

# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

MISS BLANCHE SMITH  
IA LIBRARY COM  
DES MOINES IA  
JAN 61

IOWA STATE TRAVELING LIBRARY  
JAN 28 1957

Volume 16 January, 1957 Number 1

## "SALVAGE FISHING" AGAIN OPENED

### ONE FARM POND: MANY USES

Pat Tilley

State Conservation Officer

Farm folks in southern Iowa are going all out to improve water conditions on their lands. The past few years included some pretty severe drought conditions, and the landowner has been quick to realize that something must be done to assure a reliable water supply. Since it is not always possible to drill wells and find water, the farm pond is a solution for many weather problems. Most of these ponds are simply dammed ditches that hold back rain runoff. Ringgold County alone in 1956, 100 new farm ponds were constructed.

A typical southern Iowa farm pond is that belonging to Harry Skarda who farms two miles east of Tingley. It was built in July, 1954, and covers a little over an acre. Its maximum depth is 12 feet.

Harry planted 1,500 multiflora roses around the pond and plans to plant that many more next spring. In October, 1955, the pond was stocked with fingerling bass and bluegills. By last August the bass had grown to over 8 inches in length and should be big enough to eat by next summer.

The pond was also a favorite place for swimmers during last summer's heat, and several times Harry was able to spear good catches of bullfrogs that provided the "really fine eating."

Before the waterfowl season opened, I asked Harry if he would keep a record of the ducks and geese that would be shot off his land. Every morning during the season two sportsmen from Tingley—Bill Breckenridge and Dean Johnson—came out to the Skarda farm and hunted ducks with their shotguns. Here's the season's tally:

Oct. 8: 3 Hutchins' geese  
5 teal  
Oct. 9: 2 teal  
Oct. 10: 1 mallard  
1 teal  
Oct. 14: 1 mallard

(Continued on page 103)



Carp ranked high among the fish speared through the ice last winter. Many quillbacks were also taken, but few game fish such as walleyes, catfish and bass.

Jim Sherman Photo.

### Fifteen Counties to Set Up Recreation Areas

Although final results are not known, a number of Iowa counties have approved a new plan for establishing their own recreation areas.

Of 21 counties known to have included a County Conservation Board proposal on their November ballots, 15 approved the proposal and 6 defeated it. At least 31 counties did not present the proposal on their ballots and no action was taken.

The County Conservation Board is a new plan designed to provide recreational areas for county use. Under a new state law, a county

board of supervisors may create a County Conservation Board with the sanction of the voters. This board has the authority to acquire, develop and maintain public parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, county forests, wildlife and conservation areas within the county for use of county residents.

Acquisition and development of such areas is financed by a special tax in addition to all other taxes, which cannot be less than ¼ mill nor more than 1 mill on each taxable dollar within the county.

(Continued on page 104)

John Madson

For the second consecutive winter, a number of state waters have been opened to promiscuous fishing under which any species of fish may be taken.

In these special areas, fish may be harvested by any means except explosives, poison, electrical shocking or stupefying substances. They may not be taken for commercial purposes.

The season will extend to March 1, 1957, and regular fishing license laws will apply. All fish species may be taken in the listed areas with spears, gigs, nets, hook and line, by hand, or by any means except those listed above. By late December, the following waters had been opened:

Area	County
Pickrel Lake	Buena Vista
South Twin Lake	Calhoun
Swan Lake	Carroll
Elk Lake	Clay
Goose Lake	Clinton
Silver Lake	Delaware
Diamond Lake	Dickinson
Marble Lake	Dickinson
Pleasant Lake	Dickinson
Swan Lake	Dickinson
Welsh Lake	Dickinson
West Hottel Lake	Dickinson
Spring Lake	Greene
Lakin Slough	Guthrie
Trumbull Lake	Clay
Virgin Lake	Palo Alto
Little Clear Lake	Pocahontas
Lizard Lake	Pocahontas
Rice Lake	Worth and Winnebago
South Skunk River	Hamilton, Story, Polk and Jasper
North Skunk River	Story, Polk and Jasper
Maple River	Ida and Cherokee
Boyer River	Sac
Chariton River	Lucas and Appanoose
Boone River	Wright and Hancock

By the time this is published, other water areas will possibly have been opened to salvage fishing.

All major Iowa water areas are being regularly checked by conservation officers, biologists, fisheries workers, federal aid field men, and other Conservation Commission personnel. Regular oxygen samples are being taken to determine the fatal lack of oxygen that can doom fish in winter waters.

Low water, coupled with ice and snow cover and the decay of organic materials in the bottom ooze, will often result in an oxygen depletion fatal to fish. In many waters dissolved oxygen is used up

(Continued on page 102)



## Iowa Conservationist

Published Monthly by the  
IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
East 7th and Court—Des Moines, Iowa  
(No Rights Reserved)

HERSCHEL C. LOVELESS, Governor  
BRUCE STILES, Director  
JOHN MADSON, Editor  
EVELYN BOUCHER, Associate Editor

### MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

GEORGE M. FOSTER, Chairman...Ottumwa  
JOE STANTON, Vice Chairman...Des Moines  
MRS. JOHN CRABB...Jamaica  
GEORGE V. JECK...Spirit Lake  
FLOYD S. PEARSON...Decorah  
J. D. REYNOLDS...Creston  
E. G. TROST...Fort Dodge

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE.....51,000  
Subscription rate.....40c per year  
Three Years \$1.00

Entered as second class matter at the  
post office in Des Moines, Iowa, September  
22, 1947, under the Act of March 24, 1912.

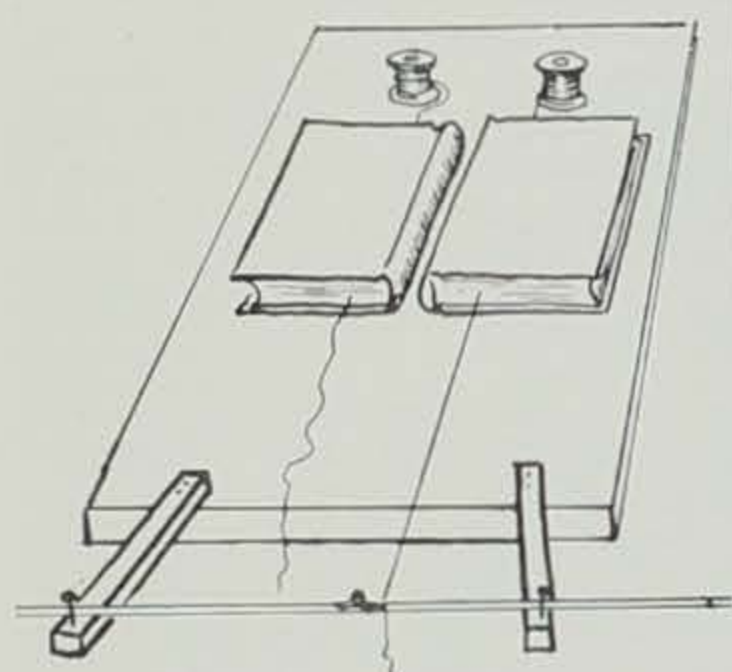
Subscriptions received at Iowa Conser-  
vation Commission, East Seventh Street  
and Court Avenue, Des Moines 9, Iowa.  
Send cash, check or money order.

## NOTES ON REPAIRING FISHING RODS

Ralph D. Needham

Broken or loosened guides, tips, ferrules and reel seats of fishing rods cause us the most trouble, but all are easily repaired or replaced. You can do a first class job of fixing your own rod with little expense and a great deal of pleasure in just a few spare hours this winter.

For replacing guides, you'll have an easier job if you make the simple rod-winding device shown below.



Use an inch-thick board about 12 inches wide and 24 inches long. To one end, fasten two 8-inch pieces of inch-square wood. Drive a small nail about an inch from the end of each stick, protruding about 1 1/4 inches. Clamp the board to a small table or bench with the two sticks extending out about five inches from the end of the table.

At the other end of the board, drive one or more finishing nails, letting each nail protrude about two inches. These nails will hold the spools of winding thread.

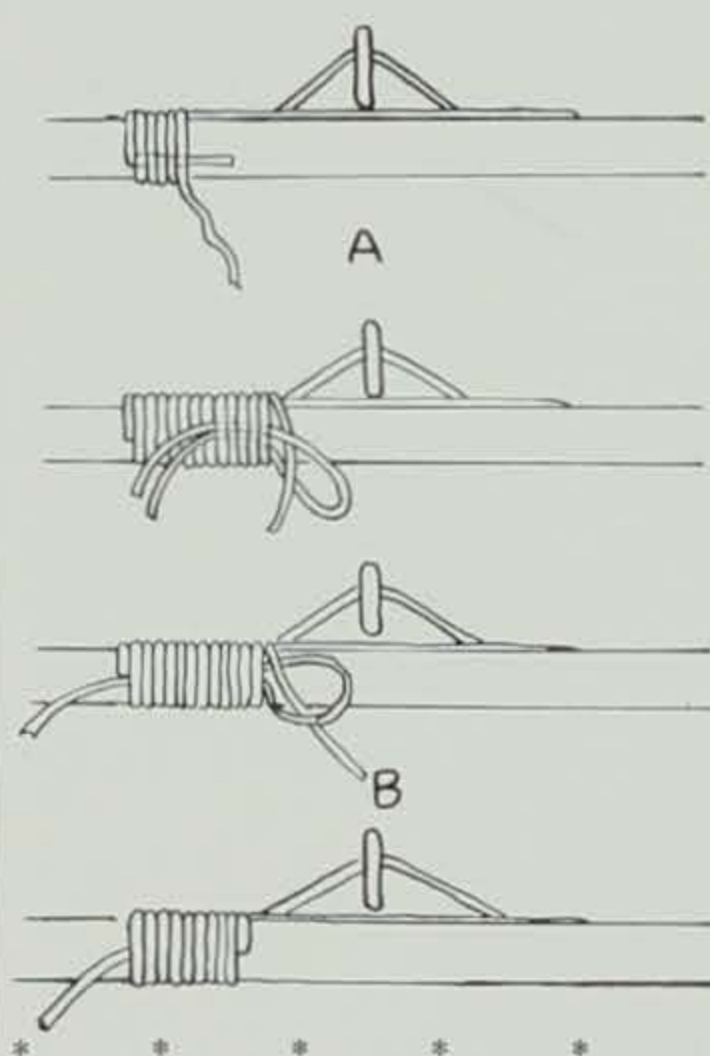
Place a fairly heavy book just in front of the spools of thread as shown in the diagram. Run thread lengthwise through the book. A weight may be placed on top of the book to obtain the proper tension of thread for re-winding.

