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Volume 25

August, 1966

Number 8

# CONSERVATION REPORT

## Iowa Looks Ahead

(Editor's Note: The following is adapted from a speech delivered by State Conservation Commission Director, E. B. Speaker.)

Man's desire to enjoy the out-of-doors puts millions of Americans onto the highways, lakes, streams, marshes, fields, forests, and parks in pursuit of their pleasures. When you and I were kids we could reach the old fishing hole in the creek within a few minutes. A few are still fortunate enough to have this advantage, but more and more people are dependent upon planned and regimented recreation.

Iowans, by nature, are grass-roots people with a strong desire for outdoor fun and living. We don't object to hardships as long as it's in the open air. Steaks burned on an open grill are always better than filet of mignon in a fancy restaurant.

Mounting pressures of present day life make it imperative that we keep our sense of values intact by contacts with Nature through our favorite sport of fishing, hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation.

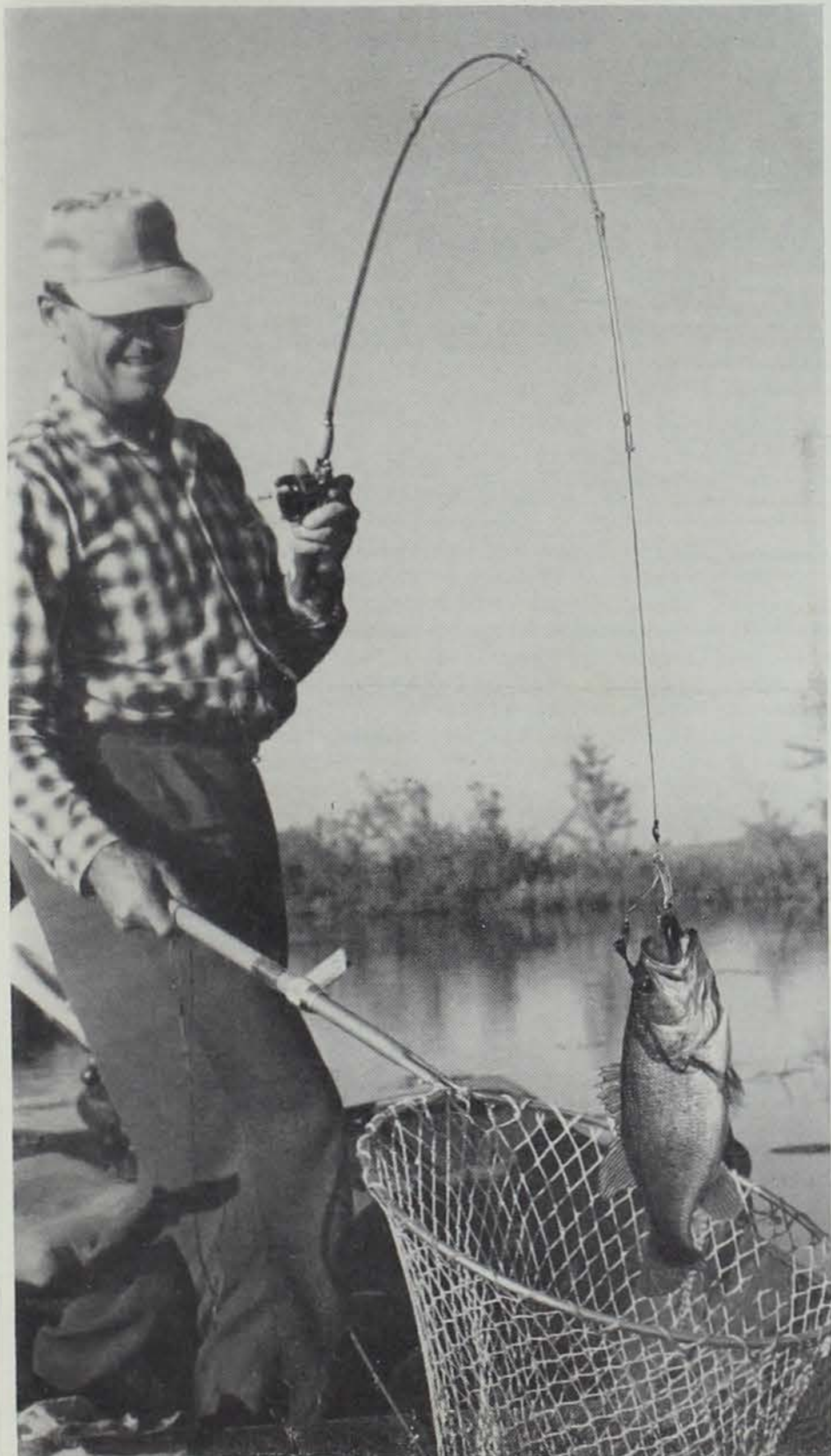
It was estimated that over 30 million people camped out-of-doors last year. More than a half million camped in some of the 67 State Parks, 15 State Preserves, 7 State Forests and a number of the 209 Iowa State Fish and Game areas totaling over 127,000 acres of lands and waters. Another 9 million people picnicked and used the other facilities of our State Park System. Over a half million Iowans hunted and fished in our state (one out of every five men, women and children) and about 65,000 boaters used the 25,000 acres of State lakes, 10,000 miles of streams and the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

In 1960 Iowa's population was slightly over 2 3/4 million. By 1980 it is expected to exceed 3 million. The 1960 census marked a significant change in our population, and for the first time in the State's history the urban population surpassed the rural. This means that more people are living under more congested conditions and need added facilities to enjoy outdoor recreation. The shift of population from rural to urban, the anticipated increase in population and the increase in leisure time brought about by shorter working hours necessitates changes in Conservation and Recreation planning. Future demands will not only accrue from local residents, but from tourists as well, as our great inter-state highway system expands, and scenic and heritage trails including the Great River Road, Lewis and Clark, Hiawatha and Mormon Trails attract more and more people to Iowa.

The early concept of establishing State Parks and Preserves was to acquire areas of natural beauty, unusual geological formations, or uniqueness to the State. Many of these are now in the system, and the Commission is forced, in many instances, to establish parks on barren ground by constructing artificial lakes, picnic and camping areas, and planting trees for future generations. With a few exceptions, the water-oriented parks attract more people than those without this facility.

Both houses of the last session of the Iowa State Legislature passed a Resolution requesting neighboring States to look into the possibility of establishing an Upper Mississippi River Parkway to protect the remaining scenic beauty along this great river. At the present time a Study Committee appointed by Governor Hughes is working on a proposed Compact with the States of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin cooperating. This will be reviewed by various representa-

(Continued on page 60)



Jim Sherman Photo.

Plans for the future include acquisition of land and development of boating and fishing access areas on the Mississippi, Missouri and major inland areas.

## Iowa Conservationist

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CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE 57,587

### COMMISSION MINUTES

State Conservation Commission  
Meeting Held in Des Moines,  
Iowa, July 5 and 6, 1966

Rev. Laurence Nelson of Bellevue was elected Chairman of the Commission to succeed Ed Weinheimer of Greenfield and Mike Zack of Clear Lake was elected Vice-Chairman of the Commission to succeed Rev. Nelson.

A delegation from Corning and the surrounding area met with the Commission to discuss the proposed Walter's Creek Watershed Development.

A delegation from Iowa City met with the Commission to discuss the possible use of the grounds next to the Plum Grove Governor Lucas home in Iowa City as a children's playground.

Representatives of the Concrete Materials and Construction Company of Cedar Rapids met with the Commission in regards to a gravel operation in West Des Moines.

#### Fish and Game

The Commission gave approval to exercise an option on 42 acres at a total cost of \$5,880 in the Badger Lake vicinity in Monona County.

