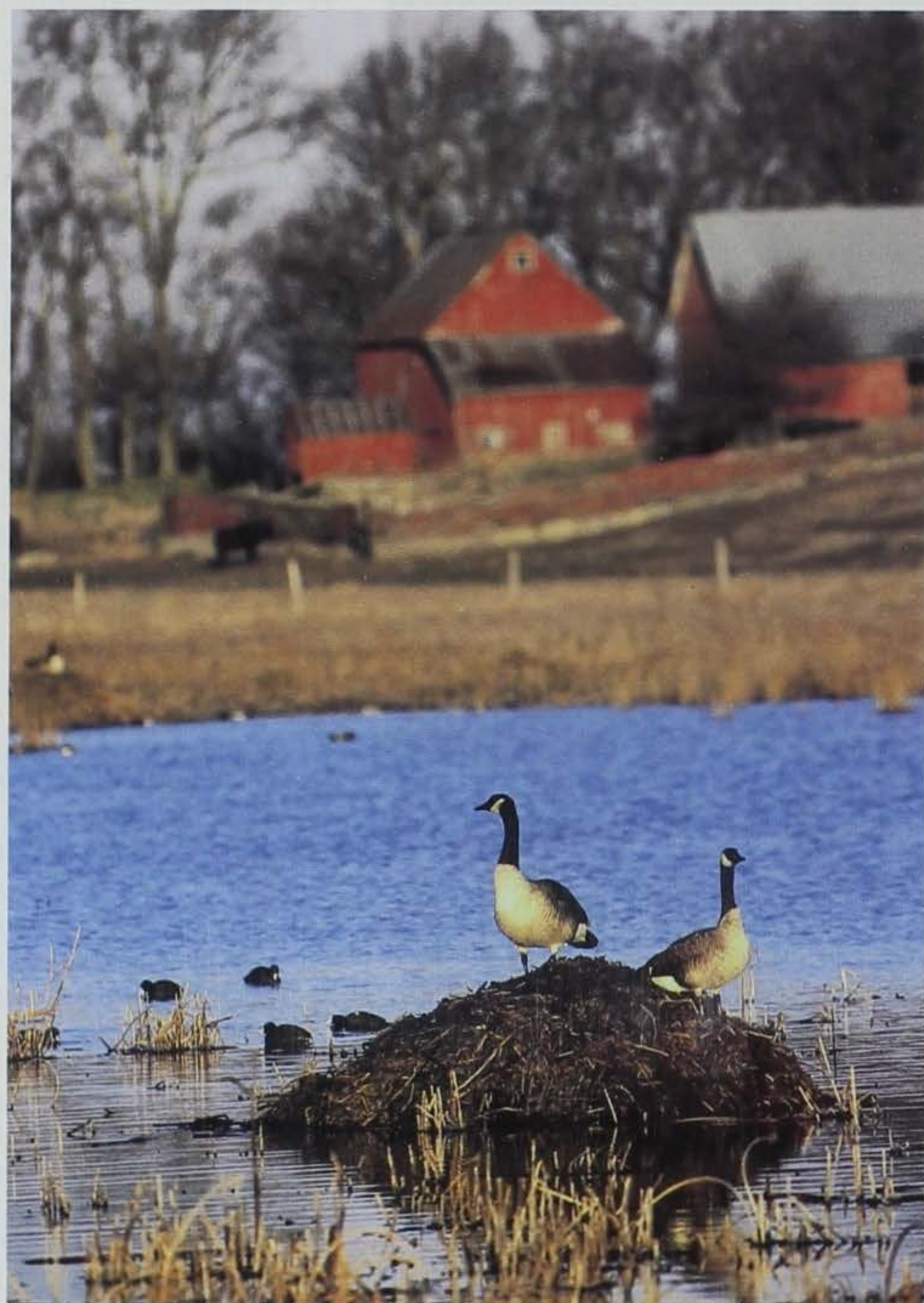
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The last giant Canada goose nested in Iowa prior to 1900. The Department of Natural Resources brought these magnificent birds back to Iowa in 1964 and the population has grown steadily since then. They now nest in



Conservation Milestones at the Millennium



When settlers first came to Iowa more than 150 years ago, they encountered a land rich in natural resources. Tallgrass prairie stretched for thousands of miles, interrupted only by a healthy blend of potholes, marshes, woodlands and streams. Wildlife thrived in the diverse, opulent mixture of habitat, providing food for the new arrivals. Stretches of timber along the rivers and streams meant fuel for cooking and heat for the cold winter months. Across much of Iowa, water was clean and plentiful. No one dreamed it possible this

seemingly endless supply of life-giving gifts of the land could some day be in jeopardy.