Use good nylon thread. Any colors or patterns may be used, but

the finest rods almost always have wrappings that closely match the rod's color. Such expensive rods seldom have garish, brightly colored wrappings.

With a razor blade, carefully cut away old windings from the guides to be replaced, being careful not to cut the rod. With fine steel wool or garnet paper, smooth that part of the rods where the guides were removed.

Assemble the rod and place the new guides in the same position as the old ones, fastening them in place with small pieces of tape. Align the guides carefully with the reel seat. With all guides positioned and aligned, the rod may be disjointed for easier wrapping. Lay a section of the rod on the rod winder, in front of the nails as shown, with the guide about half way between the two rod supports.



### Wrapping

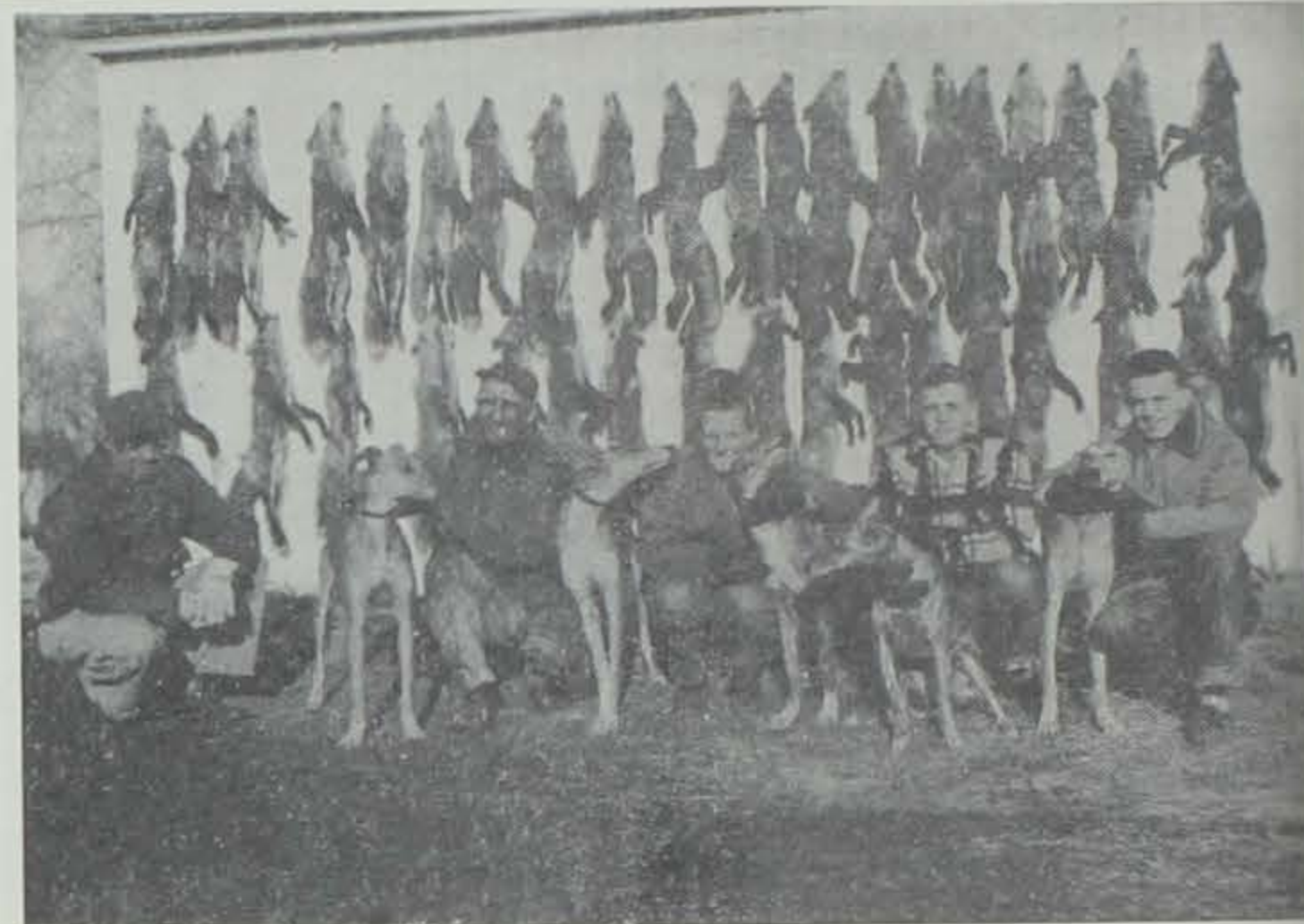
Lay the end of the thread as shown in sketch A or B. You may lay the end of the thread as shown in Sketch A, make 5 or 6 wraps, turning the rod toward you. Cut off the end of the thread that extends under the windings. Continue to wrap the thread to within six or eight wraps of the finish, and holding the winding tightly, take a piece of thread about eight inches long (prepared in advance) and lay a loop on the rod as shown. Continue to wrap over the loop until the foot of the guide is covered. Insert the end of the thread through the loop, pull the loop and end of thread back under the winding, tighten firmly, and cut off the end of the thread.

After a final alignment of the guides, apply several coats of clear lacquer or good rod varnish. Windings should be revarnished whenever they become dull or begin to show wear.

Ferrules and end guides may have to be replaced if they are bent, badly worn, or loose. All guides—particularly on casting rods—should be checked frequently, for they may be grooved badly with nylon lines.

### Tight Ferrules

If ferrules are simply loose, they  
(Continued on page 100)



## FOXES ARE FAST; GREYHOUNDS FASTER

To many hunting dogs, mid-winter is a time for lazing by the fire, getting fat, and "wowfing" at newsboys.

Not so in portions of northern and northwestern Iowa. That's greyhound country, and January is the time when the dogs flash over broad fields after foxes, sometimes hitting speeds of 45 miles per hour.

Coursing foxes with special racing dogs is an ancient sport, but one that isn't too common in Iowa. To the Karsten family of Wall Lake, it's the only way to hunt foxes.

Larry Karsten recently sent the accompanying picture and wrote: "Winter's here, and around here fox hunting comes with snow. We've foxhunted around Wall Lake for a number of years now, but last winter was our best. We got a total of 43 foxes including one grey fox. The rest were red foxes."

"We go out almost every Saturday or Sunday as well as on holidays. Right now we have five greyhounds that we run the foxes down with. We use old cars with truck transmissions and usually spot the foxes in the morning and spend the afternoon chasing them. So far this year we've taken seven foxes."

"This snapshot was taken last year when we didn't yet have the 43 foxes. The grey was taken to Shenandoah to be mounted. The people in the picture, from left to right, are Elmer Karsten, Bob Beisch, Gary Karsten, Larry Karsten and Leonard Karsten. There were a couple of others that went once in a while that aren't in the photograph."

Coursing greyhounds is an exhilarating sport, but is strictly for the wide open spaces. The bigger and broader the fields, the better. One obstacle to the sport in Iowa is the ubiquitous barbed wire fence. A greyhound, hitting such a fence under a full head of steam, can be subdivided like a Christmas pie.

## LANDING NETS

The best way to net a fish is to submerge the net, being sure that the bag is opened out instead of being wrapped around the frame. Then, when the net is in position, lead the fish over it and release the tension on the line. A fish that has been hooked and brought to the surface of the water will almost always attempt to go straight downward when tension on the line is released; this attempt will take him right into the net.

Don't try to scoop up a fish as though you were making a mashie shot on the golf links. If you do, nine times out of ten you will send the fish dashing away, and whether or not he stays on your line is a matter of luck. Many people bang the net around in such a fashion that they knock the lure out of the fish's mouth. That takes a bit of doing, but it can be done.

You should almost always net any fresh-water fish that you really want to land. Many really good fish have been lost by trying to haul them out of the water on the line. You can usually pick up the little fellows without any danger of losing them, but the big ones have a habit of getting loose just when you think they are yours. This is especially true of fish that are hooked very lightly through a piece of skin on the lip.—*The Fisherman Magazine*.

Travelers in the far north learn to avoid living on lean meat alone. Some "cheechako" travelers have become quite ill of "rabbit starvation" while eating lean rabbit meat to the exclusion of fat meats. But sooner or later they learn to join Eskimos in their meals of blubber and other fats, which contain vitamins necessary to health.

Punishment for violation of game laws has become very lenient in modern times. During the middle ages in England and Europe, a man killing a deer in a royal forest might have had his hands cut off, his ears notched or removed, or even hanged with his own bow string.