Approval was given to an option for 503 acres at a total cost of \$49,791 adjacent to Weise Slough in Muscatine County.

Approval was given to exercise an option on 32 acres of land at \$100 per acre as part of Fallow Marsh in Palo Alto County.

Special trespass regulations were approved to expedite research work at the Boone Research & Exhibit Station.

A temporary rule was adopted to allow controlled hunting on the Lake O'Dessa area this fall.

A temporary rule was adopted creating inviolate game refuges in state parks and a temporary rule was also adopted creating inviolate game refuges on various game refuge areas.

A permanent rule was adopted creating game refuges as part of Louisville Bend, the Red Rock Area and Otter Creek Marsh in Tama County. Plum Creek Basin in Fremont County was eliminated from the list of game refuges.

Approval was given to the County Engineer of Clay County to

widen a road adjacent to Barringer Slough.

Approval was given to a request for a storm sewer to cross state-owned property at Ventura Marsh.

Temporary rules were adopted to allow controlled shooting on part of Forney's Lake in Fremont County.

Recommendations were approved for the sale of one-half acre of land to Vernon H. King at Muscatine Slough at the rate of \$300 per acre.

A report was given concerning condemnation awards on land in the Hendrickson Marsh area in Story County.

A contract for trout feed was awarded Glencoe Mills of Glencoe, Minnesota, for a 6-months supply of trout food consisting of about 120,000 pounds at a cost varying from \$8.70 to \$10.20 per hundred weight.

#### Land and Waters

The staff was instructed to meet with representatives of Iowa City concerning the use of the Plum Grove grounds for a community playground.

Approval was given to a simplified boat registration application form.

A commission order exempting racing craft from certain registration requirements during a sanctioned race was approved.

A new concession agreement was approved for Bob White State Park in Wayne County.

A motion passed confirming the position of the Lands and Waters Division concerning beach parties and similar activities in state parks.

A motion was approved denying an application to cut the river bank in West Des Moines by Concrete Materials Company of Cedar Rapids and a motion was approved referring this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for study with the Natural Resources Council.

A bid was approved by Eggers Bilt Homes, Inc. of Norwalk for \$77,298.82 for construction of a bathhouse at Green Valley Lake.

An option was approved for \$100 for a minor parcel of land from Provost at Blackhawk Lake for a road right-of-way.

A report was given on development work on the Missouri River by Supt. of Waters.

#### County Conservation Activities

Clayton County received approval for the acquisition of 60 acres at a total cost of \$2,550 as an addition to their 75 acre fishing access on Bloody Run trout stream three miles west of Marquette.

Emmett County received approval for the acquisition of 12.35 acres of land under a 5-year lease at a total cost of \$5,000 with an option to purchase the property at a later date. This property is located on the southwest end of Tuttle Lake two miles north of Dolliver to be used for picnicking, camping, boat launching and possibly a swimming beach.

## Conservation Forum

Gentlemen:

I'd like to see the bounty taken off Fox in all counties. I'd be in favor of a open season on Fox Nov. 1 through January 15 and protected the rest of the year.

Sincerely,  
G. P.  
Clermont, Iowa

*Our Supt. of Game says: "The bounty now paid is optional in each county. They are not paid by the Conservation Commission. Since bounties were made optional several years ago, less counties are paying them each year."*

Dear Sir:

We have been losing a few chickens to some predator. We would like to know what kind of predator. Our chickens have had feathers stripped off the neck and the neck partly eaten.

Thanks,  
J. C.  
Elk Horn, Iowa  
Route 1

*From the brief description which you give, I hesitate to venture a guess as to the predator killing your chickens. One species which kills in the manner you describe is the common housecat. Other species, however, might be responsible.—Supt. of Game*

State Conservation Commission  
E. 7th and Court, Des Moines

Dear Sirs:

I am 74 and have had a fishing license ever since the state passed that law that made us get one. Maybe I missed one year I am not sure, and I don't think I've ever caught enough any one yr to pay for it. But I have always loved to be out & roam the woods. I have seen so many lovely birds & small wild animals along the creeks & ponds I've gotten my moneys worth. My husband passed away last Aug 29th and I feel lost, we always enjoyed those little fishing trips together. He loved trap shooting, fishing and base ball. But now I am alone. I want to subscribe for the Iowa Conservationist, 2 yrs for \$1.00. Thank You

Mrs. C. C. H.  
Gravity, Iowa

Dear Madam:

*It is indeed a pleasure to know that our magazine helps you to know and enjoy Iowa's wealth of outdoor resources.—Editor*

Kossuth County received approval for the acquisition of 41 acres at no cost by a transfer of county land from the Board of Supervisors to be called Whittemore Park. This is a county gravel pit and will be utilized for fishing, swimming, picnicking, camping and wildlife habitat.

Linn County received approval for an addition to Pinicon Ridge Park of 16 acres at a total cost of \$15,000 located adjacent to the Wapsipinicon River at Center City.

Linn County received approval for the acquisition of 0.46 acre of land at a total cost of \$24,000 including a three-bedroom house built in 1959 to be utilized for a custodian in the planned 770 acre multiple use outdoor recreational area called Squaw Creek Park.

Polk County received approval for an addition to the Chichaqua Wildlife Habitat Area consisting of a trade of 49.32 acres of county-owned land for the same number of acres adjacent to the Skunk River as part of the area which will eventually contain 1,900 acres of which over 1,100 acres have now been acquired.

Shelby County received approval for an addition to Mill Creek Park consisting of a land trade of 13.41 acres of county-owned land for 7.01 acres of pasture land located adjacent to the present Mill Creek

Park which will provide access to the north side of the 11 acre artificial lake. This area is located eight miles northwest of Defiance.

Webster County received approval for the acquisition of 89 acres at a total cost of \$53,400 as an addition to their John F. Kennedy Park located six miles north of Fort Dodge adjacent to Highway 413. This acquisition will allow for further development of a golf course in connection with this recreational area.

#### General

Travel was approved to the annual Conservation Education Association Conference in Boston; the Third National Conference on Outdoor Recreation at Logan, Utah; the Mississippi Flyway Council Meeting and Technical Session at St. Louis; the Inter-Agency Training Workshop for Outdoor Recreational Development at Omaha; and the American Walnut Manufacturer's Association Meeting at Carbondale, Illinois.

New policies were adopted concerning the method of wearing insignia, the working hours of Conservation Officers, and the use of State cars by Commission employees.

Approval was given for BOR assistance to Council Bluffs of \$45,000 for a swimming pool.

(Continued on page 62)



Jack Kirstein Photo.

Few hunters know of the intricate study and planning that is involved in assuring them a successful season within the framework of bag limits and other regulations.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO DUCK HUNTERS

Dear Sir:

Each year, often early in the spring, the Conservation Commission's offices in Des Moines start getting letters and phone calls from waterfowl hunters. These people want to know the dates of the coming fall's duck and goose seasons. Many of these people are planning their vacations for the year, or are planning next fall's hunting trips. Many of them are disappointed when we tell them that the seasons will not be set until probably late in August. It is often difficult for us to explain the complicated procedures by which waterfowl regulations are established each year.

Managing waterfowl is a highly technical job, and many intricate tasks are involved if we are to make maximum use of this valuable resource. Iowa waterfowl hunters spent over 1,600,000 hours pursuing their sport in 1965. They also spent hundreds of thousands of dollars for their equipment, their hunting trips and the other costs associated with their hunting. Nationally, these figures are staggering. No wonder, then, that this resource must be managed wisely in order to obtain maximum benefits.

There are two principal reasons why waterfowl regulations are not established until late summer:

First, since waterfowl are migratory, there are many agencies, both federal and state, involved in the process of making regulations. To assure each agency proper consideration, rather elaborate procedure has been developed for formulating acceptable regulations.

