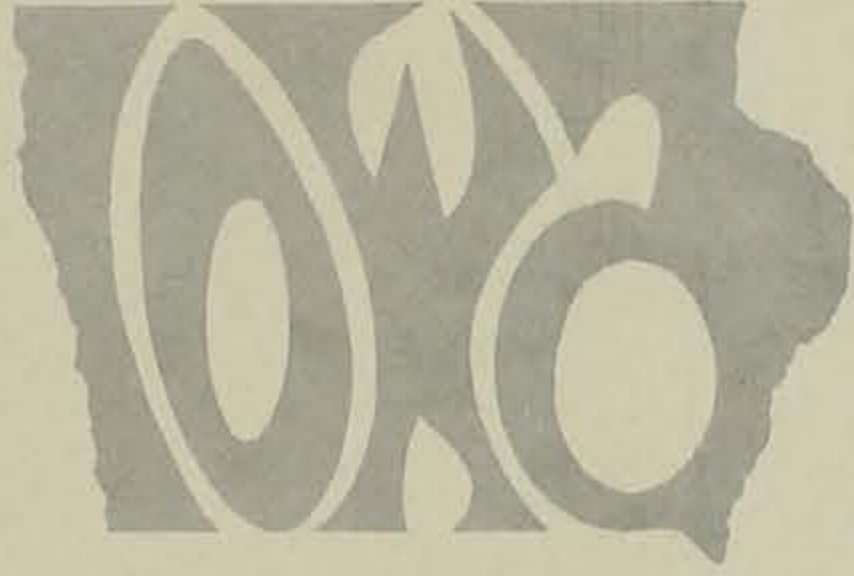




SEPTEMBER 1970



# CONSERVATIONIST



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SEPTEMBER, 1970



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Fishing on the Upper River (North of Decorah) for Smallmouth Bass.

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COMMISSION MINUTES

Des Moines, Iowa  
July 7, 1970

Formerly dedicated the following state owned property as preserves: St. James Lutheran Church, Fort Atkinson, Winneshiek County; Woodman Hollow, Webster County; Cold Water Springs, Winneshiek County.

Approved the following projects for submission to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation: State Conservation Commission, survey to determine participation rates and demand for recreation facilities and activities; Delaware County Conservation Board, Twin Bridges Park, development; City of LeMars, West Floyd Park, acquisition 4 acres; Tama County Conservation Board, Otter Creek Lake Park, development; Cherokee County Conservation Board, Martin "Little Sioux" Area, acquisition 25 acres; Town of Waukee, Campus Park, development; Decatur County Conservation Board, Slip Bluff Park, development (project amendment).

Accepted the following land acquisition options: Big Creek Lake Project, Polk County, 135 acres; Volga River Lake Project, Fayette County, two options totaling 100 acres; Walters Creek Watershed, Adams County, 140.8 acres.

Accepted option for 40 acres, Fallow Marsh, Palo Alto County.

Accepted settlement for 208 acres, Volga River Lake Project.

Accepted an award for 12 acres adjacent to Pikes Peak State Park.

Accepted \$1 from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Murphy as a memorial to their son, Neal, who was killed May 16, 1970, to be deposited in the Lands and Waters Fund.

Presented Otto Knauth of the Des Moines Register and Tribune with a certificate of commendation for his part in creating great public interest in Cold Water Cave as a vital natural resource.

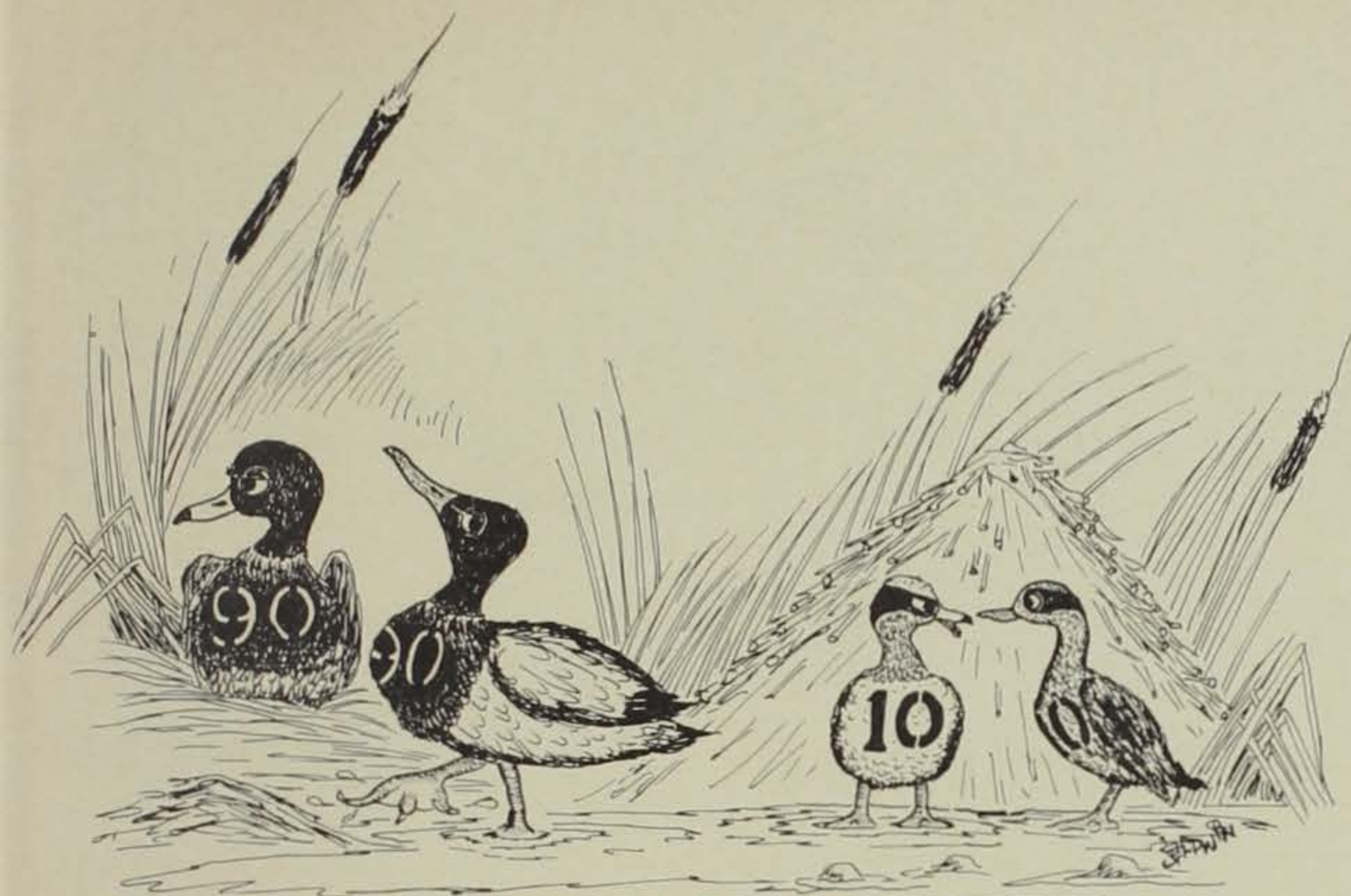
The following County Conservation Board projects were approved: Cherokee County, Martin-Little Sioux Recreational Area Addition, 25 acres; Delaware County, Twin Bridges Park, development plan.