## BUILT-IN PARACHUTES HELP TWO STATES SOLVE GAME PROBLEMS

Because the chukar partridge and the wild turkey have "built-in parachutes," California and Florida have solved some of the problems of planting birds in inaccessible regions.

During the past year, California reports that it has released a great number of chukar partridges from planes going about 100 miles per hour and 200-300 feet above the ground. The birds tumbled through the air for only a short distance, then righted themselves and glided to the ground within a quarter of a mile of a spring that had been selected as the "target." There were no casualties. The birds collected into groups within a few minutes and began exploring their new home.

Florida successfully released several dozen wild turkeys from planes 200 feet above the ground and traveling at about 50 miles an hour. Like the chukars, the turkeys righted themselves and volplaned to earth.

For several years fingerling fish have been planted from the air with no ill effects to the fish, despite the fact that fish have no "built-in" chutes nor were furnished with any.



Geronimo, boys! Hit the silk!

## CONSERVATION LESSON

"A farmer never attempts to raise chickens by killing hawks; he must first provide housing and food, and then keep a watchful eye for secondary enemies. The same requirements exist for all game animals. It is of little use to concentrate on the predators without first furnishing them with its primary requisite, proper vegetative environment."—Thomas Eberhard, *Pennsylvania Game News*.

The Iowa Indian tribe for which the state got its name was a roving band of Sioux extraction. One interpretation of the tribal name "sleepy ones." They usually lived within the boundaries of this state.

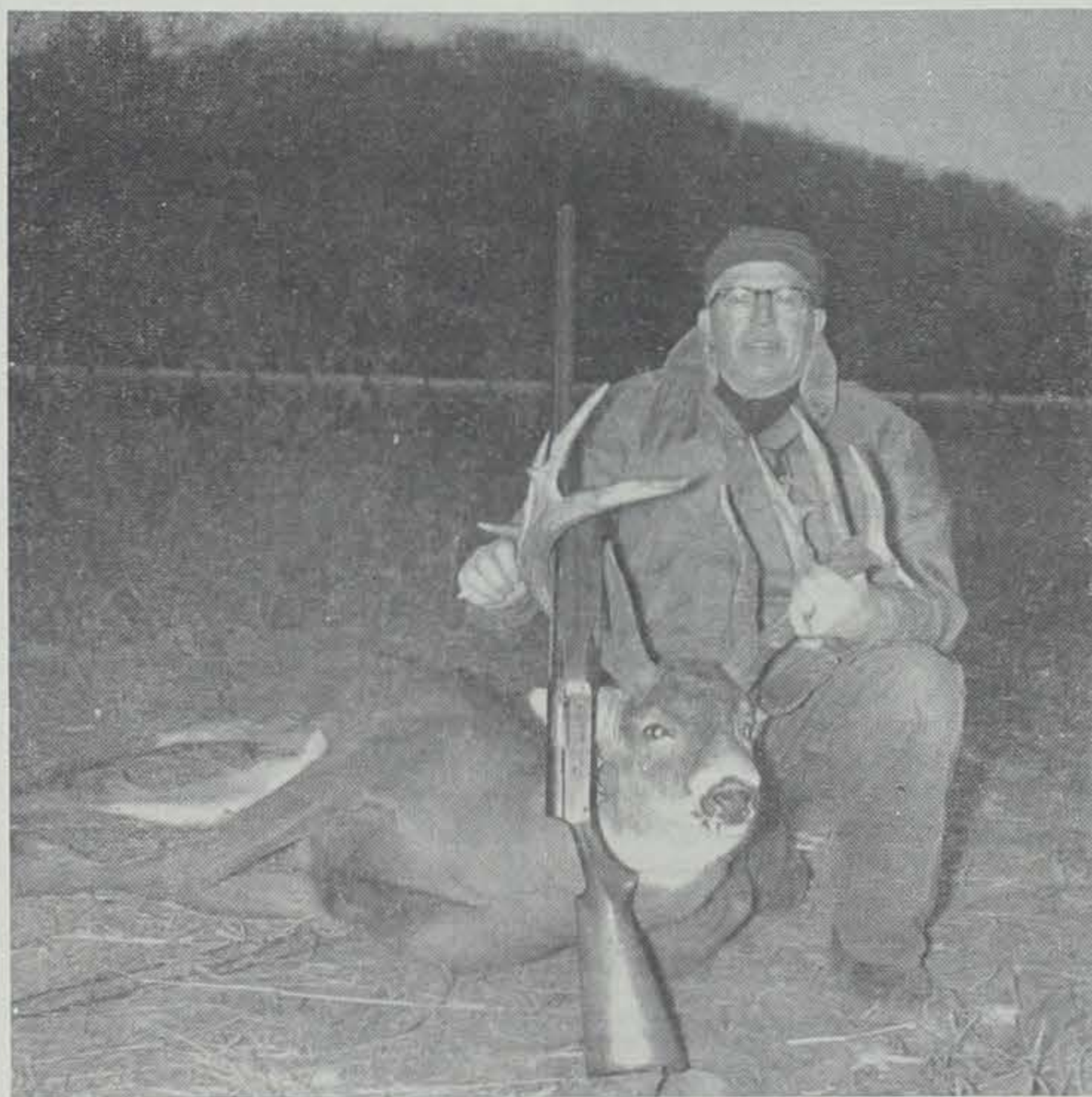
At one time this tribe lived near Kobojo, at another time near Council Bluffs, and later in the northwestern part of Van Buren

County. In 1702 the tribe had 300 warriors. By 1937 it was reported that 112 members of the tribe were living in Oklahoma—E.S.

A good weight for practice casting can be made from a small tobacco sack filled with a half-ounce or more of sand. Such a weight may be cast in a crowded back yard, and will not break windows or injure onlookers.

Live decoys used to aid in the taking of migratory waterfowl became illegal in 1935. This federal act was passed to make things a little easier for the ducks and a little tougher for the hunter.—J.S.

In the winter of 1876, some 215 men were employed cutting ice from Clear Lake at \$1.50 per day with horses averaging half as much as a man.—J.S.



A. L. Tate Photo.

"As wide across the shoulders as a Hereford steer" was one description of Tony Schmitz's big buck. Shot in Allamakee County, the buck had one of the finest racks of the season. Anyone have a picture of a better one?

## DEER KILL PASSES 2,000 MARK

With about four-fifths of Iowa's deer hunters having reported their success, Conservation Commission biologists say that over 2,000 deer were killed during the recent bow-and-arrow and gun hunting seasons.

Of the 5,439 Iowans who purchased gun hunting licenses, 4,453 have indicated 1,921 kills. This kill figure is not final, and includes only the reports received by late December. About 1,000 gun hunters had not yet been heard from, and state conservation officers had not yet completed estimates of the non-licensed farmer kill of deer.

A final report on deer season results will be issued in the *Conservationist* in February or March.

Added to the reported gun kill of deer were 109 kills by bowhunters during their October-November season. A total of 1,284 bow licenses had been issued, and nearly all of these hunters have reported their success.

Commission spokesmen said that the kill is about what was ex-

pected. Bowhunters and gun hunters combined purchased 6,723 deer hunting licenses and killed at least 2,030 deer.

One of the biggest deer taken in the state was a 13-point buck killed on December 8 by A. F. (Tony) Schmitz of Van Horne. Schmitz killed the huge buck north of Waukon in Allamakee County. Although he did not have the deer weighed, he writes that "it was an awful job for two men to drag it." Schmitz has eaten some of the venison, and in spite of the size of the buck, reports that it "is very fine eating."

A freak hunting incident that was widely publicized took place near Cherokee. Biologist Jim Sieh, who was on duty at the Cherokee checking station, tells the story:

"On the opening day of the gun season, we were checking deer in the Cherokee area and met some hunters who produced a broken arrow, including the head and about six inches of the shaft."

"This portion of arrow had been found in the chest cavity of a deer shot by Calvin Husman of Cherokee. The actual scar tissue indicated that it was a fairly recent

Some ice fishermen who drive on frozen lakes may wire their car doors in a "wide open" position. If the car breaks through, the driver can easily escape. The open doors may also catch on the edge of the ice and prevent the car from being submerged.

Another name for "walleye pike" is "jack-salmon." Both names are misleading, for the walleye is neither a pike nor a salmon, but a member of the perch family.

wound that had completely healed. There was no indication of infection and absolutely no pus present in the wound."

"Apparently this buck deer, which weighed about 150 pounds, had completely recovered from the wound and was in normal condition when killed by the gun hunter."

"The following day another hunter—Darriel Blankenbaker of Cherokee—came into the checking station, took one look at the broken portion of arrow, and exclaimed 'That's my arrow!' He went home and returned with the remainder of the shaft which matched perfectly."

"He had shot the deer with bow and arrow on November 10, almost a month before it was killed by the gun hunter. He saw the arrow strike the deer and snap off as the deer ran. The broken shaft was recovered by the bow hunter."

The fact that this non-fatal wound healed quickly and cleanly with no apparent ill effects should interest the few gun hunters who decry the use of bows for big game hunting.

Wounded animals occur in all types of hunting, whether hit with bullet or arrow. Often, however, large caliber slugs and bullets inflict massive bone and tissue damage from which the wounded animal cannot recover. A deer suffering a clean arrow wound in which tissue damage is minimized should have a better chance of recovery. This certainly seems to be true in the case cited above.



Jim Sherman Photo.

This six-inch section of arrow was in a deer's chest cavity, but the wound had healed and the animal appeared normal and healthy.





Walt Harvey of Marshall County, like other conservation officers, stresses gun safety programs for youngsters. Proud of the gun safety record in his county, Walt places much of the credit to two active sportsmen's groups.