But as the number of settlers grew, so did the demand on resources. Vast acres of prairie were converted to cropland. Timbers were cut down to make room for even more cropland. In time, wildlife populations declined dramatically, some to extinction. Although it didn't draw the attention or concern it does today, water quality suffered as the natural filters

provided by the grasslands and woodlots were lost. Tons of valuable, fertile topsoil were lost to wind and water erosion. It wasn't too long ago many wondered if some of these natural resources would ever come back.

But comeback they have. Thanks to increased awareness and appreciation of Iowa's natural resources, great strides have been made in restoring and protecting these valuable assets. The key has been gaining cooperation and support from landowners, considering the majority of land in the state is privately owned. Without their help, the accomplishments made in water, air and soil quality; habitat and other resources would not have been possible.

Conservation Milestones at the Millennium, a statewide campaign celebrating the achievements



by Alan Foster
Managing Editor

Photos by
Roger A. Hill



have played key roles in ensuring Iowa children develop an appreciation for natural resources.



50 Years of Watershed Protection

Thanks to the efforts of Iowans working together to address resource issues, watershed protection programs implemented with local, state and federal assistance during the past 50 years

have reduced erosion and flooding, and improved rural environments. The challenge now involves rehabilitating those erosion and flood-control structures which are nearing the end of their expected life.



Conservation Tillage on More Than 50 Percent of Cropland

More than 50 percent of Iowa cropland is now protected through conservation tillage

methods. Conservation tillage has become the cornerstone of conservation efforts on thousands of acres in the state. It is viewed as a remarkable revolution in tillage methods, having both environmental and economic benefits. During the past 30 years, there has been a steady increase in conservation tillage in the state. However, there is concern the use of conservation tillage has leveled off in the past few years.



100 Years of Building Diversity in Wildlife Habitat



Early this century the Iowa landscape was changing from a vast sea of tallgrass prairie interspersed with potholes, marshes and wooded hills and stream valleys to a patchwork of cultivated fields. New technology allowed settlers to successfully and quickly turn prairie sod, wetlands, and woodlands into rich black cropland. The loss of this valuable native habitat — along with unregulated shooting of turkeys, deer, Canada geese, wood ducks and prairie chickens for food — caused many species to decline dramatically in numbers, and some



made in natural resources conservation on private lands, is recognizing those accomplishments. The campaign is bringing landowners engaged in resource improvements together with those positively impacted by their work, such as farmers who have improved habitat on their land with hunters and birdwatchers who have benefited from the resulting rise in wildlife populations.

The campaign also emphasizes partnerships. Numerous agencies, organizations and groups who have worked together with landowners to protect and improve resources on Iowa's private land are involved in the campaign.

Even with the strides in natural resources conservation, Conservation Milestones at the Millennium recognizes we, as citizens of Iowa, have much more work ahead. Further improving water and air quality, continued restoration and protection of habitat and reducing soil erosion remain top priorities across the state.

Iowa has a proud heritage of conservation. Throughout the years, committed landowners and skilled conservationists have worked together to improve and protect the resources on Iowa's private land. Even more has been done on public land. If Iowans continue to work together toward improving, enhancing and protecting natural resources, there will be many more conservation milestones to celebrate in the next millennium.

Celebrating 10 Conservation Milestones

Conservation Milestones at the Millennium was designed to recognize 10 "conservation milestones" at various events held across the state throughout the summer of 1999. These milestones are significant natural resource conservation achievements, of which all Iowans can be proud. The events will showcase the hard work and dedication thousands of Iowans have contributed to conservation accomplishments. Iowans can take pride in knowing they played a key role in these 10 "conservation milestone" success stories.