Awarded contracts for the following projects: Winnebago Bend, waters section, foundation and site work for pre-built residence; Honey Creek State Park (Rathbun), construction of two boat ramps, dike revetment and beach grading; Bellevue State Park, park officer's station and residence (pre-built home); foundation, site and utilities for park officer residence.

Accepted a land purchase option for 244 acres for the Big Sioux Wildlife Area, Lyon County.

Renewed the Memorandum of Agreement with the State Hygienic Laboratory, University of Iowa, on cooperative pesticides and other chemical pollution studies for the present fiscal year.

Awarded a contract for construction of a latrine, utilities and site work at



"Just who do they think they are?"

# The Point System "Adds Up"

to  
Wise Duck Management

By Richard A. Bishop  
Game Biologist

As dawn breaks over mist shrouded marshes and rivers on October 3, Iowa duck hunters will experience a new type of duck hunting—**The Point System**. Although Iowa hunters will find themselves enjoying a totally new form of hunting, the point system has been experimentally tried on certain areas in the Central Flyway for the last three years, and on one area in Michigan during 1969. Evaluation of this program was expanded in 1970 to evaluate statewide point system regulations in two states in both the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. Also, all Central Flyway states will be offered the point system as one of three options for the 1970 waterfowl hunting season.

Iowa and Illinois were the two states selected to test the point system in the Mississippi Flyway. The point system is designed as follows: each species of duck is assigned a point value and in the case of mallards and pintails, the hens and drakes have different point values. A total of 100 points will be allowed for each day of hunting. When a hunter reaches or exceeds 100 points with the last duck, he has filled his bag limit for the day. As you realize, combinations of different ducks are possible. After each duck is shot, hunters are required to identify the species and in the case of mallard and pintail, the sex, in order to properly assign point values and remain legal.

Black and white identification folders will be available prior to the season so that hunters will have at their convenience a list of ducks and point values. A hard bound book "Waterfowl in Iowa"

gives complete information and includes color identification plates of all Iowa ducks. This book is available for \$2 from the Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. For those hunters who do not wish or are unable to distinguish different species, a basic bag of two ducks regardless of sex or kind is legal.

Under the point system, a hunter can shoot a 90-point duck and be 10 points under his limit; therefore, he may shoot **only** one other duck no matter what point value. If the next duck was a 10-point bird, the hunter would have reached 100 points or if the next duck was a 20-point or 90-point bird, it would put the hunter over 100 points and fill the limit. However, if the hunter chooses to shoot 10-point species, he may shoot 10 ducks or nine 10-point birds and one 20-point or 90-point bird providing the high point bird is the last bird taken.

This type of regulation allows for those hunters that can identify ducks to remain in the field and harvest a larger bag if they shoot only species of ducks that can stand a larger harvest (10-point birds). At the same time, those hunters just wanting to bag a couple of ducks and not worry about identification can do so without being in danger of law violation.

In the case of the mallard and pintail, a lower point value will be allowed for drakes due to unbalanced sex ratios. That is, there are more drakes in the population than hens and if hunting pressure can be directed toward these excess drakes, a longer mallard and pintail har-

vest can be taken without harm to the breeding population. The actual effect on populations of harvesting excess drakes is not fully understood, but results from these seasons hopefully will answer some of these questions.

The over-all aim of the point system is two-fold. It will allow additional recreational hours for these hunters skilled in waterfowl identification and wishing to spend more time afield while at the same time, it will provide for the hunter that only wishes to shoot a couple of ducks and does not wish to be burdened by species identification. The second desire of this type of season is to allow a larger harvest of ducks such as gadwalls, shovellers, scaup, pintails, etc., that presently can stand a larger harvest yet reduce gunning pressure on species like the mallard, wood duck, canvasback, and redhead that cannot take additional harvest.

Results of these statewide experiments will determine the future of point system type seasons. Iowa will be testing this system for the entire Mississippi Flyway. If hunters will abide by the regulation, this season will provide maximum recreation both for the novice and the skilled hunters alike. Results from previous experiments with the point system indicate that hunters highly favored the point system and that low point birds were harvested in larger numbers than usual and law violations were not excessive.

We urge all duck hunters to abide by the rules and regulations because they are determining their own fate and the future of waterfowl hunting in the Mississippi Flyway.

The point values are as follows:

**90 Point Bird**  
Hen Mallard  
Wood Duck  
Canvasback  
Redhead  
Hooded Merganser  
Black Duck

**20 Point Bird**  
Drake Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Hen Pintail

**10 Point Bird**  
BW Teal  
GW Teal  
Gadwall  
Drake Pintail  
Widgeon  
Shoveler  
All others

Emerson Bay Fishing Access area.

Authorized the director to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Soil Conservation Service to establish sod covering on the banks of the new county road to prevent erosion into Miami Lake.



After beaching the canoe, wade fishing is most productive (Turkey River).



## *Historical Rivers and Smallmouth Bass*

By Roger Sparks

Like giant white steamrollers they came, perhaps a mile thick, crumbling, and powdering hills, filling valleys with "stolen soil," and one by one leveling the land. The glaciers left vast flat and slightly rolling prairies which later gave way to what Iowans gratefully recognize as some of the finest farm ground in the world.

We are also grateful that one area in the state was spared the sweeping action of the last three great movements. The rugged, nob-topped hills along the Mississippi in northeast Iowa provide a restful and historical recreation area.

Clear streams wind through deep green valleys, past small villages capped with tall, ornate church spires, and cut their way to the father of waters. Small streams and feeder streams produce water cold enough for an extensive and popular trout stocking program. But the main rivers, Upper Iowa, Turkey, Yellow, and Maquoketa, although comparatively cold and clear are a bit too warm for trout. These quick rivers with occasional white water, and rocky gravel bottoms provide fine habitat for smallmouth bass. These are typical smallmouth streams flowing through beautiful karst topography of limestone bluffs, numerous cold springs, caves, and rugged hills. Occasionally along the way narrow cliff lined stream valleys widen and farm fields line the banks. The current slows and takes on the characteristics of an average Iowa catfish river (incidentally these streams hold catfish, too)! But exciting riffles await you just around each



A quiet stretch of the Upper Iowa River.

bend. There are plenty of gravel bars made to order for noon picnics and rest stops. But please remember, most of the adjoining land is private and care should be taken with fires. Littering would be a tragedy.

While floating some of these beautiful little streams relatively few stop to try the fine fishing. Most of us do not fully understand smallmouth bass habitats and habits but he is one of the finest game fish that swims. Bass fishing to most Iowans means lake or pond fishing for largemouth. Close relatives, smallmouth and largemouth bass resemble, each other but there the similarity ends. Actually smallmouth bass habitat, fighting characteristics, and feeding habits are more akin to trout than other members of the sunfish family. For the first couple of years smallmouth are mostly insect feeders. Then they turn to minnows and crayfish. Much as trout feed in larger streams, look for smallmouth in deep, rocky pools, particularly those with big rocks and snags immediately below rapids and riffles. During the fall months these fish will move into the riffles occasionally to feed and fly rods with streamers are very productive at this time. However, like trout, bass are sometimes unpredictable and may be feeding at the head of one pool and the tail of another. Other likely looking spots may produce nothing at all!