## A PATTERN FOR SAFE SHOOTING

Marshalltown sportsmen have always thought a lot of their hunting and fishing, and they evidently think a lot of their kids, too.

That central Iowa city is carrying on some gun safety programs that could set the pace for other Iowa towns. Two Marshalltown sportsmen's clubs are giving shooting instruction to boys and girls, and although the programs are fairly new, they're bearing fruit.

One is conducted by the Iowa River Gun Club which provides year-around shooting for a group of 26 youngsters. Organized about a year ago, the Iowa River Club has built an outdoor rifle range and rented an indoor range in Marshalltown.

### "Club Within A Club"

Late last fall the club was contacted by a young people's group that wanted to learn shooting. The senior club welcomed the kids warmly and made their services available. Since then the youngsters have been chartered by the National Rifle Association as a junior rifle club, and as a "club within a club" are learning the fundamentals of shooting and gun safety.

Virgil Dye, Chief Deputy Sheriff of Marshall County and an officer of the Iowa River Gun Club, has a personal motive for promoting the program. As a police officer he has investigated several accidental shootings. "All had been caused by ignorance of proper gun handling," he says. "All could have been prevented with a little training and experience."

Dye and other members of the Iowa River Club are giving the young shooters the kind of training that saves lives and makes marksmen. Most of the winter firing is done in the indoor range rented by the club, but with spring

the group will probably move to the club's new outdoor range.

The kids hope to fire in competitive matches with other junior clubs and have begun qualification work for National Rifle Association awards. Dye said the outdoor range is always open to the public. "We believe that youngsters should have a safe place to shoot. Any boy or girl, with adult supervision, can fire on our range whether they're club members or not. Sure, it takes some maintenance, but it's worth it."

### Ikes' Steady Program

Another strong gun safety program for young people is being carried on by the Marshall County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The Ikes have a large clubhouse and an outdoor rifle range about two and one-half miles southeast of Marshalltown where a steady junior shooting program takes place during the summer.

According to Mark Stowe, new president of the Marshall County Ikes, the program has been very successful. "Although we haven't turned out any Distinguished Rifleman," Stowe remarked, "we think we've made some safe shooters. About 60 kids have learned about guns on our range in the past couple of years, including ten girls. Some of those girls were pretty fair shots, and made the boys really bear down."

Some of the boys, after a summer's practice and training, have outshot their dads.

Stowe said that since the Ikes' program has been active there have been no accidents on the range and no subsequent accidents among the youngsters that were trained there.

### Simple, Effective

Neither club has a big investment in their ranges or equipment. Similar programs could be set up by any active organization that wanted to get the job done.

The Iowa River Gun Club leased six and one-half acres of Iowa River bottomland for its outdoor range. It was farmland that had virtually been abandoned. The club's lease costs \$20 a year. Such marginal farmlands can be found in all parts of Iowa, and the owners are often glad to realize some income from them.

An earth backstop 15 feet high and 150 yards long was built on the Iowa River range for \$500. The range itself offers 100 yards of shooting distance and a 200-yard range may be built. It has 50 firing points.

Such an elaborate backstop may not be necessary in other areas. In every Iowa county there are good potential shooting ranges that face steep banks or hillsides rising above floodplains of rivers, and earthwork would be at a minimum.

The Izaak Walton range is self-contained and is part of the club property. It is a neat little terrace carved out of a hillside and furnishes 10 shooting points and 100 yards of firing range. All shooting is done in a direction where no harm can be caused by wild shots.

The Ikes' range was wired for electric lights, and most of the shooting is done at night when lights can be controlled, heat waves do not exist, and working parents can join their kids. The Ikes recently added some target rifles to the range equipment and additional firearms are furnished by parents or club members.

Both organizations draw on members as coaches and instructors. Included in the Marshall County Ikes are a number of members qualified to instruct young shooters in firing and safe gun habits. The Marshalltown area isn't unique in this respect. In most Iowa communities there are invariably a few seasoned riflemen and shotgunners who could start the kids out right.

The Iowa River Gun Club has several qualified instructors; Dye is a Master pistol shooter in the N. R. A. and holds instructor's ratings. The club is also fortunate in having Captain William Buckley, a retired regular arm officer with long rifle training experience.

Such programs are simple to set up, and do not make big demands on time or money. And they appear to be effective. Walt Harvey, Marshall County's conservation officer, says he has noticed a change in the community's hunting habits.

"There hasn't been a local youngster in a gun accident for several years," Walt observes, "and I lay much of the credit to gun safety training. Today's young hunters also seem more careful, courteous, and conscious of gun safety and laws than the young people of, say, 25 years ago."

Encouraging words from a veteran game warden who's seen a lot of kids, and a lot of guns. Encouraging too is the thought that a town, with a little organized effort, can do something about the "gun that wasn't loaded."—J. M.

## Notes . . .

(Continued from page 98)

can often be reset by heating them with a match to soften the cement and making a new bond with the rod shaft.

If the ferrule cannot be thus tightened, remove it and with a sharp, stiff-pointed knife make four evenly spaced cuts straight back from the end of the rod about one inch long and about half-way through the wall of the shaft. This is to allow for even expansion of the end of the shaft in the operation that follows.

For a male ferrule, make a slightly tapered wooden dowel and insert it about 1½ inches so that it will slightly expand the end of the rod shaft. The new ferrule should slip on without forcing. Melt ferrule cement and apply coat to the rod shaft for about the length of the ferrule. Start the ferrule on the rod, hold over flame to heat cement and ferrule, and push it on the rod with a block of wood. Do not use pliers or hammer the ferrule.

To fit a female ferrule, prepare the tapered dowel in advance and fit it into place, being sure it will expand the end of the rod enough so that the ferrule will fit snugly. Then remove the dowel for it will not be fitted into the shaft quite yet.

Cement the female ferrule into place, being certain that the end of the rod shaft does not extend up into the open part of the ferrule. While the cement is still hot and soft, drive the prefitted dowel into place with a short piece of scrap dowel. This will expand the end of the rod shaft within the ferrule and will insure a very tight fit. Carefully scrape off the excess cement. These methods are for hollow glass rods only.

In refitting ferrules on a split bamboo rod, a very small carpenter tack may be used to expand the end of the rod shaft. Be careful all times not to expand the shaft for more than an inch.

### Handles

New cork handles may be purchased complete and ready to install on your rod, or they can be easily made.

Remove all damaged cork, or the entire handle if necessary. Measure the diameter of the rod's shaft at the butt, and buy cork rings of the proper size. If the exact hole size of the rod is not available in cork rings but slightly smaller rings at drill or ream their holes until they will fit on the rod butt.

Apply glue (not ferrule cement) to the shaft and to the insides of the cork rings. Slide the rings on the rod and force them tightly together. Remove all excess glue before it dries. Allow the glue plenty of time to dry, and use a file or sanding block will help greatly cutting the rings down evenly to the proper diameter before shaping the handle into any special contours that you may prefer.



## SONG DOGS" AND THEIR CHILDREN

John Madson

When Jerry Murphy, a Guthrie county farmer, heard his dogs making up a fuss one morning early last month, he wasn't too alarmed. The dogs often barked at fences and other critters that ranged in the nearby woods.

But this time the dogs did their barking from under the front porch; whatever the prowler was, they didn't like it.

Murphy looked out toward his barn house and saw a rangy gray animal lurking around the barnyard. He grabbed his .22 rifle, ran from the house, and took a snap shot at the animal as it fled. The first shot was a hit, and slowed the being animal. The man ran after and killed it with a second shot.

The creature was big, built along the running lines of a large coyote, and something about it caught Murphy's curiosity. He got in touch with Marlowe Ray, Guthrie County conservation officer, and Ray brought it into the Conservation Commission offices for inspection.

Several of us examined the animal that morning—a big, gray, doglike creature that weighed about 40 pounds. The animal was large male that did not appear to be a full-blooded coyote. Yet it wasn't a dog—not an ordinary dog.

The tail was bottle-shaped, the ears erect and stiff, the belly heavily furred, and the profile of the head had a smoother sweep in profile than a dog's.

From the shape of the head and other details, we hazarded a guess—namely that it was a dog-coyote cross. When Jack Musgrove of the State Historical Building later looked the animal over he agreed with this opinion.

The animal's teeth were the most likely worn any of us had ever seen in a wild canine, and indicated an age of from 10 to 14 years. They were badly stained, split and worn; some were hardly more than stumps. The animal—obviously past its hunting prime—may have been forced by unusual hunger to try for a fatal chicken breakfast.

The skull is being sent to the Conservation Commission Biology Section for closer examination. Animal identification of such hybrid animals often depends on a close inspection of skull structure.

### May Cross Readily

Such dog-coyote crosses are not common in Iowa, but are not believed rare. Coyotes or "brush wolves" can mate successfully with dogs and in recent years a coyote-dog cross was held at the State Fair at Boone and exhibited at the State Fair. Clyde Updegraff, head of the Game Farm, recently mated a coyote female to several domestic dogs. Although the coyote readily accepted them, she produced no offspring. Clyde Updegraff is a Fort Dodge man who succeeded in raising a number of

"coydog" pups and experimented for several years with the hybrids.

In *Voice of the Coyote*, J. Frank Dobie told of a pack of fine coyote hounds that chased a female coyote but refused to attack her. The hounds ran swiftly beside the coyote while she glanced coquettishly at them over her shoulder. The disgruntled hunters solved the problem by including a couple of female hounds in the pack. From then on, a female coyote's wiles had no effect, except possibly to make the female hounds a little madder.