100,000 Acres of Buffers

Iowa has more than 117,500 acres of grass and tree buffers which help improve water quality in Iowa's lakes and streams. Iowa currently has more farmers with continuous CRP buffers than any other state, with one out of every 10 farmers participating.



50,000 Acres of Restored Wetlands

Wetland restoration efforts in Iowa have reversed the trend from wetlands loss to wetlands gain. Since 1992, Iowans have enrolled approximately 83,400 acres in the Wetlands Reserve Program. Similar programs have restored an additional 32,000-plus acres — 10,350 through the CRP program, 10,000 through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Iowa DNR funding, and several thousand acres more through local conservation groups — the remaining acres in some stage of restoration.



100-plus Water Quality Projects

More than 100 water quality projects initiated in 57 counties across the state have improved both surface and ground water quality. Local groups within the state continue to work toward establishing water quality monitoring programs.



100 Miles of Coldwater Stream Improvements

As private landowners improve management on adjoining land, Iowa's coldwater stream quality improves, thereby increasing recreational pleasure for thousands of Iowans. At Sny Magill, for example, the amount of pesticides reaching the stream has decreased by one-third, and erosion has been cut in half. Some level of natural trout reproduction is now occurring along 44 miles in 25 streams.



\$100 Million in Contributions From the State of Iowa

Approximately \$100 million in contributions from the State of Iowa — matched by private landowners — along with additional federal dollars, have helped reduce soil erosion in Iowa by a third since 1992. Landowner contributions illustrate their interest in taking care of Iowa's natural resources.



100 Years of Building Diversity in Wildlife Habitat

Habitat restoration has played a key role in the comeback of various wildlife species once extirpated from

Iowa. Bald eagle, wild turkey and giant Canada geese populations, nearly wiped out just a few decades ago, are now thriving in Iowa. River otters can now be found in three-fourths of the Iowa counties, and whitetail deer are plentiful. Prairie chickens can now be heard booming in portions of the state, thanks to recent restoration efforts. Peregrine falcons, absent from the Iowa landscape since 1955, are now nesting in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Just last year, the first pair of free-flying trumpeter swans successfully nested in Iowa for the first time in more than 115 years. Rehabilitation projects, as well as improved habitat on private lands, are responsible for these comebacks.



100 Years of Soil Surveys

Soil surveys established the groundwork for sound decisions in resource care and improvements made over the last century. More than 420 soil types were identified in Iowa during surveys conducted in 1990 in all 99 counties. Because of the surveys, Iowans can now access soil information digitally, and use it in a variety of ways.



One Million Students With Conservation Values

More than one million students have been taught the value of conservation through educational programs such as Project Wild; Food, Land and People; Iowa Clean Sweep Projects; Envirothon; and numerous classroom projects and local programs. Conservation districts, county conservation boards, state agencies and various local groups

tion boards and many private organizations such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation have worked within the prairie pothole region of Iowa. All of these efforts have resulted in a major reversal for wetland

more prairie is to restore it. That is being done in several areas of the state, one of the most notable being the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge near Prairie City. The Fish and Wildlife Service is restoring 2,000 acres of native prairie on the 5,000 acre refuge. Bison and elk have

approximately 1.5 million acres have been enrolled in CRP in the state, providing grassland habitat for many upland wildlife species. Prairie chickens were reintroduced to a large block of grassland in Ringgold County, and since 1987, the DNR has released 550 chickens in southern Iowa. In the spring of 1999, seven prairie chicken leks (dancing grounds for breeding chickens) were identified in five counties. The future of prairie chickens will depend on the continued existence of grassland. The current situation looks favorable for grassland species, but the future demands long-term protection of grassland habitat or the progress made in the late 1980s and 1990s will disappear.

White-tailed deer, turkeys, squirrels, redheaded woodpeckers, scarlet tanagers and many other species depend on woodlands for their existence. Woodland acres decreased throughout the first three-fourths of the century, declining to about 1.5 million acres of timber. Since the 1970s, a U.S. Forest Service inventory showed an increase of about 500,000 acres, to about two million acres.