Secondly, it is necessary to learn the annual production rate of young birds on the prairies and breeding grounds of the north if we are to know what is available for harvest during the fall. Counting and evaluating this production can not be completed before late July.

Following any given hunting season, we have our annual midwinter inventory of waterfowl. These figures give us our first estimates of the number of breeding birds for the next year. Due to the wide distribution of wintering populations and the water conditions which govern this distribution, these winter inventory figures are not wholly reliable. They give us a better picture of the distribution of populations than of the actual number of birds.

When these birds return to the breeding grounds in the spring, their activities are closely followed by waterfowl technicians in both the United States and Canada. Since the vast majority of our waterfowl breed in Canada, many of our state and federal biologists spend most of the summer in this country to our north.

Starting early in May, pilots and observers criss-cross most of the important breeding habitat in Canada and our northern prairie states, counting the number of breeding pairs of ducks of each species. At the same time ground crews in selected areas also count the breeding birds. Using the ground data, aerial inventories are then corrected for such things as visibility and other factors which might bias their counts. The final corrected figures from these aerial transects then give us an index of the breeding population of each species.

Following the completion of the breeding pair counts, personnel begin a similar program of counting broods of young birds. This results in an accurate estimate of the average number of young birds of each species per adult hen. These figures, then, multiplied by the number of breeding females gives us a forecast of the fall populations.

Simultaneous with the census program, waterfowl technicians carry out special studies and banding projects to further evaluate the projected fall flight for each of the various flyways.

Waterfowl themselves have established the broad patterns of migration which determine the administrative boundaries by which they are managed. Their various ranges extend throughout the North American continent. Generally, however, they tend to follow four fairly distinct flyways. Although they over-lap to some degree and though there is some trading back and forth between flyways, these four major groups are distinct enough to warrant their separate management.

Basic responsibility for management of all migratory birds rests with the federal government. Various acts of congress and treaties between the United States, Canada and Mexico assure protection for these species which know no political boundaries.

Iowa is one of 14 states in the Mississippi flyway. In 1947 waterfowl technicians from the northern states in this group formed an alliance to promote cooperative waterfowl management. In 1952 the Mississippi Flyway Council, comprised of all 14 states, was formed. This group is directly responsible for management in the flyway at a level between that of the federal government and that of state governments. Similar groups exist in the other three flyways: the Atlantic Flyway, the Central Flyway, and the Pacific Flyway.

Thus, we see that management of waterfowl by flyways is relatively new. Prior to the establishment of the flyway concept of management, regulations were established on a nation-wide basis. This, of necessity, sometimes worked undue hardship on certain regions when their hunting seasons were curtailed because of a shortage of ducks in some other part of the country. Management by flyways is a much more practical approach. Under this system, waterfowl hunters in one flyway are not penalized because of a shortage of birds in another.

The actual formulation of our 1966 regulations began late last winter when the Technical Section of the Mississippi Flyway Council met to discuss the past hunting season and to work on current problems relating to populations and management. Their recommendations for the various management problems were then presented to the parent organization, the Mississippi Flyway Council, when they met in March concurrent with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. The Council, at their meeting, formally adopts their action programs for the year.

Following the completion of the various fact finding surveys on this year's production, the Technical Section again meets, usually during the first week of August. After studying all of the data available, this group makes its recommendations to the Mississippi Flyway Council. The Council, meeting immediately following the Technical Section, then drafts its recommendations to be presented to the National Waterfowl Council. The latter group is made up of two duly elected representatives from each of the four flyways. This group then meets in Washington with various private conservation agencies and federal officials to make specific recommendations to the Director of the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife. He and his staff draw up the regulations for review within the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior. As the final step they are submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for his approval.

The final result of all of these meetings is a broad set of rules and outlines within which the states may select their seasons, bag limits, etc. Federal regulations, for example, give the earliest opening date and latest closing date for hunting. They set a given number of days and the state must select these days within the opening and closing dates prescribed. This makes it possible for both northern and southern states to select seasons beneficial to their hunters. The federal

(Continued on page 62)

## CONSERVATION REPORT

(Continued from page 57)



Jack Kirstein Photo.

Miami Lake is one of a number of areas built under the small fishing lakes construction program inaugurated several years ago to provide such recreation where a need exists and topography will permit.

tives of the State Agencies and ultimately presented to the respective State Legislatures.

To the Iowa hunter, the ringneck pheasant is the number one game bird. Iowa hunters harvest between 1½ and 2 million cock pheasants annually. For many years Iowa has been one of the top three pheasant hunting states in the Nation. Surveys show excellent populations this spring and prospects are bright for top pheasant hunting this fall. Good participation by Iowa farmers in the various wildlife habitat programs of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, and programs sponsored by the Conservation Commission, are helping to alleviate the shortage of winter cover which caused pheasant losses in the past. More effort is needed in this direction.

Iowa hunters also enjoy excellent hunting for other small game. They harvest over 2,000,000 rabbits each year. Quail populations are at an all-time high. Squirrel populations are good and provide a great deal of hunting recreation. Waterfowl, hurt by drought conditions in the Canadian breeding grounds for several years, are making a strong comeback. The prairies are once again wet and waterfowl populations will increase accordingly. Iowa hunters will again this fall have an opportunity to take part in a special teal season designed to harvest some of our locally produced birds.

Iowa's deer herd is on the increase and this fall 28,000 gun hunters will have an opportunity to hunt big game in the State. Several thousand bow hunters also participate in deer hunting annually.

New methods of managing our game are constantly being explored by Game Managers, State Biologists and the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units at the Iowa State University. The Conservation Commission operates a Wildlife Exhibit and Research Station near Boone, where new techniques are explored and where experimental species are propagated for stocking purposes. At present, four kinds of game birds are being stocked experimentally; the wild turkey, the Reeves pheasant, a strain of the ringneck pheasant adapted to southern Iowa, and the ruffed grouse. Native birds and animals are also on public exhibit at this station and several hundred thousand people visit the exhibit annually.

A research study has been established with the Commission and the State Hygienic Laboratory at the State University of Iowa cooperating, on the effects of pesticides and insecticides on fish and wildlife. Some of the most modern methods and equipment in the Nation are being employed in this study.

There are 13 State Fisheries Management Stations strategically located over the state for the production of trout, walleye and northern pike, catfish, bass and pan fish. Nearly 100,000,000 fish are stocked each year in Iowa waters. More than 200,000 10 inch to 14 inch trout are stocked in northeast Iowa.

Some 300 farm ponds are stocked each year which afford good bass

and pan fishing where streams and natural and artificial lakes are not readily accessible.

Fish exhibits are on display year 'round at the new hatcheries at Spirit and Clear Lakes and at the Fairgrounds during the Iowa State Fair. Fisheries Research is in constant progress by Commission Biologists and the new Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit at the Iowa State University to take the guess-work out of fish management.

The Commission has done some experimental stocking of species not native to the State, including Muskies in Okoboji and Clear Lakes and Red-ear Sunfish and Spotted or Kentucky Bass in some of the southern lakes.

Some of the major projects of the Fish and Game Division in the past two years include, but are not limited to, the following:

A small fishing lake construction program has been in effect the past several years to provide lake fishing recreation in areas where needed and the topography will permit. To date two of these impoundments have been completed; Miami Lake in Monroe County and Meadow Lake in Adair County. Miami Lake has 126 acres of water included in a 510 acre area and Meadow Lake has 42 acres of water in a 240 acre tract. Another marsh-type lake in Story and Marshall Counties will soon be completed. Otter Creek and Elk Creek marshes in Tama and Worth Counties are nearing completion. These are man-made marshes and will contribute significantly toward better hunting. Badger Lake in Monona County and Schwob Marsh in Kossuth County have been purchased from private owners. Two large wells were constructed at Forney's Lake in Fremont County to enhance the management of this world famous waterfowl refuge. Winter game cover is desperately needed in northern Iowa especially. Nearly a million trees and shrubs are planted annually on state and private areas from our nursery. Heavy emphasis has been directed toward farm grove rehabilitation by the government G-1-A practice. This will enhance blizzard cover for pheasants particularly.