Domestic dogs may also mate with larger wolves—the big lobos or timber wolves of the north and west. Such wolves do not occur now in Iowa, and we know of no proof that they ever have. However, coyotes and timber wolves do not mate. Cahalane states:

"Even the largest coyote is much smaller than a wolf, and the two species are antagonistic and different in temperament. Wolves seem to regard coyotes as common poachers and kill them whenever possible."

### The Difference

Positive identification of a dog-coyote hybrid is not always easy. The two species have certain definite characters, but interbreeding may suppress these characteristics and just generally mix things up. To really thicken the plot, coyotes and certain breeds of dogs have some similar features, and some of the "wolves" reported to have been submitted for bounty in Iowa have turned out to be large, feral farm dogs carrying a strong German shepherd strain.

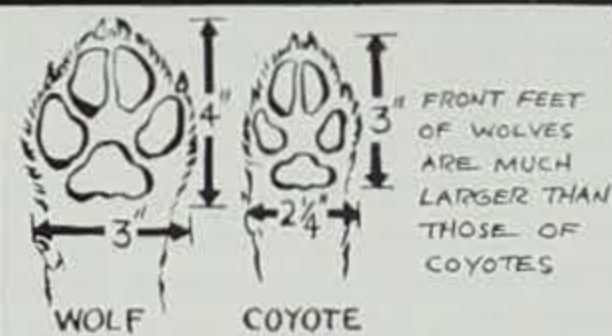
Coyotes and wolves, however,

have bottle-shaped tails on which the hair does not lie flat. Coyotes have thickly furred bellies, as do most coyote-dog crosses. Few dogs have heavy pelage on their undersides. A dog's skull usually has a definite ridge or brow between the eyes, while the coyote's skull slopes smoothly down into the muzzle and results in a more streamlined face and skull.

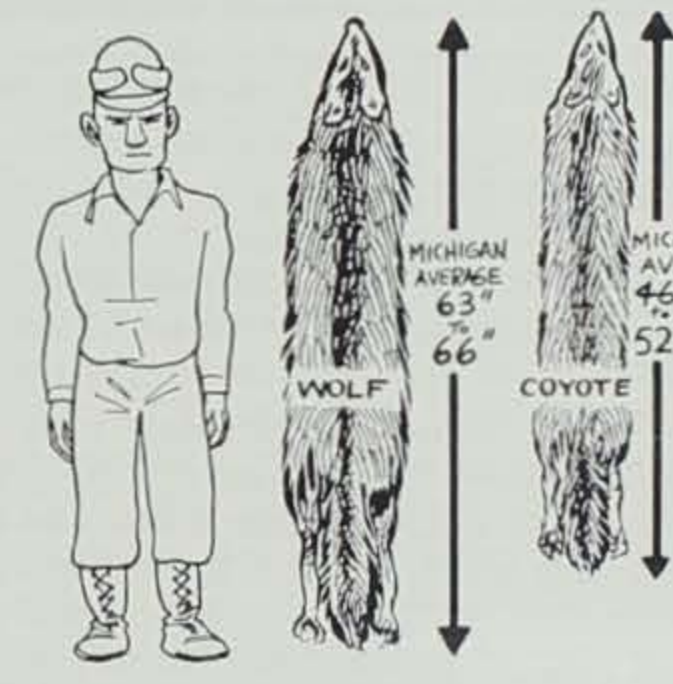
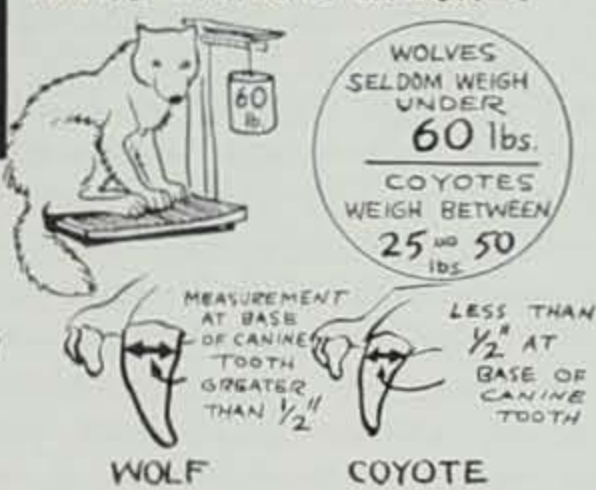
Seton believed that coyote-dog crosses are often intermediate, with characteristics of both animals. He found that such hybrids continued to be interfertile with either stock for at least two generations. According to Roy Chapman Andrews, coyote-dog pups from the first cross may fail to show any strong coyote characters. However, in a second or third cross, he believes

(Continued on page 103)

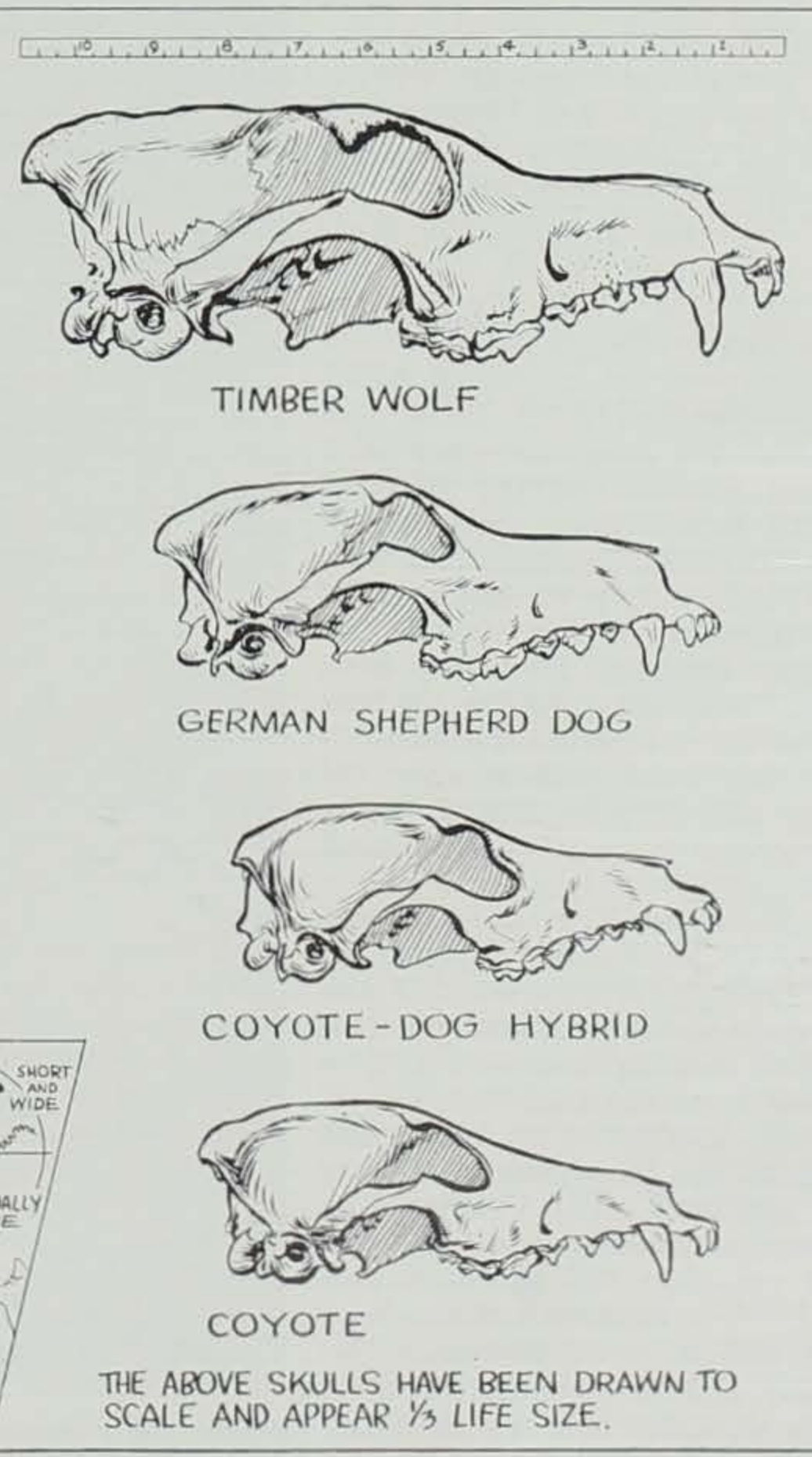
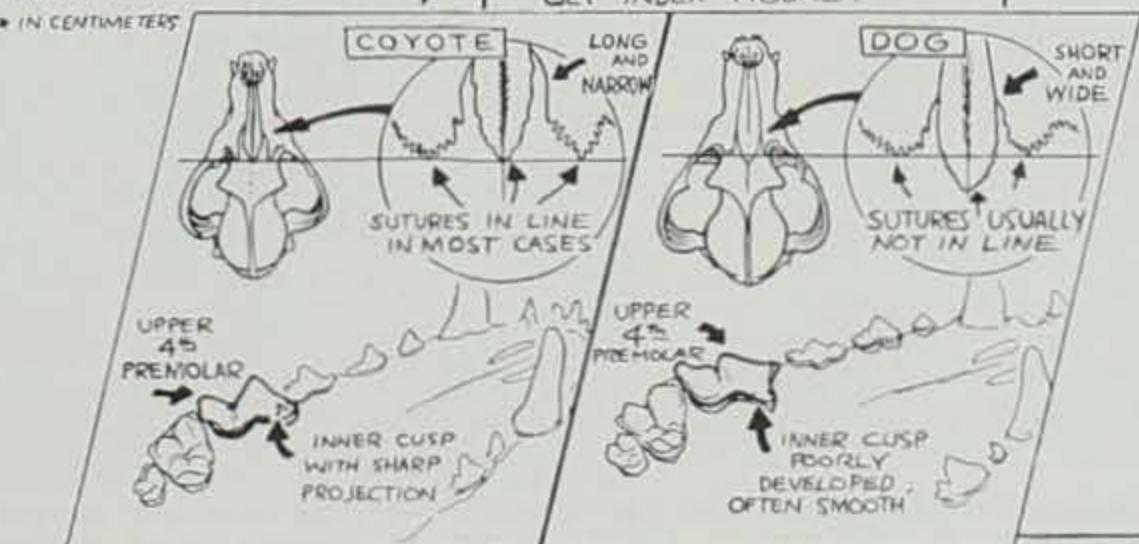
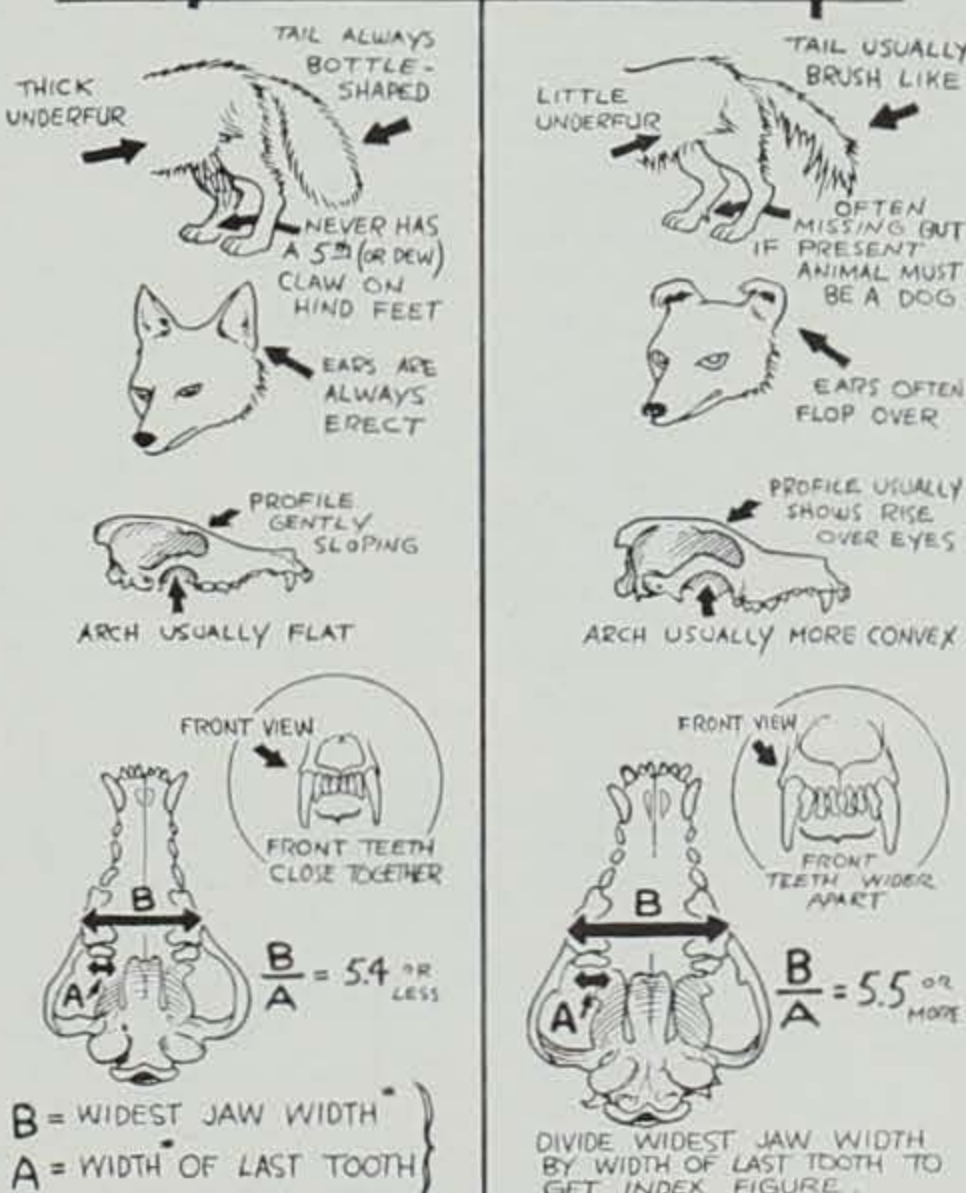
## IDENTIFICATION OF WOLF COYOTE DOG