Today, woodland habitat in Iowa is interspersed with grasslands and cropland, creating ideal living conditions for deer

and turkey. With full protection, wild turkeys were reintroduced to Iowa in the early and mid-60s. During the last 30 years the DNR has released about 3,200 turkeys at 247 sites.



Least bittern

and grassland protection in the prairie pothole area — 35 counties in north-central and northwest Iowa. Today, wetland-dependant species are expanding their populations. Iowa is no longer experiencing an annual net loss of wetlands.

Iowa's prairie heritage is all but gone. Small tracts of virgin prairie remain scattered across the state, but the only way to have

returned to this landscape and can be viewed by visitors. Prairie restoration is also occurring on the uplands of many state DNR wildlife areas and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl production areas.

Grasslands other than native prairie increased in acreage with the Conservation Reserve Program, which paid landowners to seed down erodible cropland. Today,

Turkeys responded very well, and population levels have far exceeded our most optimistic visions. We now have turkeys in all counties providing hunting opportunities for more than 50,000 people, and nearly 20,000 birds are harvested every year.

During the same period, deer were managed to keep hunting mortality below the break-even point. The resulting population increase provided hunting opportunities for all Iowans and even some nonresidents. Demands by the public led to a management program allowing an average annual harvest of 90,000 to 100,000 deer. The rebound of these two species is truly phenomenal and has enriched the quality of life in Iowa.

Three other species responding to management on private lands were the wood duck, bluebird and





Wetland drainage continued into the 1970s. The late 1980s marked the beginning of a historic wetland restoration effort — the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The program, coupled with the Food Security Act of 1985 (1985 Farm Bill) — which included the Swampbuster provision, Conservation Reserve Program, and the Wetland Reserve Program — changed the outlook for wetlands and the face of Iowa's future. The Conservation Reserve and Wetland Reserve programs provided funding to private landowners to idle crop land and return it to wetlands and grasslands. The Swampbuster provision placed restrictions on draining and filling of wetlands. To date, the Wetland Reserve Program has enrolled more than 80,000 acres. Restorations presently in progress are restoring a portion of this land back to productive wetlands. Partnerships between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, county conserva-

to completely disappear. By the 1920s, giant Canada geese, trumpeter swans and turkeys had disappeared and species such as white-tailed deer, beaver, otter, wood duck and prairie chickens had severely declined.

Even with new laws to protect them from over-shooting, the relentless destruction of habitat spelled doom for many species. By mid-century a conservation concern had strongly emerged and wood ducks, beaver and white-

tailed deer were increasing. At the same time, the prairie chicken and sandhill crane disappeared while the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, river otter and bluebird continued to decline. Attention from Iowa conservation leaders like Aldo Leopold, Ding Darling, Ira Gabrielson and Paul Errington continued to fuel this interest in wildlife management and new wildlife restoration programs developed under the direction of the Iowa Conservation Commission. The last part of the century brought a budding new era which bore bountiful fruit in the form of wildlife populations and restored habitat.

When the first settlers came to Iowa the tallgrass prairie marsh/pothole ecosystem covered approximately 7.6 million acres of our landscape. However, the relentless drive for more

farmland reduced this magnificent wetland mosaic to an estimated 30,000 acres of potholes and marshes by 1980. Most of these wetlands were in public ownership. Some wetland-dependent species declined to very low numbers while others disappeared as nesting species.





The Quilt



"They were pleased-as-punch to do it," says Conservation Milestones at the Millennium quilt designer Mabeth Oxenreider.

She refers to the nearly 20

quilters from guilds around Iowa who volunteered their time and talents to create this quilt commemorating Iowa's efforts at preserving habitat diversity. The quilt depicts 12 species at various points along the comeback trail, thanks to the efforts of Iowa's land stewards to maintain and restore wildlife habitat on public and private lands.

Quilters around Iowa were quick to appreciate the concept and get involved in this tribute. "They were very enthusiastic about working on this. Quilters are generous people," says Oxenreider. Their generosity has produced a striking 76-inch-square pictorial quilt using "a lot of fabrics."