While Lake Ahquabi at Indianola was drained for dam repair, large jetties and fish shelters were installed to improve angling. New improved fisheries stations at Lake Macbride, Clear Lake and Spirit Lake are now completed. Extensive fishing access areas have been acquired including Bel Aire at Storm Lake, Raccoon River in Greene County and Skunk River in Washington County.

The last Session of the State Legislature appropriated a total of \$2,745,230 for Capital Improvements for expansion and refinement of facilities in our Lands and Waters Division. The institutional road funds appropriated by the legislature were doubled giving the State Highway Commission about \$375,000 per year for the park roads. Appropriations were received for dredging and shore protection of natural lakes and dredging is going forward at the present time in Storm and North Twin lakes.

Boat license money is used for Administration, Water Safety and Enforcement to insure the safety to the segment of our people who participate in boating.

Plans for the future include, but will not be limited to, the following. Final approval of these plans and funds for completion and administration, will, of course, be dependent upon the approval and funding of the State Legislature and from funds from Fish and Game license sales.

1. Acquisition and development of three artificial lakes of approximately 1,000 acres each in northwest, north central and northeast Iowa near metropolitan areas. Others are being considered in Des Moines, Ames and Burlington areas.

2. Cooperative development between the Corps of Engineers, the State of Nebraska and the State of Iowa of ox-bow lakes adjacent to the channel of the Missouri River.

3. Acquisition and development of quality water lakes on the 566 Watershed projects in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, District Soil Commissioners and Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service.

4. Development of new parks and recreation areas in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers on the Red Rock, Saylorville, Rathbun, Davids Creek and other large flood control reservoirs.

5. Additional acquisition and development of land for multiple-use recreation on the Yellow River, Shimek, Stephens and White Pine Hollow State Forests.

6. Acquisition of land and development of boating and fishing access areas on the Mississippi, Missouri, and major inland streams.

7. Preservation of Natural Beauty areas along Iowa's wild rivers.

8. Construction and expansion of the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook State Park.

9. Preservation of areas of unusual flora, fauna, geological, archeological, scenic and historic sites of scientific or educational value.

10. Acquisition and development of a Hawkeye Naturama near the Saylorville Reservoir Site in cooperation with the Iowa Natural Resources Council, Corps of Engineers, Governor's Committee on Conservation and other interested State and Federal agencies.

(Continued on page 61)

## WHAT'S THE SITUATION ON BLACK WALNUT IN IOWA?

John Stokes, State Forester

As with most things that grow or which people use, a decline in the availability of the product always increases interest and demand. Black walnut is an excellent example. In the past ten years black walnut demand has increased at a fantastic pace not only in the United States, but also abroad. At present the nation is in rather poor shape when one considers our hardwood forests generally and our black walnut trees in particular. The latest survey figures show that industry users own only ten percent of the trees most in demand in our woodlands which are 15 inches in diameter or larger. A portion of these trees are not useable because they are unacceptable species or are so defective as to make them useless for wood products.

### The Outlook

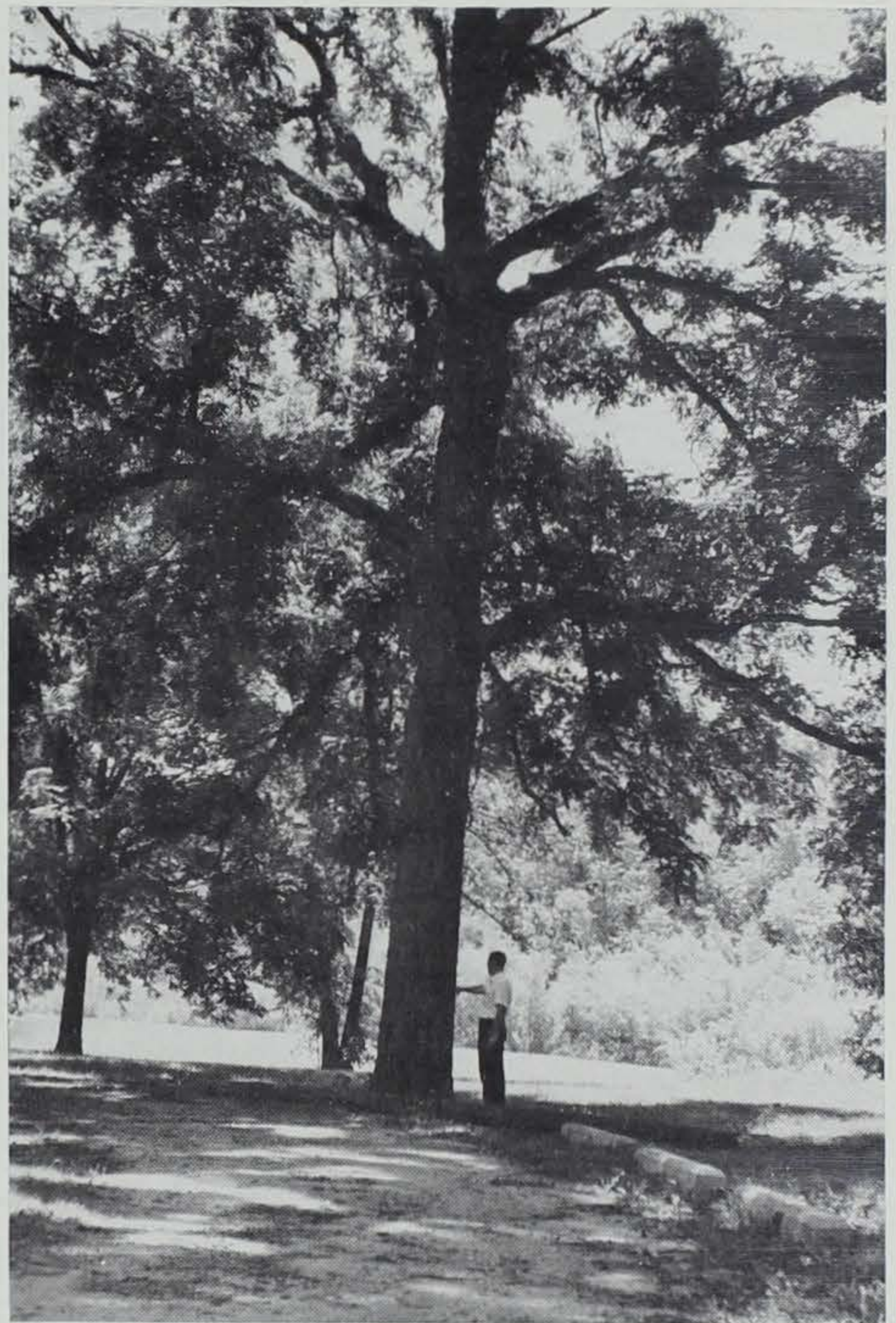
People often ask if we are running out of black walnut trees, the answer is definitely not. Our native woodlands are generally well stocked with young black walnut trees, but this is not the whole problem. Many of the trees reproduced by natural seeding (from old trees dropping nuts and squirrels planting them) need the help of the landowner. In years past most woodlands had cutting done periodically to remove old trees for fuel-wood, fence posts and farm lumber. In many cases, unless timber is commercially harvested, there is little or no effort made to improve the stand. Cutting practices should create openings to allow full sunlight to reach the forest floor. Black walnut needs a lot of sunlight and will not tolerate an overstory of trees which shade it. Pruning of the branches is a must if good quality trees are desired. In a managed woodland the number of trees per acre is controlled so all the trees will compete for full sunlight. In doing this, height growth is increased and branching is reduced.