THE WOLF IS SO LARGE IN ALL PROPORTIONS THAT SIZE ALONE DISTINGUISHES IT FROM OTHER NATIVE MICHIGAN CANIDAE.



## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN coyote & dog



THE ABOVE SKULLS HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO SCALE AND APPEAR 1/3 LIFE SIZE.

WARBACH

Michigan Conservation.





One of the hotspots of last winter's promiscuous fishing was at the Adel dam on the Raccoon River. Spearing was more successful in Iowa rivers than in lakes and ponds. Jim Sherman Photo.

## Salvage Fishing . . .

(Continued from page 97)

faster than it can be replaced—if it can be replaced at all—and fish die.

In some waters heavy fish kills may actually be beneficial. It is known that many of our lakes and ponds are choked with huge populations of stunted panfish, bullheads and other species. These fish may never grow to a catchable size and occupy space and consume food that could be used for good fish growth in a thinner population. Such waters are "blessed" with a heavy winter kill, subsequent growth of game fish is often rapid, and angling is rejuvenated.

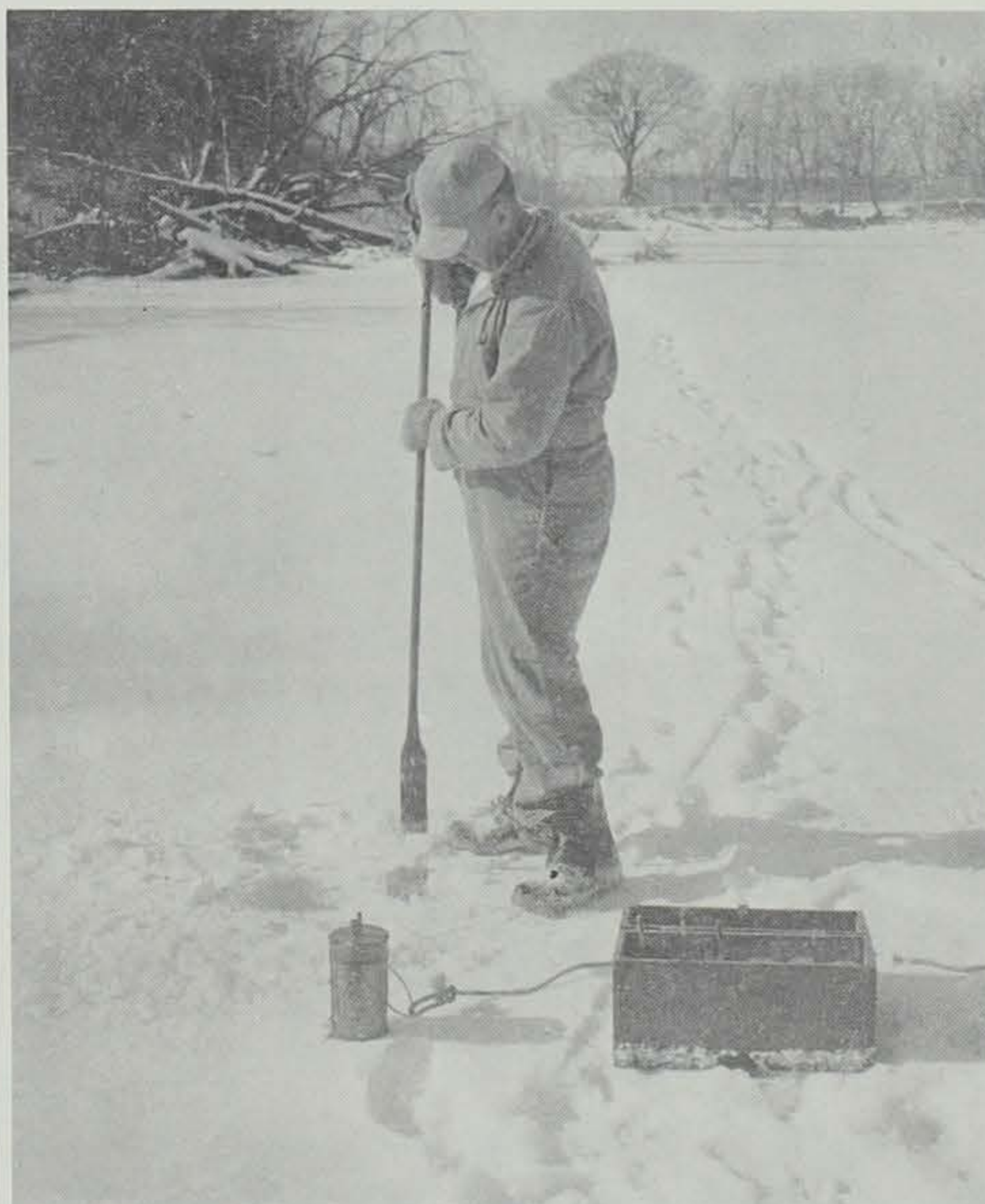
Conservation Commission fisheries officials, however, don't believe that this winter's promiscuous fishing will be highly successful. Many of the currently listed areas—particularly lakes and marshes—are ones that were hard hit last winter and the summer drought didn't allow them to recover. The officials added that winter kills in many of these areas occur normally during winter. The "oxygen demand" in Iowa's rich waters, especially in the shallow natural lakes of northern Iowa, is high. In these waters there is always some winter kill which is compounded in years of low water levels.