"I rarely use a solid piece of fabric in a quilt," says

Oxenreider, "I won't say never because you'll get in trouble that way, but I prefer different patterned fabrics."

Those fabrics are pieced into borders using nature colors and nature themes. Oxenreider shaped her design using flying geese and log cabin borders, but her focus was on the wildlife pictures. It wasn't always easy, she said, creating a design to do justice to the photos and to the quilter's talents.

"It was challenging to get 12 photos put together in a quilt and still have room for interesting blocks and to make it pleasing to the eye," Oxenreider said. "But we did it. I'm very happy with it; I hope you are."

She need not worry.

by Pat Boddy, P.E.
owner of the Boddy
Media Group

The quilt will be on tour throughout the summer at various milestone events around the state. It will then take up residence at the State Historical Building in Des Moines.

Mabeth Oxenreider, designer of the Milestones at the Millennium quilt, met the challenge of creating the quilt with a little help from her friends:

Des Moines Area Quilt Guild and The Empty Spools of Des Moines

Marilyn Parks
Mary Booth
Linda Beardsley
Gail Holz
Carole Floyd
Kathryn Leavell

The Glory Bee's of Marshalltown

Barb Bandow
Karen Cary
Debbie Lindeman
Laura Stephens
Ardis Winters

The Mississippi Valley Quilters Guild of Davenport

Eunice Grell

The Ottumwa Quilters Guild

Krisanne Orsborn
Joyce Hart
Janice Van Gorp
Ilean Turner

The Oxenreider Grandchildren

Ashley Alexander
Kasey Pfeifer
Tommy Alexander

giant Canada goose.

In the early 1900s, wood duck populations declined dramatically due to the loss of nesting habitat caused by the removal of woodlands along inland streams and high hunting mortality. However, populations began to recover in the 1940s and 1950s thanks to the efforts of sporting groups and fish and wildlife agencies who partnered in numerous wood duck box programs. The additional nesting opportunities created by the wood duck boxes, coupled with reduced bag limits, allowed populations to recover. In fact, wood ducks, once considered on the brink of extinction, are now the most plentiful nesting duck in Iowa.

The giant Canada goose was considered gone from the wild until a population was discovered at Rochester, Minn. in 1962. State programs to re-establish the giant Canada back to its native haunts were quite successful. Iowa started its program in 1962 with a few giants released in Emmet County. After considerable work and patience, the giant Canada goose nesting population increased to an estimated 80,000 breeding birds. This trophy bird can now be observed nesting in every county in Iowa.

Bluebirds responded much like the wood duck to an aggressive nest box program operated by private individuals. Bluebirds are now quite numerous in areas where people have erected and maintained nesting boxes.

Reintroductions of

turkeys, giant Canada geese, river otters, peregrine falcons, trumpeter swans and prairie chickens all have been successful. The success of turkey and giant Canada goose introductions are evident by their sheer visual numbers.

Peregrine falcon and trumpeter swan reintroductions are newer programs. The DNR has released 90 falcons in recent years,



is, if we provide the habitat, wildlife will respond. Build it and they will come.

While humans have changed the Iowa landscape forever, the trend for declining habitat is being reversed. Partnerships formed to protect and restore wildlife habitat are working. The future of wildlife depends on healthy ecosystems with adequate well-managed habitat.



resulting in three active nests. The trumpeter swan population is poised to take wing. The state has released 185 swans at 44 sites, and this year there are 10 nests with 42 cygnets hatched. The future is quite bright for Iowa swans.

Species such as the sandhill crane returned to Iowa wetlands because attractive habitat was available. These birds most likely came from breeding populations in Wisconsin.

Presently, Iowa's breeding population of cranes is increasing, and we can expect that trend to continue as long as the wetland habitat remains.