In addition to natural reproduction in our woodlands, interest in hardwood tree planting, particularly black walnut has increased annually. The State Forest Nursery at Ames has produced walnut seed and seedlings for many years. Annual production of 50,000 nuts, was until five years ago, usually adequate to meet the demand. Iowa, like other surrounding states, has doubled production, but the demand has gone up four times from what it was a few years ago. Additional production increases are planned for 1967 and 1968. Unfortunately, nursery production cannot be increased quickly. New sources of black walnuts must be established and the seed sown in the beds. Since black walnut nuts are one of the poorer germinating seeds, an additional problem is faced by nurserymen.

### Who Sets the Value?

Black walnut has always been a favored wood because of its rich color and attractive grain. In today's market the women set the demand for the species of trees to be cut for industries. Each spring the furniture manufacturers show their new offerings in Chicago and other large cities and the demands of women customers are considered by the retail stores in placing their orders. Although new species of wood are shown each year, black walnut remains continually in demand.

Due to the decline in prime trees, coupled with the fact that women are favoring a return to solid furniture in many of their selections, the price of walnut has increased. Walnut trees are selling for \$100-\$200 per thousand board feet for sawlogs and up to \$500 per thousand board feet for prime veneer logs. Since most landowners do not have



Russell Nelson Photo.

Market prices on mature black walnut trees continue to be good because American women prize the rich grain and color of the finished wood.

prime trees that buyers are looking for to supply the needs of industry, ways must be developed to utilize poorer quality logs.

This August a workshop is scheduled at Carbondale, Illinois, to review ten years of black walnut research. Some Commission foresters will attend this session and utilize the information to assist Iowa landowners in their black walnut planting programs.

Early reports indicate that plantings must be done using the same intensive practices as are used for other crops. Soil fertility require-  
(Continued on page 63)

### CONSERVATION REPORT—

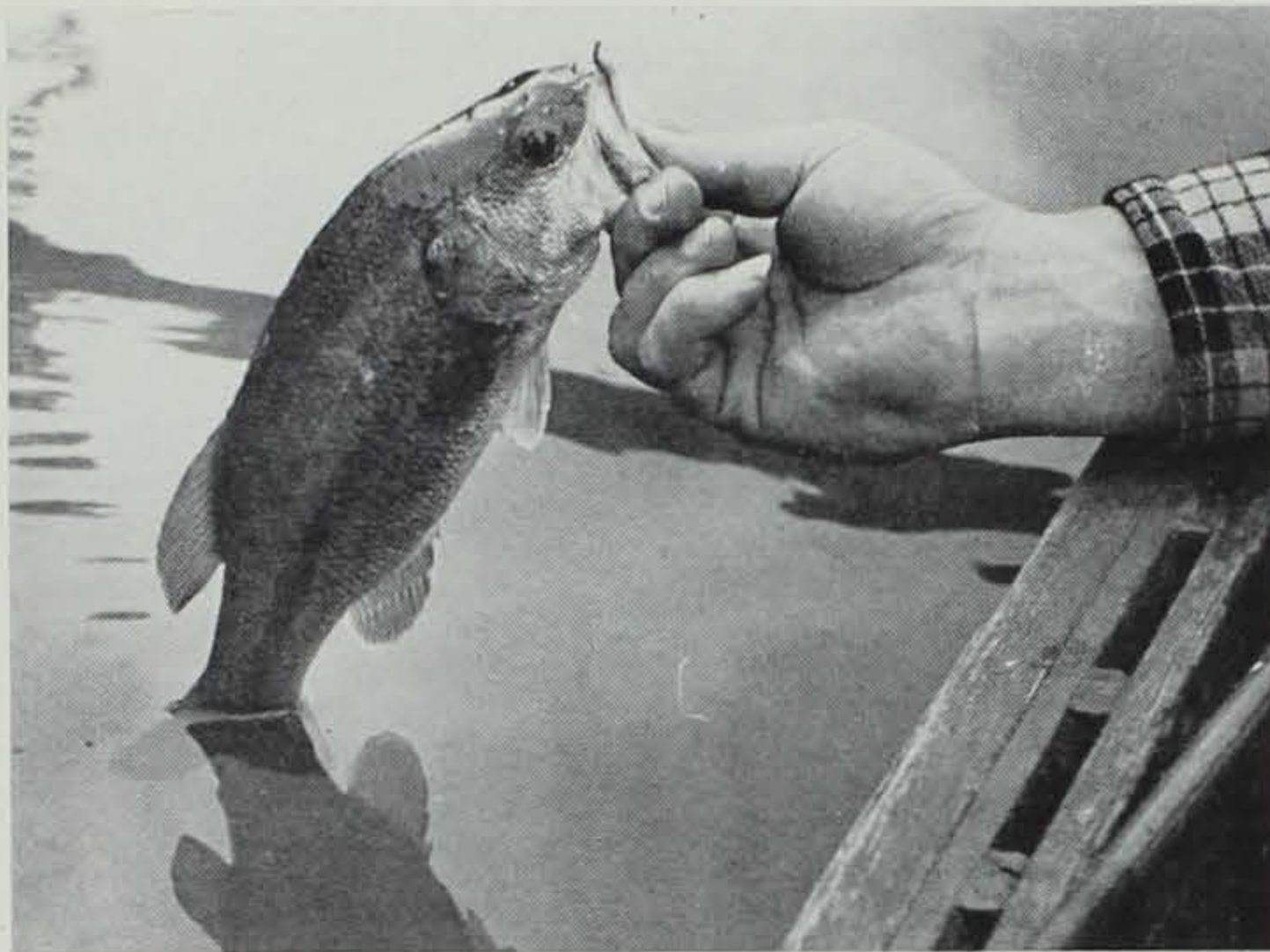
11. Improvement of old ox-bow lakes along the Missouri River.
12. Establishment of a large wilderness area in the loess hills of the Missouri River.
13. Cooperative program with the State Highway Commission in establishing lakes impounded by highway construction.
14. Expansion of existing State Park Areas and improvement of facilities including roads in the existing parks.
15. Establishment of an Inter-state Parkway Commission to preserve the natural beauty of the Upper Mississippi River with Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin cooperating.
16. Purchase, lease or easements on narrow strips of land adjacent to some of the more important streams for public use.
17. Construction of small artificial lakes for fishing.
18. Establishment of three large waterfowl areas at Riverton, Red Rock Reservoir and the lower reaches of the Wapsipinicon River.
19. Preservation of trout streams in Northeast Iowa.
20. Reclamation of shallow natural lakes by dredging, soil erosion control, shoreline riprapping and improvement of public use facilities.
21. Maintenance of present and proposed facilities. Proper maintenance of facilities reflects a good public image. Sufficient maintenance funds are most difficult of all to secure. Public demands, even of outdoor facilities, are increasingly more critical; therefore, if we are to maintain our areas in a proper manner, it is imperative that appropriations for such purposes keep pace with the demand.

Admittedly this is an ambitious program and will ultimately cost millions to complete. The program, however, can be phased over a period of years. The increased public demand for outdoor facilities necessitates well organized planning and procedure.

Funds from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation will be matched by state, county and city funds on a 50-50 basis, where applicable, on outdoor recreation programs in Iowa. To date, \$1,441,762 has been apportioned to Iowa. It is anticipated that an additional one million dollars will be available on July 1 of this year, and approximately this amount for the succeeding 23 years of the program. Half of this amount will be retained for state projects and the remainder distributed to counties and cities that have prepared plans for Commission approval and qualify under the program.