These areas are now being opened to promiscuous fishing in an effort to prevent waste. If fish in certain waters are doomed, it is thought that fishermen should be allowed to salvage them.

Public acceptance of last year's promiscuous fishing season was generally good. The Conservation Commission received some scattered criticism but much of this was levelled because certain local areas had not been opened.

Many fishermen made the most of the situation and the new fishing season gave them a new pastime in the doldrums of late win-

ter. In some areas good numbers of big rough fish were taken. In other waters the fishing take was pretty scanty. Most of the fish harvested last winter were taken with spears, but archers in some parts of the state had excellent luck with bow and arrow. Much fishing pressure was in the major rivers such as the Des Moines, Raccoon, Cedar and Iowa, with some smaller streams producing



Biologist Harry Harrison is back at it again this winter. With ice spud and oxygen kit, Harry samples oxygen in the Des Moines River and its tributaries. State waters are being closely watched by biologists, game unit managers, conservation officers and fisheries personnel. Jim Sherman Photo.

## SPORTING AMMUNITION IS ADAPTABLE TO OTHER USES

Sporting ammunition has gone to work for industry.

Traditionally, shotgun shells and metallic cartridges have been used by the nation's sportsmen to harvest America's wildlife crop, or to enjoy outdoor and indoor recreation on target ranges. But in recent years, engineers have become more convinced that energies latent in gunpowder, if controlled properly, could be applied to other practical uses.

Researchers of arms industries have bored in on possibilities in

fish in limited areas. At this writing, the larger inland rivers had not yet been opened to promiscuous fishing this year.

It was found that only a small percentage of the total fish taken from "salvage waters" were valuable game fish. The vast majority of the fish speared through the ice last winter were buffalo, quillback, carp and other rough fish. An insignificant number of pike, bass and catfish were taken on a statewide basis. To anyone examining large numbers of fish that were being speared, it was obvious that the special emergency season was not producing many pike, bass, catfish and other desirable game fish species.

this field and have come up with some dramatic examples.

For instance, Remington has developed and brought to market its line of powder-actuated stud drivers, which, utilizing the expanding gases of 32 and 22 caliber ammunition, drive nail-like studs through steel, wood, and concrete to complete fastenings in construction and maintenance projects. Shotgun shells, loaded with the conventional powder and wads but with shot replaced by pollen, are fired into foliage to fertilize fruit trees. Slug-fitted shot shells are used to blast down quarry overhangs, or to reduce clinker rings in concrete kilns. And so on.

But the latest wrinkle in the adaption of sporting ammunition to industry's needs is a humane stunner.

This instrument renders cattle insensible to fear and pain prior to processing in meat packing plants. It was developed with the co-operation and assistance of the meat industry and animal protective organizations, and both groups claim the stunner offers vast improvement to methods that have been in use for many years.

The stunning instrument is actuated by a 22-caliber blank cartridge specially designed for the purpose. Similar to a polo mallet in appearance, the tool is tapped lightly against the animal's forehead, and a protruding trigger mechanism fires the charge. A mushroom-shaped head, mounted on a captive piston, is sent forward by expanding gases and stuns the animal instantly without needless injury.

The instrument was developed as a result of its continuing search for new products adaptable to the powder-actuated principle. With advice and assistance volunteered by John C. Macfarlane, director of the Livestock Conservation Department of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and for many years a champion of more humane slaughter house methods, the device has been brought to a point where it can be manufactured on a production basis.

The MSPCA has awarded a silver plaque to Remington Arms for its achievement, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has presented the company with its \$5,000 James Hopkins Award for meritorious research into the field of humane food animal slaughter.—Remington News Letter.

Most forest fires should never have happened. Over 90 per cent of forest fires are man-made and preventable. Carelessness from camp fires and smoking account for 33 per cent, maliciousness and incendiaries 25 per cent, other causes by man—mostly preventable 17 per cent, and lightning—not preventable seven per cent.—J. S.





There's nothing like a farm pond, a small boat and the golden, sunwashed days of early summer. Such a pond also provides swimming, hunting and an emergency farm reservoir that may be priceless.

## Farm Pond . . .

(Continued from page 97)

25:	1 teal
29:	5 bluebills
30:	1 mallard
	3 spoonbills
3:	1 mallard
4:	3 spoonbills
5:	1 mallard
8:	1 mallard
12:	5 mallards
15:	5 mallards
16:	1 teal
20:	1 mallard
22:	2 mallards
26:	1 mallard
1:	1 bluegill
2:	2 mallards
6:	3 mallards
total	3 geese
	10 teal
	25 mallards
	6 bluebills
	6 spoonbills

With the waterfowl season ended, Harry is currently preparing to run electricity down to the pond so he can have some lights. Harry and Mrs. Skarda have bought ice skates and plan to invite friends over for skating parties. And what did this all-purpose pond cost? \$125. Harry and his friends all agree that it's one of the best investments he's ever made.

## HERBS

Herbert Mann and David Thompson  
Cook County Forest Preserve

An herb, to a botanist, is a plant with tender stems—they are not permanently woody like those of a shrub. To most people, herbs are plants with fragrant stems and leaves, or pungent seeds, used in cooking, pickling, perfumes or medicines. Their use for such purposes, particularly the latter, is as old as the hills and in every country there is a wealth of folklore, legends and superstitions about them. The early American colonists had herb gardens. They included

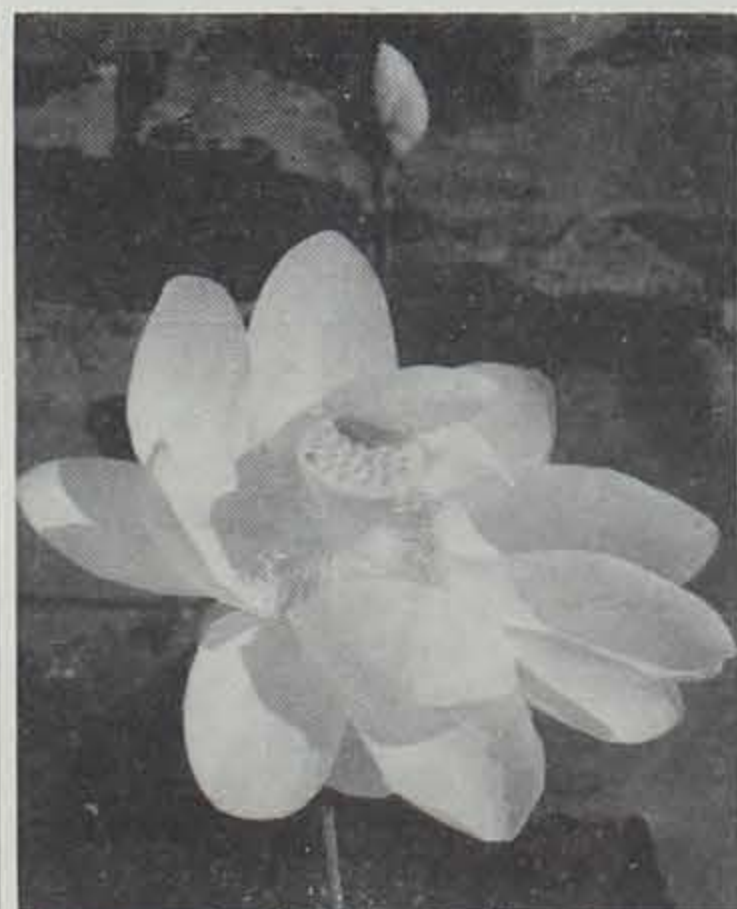
several different kinds of plants used to flavor foods and to disguise the taste of half-spoiled meats. They also included many medicinal plants called "simples" or "physic herbs" used in home remedies of all sorts for ailments.

### Medicine Men

The pioneers who settled the middlewest had no time for such folderols as herb gardens. They could kill plenty of wild game for fresh meat; and there was a great variety of wild native plants which, from the Indians or by experiment, they believed to be efficacious for home remedies—and many of them were. Medicine men traveled around the country selling liniments, "pain killers," and "roots, yarbs and squills." As late as 60 years ago, only a few herbs were commonly used here for flavoring food: sage, in homemade sausage and the stuffing in holiday turkeys or geese; Summer Savory, for the same purposes; Dill, in cucumber pickles; Caraway seeds in sauerkraut and rye bread; and Thyme, which was a favorite among people from New England, England and northern Europe.

### Now Packaged

During the past 20 years, many



The young leaves of the American lotus are said to be a palatable potherb. The rootstocks were eaten by Indians, and the half-ripe seeds are said to be delicious.



The big, doglike animal shot by Jerry Murphy may not be the last of his clan. Some Guthrie County hunters report "others just like him" roaming their fields and woodlands.

kinds of herbs have become increasingly popular with American cooks. Packaged herbs, and their seeds for planting in gardens or window boxes, can be purchased in stores. Recipes notable for their use of various herbs are published in magazines and cookbooks. Housewives may now give flavor and variety to everyday dishes that tickle our palates and rival the specialties of famous chefs. Further, because some herbs are better when green and fresh, man epicures and gardeners now grow their own and there are excellent publications for doing so.