The bald eagle — once DDT was banned — increased in numbers and expanded its breeding range from no nesting eagles in Iowa to an estimated 100 nests in 1999. Nesting bald eagles are expected to continue expanding into new areas of the state. The point

Agencies and individuals working together can ensure wildlife species will have a place to live and will be here for future generations to enjoy.

by Richard Bishop
*wildlife bureau chief
for the DNR*

Once nearly gone from this nation's skies, bald eagles have made a comeback. A cleaner environment and habitat protection has permitted their return. There was only one active nest in Iowa in 1977, but today there are more than 80 active nests in 42 Iowa counties. They can now be viewed from downtown Des Moines to the most remote corners of the state. Once again, our national symbol soars over Iowa towns and fields. *Photo by Ty Smedes*

July

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2

3

4 Independence
Day

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16 full moon

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31 new moon



Visit Iowa's State Parks

1 new moon

2

0

0

0



It's Hard to Believe



by Jim Pease
ISU Extension
wildlife specialist

Above: The latest to return to Iowa, the sharptail grouse.

Sandhill cranes at sunset.

One hundred years ago, at the turn of the century, the animals highlighted in the calendar and on the quilt were nearly gone from the state of Iowa. Fortunately, Iowans realized their loss and in this century, began turning the trends around.

The determination and creativity of Iowans, working with wildlife professionals to restore and reconstruct habitat on their own land, made it possible for these species to return to the Iowa landscape — enriching all our lives in the process. We have led the way in wildlife and habitat restoration and protection.

But, there's still a lot to be done. Many other species have a foothold but have a

long way to go before we can say, "they've recovered." Sandhill cranes need more restored wetlands and clean waterways. Prairie chickens need large areas of restored prairie. Bobcats and ermine need more woodlands and prairies. Other species, like mussels in our streams and rivers and many of our woodland

songbirds, are still in real trouble. Their survival is in jeopardy.

We have come a long way — but there is still much to be done. Species respond if the habitat is there. In Iowa, only about 2 percent of the land is publicly owned — one of the lowest percentages in the nation. In the long run, it comes down to us — the private landowners and concerned citizens of Iowa.

It's up to us. We must conserve what we have, and restore more if we want continued success stories. Many agencies and organizations stand ready to help. With grants, technical assistance, education and

labor, agencies like the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Division of Soil Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa



Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation districts, Extension Service and county conservation boards are all ready and willing to help. Private groups like Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, the Izaak Walton League, Whitetails Unlimited and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation are available to help in a variety of ways.

The efforts of Iowans before us have brought these species back. Now it's up to us. Let's add even greater diversity to the Iowa landscape quilt!



Sandhill cranes last nested in Iowa in 1894 in Hancock County. Since then, crane sightings were rare, even for birds migrating through Iowa. Changing land-use patterns, unregulated hunting and egg collection, coupled with other disturbances during settlement times coincided with a dramatic decline in sandhill numbers throughout the Midwest. Recently, however, cranes are trickling back into Iowa marshes. A pair of sandhills successfully nested at Otter Creek Wildlife Area in 1992, Iowa's first nest since 1894! Since 1992, crane numbers have slowly increased across the state. Today, we have more than 70 birds living in Iowa wetlands, with successful nests in five different locations. The future for sandhills in Iowa looks bright. *Photo by Ty Smedes*

A u g u s t

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15 full moon

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29 new moon

30

31



Visit Iowa's State Parks

2

0

0

0



In Iowa, the last reported peregrine falcon nest was in 1956. The peregrine's dramatic decline was a result of pesticide contamination and habitat loss. The Department of Natural Resources began peregrine reintroductions in 1989 with 10 birds in Cedar Rapids. Since then, a total of 93 birds have been released across the state, nearly all in urban settings, where tall buildings serve as substitute nest sites for the cliff-nesting bird. Several pairs have successfully nested in recent years. Ultimately, Iowans hope to have 10 nesting pairs in the state.