The serious fisherman hurries from pool to pool, gets out above each and wade-fishes. If the fish are tough to catch, he tries small crayfish—perhaps the best live bait for smallmouth bass. But most people floating northeast Iowa

streams take their fishing gear as an afterthought.

Although the Upper Iowa River sports the highest bluffs, some of them 300 to 400 feet high, all rivers offer brilliant scenery especially during the fall. It's easy to settle back and enjoy scenery that hasn't changed for centuries. Imagine how the early fur traders traveled the streams in dugouts and rafts. On the Turkey, it's not hard to believe how Dvorak, the great Bohemian musician, got his inspiration one summer near Spillville. Where the Turkey River empties into the Mississippi, a Revolutionary War battle took place. This area also has Pikes Peak (State Park) named after the explorer. There is a story on every bend of these streams.

The early Indians must have truly found their "Iowa" (beautiful land) here. Antiquities from early true Americans date back 10 centuries and more. So-called mound builders chose high areas along the Mississippi to build mounds over their dead. They probably used baskets of earth to make mounds in the shape of a deer, dog, fox, bear, hawk, or eagle. This was a fairly advanced culture which had barter, tobacco, pipes, sharp tools, masks, ornaments, dyed clothing, stone sculpture, pottery, and jewelry.

You drift downstream. With the last of the afternoon sun spotlighting a spectacular-colored distant hillside, you may wonder about these early American Indians. Perhaps this culture "progressed" no further because they felt no need to do so. Maybe these people were as close to Utopia as they wanted to be.

## Editorial

# The Challenge We Face

Iowa, so rich in natural resources and beauty, is a precious gift. One which we have no right to desecrate in the name of economic gain. We simply cannot ruin the natural resources that have contributed so much to our life.

Today our environment and the continued use of natural resources hangs in the balance. Even more, our very existence hangs in a delicate balance. If for "a few dollars more" the environment is destroyed, civilization as we know it could well go down the drain. It won't only be a silent spring, but a silent summer, fall and winter. We are already heading down this trail of no return.

The warning signs are many across the nation. Fish are killed by pollution. Our national symbol—the bald eagle—is being done in by pesticide poisoning. Destruction of wildlife habitat is cutting down on game populations. Water, air, noise and land pollution deaden the senses.

Preserving this great outdoor heritage cannot be accomplished by high-blown phrases, idealism or by passing a multitude of laws. All of these have their places certainly, but their value is limited. The public must be willing to pay the price for quality environment and good resource management. Funds must be made available for conservation and enforcement of laws. Sacrifices must be made and citizens must support good legislation. We must awaken to the realities of our environmental dilemma.

Not everything fits into a rigid and frequently questionable cost-benefit ratio. In many cases it must be stated that "this is basic, this is beauty, this is a great gift that nature bestowed upon us." In other words, our natural resources must be preserved and wisely used. We just don't have the right to destroy them or view it only in terms of economic gain. For by destroying our environment, we destroy ourselves. We must work with nature, not against her. We must become more a partner with the earth, not a plunderer of it.

As reasoning creatures, men have the intelligence, the will and spirit to accomplish this. This is the challenge we face.—de



Daybreak had just begun. The brush was covered with heavy frost, and I could see my breath drift off on an imperceptible breeze.

I checked my bowstring, bow and arrows. Everything seemed to be in order. I was sitting in a carefully selected tree stand. Several heavily used deer trails funneled together below my stand. About 30 yards upwind the trails led into a secluded alfalfa field, that deer frequented for this favored food.

I was perched about 15 feet off the ground, in the fork of a hickory tree. I shivered in the crisp morning, awaiting stealthy visitors. This morning would bring the culmination of many months of preparations.

The light was still dim when I heard footsteps in the dry leaves. I strained my attention in the direction of the

sounds. Slowly I could discern the outline of a young deer. I had been carefully observing this fine deer for several months, and now those months of preparations were about to pay off.

I have often been asked why I hunt with a bow. Why should anyone hunt with a weapon that puts him at such a tremendous disadvantage? The bowhunter is a man that must love the challenge of the hunt more than the kill. The bowhunter needs as much skill and woods-savvy to bag a squirrel in the lower-forty, as he would need to kill a grizzly bear in Alaska with a rifle—maybe more.

It's true, as Dr. Saxton Pope once said, "With a bow, all game is big game." Bowhunting for the trophy whitetail deer is one of the toughest challenges that a man can find in the world of hunting.



It's this challenge that keeps the sport alive.

The beginning bowhunter can equip himself for about \$60. The bow should be constructed of laminated wood and fiberglass, and should have a draw weight of 40 pounds. A heavier bow would be a mistake for the beginner, since it would make it more difficult to learn to shoot. Most of the major manufacturers have suitable models for about \$30.

Fiberglass arrows are a good investment because of their durability and precision. A dozen good arrows can be made from components available in kit form for about \$20. That leaves you with \$10 for a quiver, armguard, and shooting tab or glove.

Now you must learn to shoot. The best way to get started is to join a local archery club. If you can find someone to give you a little coaching you should be off to a good start. Spend the first week or so on a 20-yard target with a big backstop. Your arrows will last longer and you'll learn more quickly. Proficiency with a bow seldom comes easily, so allow yourself plenty of time before opening day.

