

Iowa Fish and Fishing

In May of 1951 the first edition of "Iowa Fish and Fishing" was published. The book was written by Jim Harlan and Everett Speaker and illustrated by Maynard Reece and was meant as a companion book to the book "Waterfowl in Iowa". The first printing was of 10,000 copies which sold for two dollars a copy and by the end of 30 days all but 3,000 copies were sold. The book was to serve as a "Where, What, and How book" for the Iowa Angler to help them learn how to catch more fish as one article explained: Fisheries biologists were finding that most large fish died of old age and were never harvested, at the time that was seen as a wasted resource and went against to the principles of "Wise Conservation" of the day. The first two editions were exactly the same 248 pages of fish species descriptions, common fish foods, a section on how to fish for several of the more popular species, a checklist of fish species found in Iowa, as well as a key for identifying the different species. The first two editions also contained 24 color paintings done by Maynard Reece and seventy-two black-and-white photos of different species taken by Jim Sherman. Below is the Preface taken directly from the 2nd edition of "Iowa Fish and Fishing":

PREFACE

It is the purpose of this book to help Iowans enjoy more fully the fishing opportunities offered in this state and to answer under one cover the multitude of fish and fishing questions that reach the Conservation Commission each year. In pursuing this aim, the authors have pointed at three major objectives, where to fish, identification of fish caught, and how to catch them.

The major fishing waters, including rivers, trout streams, artificial lakes, natural lakes, and river oxbows, are located and described. All fish found in the state are described and their life stories presented, with especial emphasis on angling species and bait minnows.

Strange as it may seem, fisheries biologists have found that a great majority of adult fish in Iowa waters are not caught by fishermen, but die of old age. With the thought of helping anglers catch as many of these fish as possible, *Iowa Fish and Fishing* goes into primer detail on how to catch fish that will bite the hook.

***Iowa Fish and Fishing* is written in layman's language, except for an outstanding new key to identification by Dr. Reeve M. Bailey. All material, to the best of our knowledge, is scientifically correct.**

The 24 color illustrations of common angling species by Maynard Reece are confidently presented as among the best fish identification plates ever published.

It is impossible to give credit to all individuals and institutions who contributed to this book. The authors do wish, however, to express their appreciation to all of their co-workers of the State Conservation Commission, and especially to the Conservation Officers and the members of the Fisheries, Biology and Engineering Sections; K. M. Krezek, Chief of the Division of Administration; R. W. Beckman, Chief of the Division of Fish and Game; George Worley, Superintendent of Public Relations; K. M. Madden, Superintendent of Fisheries, and to the late R. B. Cooper, former Superintendent of Fisheries; to Dr. Kenneth D. Carlander, Associate Professor of Zoology, Iowa State College, for critical review of the manuscript and use of the data in his valuable book *Handbook of Freshwater Fishery Biology*; to Dr. Reeve M. Bailey, Curator of Fishes, University of Michigan, for preparation of the excellent keys to the fishes and review of the manuscript; to Messrs. H. M. Harrison, R. E. Cleary, E. T. Rose, W. H. Tate, Tom Moen, Ries Tuttle, Jack Musgrove and Dr. H. H. Knight for their splendid contributions on angling and fish foods; and to colleagues and friends for encouragement and help with the book.