County Conservation Boards have added immeasurably to the recreation program in Iowa. They have grown from 16 County Boards in 1956 to 83 in 1966, and I am told that an additional nine counties will attempt to establish boards in this election year. Collectively 512 areas have been established by the counties totaling over 25,500 acres of land. Their current annual budget of nearly 4 million dollars is being wisely spent on projects that are significantly contributing to the over-all outdoor recreation program.

The need for Conservation and Recreation is growing by leaps and bounds. Working cooperatively with all state agencies, the federal agencies, counties, city, sportsmen's organizations, and the private sector, we hope to be able to keep abreast with the demands.



At this time of year, the angler has to be as wily as the bass.

Jim Sherman Photo.

## MID-SUMMER BASS FISHING TIPS

K. M. Madden, Superintendent of Fisheries

All men are equal before fish, however there are some class distinctions among fish. Bass demonstrate the highest level of intelligence in avoiding poorly presented baits or lures that lack that extra "something" in action. They live long—9 to 12 years—get big and become trophy fish, and are generally under-harvested.

The largemouth bass is one of the most popular sport fish found in all parts of Iowa. They thrive in weedy, mud-bottomed farm ponds, city reservoirs, artificial lakes, flood control reservoirs, sluggish waters of our major inland or boundary streams and sand and gravel bedded natural lakes. Bass are usually found near snags, drop-offs, cut banks, and muskrat-cut pockets in weed bed edges. Mississippi and Missouri River and major inland stream areas with submerged stumps, felled trees, sunken ripraps and channel entrances are top largemouth bass habitat spots.

Water transparency controls fishing success. Bass feed mainly by sight; so muddy water is not good. The best fishing conditions are found in water visibility ranging from 3 to 6 feet. Water that is too clear tends to spook the fish. Cloudy days are better than sunny days for clear water angling. Shaded areas attract fish.

For the novice, the best way to learn bass fishing is to go with a successful "expert" and copy his methods, weather, water reading know-hows and other subtle tricks of the bigmouth trade. The lure must be presented to the fish in his environment naturally so as not to cause undue alarm or suspicion because bass intelligence causes an almost instinctive wariness to abnormal conditions. Experts apply the virtue of a patient, deliberate retrieve to unlock the explosive bass striking power.

"The best time to go fishing is when you have time" but you must adjust your methods to the fish habits for the time when you can fish. Accurate lure placement by specialists with cane pole, casting rod, spinning rod or fly rod pays off with bonus bass—the fish are always there. Because of super intelligence they are never fished out. Over fishing results in "super wariness" which should not be confused with absence.

A quiet, cautious fisherman wading or in a slow, moving boat propelled by oars or electric motor may bring himself within casting distance of the bass lair without alerting the fish, where a noisy fisherman would not catch the fish off guard. He moves slowly and carefully, fishes the submerged stumps, submerged logs, felled trees, riprap, and weed bed edges which offer habitat, protection, cover, and food for the largemouth. Creel data demonstrates fishing success is lower on heavily fished days than on quiet days, even though bass "follows" occur, but few catches result.

Bass are not finicky about their diet. Scientific food habit studies indicate that they are adventitious feeders, i.e., they feed on the most prevalent food. This leaves a wide choice of appropriate baits and lures to fit any Iowa angler, be he hook and liner, bait caster, spin caster, fly rod specialist, cane poler or "lazy hazy summer day" type fisherman.

Abundant mid-summer food supplies suggest live minnows, crayfish, frog or black leeches (a reasonable facsimile will do) or surface lures that simulate struggling small birds or large insects will be most effective. Flies that duplicate sub-surface natural larvae hatches are deadly at the right place and the right time.

Bass strike natural or artificial baits or lures for any of several

reasons: they may be hungry, angry, inquisitive or simply protecting a hierarchy, such as home territory or a nest, from the audacious behavior of a lure or natural bait; but they do learn. Studies have demonstrated that bass learn very quickly, but they do have a family "dare devil" trait for rash behavior. There is evidence that they do learn to avoid a particular bait or lure after observing one or more members of their group being caught.

Even in mid-summer when food is available for the bass, knowledge of fish feeding habits, lake or stream contours, currents, temperatures, wind direction, and patient angling psychology will produce fish where "there are none." They seek locations where they find cooler temperatures for their comfort with adequate oxygen to remain quiet except during periods, usually dawn and dusk, of active feeding. Bass fishing, even on days of heavy water recreation use, is usually best in the "hush" of dawn and dusk. Water temperature does affect fish behavior; so the angler "in the know" adjusts his fishing operations to the natural phenomena that affect fish behavior. Biologists have found catch rates can be increased by fishing at levels of water temperatures that best suit the fishes. Watch the wind. Fish flies or other type lures where grasshoppers or tree dwelling insects are blown naturally on the water. On a windy day the spin fisherman or bait casters will fish on the opposite shore, that is the lee side of the lake where currents carry sluggish wave injured small fish across bars or into weed edges to waiting bass.

Most people believe that they have a divine right to unlimited fish. This has been inherited from countless generations of free fishermen. Fishing is not so much getting fish as it is a state of mind; a lure for the human soul into refreshment. No one catches fish in a hurry, anger or malice. Tackle busting bass—the one that got away—are in fact, part of real "re-creation." A good fisherman possesses a great faith and hope; he gains charity too, as he listens to other fishermen.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO DUCK HUNTERS

(Continued from page 59)

regulations may provide a greater number of hunting days with smaller daily bag limits, or few days with a larger bag. They may provide for a penalty in the form of fewer total hunting days if the state selects a split season. They may provide for bonus seasons in specific areas where the harvest of additional birds of a plentiful species will not endanger other species in short supply. These are only examples of the various options which might be available in the federal framework.

When the federal framework has been made available to the state, Iowa waterfowl technicians make their recommendations for a season which will be most beneficial to all of the Iowa hunters. These recommendations are reviewed by the staff of the Fish and Game Division and are then presented to the Director of the Commission. He makes the final recommendations to the seven-member State Conservation Commission. The regulations which the Commission finally adopts become the waterfowl hunting regulations for this year. They notify the federal government and file their actions with the Secretary of State here in Iowa. The regulations then are adopted as both federal and state law.

All of the procedures outlined above may sound highly complicated and involved. However, the system has many attributes. It allows the regulations to be based on the amount of waterfowl available in the flyway. It allows Iowans to select, through the Conservation Commission, the dates and bag limits within the broad framework which are most beneficial to them. And most important, it assures everyone that no one individual nor one state can over harvest this resource to the detriment of others.

So please be patient and understanding when we tell you we can't answer until late summer, the question, "When is the waterfowl season this year?"

Whatever the season, good luck in your waterfowling ventures this fall!

Sincerely yours,  
Bob Barratt  
Supt. of Game

## COMMISSION MINUTES

(Continued from page 58)

Approval was given for the Public Relations Section to purchase and distribute 2,000 automobile stickers for the promotion of fishing.

The Engineering Section was instructed to proceed with an Engineering investigation of the Bear Creek impoundment area in Story County.

### Informational Items

Informational items included an

Engineering report on exploration of the substrata at Brown's Lake in Woodbury County, surveys and costs on the Large Lakes program, status of the Bussey Lake project at Guttenberg, and dedication of the Cayler Prairie area in Dickinson County as a national registered landmark, and a report by the Director of Planning concerning cooperation with the Development Commission on state-wide planning and coordination of various programs.

*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

Jack Kirstein Photo.

## YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS

Jack Higgins

Comparable to the popular disbelief in the existence of snipe is a refusal to believe that Nature has created a beautiful creature known as the yellow-headed blackbird! At least this is true in much of Iowa where this exotic bird is rarely, if ever, seen by the casual observer. Summer visitors to the marsh areas around the Great Lakes Region in northern Iowa, Goose Lake near Jefferson, and occasionally near marshes in other sections of the state will most always get a glimpse of this most unusual blackbird. This is especially true at sundown when his wheeling flights around the edge of the marsh offer a splendid opportunity to observe him.