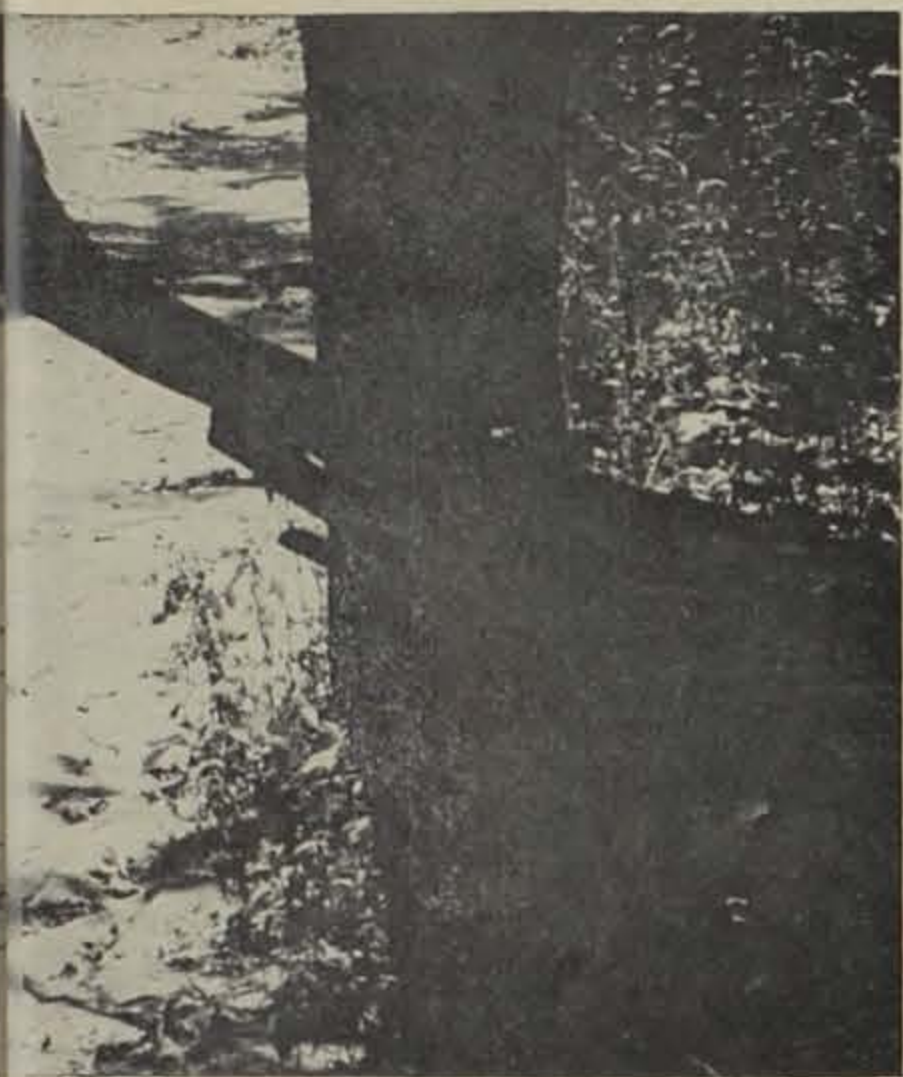
Since most deer are shot at a range of 30 yards or less, the bowhunter must overcome his quarry's three defensive senses—sight, sound and scent. Camouflage clothing is very important and effective. I prefer to make my own by spray painting a tiger-stripe pattern on a pair of GI fatigues. The cloth should have a soft finish that will not scratch or rustle as the hunter makes his way through the brush. Soft soled moccasins are very quiet; but beware, they are treacherous on steep, leaf covered hillsides. Moccasins are best suited to warm, dry weather.

Most bowhunters have found that hunting from an elevated platform in a tree offers at least two advantages. It is easier to spot the game before it spots you. Deer don't look up very often, and won't usually spot the movements of the bow being raised for the shot. It also helps keep the hunter's scent above the deer.

## Bow hunting Deer—

# The Ultimate Challenge

By Stan Tate  
District Forester



You must be able to play the waiting game.

I like to build a large platform about 6 feet off the ground. There should be ample room to sit, stand and shoot. A piece of old carpeting on the floor will muffle foot movements and give a no slip surface. A folding camp stool is a worthy addition. If you are comfortable you can sit quietly for long periods, and then rise easily to a shooting position. Sit perfectly still for an hour or two at a time, especially during the early morning and late evening hours. A good book and a camera can make those long hours more interesting. I like to take an hour for lunch, hike well out of the hunting area and build a lunch fire. This gives me a chance to scout new territory and do some practice shooting.

The final touch on any good stand is the addition of some yardage markers. Arrow strips of cloth can be tied on bushes and trees to mark the yardage to various spots around the stand. It's easy to misjudge distance, and having target practiced at specific distances the cloth strips aid in estimating the elevation, etc. Be sure to get plenty of practice shoot-

ing from your stand. You're sure to find many twigs and limbs that might spoil a shot if not removed.

A final word on tree stands. Respect the tree. Don't build in trees of high quality, especially black walnut or white oak. Above all don't leave nails in the trunk of the tree.

The most carefully built stand is a waste of energy if it is not in the right spot. Scout the area a few weeks before opening day. Look for a major feeding area such as corn, beans or alfalfa, which deer are using. There will be a network of trails leading into the area from all directions. Deer will usually use the trail that will bring them into the area from the downwind side. The best spot for your stand is 40 or 50 yards back into the woods and a little to the side of the most likely trail.

A little known, but very effective ruse to fool a whitetail is known as a "buck scrape." A buck, during the rut, will make several of these scrapes. He will paw the leaves and litter off a spot about three feet in diameter, and then

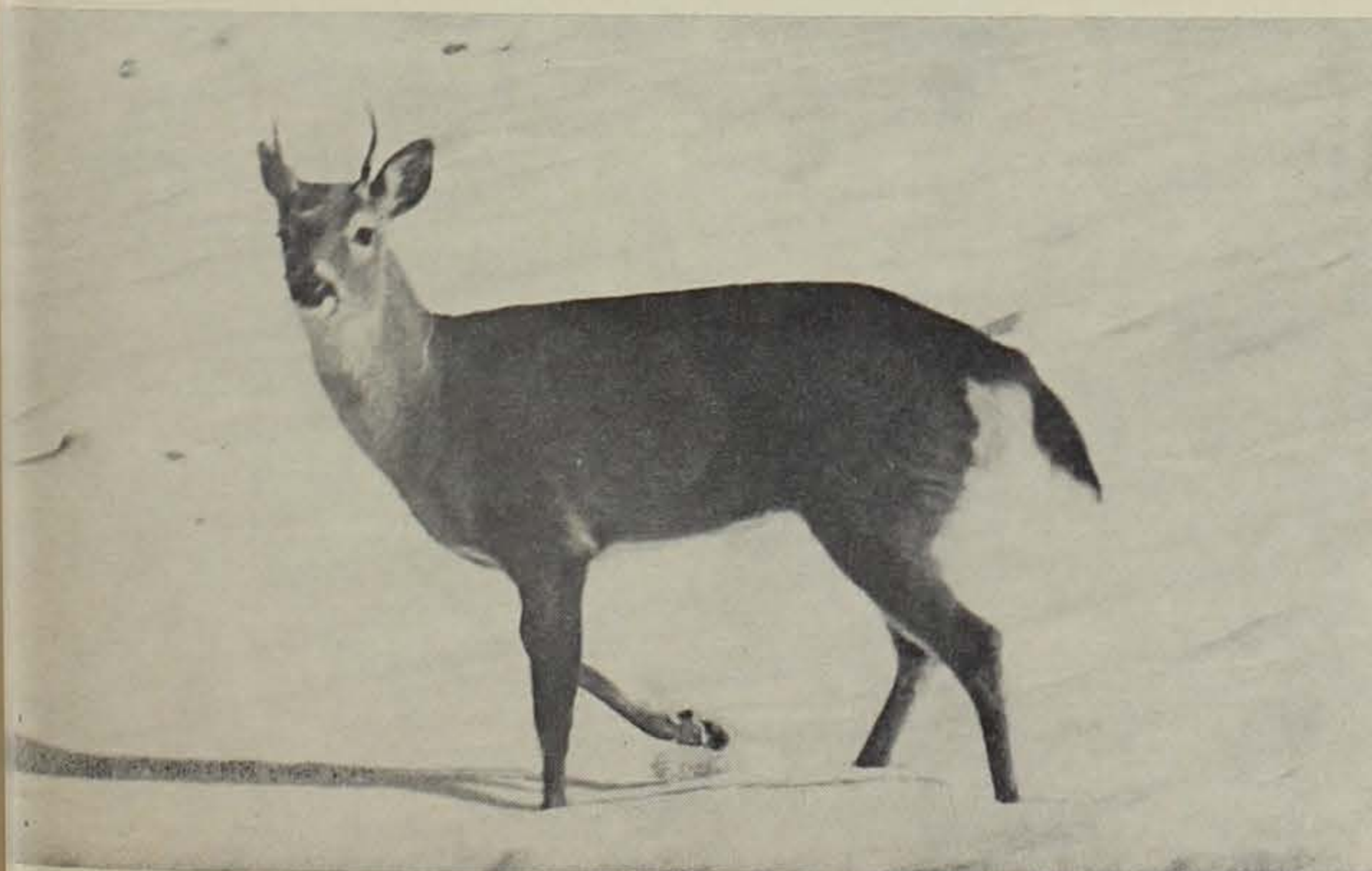
urinate there. During the course of the day he will revisit each of these scrapes, which mark that particular buck's territory.