Photo by Ty Smedes

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 full moon	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 new moon	28	29	30 Rosh Hashanah
				2	0	0
						0

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tip
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In 1994, the last reported peregrine falcon nest was in 1986. The peregrine's dramatic decline was a result of

The once-common river otter was nearly eliminated from the Iowa interior by the early 1900s. The Department of Natural Resources began a reintroduction program in 1985, when 16 animals were released in central Iowa. Since then, more than 500 otters have been released and have now been sighted in the wild in 76 counties, with confirmed reproduction in nearly one half of all Iowa counties. These playful mammals have once again returned to Iowa's rivers and streams. *Photo by Ron Johnson*

O c t o b e r

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Yom Kippur Columbus Day (Observed)	10	11	12	13 full moon	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 new moon	28
29 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	30	31 Halloween				

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1-800-532-2020

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The once-common river otter was nearly eliminated from the Iowa interior by the early 1900s. The Department



During the late 19th century, prairie chickens were the most abundant gamebird on the Iowa prairies. Through overhunting and habitat loss, their numbers declined rapidly. The last verified nesting, prior to reintroduction, was in 1952. Since 1980, 660 prairie chickens have been released in Iowa and habitat has been purchased to protect this species. Populations have been successfully established in southern Iowa, and the "boom" of the greater prairie chicken can once again be heard over Iowa grasslands. *Photo by Roger A. Hill*

November

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

5

6

7

Election Day

8

9

10

11

Veterans' Day
full moon

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Thanksgiving
Day

24

25

new moon

26

27

28

29

30

Turn in Poachers
Call **tip**
of Iowa, Inc.
1-800-532-2020

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Trumpeter swans, the largest of all Iowa waterfowl, last nested in this state in 1883. In 1994, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources released the first trumpeter swans in the state. A total of 132 swans have since been released. In 1998, more than 100 years later, the first free-flying trumpeters nested in Iowa. Many partners worked to bring these birds back to Iowa for all to enjoy. More than 100,000 acres of restored wetlands, most on private lands will help insure their future in Iowa. *Photo by Ty Smedes*

December

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

3

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11 full moon

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13

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22 Hanukkah

23

24

25 Christmas Day
new moon

26

27

28

29

30

31

Turn in Poachers
Call of Iowa, Inc.
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IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

July/August 1999
Volume 58, Number 4

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Iowa Conservationist (ISSN 0021-0471) is published bimonthly by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Periodicals postage paid in Rock Island, Illinois. Subscription rates: \$9.97 for one year, \$14.97 for two years and \$19.97 for three years. Prices subject to change without notice. Include mailing label for renewals and address changes. POSTMASTER: Send changes to the *Iowa Conservationist*, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

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2001 Calendar

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A variety of publications on energy conservation, environmental protection, geology, outdoor recreation and waste management are available through the Department of Natural Resources. Quantities may be limited on some publications.

Cover: Sandhill crane by Ty Smedes

Above: Milestones at the Millennium quilt





J a n u a r y



F e b r u a r y



M a r c h



A p r i l



M a y



J u n e



J u l y



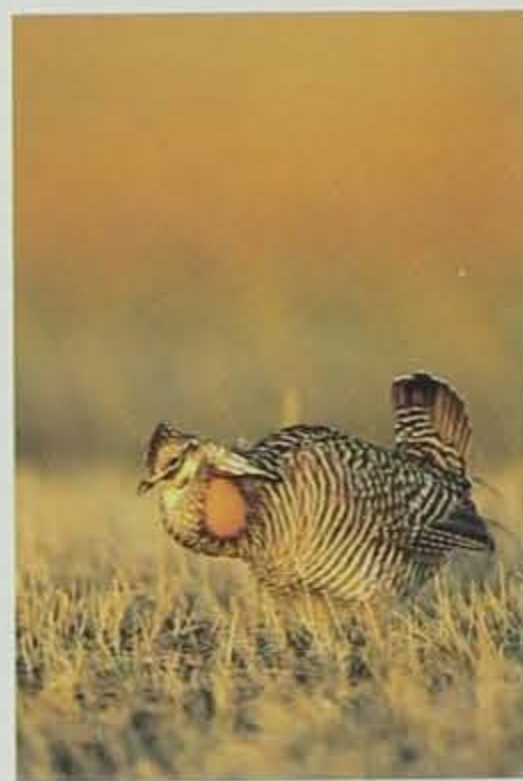
A u g u s t



S e p t e m b e r



O c t o b e r



N o v e m b e r



D e c e m b e r



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