The male has a yellow head and throat and a distinctive white patch on his wings that stand out against the black wings and body during flight. The male is about the size of a robin. As in many bird species, the female is smaller than her mate. Her coloring is also different. The vibrant yellow is muted and found only on her throat where it is streaked with white. The female's body and wings are more brownish than black.

People hearing the song of the yellow-headed blackbird for the first time usually compare it with the sound made by a rusty hinge that is badly in need of oiling. Phonetically, the notes would be a low *krick* or *kack*.

Yellow-headed blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) are passerine, or perching birds. They are, therefore, placed highest along the evolutionary scales used in ranking birdlife from the primitive to the most advanced. The male can be considered a "free thinker," as he is quite apt to collect more than one mate if there is a surplus of females in his mating area. If the ratio is equal, he will be quite content with just one wife, however.

Experts tell us that yellow-headed blackbirds can eat their weight in food each day. Hatching time greatly increases the feeding chores, for the young usually double their weight during the first twenty-four hours of their life. Fall brings a migration of yellow-heads from other nesting grounds in Manitoba, Hudson Bay, Minnesota and Nebraska. The Iowa flocks join the flight south to Louisiana and Mexico where they over-winter. By the following Spring the previous year's brood has reached sexual maturity and upon their return to the northern marshes they will mate and raise broods of their own.

DuMont's REVISED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF IOWA (1933), notes that the yellow-headed blackbird had apparently ceased nesting in Marshall, Floyd and Buchanan counties, although it was still common in Polk, Story and Hamilton counties. He went on to say that the bird could be found in colonies of considerable size throughout northwestern Iowa "wherever there are sloughs and marshes with a luxuriant growth of quill-reeds (*Phragmites*) and containing water throughout the summer." And so as with the vast flocks of ducks that formerly nested in Iowa, the yellow-headed blackbird has been reduced in numbers because of the work of the tiler and dragline which destroyed the common habitat. Nowadays only the adventure-seeker who make the effort to seek him out will be thrilled by his beauty and creaking voice. Let's hope that the preserved areas now inhabited by the yellow-headed blackbird are sufficient to perpetuate the beauty of the species for generations of Iowans yet to come.

## BLACK WALNUT IN IOWA

(Continued from page 61)

### Research To Give Answers

Requirements for growing black walnut are high. The land should be prepared as if one was getting corn land ready for planting. Both seedlings and nuts are acceptable for planting, however seedlings can be cared for more easily. Black walnuts do not all germinate the first spring when planted. In many cases this gives competing plants a chance to crowd out the young walnut seedling.

Black walnut seedlings should be graded and only good strong trees used. Wider spacing of trees is being recommended with 20 feet between rows and 15 feet between the individual seedlings in each row. Fertilizer studies show the seedlings require about the same rate as needed to produce 100 bushels of corn per acre. Often this fertilizer can be applied in the form of concentrated pills or pellets. Where general fertilization is done, soybeans make an excellent planting for in-between the rows of black walnut seedlings.

Most encouraging is the report that intensive practices will double or even triple growth rates to where tree diameters of 13 inches are reached in 35 years as compared to 60 years in the case of wild woodland seedlings.

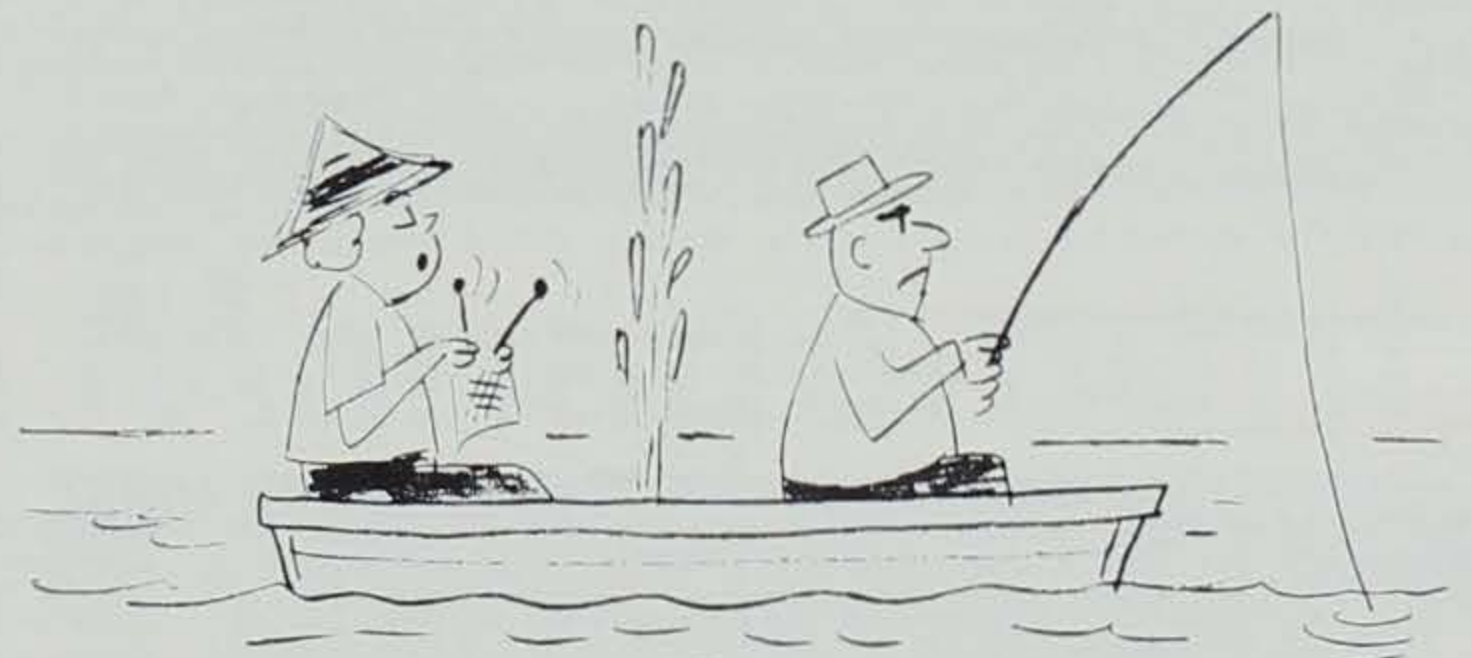
Grasses and weeds around the young trees should be controlled by clean cultivation for the first few years. Research in using irrigation is still underway, but it is thought that this practice also speeds growth.

### Help Is Available

Walnut will continue to hold its favored market position for years to come. Even if intensive management is carried out in our native woodlands and black walnut planting, it is not likely that supply will meet demand.

In Iowa, A Nut Growers Association has recently been formed to study and promote the establishment of nut tree seed orchards to produce the finest crop trees possible. It is quite possible that black walnuts will be marketed for human consumption by Iowa growers as they now are in Missouri and other states. The American Walnut Manufacturers Association cooperates with the State Forest Nursery in supplying walnuts to be planted to produce the seedlings wanted by Iowa landowners.

Conservation Commission Foresters are located at Elkader, Marshalltown, Anamosa, Fairfield, Chariton, Red Oak, Muscatine, Adel, Charles City and LeMars. They will assist interested landowners, free of charge, in setting up a black walnut planting program, managing their existing native woodlands or marketing trees which are mature and ready for sale. Our walnut situation is not hopeless and with new knowledge and public interest will get better.



"DON'T BE STUBBORN, DEAR, LET'S GO IN!"



Bill O'Malley Cartoon.