### Mints and Carrots

When you study the culinary herbs, a curious fact appears: most of them are natives of southern Europe or the Mediterranean region, and most of them belong to the Mint family. Further, with the exception of chives, garlic and other relatives of the onions, the rest belong to the Parsley or Carrot family. The mints have square stems with opposite or whorled leaves, and their fragrance comes from aromatic volatile oils in tiny glands on the leaves. Those in the parsley family, aside from a characteristic type of flower clusters, known as the umbel, mostly have compound leaves with a distinctive taste but not much odor, because the aromatic oils are contained in the seeds.

The parsley family includes caraway and anise, of which the seeds are used for flavoring; and dill, parsley, celery fennel and chervil—whose leaves are used in soups, salads and other foods. The mint family includes such familiar herbs as sage, summer savory, several kinds and flavors of basil, marjoram (most versatile of herbs), thyme, rosemary, tarragon (used mostly in pickles and vinegar), oregano (used sparingly in pizza and other Italian dishes) and spearmint, peppermint, curly mint, apple mint, pineapple mint and so weiter.

Caution: when only dried herbs are available, use half the recipe quantity for fresh herbs. Add them during the last stages of the

## Song Dogs . . .

(Continued from page 101)

that a throwback to the original coyote strain is very pronounced and the animal is almost a true coyote in appearance.

Which may be the case of the animal killed recently. Its immediate parent may have been a coyote or it may have been the throwback of an earlier generation. The little "song dogs" have been found in Guthrie County for many years and have evidently never totally disappeared.

Dr. J. A. Allen, visiting Iowa in 1867, said that the coyote, formerly numerous had "become quite rare in many areas." From that time on until about 1890, coyotes steadily decreased in numbers until they were all but extirpated. The survivors were said to be very cunning, and adults were seldom presented for bounty.

In the early 1900's, Frank C. Pellett said: "During the past few years a marked change is taking place. The country is now thickly settled . . . yet the coyotes are increasing in numbers."

With heavy settling there was also an increase in farm dogs. It is reasonable to assume that crossing of the two species may also have increased and that many of our coyotes have dog blood. Coyotes are still not numerous in Iowa, but persist in fair numbers in western and northwestern parts of the state.

"Coydogs"—like full-blooded coyotes—are not commonly seen by hunters. They have wild blood and have inherited the wild cunning of their coyote mothers.

So if you see an animal that you think might be a coyote-dog cross, but aren't sure, better hold your fire. You might be pulling down on somebody's Old Dog Tray, out stretching his legs after a nap by the kitchen stove.

recipe because many herbs, if cooked too long, will give a bitter taste to the foods.

The English sound the "h" and say "a herb." We say "urb."





Some Conservation Boards will probably acquire access areas on the larger rivers—places to launch boats, go fishin', or take the wife and kids on a riverbank picnic.

## Recreation Areas . . .

(Continued from page 97)

Counties which have approved the program include:

Polk	Mitchell
Scott	Marion
Iowa	Black Hawk
Mills	Dubuque
Page	Benton
Butler	Hamilton
Buchanan	Chickasaw
Howard	

Counties which voted on the program but failed to approve it were: Hancock, Delaware, Shelby, Harrison, Hardin and Crawford.

Counties failing to list a Conservation Board on their ballots last November were:

Monona	Lucas
Sac	Appanoose
Bremer	Dallas
Madison	Union
Marshall	Webster
Grundy	Buena Vista
Sioux	Cedar
Davis	Clayton
Ida	Adams
Winnebago	Mahaska
Audubon	Taylor
O'Brien	Tama
Harrison	Pottawattamie
Worth	Clay
Calhoun	Plymouth
Floyd	

To place the proposal of a County Conservation Board on the official ballot, it was first necessary for at least 200 bonafide county residents to present a petition to the county board of supervisors.

Most counties voting on the proposal passed it by a broad margin. Butler County, for example, cast 4,547 votes in favor, and 1,498 against. Dubuque County cast 21,566 votes for a County Conservation Board, with 4,306 votes against. Page County recorded 5,846 votes in favor, and 2,605 votes against. Howard County's conservation plan barely squeezed through with a margin of only 32 votes.

In most counties where the proposal for a County Conservation Board was approved by the voters, action has already begun. Several have appointed their Conservation Boards and have begun inspection and acquisition of areas.

Black Hawk County has appointed its five-man board and is setting a course of action. William

Robinson, a former engineer of the State Conservation Commission, is one of the new members. He recently visited the Commission's Des Moines offices to examine specifications of certain types of recreation areas, and said that Black Hawk County will probably have \$40,000 for initial acquisition and development of its public playgrounds.

George Flanders, Dubuque County recorder, wrote that in view of his county's overwhelming approval of the plan, "we will probably have quite a program. Conservation groups in the Dubuque area will team up with local conservation groups in Cascade, Farley, Dyersville and other active communities. The members of the Dubuque County Conservation Board will probably be appointed after the first of the year."

Such newly created Conservation Boards will be invited to a special meeting at Springbrook State Park this May by the State Conservation Commission.

Wilbur Rush, Chief of Lands and Waters of the Commission, said the May meeting will be held "in an effort to acquaint County Conservation Boards with the agencies, personnel and other resources that can aid them in setting up their county programs." Representatives of the Midwest Park Association, Soil Conservation Service, Conservation Commission and other agencies will attend the meeting.

Rush added that "the Conservation Commission stands ready to help and advise the Boards in any way it can. We hope we can be of some help in solving problems that might arise in the acquisition, development and administration of the county areas."

The purpose of the county conservation plan is to provide more recreation for more people in more places.

Conservation Commission officials point out that it is impossible for the state to acquire and maintain the countless small areas—

often of only local value—that could be administered by county government. But in the past, counties could not establish their own park or wildlife areas because there was no provision in state law for special taxation to finance such projects. Now, with the power to levy a special tax with voter approval, counties can set up their own public playgrounds.

A snag in the County Conservation Board plan has been the general lack of publicity and concerted action. Many Iowa counties lacked enough enthusiastic supporters to spearhead petitions that would have put Conservation Board proposals on the ballots.

In some counties where the proposal was defeated, it probably died of an acute case of public unawareness. F. A. Reed, Hardin County Auditor, believes that the bill was defeated in his county because "it was not understood by the voter, and the taxpayer did not know what it was for and how little it would cost him."

## Wardens Tales

Shop Talk from the Field

Conservation Officer Jerry Jauron of Shelby and Harrison counties watched a "gone goose" late this fall.

Near the Missouri River, the officer was watching a high flock of blue and snow geese through binoculars. The high, traveling flock suddenly saw a flock of geese on the ground, and began dropping in to join their resting brethren. They fell rapidly with the peculiar, strikingly beautiful "falling leaf" maneuver that wild geese often use when they drop straight down from great altitudes.

Through his glasses, Jerry watched a snow gander tilt into the maneuver and never pull out. "Maybe the stress of the maneuver was too much," Jerry believes, "and the big bird may have broken his wing. Anyway, he fell with the right wing trailing, coming down in a fast spin for almost a quarter of a mile, and crashing with terrific impact."

George Kaufman, veteran conservation officer of Allamakee County, tells of a dog that almost caused a riot in Harper's Ferry.

A famous local hunter had bought a coonhound and had proclaimed it the finest dog in that part of the state. One night he and some friends went south of Harper's Ferry to run the dog in the thick bottomland timber along the Mississippi.

When the time came to leave, the hunter whistled for his dog. It didn't come. So the hunter—a huge man with a ringing, stentorian voice—began calling the dog. Far in the distance the men heard a hound baying.

"That's him," the owner said. "I'd know that tongue anywhere." "You sure?" his friend asked.

"Dead sure," he replied. "You think I don't know my own hound?"

For over a mile through the dense undergrowth, the hunting party fought its way north. They followed the distant sounds into the outskirts of Harper's Ferry and found the "hound." Only the dog turned out to be a well-known Harper's Ferry resident, happily leaning against a light pole and baying at the moon.

It took the combined efforts of the entire party to keep the enraged dog owner from committing mayhem.

Up in Emmet and Palo Alto Counties, Conservation Officer Harold Johnson recently learned a new hunting angle.

Harold had long known that some illegal pheasant hunters hid birds in the big hubcaps of modern cars. No one's quite sure why since it's quite hard on the bird, but it's sometimes done in desperation.

In a dry, dusty area Johnson noticed a new car with one muddy hubcap that had been recently removed and replaced. Harold was justly suspicious, and asked the hunter to take it off. The man removed the hubcap, which was empty but wet inside.

"I know it looks funny," the hunter explained, "but these hubcaps are handy. When the weather's hot and dry, I always pry one of them off for my bird dog. It makes the finest watering pan in the world, is easily replaced, and I don't have to carry a special pan in the car."

Then there's the heartbreaking story of Herb Eells, Conservation Officer Supervisor for eastern Iowa.

Herb and some buddies went squirrel hunting last fall. Herb refused to hunt squirrels with a shotgun, and wandered down near a small river with his squirrel rifle.

As he was waiting out a bushy tail, a 50-bird flock of mallards swung downriver and lit in front of him. Herb injured away from the riverbank and dashed to the car for his shotgun.

You're right. The car was locked.

Game and fish populations are limited by the "carrying capacity" of the areas they inhabit. All natural areas have a certain limited capacity for supporting a certain number of animals or fish. Heavy stocking in such areas is without value, for the number of stocked creatures that exceed the "carrying capacity" will either move away or die.

The Iowa Conservation Commission has biologists for every phase of fish and game study. There are five fisheries biologists who study and help manage warmwater streams, freshwater streams, natural lakes, and artificial lakes. Four game biologists investigate mammals, waterfowl, pheasant and quail.