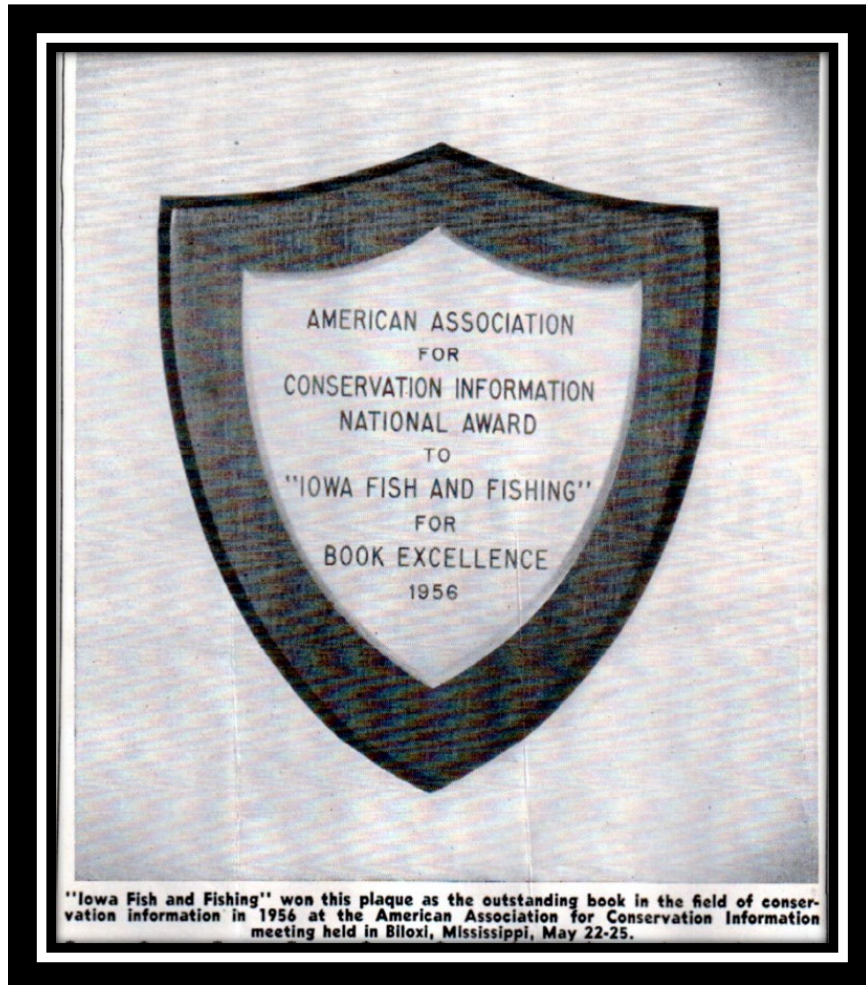
The art work and layout, with the exception of some sketches of water animals and the drawings used to illustrate the keys, are by Maynard Reece. The fish key figures were drawn by Staff Artist Brudon of the University of Michigan, and the drawings in the chapter on fish foods are by Jim Sieh of the State Conservation Commission and Contributions of Iowa State College. The photographs of fish are by Jim Sherman, Conservation Commission photographer, with the exception of the single plate of primitive fish.

To be commended are R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co. for their excellent execution of the four-color fish plates; Kayenay Engraving Company for the black-and-white halftones and line drawings; and Wallace-Homestead Company for their excellent printing and binding.

The authors would be indeed ungrateful if they omitted credit for the fine stenographic and secretarial help of Barbara Griglione and Mrs. Lois Recknor, associate editor of the *Iowa Conservationist*.

The Second edition, printed in early 1952, consisted of an additional 10,000 copies. By the end of June 1952, 14,000 copies of the first two editions had been sold. By December of 1955 all twenty thousand copies were gone so work on a third edition began. This third edition was to be a complete rewrite of the first two editions and included 140 additional pages including nine new color plates of new Maynard Reece portraits of 39 species of fish making for a total of 18 plates and 63 different fish species as well as new sections on natural baits and baiting, fishing tackle, fish distribution, and state-owned accesses to public waters. The third edition for a price of \$2.50 and went on sale in June 1956. Also, by popular demand Maynard Reece's color plates of the fish species were also made available in two different formats: poster and portfolio. The posters came as a set of two posters with each of the posters consisting of nine of the color plates and were designed for classroom use. The portfolios consisted of all eighteen color plates from the book individually printed on heavy paper suitable for framing. Either of the two sets sold for two dollars each.