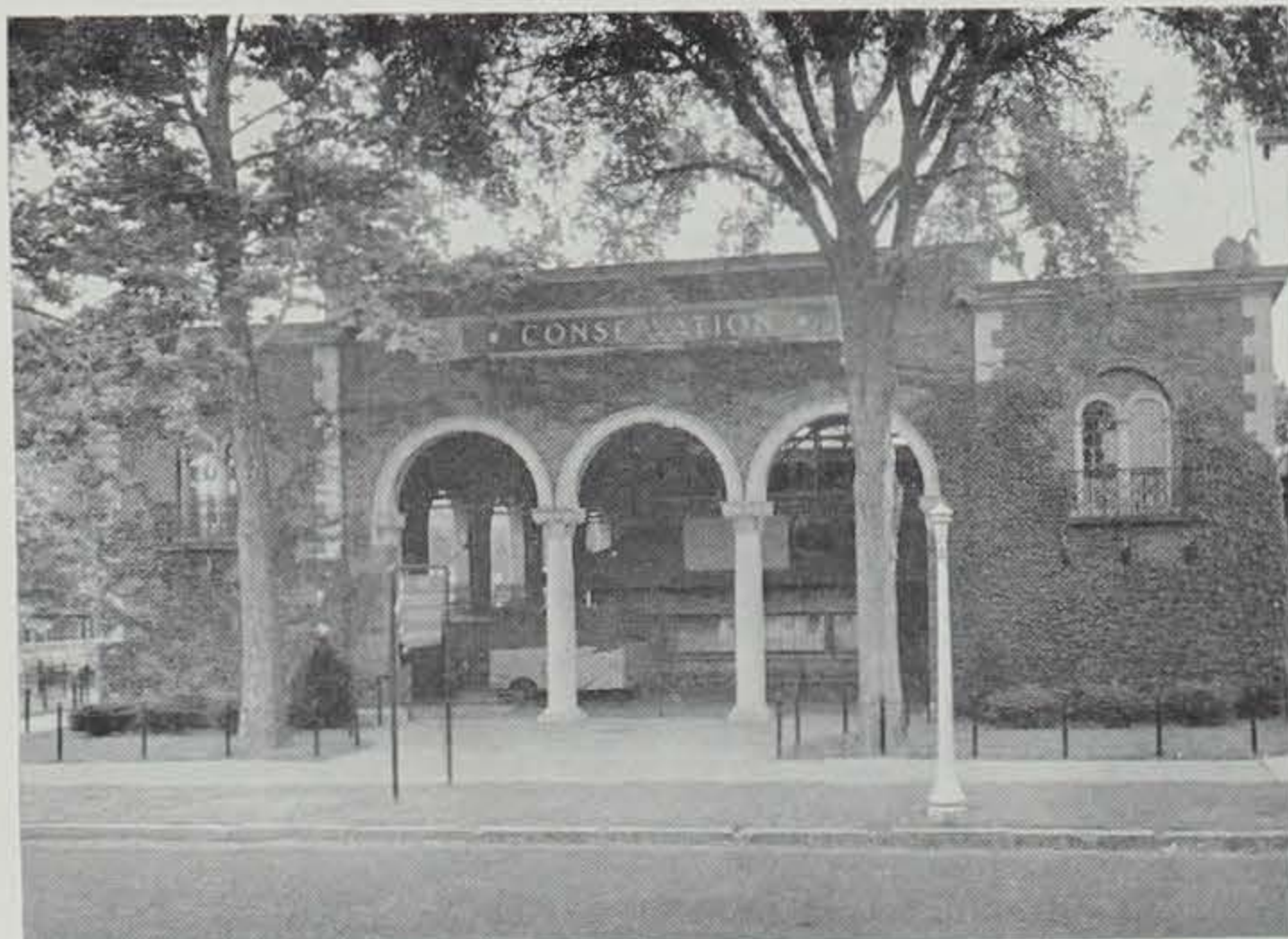
# 1921 - 1966



The aquarium building replaced steel fish tanks in 1921.



The 1923 Fair started before the roof over the new exhibit building was completed.



In 1966 outdoor Iowa will remain the biggest attraction at the State Fair.

Jack Kirstein Photo.

## SCC EXHIBIT 45 YEARS OLD

Julius Satre

Iowa's Conservation Exhibit Building located at the Iowa State Fairgrounds will observe its 45th anniversary during the 1966 Iowa State Fair. The exhibit building is still acclaimed to be one of the finest of its type in the nation.

There is quite a contrast in Conservation Commission Exhibits since their beginning at the State Fair. During the early years of the turn of the century the exhibits were quite crude. The early exhibits looked more like an unkept barnyard in appearance when compared to the present. The 1910 exhibit consisted of a tract of land approximately 75 feet by 140 feet enclosed by a fence. At one end was a "mud pond" exhibit of different species of waterfowl. Other animals on display were prairie chickens, pheasants, quail and Hungarian partridge.

Fish were exhibited in several crude steel tanks. When state fairgoers wanted to see a certain fish, an attendant used a dip net to bring the fish into view. Another hazard for the fair visitor was the muddy condition around the fish tank area caused by the overflow of water from the tanks.

The unique aquarium now being used was first opened to the public in 1921. This was the first attempt to display Iowa's native fish and other aquatic life in a modern manner at the State Fair. In 1923 the Conservation Exhibit Building itself was completed. At this time Iowa's native fish, game birds and animals were all displayed under one roof.

Over the years numerous other improvements have taken place. The waterfowl pond and the five outside pens, located on the west side of the building, were built in 1956. The picnic and rest area were introduced in 1956 also. In 1959 the otter pen was another welcomed addition.

Reminiscing over the past 45 State Fair Exhibits will bring back memories to many people. In 1925, Oscar, the famed Rock Sturgeon, was first introduced to the fair visitors. This giant fish, weighing over 115 pounds, was an attraction for 28 years until he died on the last day of the 1953 fair.

Big Hattie, Iowa's largest snapping turtle was first exhibited in 1949. During the show, over 10,000 people attempted to guess her weight. One person, who must have known more about turtle's weight than the rest, guessed the weight squarely on the nose—31 pounds 14 ounces. The average guess was 93 pounds! A large pen containing over 100 orphaned raccoons was quite an attraction in 1951. These were but a few of the many attractions over the years.

The year 1966 will be another interesting year at the Conservation Exhibit Building. On display will be another outstanding snake exhibit plus the usual thousands of native fish, birds, mammals, etc. In addition, there will be many interesting features from the forestry, waters, game, parks and public relations departments.

Experts in all fields of conservation activities will be on duty from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day to answer your questions. Plan to see the most popular exhibit on the fairgrounds at the Conservation Exhibit Building, August 19-28.

## "YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU"

Everyone, except those responsible, is becoming concerned with the litter that lays on our land. The sportsman hunter, fisher, boater, camper, and picnicker should set an example for others to follow. The sportsman should take care of his own litter, freely, without threat of arrest or argument. He should also do what he can to stop littering by others.

Practically everything that litters our lakes, streams, camp sites, and hunting grounds has been carried into the area by someone. If these cans, bottles, cartons, etc. can be taken in when full, surely they can be carried out again and disposed of properly. It is impossible to have garbage collected except at a few designated campgrounds or other heavily used areas. It must be the responsibility of the individual to carry out what he brings in.

Cartons and paper can usually be burned but nonburnable items should be carried out, preferably to the home garbage can. Cans can be flattened and along with empty bottles, they should be far easier to pack out than when they were taken in when full. Much fishing, camping, and picnicking is done near the car and with very little effort the litter can be stowed in the car for the trip out.

All users of the out-of-doors should adopt this slogan: "You can take it with you."

North Dakota Outdoors, July '66