The wise bowhunter will use the hot portion of the day to scout his area for scrapes. When one is found a few drops of deer scent lure should be placed on it. The buck will think, of course, that a doe is waiting nearby. If a good ground or tree stand can be found or constructed nearby, the bowman is in business. If not, deer scent lure can be put on the boots, and a scent trail laid down. The buck will often follow this trail to an area of the hunter's choosing.

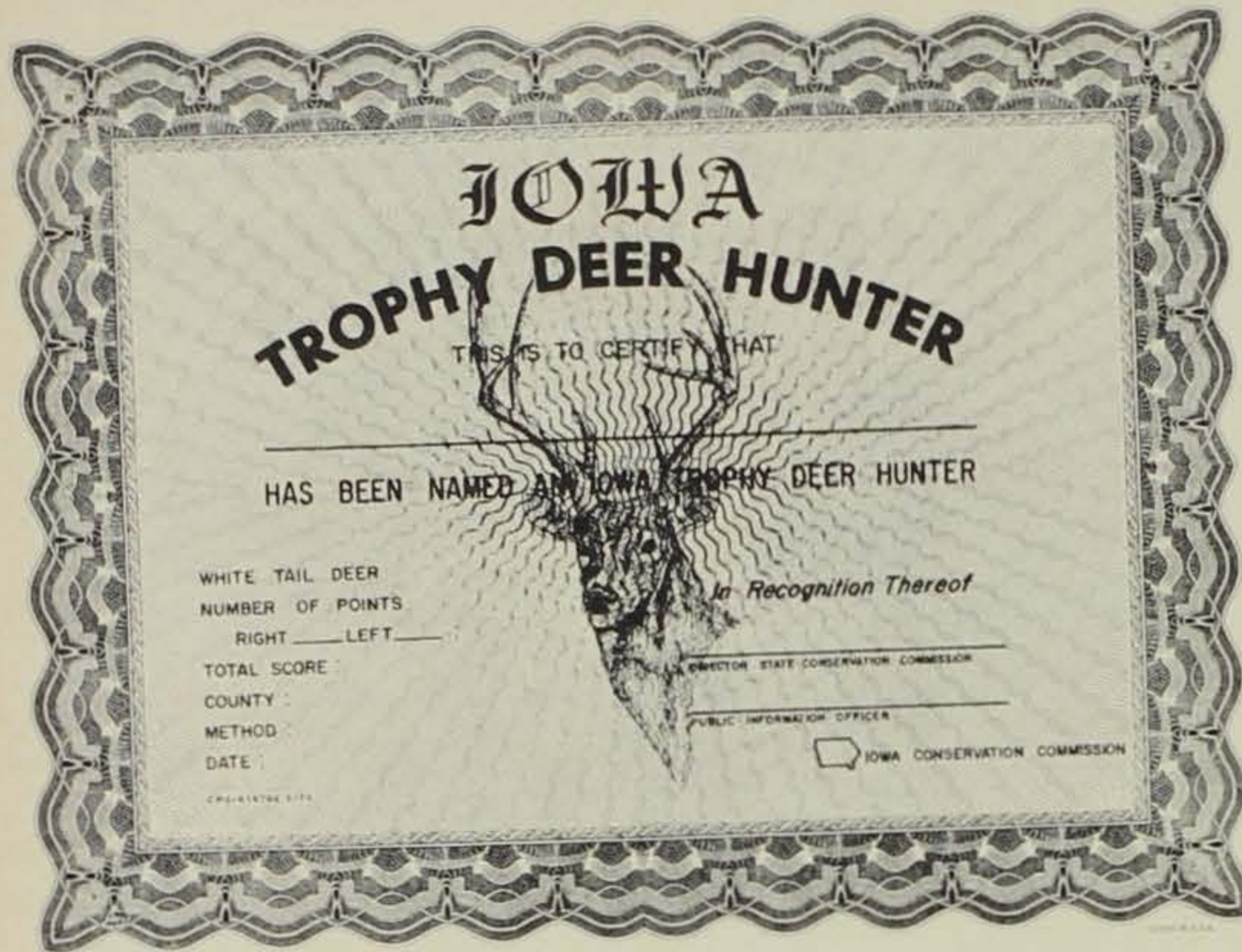
Don't forget to take plenty of arrows into your stand with you. An old hunting buddy of mine once killed his limit of squirrels and a nice buck in a single morning. Brunswick stew and fried venison liver made a memorable camp feast that cold and blustery evening in November.

The buck of my dreams was practically in the freezer. I could hear his footsteps in the dry leaves, then his outline became apparent. My strategy had been drawn to perfection, that cool, crisp morning in November. He walked into a clearing 20 yards from my stand. He was alert but unalarmed, looking into the bean field a few yards ahead. I eased into a standing position and began to raise my 50-pound bow, with its razor sharp broadhead arrow ready to fire. Suddenly the air was split by a nerve shattering chatter. A surprised gray squirrel was perched only a few inches from my head, and was giving me the full volume of his displeasure. As I tried to draw my arms began to shake, the arrow began rattling against the side of the bow, then fell harmlessly to the ground. I was so shaken I narrowly averted a fall from my high perch. The buck eyed me quizzically, flicked his tail once and glided out of sight.

Oh, well! There's always next year, and you can bet your best bow that this is one bowhunter that will be out there again.



The elusive quarry.



# Iowa Bucks Rate High

## Iowa Record Deer List

### BOW AND ARROW TYPICAL

(Minimum qualifying score—115 points)

Name	Address	Year	County	Total Score
Lloyd Goad	Knoxville	1962	Monroe	197 6/8
Ardie Lockridge	Amana	1965	Iowa	172 2/8
Bob Fudge	Burlington	1966	Des Moines	170 4/8
Delmar Phillips	Anamosa	1964	Linn	163 3/8
Delmar Phillips	Anamosa	1969	Jones	161 4/8
Steve Cline	Des Moines	1963	Madison	160 4/8
Gary Frost	Ft. Madison	1965	Lee	159 2/8
Greg Gibbons	Attica	1969	Marion	158 1/8
Charles H. Walter	Knoxville	1967	Marion	157 4/8
Thomas L. Tucker	Knoxville	1967	Marion	155 4/8
Dayton Jones	Harpers Ferry	1968	Allamakee	154 4/8
Steve Best	Exira	1969	Audubon	153 1/8
Jim Keefer	Iowa City	1969	Johnson	150 1/8
Russ Sill	Iowa City	1967	Iowa	148 6/8
Alan D. Kruthoff	Lake View	1969	Sac	147 3/8
Blair Berens	Oelwein	1963	Delaware	147 1/8
Doran Whitlock	Riverside	1968	Washington	145
Roger Weller	Welton	1969	Clinton	144 5/8
Thomas L. Berkley	Panora	1959	Jackson	141 7/8
Leland Purviance	Guthrie Center	1964	Guthrie	140 3/8
James R. Kirlin	Council Bluffs	1968	Pottawattamie	139 1/8
Norman Lincoln	Delhi	1969	Delaware	134 2/8
Mel Bertler	Marengo	1965	Iowa	132 4/8
Larry King	Marion	1967	Iowa	132
Wayne Keefer	Vinton	1956	Benton	131 1/8
Larry King	Marion	1968	Louisa	131
Marvin Phipps	Oskaloosa	1969	Mahaska	130 4/8
John Bennett	Clermont	1968	Fayette	128 4/8
Thomas L. Tucker	Knoxville	1968	Marion	128 4/8
Paul F. Spicer	Iowa City	1963	Johnson	126 2/8
Thomas L. Tucker	Knoxville	1962	Marrion	125 4/8
Edwin Goldhammer	West Burlington	1967	Des Moines	125
Gerry Ekstrom	Martelle	1959	Jones	123 5/8
Danny Fink	Council Bluffs	1969	Harrison	123 2/8
Gerry Ekstrom	Martelle	1958	Jones	122 3/8
Vance L. Patrilla	Vinton	1969	Benton	118 3/8

### SHOTGUN TYPICAL

(Minimum qualifying score—140 points)

Name	Address	Year	County	Total Score
Craig Field	Burlington	1967	Des Moines	175
Mrs. Ray Mitchell	Monona	1968	Allamakee	165 4/8
Richard M. Hoskey	Toledo	1969	Marion	165 2/8
William Behrend	Waukon	1961	Clayton	164 2/8
Charles Owens	Center Point	1963	Benton	164 2/8
Larry McMahon	Des Moines	1966	Madison	160 6/8
Jerry A. Anderson	New Hampton	1968	Allamakee	160 4/8
George Lestina	Woodward	1969	Boone	159 6/8
Anthony F. Grabianowski	Armstrong	1962	Kossuth	158 2/8
Duane Hartman	Fairbanks	1968	Fayette	158 1/8
Roger Grammer	Latimer	1968	Worth	158
Arlin Brynsaas	Decorah	1962	Winneshiek	157 2/8
George H. Schmitt	Decorah	1969	Howard	154 6/8
Joe Metz	Cresco	1961	Marion	153 2/8
Dennis L. Larson	Melcher	1968	Fayette	151 4/8
F. L. Grant	Atkins	1969	Warren	149 5/8
Bill Becker	Swan	1969	Fremont	149 2/8
Robert L. Carter	Glenwood	1969	Van Buren	144 6/8
Gary Cooper	Bloomfield	1968	Des Moines	143 6/8
Paul Reiter	Burlington	1968	Buchanan	143 6/8
William E. Cosgrove	Waterloo	1969	Louisa	141 7/8
Dwight Krueger	Marion	1969	Johnson	141 5/8
George Scalf	Nichols	1966	Washington	141 4/8
	Ottumwa			

### BOW AND ARROW NONTYPICAL

(Minimum qualifying score—120 points)

Name	Address	Year	County	Total Score
LeRoy Spiker	Harpers Ferry	1968	Allamakee	183 4/8
H. F. Nelson	Iowa Falls	1964	Hardin	181 3/8
Gordon Vrama	Davenport	1967	Scott	167 6/8
Ted Smith	Oskaloosa	1969	Mahaska	154 7/8
F. L. Grant	Swan	1963	Warren	151 3/8

### SHOTGUN NONTYPICAL

(Minimum Qualifying Score—160 Points)

Name	Address	Year	County	Total Score
Carrol Johnson	Moorhead	1968	Monona	250 4/8
Dick Johnson	Missouri Valley	1964	Harrison	213 7/8
Leland Cortum	RFD Norwalk	1969	Warren	201 6/8
Jay T. Toney	Lamoni	1969	Decatur	196 5/8
Gerald Beck	Manning	1969	Shelby	190 3/8
Leonard Rummelhart	Hills	1966	Monroe	178 6/8



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## Who Said It's Just A Marsh

By B. W. Teal  
as told to Jim Layton  
Staff Writer

The familiar drone of the outboard filtering through the early morning fog and the restless bullrushes rudely awakened me. Not more than 10 feet away stalked the most treacherous carnivore of the marsh—the mink. It had only one thing in mind, having me for breakfast. There was one escape, I had to get off the ground.

My feet left the ground as the mink made a desperate lunge but missed. I circled for several seconds bringing him the utmost of stomach discomfort. Then feeling an emptiness in my own, I decided there was no better time to head for my favorite slough for breakfast.

It had been many years since I was a newly hatched blue-winged teal. In those years, my life had changed almost as much as the marshes where I've lived. In fact, the only thing in my life that has not really changed is that I've al-

ways known what goes on around my marsh home.

Upon arrival at the slough I glided in over a muskrat kit lazily bathing in the sun that had finally burnt it's way through the fog. He looked like he probably came from that west side family but I couldn't be sure. In a marsh this size, with so much living space, one never seems to know everyone.

Ah, there's a familiar face. I landed in my favorite spot near the edge of the rushes next to Gertrude Grebe who was setting on a soggy mass of floating vegetation where she had laid her eggs.

After exchanging greetings, she commenced to tell the local gossip. She rambled on about a weasel raiding Myra Redwing's nest and how a bullsnake made a feast out of one of Milly Mallard's eggs. For an instant I caught myself feeling sorry for birds.

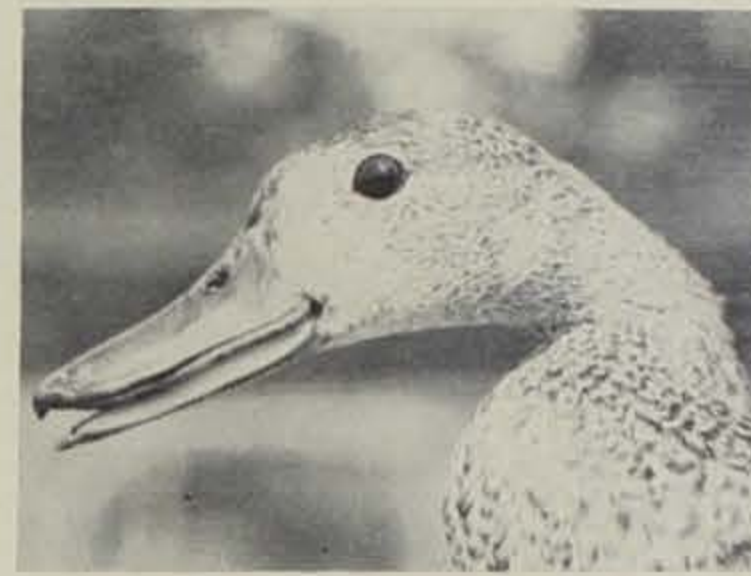
Just then I watched Butch Bittern come out of nowhere to grab a frog for his breakfast. That set me straight. It's the way of the marsh. All is fair when you're hungry.

I lifted off for a little exercise around the marsh. A family of coots were splashing about below, and I noticed the old raccoon tree had finally toppled over into the water and had now become the sun deck for a fat snapping turtle. Bullheads had moved into the submerged section.

As I climbed higher I noticed that many humans were attracted to the area. They were fishing, hiking, picnicking and doing many other things, and most of all everyone was enjoying themselves. I think it's great to see people using the marsh because there is something for everyone. People are strange animals, I thought to myself, they seem to enjoy this place so much, yet they destroy so many like it.

During my lifetime, I have lived in many different marshes across the prairie states and each has been unique. Many

about the author . . .



B. W. TEAL, SOMETIMES CALLED "BLUE-WING," IS A FAVORITE AMONG IOWANS. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MARSHES FROM CANADA TO MEXICO IS SURPASSED BY NONE.

marshes in this area are old lakes that have partially filled with silt to become gardens of cattails, bullrushes, lilies, and other aquatic vegetation.

I buzzed over my mid-day loafing spot. There in a nice breezy shaded pool I spend most of the hot part of the day just thinking about my home. I drifted into dreamland wondering about the creation of the marsh. It was millions of years ago when the Cary Lobe of the Wisconsin glacier plowed its way out of the north, duck legend tells. As this great mass of ice encountered warmer climates, its progress slowed and finally stopped. Today the area that the glacier covered forms two-thirds of Iowa.

Gradually the climates warmed until the mass began its withdrawal leaving behind great depressions and gouges in the earth's surface. These scars rapidly filled with water from the melting ice. After many years these became the marshes and lakes of the prairie states. Later, according to duck history, some of the marshes filled to become dry land while some lakes became marshes, in an endless cycle. This was a slow, natural process, but man in his quest for more farm land drained many of the marshes.

The thought awakened me suddenly. The mink incident of the morning had mildly frightened me, but that was nothing compared to the gripping fear upon me now. I began thinking about the future of all my friends and especially our marsh home. Where could we go without of the marsh? The marsh where we live now is one of the last marshes for many miles in an area that once was practically nothing but marshes!

The marsh means everything to me and other ducks. As an individual I face the struggle for survival daily. But the important thing is that life for my species, as well as other species will continue only as long as there are marshes. Who said it's just a marsh!

# 1970 HUNTING FORECAST

by Sonny Satre

Iowa nimrods can expect nothing but great hunting for most species of game this fall and winter. According to Iowa Conservation Commission game officials, Iowa's wildlife survived in good condition, a relatively long, cold winter with little snow cover. As a result, a good carry-over of broodstock was spared for the spring mating season. Excellent spring weather, a favorable summer, good habitat and nesting conditions produced a "population explosion" of young game.

Good or poor population of game is not determined on whether the hunter is successful or unsuccessful, but rather by two key ingredients—weather and habitat conditions. Iowa was fortunately blessed with both this year.

Here's a rundown on hunting prospects on various species.

## PHEASANTS

Iowa's most popular game bird—the wiley ringneck pheasant shows promise of exceeding last year's successful hunting season, when an estimated 1.6 million roosters were harvested. Spring roadside counts indicated a 23 per cent increase in Iowa's brood stock with the greatest increase found in the southeast two-thirds of the state. Surveys showed a good reproduction of young pheasants.

Heaviest concentrations of birds will be found in the southwest, west central, east central and northeast central regions of the state. Good hunting can be

experienced in most sections of the state wherever ample habitat exists.

The entire state is open for pheasant hunting except an area east and south of highways 5, 92, 218 and 34 in southeast Iowa.

Come November 14—the pheasant opening—hunters can expect a bright outlook for the colorful ringneck.

## QUAIL

Bobwhite hunting should be superb as populations are abundant in Iowa's prime quail range. This consists of the southeast quarter of the state. Of course, there is good quail hunting elsewhere in the state where suitable habitat exists, but the southern section provides the bulk of the harvest.

## RABBITS

Cottontail rabbits, the Hawkeye state's most popular target, shows a dramatic increase in population from last year. Rabbit hunting should be good statewide with the best areas found in the southern one-third of the state. Jackrabbit hunting will bring best results in the northwest quarter of the state.

## HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE

The Hungarian partridge is considered a bonus game bird for northwest Iowa pheasant hunters. Approximately 21,000 hunns were harvested in 1969 with population trends this year good.

## SQUIRRELS

The most under-harvested game animals, the fox and gray squirrel, offer good hunting prospects statewide with

the season opener September 12. Populations are stable for the bushytails. Squirrels rank third in harvest statistics, following rabbits and pheasants respectively.

## DUCKS

According to the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, duck hunters will experience their best season since the later 50's and early 60's. Excellent water conditions, habitat and a good carry-over of breeding stock in the Canadian wetlands have produced a good crop of young ducks. An over-all increase of approximately 28 per cent is indicated. Surveys show healthy increases in mallards, pintails, blue- and green-winged teal, redheads and canvasbacks.

Iowa duck hunters should familiarize themselves with waterfowl identification as duck regulations are based on a point system for the first time this year. Check and study these new regulations carefully.

## GEESE

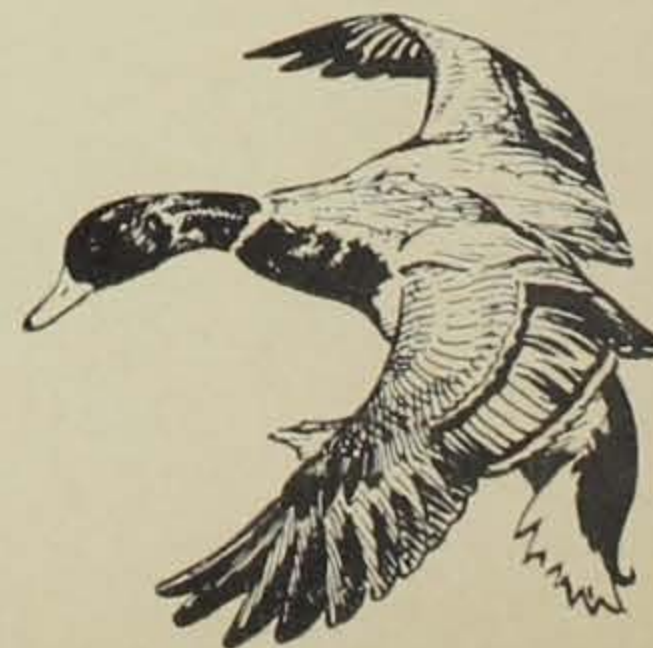
Goose populations will be comparable to recent years with a slight decrease in the Canada species. The more concentrated migration of geese will be found along the Missouri River in western Iowa, but don't count other river flyways short, as they can offer some very productive hunting.

All in all, Iowa's hunting outlook is very favorable and should be a memorable one for the sportsman afield.

## 1970 Hunter's Calendar

1970-71 IOWA HUNTING SEASONS AND LIMITS

GAME	SEASON	SHOOTING HOURS	Daily Bag Possession	
			Limit	Limit
Pheasant	Nov. 14 - Jan. 3	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	3	6
Bobwhite Quail	Oct. 24 - Jan. 31	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8	16
Hung. Partridge	Nov. 14 - Jan. 3	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	2	4
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 31 - Nov. 29	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	2	4
Ducks	Oct. 3 - Nov. 26	Sunrise to Sunset	Check Regulations	
Canada Geese	Oct. 3 - Nov. 26	Sunrise to Sunset	Check Regulations	
Geese (other species)	Oct. 3 - Dec. 11	Sunrise to Sunset	Check Regulations	
Coot	Oct. 3 - Nov. 26	Sunrise to Sunset	15	30
Wilson Snipe	Oct. 3 - Dec. 6	Sunrise to Sunset	8	16
Rabbit (cottontail and jack)	Sept. 12 - Feb. 28	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10	None
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Sept. 12 - Dec. 31	None	6	12
Raccoon (hunting only)	Oct. 17 - Feb. 28	None	None	None
Deer (bow)	Sept. 26 - Nov. 26	1/2 hr. before Sunrise 1/2 hr. after Sunset	1	1
Deer (gun)	Dec. 5-7, Check zones and restrictions	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	1	1
Fox	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28	None	None	None



# Conservation Forum

Dear Sirs:

Controversy rages in these parts! The subject is the policy of the State of Iowa regarding the licensing of servicemen.

Some contend that licenses are required of Iowa residents in service. Some may not. Could we look for clarification from you?

Loyal Reader  
David L. Shoemaker  
MSGT, USAF

*Resident servicemen are not required to have hunting or fishing licenses, or trout stamps. Trapping licenses, deer permits, and Federal waterfowl stamps are required, however.*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Sir:

I wish that you would put a notice in our coming issue that those peach crates that are usually disposed of after canning can be made into very nice bluebird houses. It all started for me several years ago when the kids decided to nail together a bird house for my birthday. The house turned out to be quite large and very heavy. Not knowing quite what to do with it, I nailed it on top of a post in the fence line of our permanent pasture. The following year it was occupied by a pair of bluebirds. Since then, I have added several

houses using old crates as the materials and have been blessed with several more pairs. Due to their quiet nature, most people are not aware that there are bluebirds in the area. Most of their time is spent perched on a post looking for the next insect meal to fly by, which is one reason I enjoy seeing them in my garden areas. After the bluebirds left one house, a pair of wrens moved in much to my delight. I'm hoping to attract some small woodpeckers or maybe some chickadees one of these springs.

Also took considerable pleasure in a pair of sparrow hawks that nested in our small woods this spring. Felt that we had much to do with their being raised due to the fact that their limb blew down during a wind storm and we rescued the babies. We dropped them into another hole in the same tree hoping the parents would find them. Find them they did and yesterday, the babies took wing.

One doesn't make any money literally by doing these things but to me it is one of the most rewarding things I can do. Some of these birds are almost a rarity and doing some of these things can help them along. I wish more people would take the time to enjoy God's little jewels.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Myron Myers  
Riceville, Iowa

**Live bait needn't be messy**

## Newspaper Nightcrawlers

Say, anglers, don't throw away all those newspapers! Put them to good use by making some bedding for your nightcrawlers. As many of you know, using newspaper for bait can be messy to handle. The mess isn't necessarily from the worm itself, but from the dirt and muck they are stored in.

There's an easier alternative to prevent this predicament in the future while at the same time having healthier nightcrawlers to fish with.

Here is what to do. Shred a quantity of newspapers in small pieces and soak in a bucket of water. Squeeze the excess water from the paper and place in a styrofoam container filled about half full of damp paper litter. Now the nightcrawlers are ready to be placed in the container. If you happen to have an old refrigerator in your basement which the lady of the house isn't too fussy about, this is an ideal place to store the worms.

You will find the next time you go fishing that the crawlers will be glistening clean and very squirmy which is what it takes to attract those lunkers.

Don't be surprised if you find some small, freshly hatched crawlers in the bedding. If conditions are kept right by keeping the paper cool and moist, and by adding fresh bedding when needed, the crawlers can multiply. They seem to thrive very well in this type of litter with little or no attention necessary. However, it hasn't been scientifically proven that the crawlers consume the paper. A nightcrawler in his natural environment dines on decaying organic matter such as leaves, grass and other vegetation.

To insure the well being of the worms' calorie count, sprinkle some food on top of the litter such as corn meal, coffee grounds or sugar. You'll find nightcrawlers as clean to use as any other bait.



by Dick Ranney

September is the get ready month. Mother Nature begins the task of outfitting the plants and animals for the long winter's nap. The urge to migrate is witnessed in the ducks and geese, and all the furry animals of the forest begin to take on their heavy coat. It's time to make ready for the harvest, go back to school, to get ready for fall and the hunting season.

Mr. Bushy Tail provides the first action and kids of all ages get in on the fun of hunting for sport in one of Iowa's timber areas. Silence is golden when hunting squirrels. The snap of a twig or the normal sound that man makes walking is enough to make Mr. Squirrel lie motionless on a limb or the crotch of a tree. Sometimes the only visible movement will be the wind rustling the hair on the squirrel's tail.

Squirrel hunting, like most outdoor activity, is good exercise and builds a big hunger. Upon returning from a successful hunting trip, the squirrels should be cleaned and cooked very much like rabbit. However, squirrels should be steamed in a covered pan for a long period of time for it has a tendency to be rather tough.

One of the fine salads that compliments fried squirrel and other meats is lettuce and egg salad with sweet and sour dressing.

Wash and drain a head of lettuce in cold water. Hard boil six eggs and let them cool. Into a large bowl cut the lettuce in medium size chunks, slice the eggs and add one small onion that has been dried. To make the dressing use one cup of salad dressing, three tablespoons of white sugar and one teaspoon of vinegar. Add one-half cup of  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cream (milk can be used in a pinch). Blend with a fork and add salt and pepper. Make the dressing by taste. If it's too sweet, add vinegar. If it's too sour, add sugar. After the dressing is made set it in the refrigerator for a little while. When ready to serve, spoon generous amounts over the lettuce, eggs and onion. Toast a slice of homemade bread and cut it into cubes. Sprinkle them over the salad and serve. This is a hearty, robust salad. It will go a long way in defeating the hungers.

A piece of squirrel, a large serving of salad, a slice or two of homemade bread and butter, several cups of hot coffee and lots of love will go a long way toward getting us ready in September for a pleasant fall and winter.



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