In May 1956, shortly before the release of the third edition, "Iowa Fish and Fishing" was given the national award for best book on conservation information for 1956 as given by the American Association for Conservation Information at its annual meeting held in Biloxi, Mississippi.



The Commission's television series "Outdoor Talk" also received complimentary recognition at the same meeting.

I can find no information on how many copies were made of this third edition.

A fourth edition was printed in 1969 and was a close copy of the third edition as far as text, a reworked fish identification key, species distribution maps, and Maynard Reece's color plates of the fish. Changes included the addition of several black and white photos and updates to the list of public fishing waters. The third edition's 377 pages was slimmed down just a little to 365 pages.

The fifth edition published in 1987 was a complete rewrite of the earlier editions. The slimmed down 340-page book still contained all of Maynard Reece's artwork, an updated fishing waters section, species descriptions, how to fish for sections, updated species distribution maps for the State. Gone were the extensive species identification keys that had added pages to the 3rd and 4th edition. Also updated were the black and white photos of different species of fish many of which were replaced by color photos. Below is the Foreword from the 1987 edition written by Larry Wilson, The Director of the newly formed (1986) Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

FOREWARD

The writing of a book is an exciting occasion. It lights the kindred spirit in all of those who participate and contribute, and it creates a sense of unified purpose toward a goal of completion. So it is with this rewriting of Iowa Fish and Fishing.

The purpose of this effort is identical to when it was first published in 1951; to provide the reader knowledge of our fishes, their habitat, and perhaps most important, some tips on how to catch them. Time, however, has made it necessary to make a number major changes in the book's format and style. But the information in this book is, like the previous editions, put forth in a scientifically correct manner, in language for the lay reader.

Fishing is one of the most popular recreation activities in Iowa. One-third of our population, both young and old, fish. Only picnicking and walking/hiking attract more participants. Fishing in Iowa also has significant economic importance. Fishermen expend an estimated 12 million activity days each year, spending \$115 million dollars in the process. Commercial fishermen send several million pounds of food-fish throughout the midwest and to the east coast. The commercial fishery and mussel shell industry is valued at several million dollars annually.

Iowa's interest in sport fishing is steeped in history and tradition. Before the start of the 20th century two fish hatcheries were built. A fish commissioner to oversee fish production, stocking, and enforcement, was appointed early in the history of the agency. The Iowa Conservation Commission was one of the first agencies structured to provide a form of administration specifically to perpetuate and manage the fisheries resource. On July 1, 1986, the Commission was reorganized into part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in the midst of rewriting this book. Although the name of the organization was changed, the basic commitment to our natural resources remains the same. The first-ever Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit was established at Iowa State University more than 50 years ago.

Fishing will continue to be a popular sport for Iowans of all ages. Fishery scientists in this agency are dedicated to providing fishing opportunities. It is the hope of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources that this book will provide hours of enjoyment and broaden the knowledge and understanding of the reader as we all work together to provide and enjoy fishing into the 21st century.

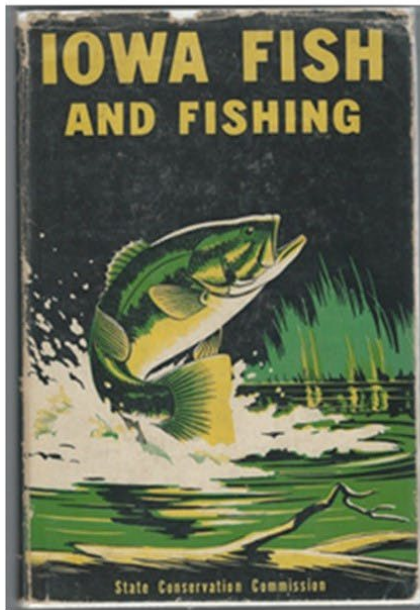
Larry J. Wilson
Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Des Moines, Iowa

If one reads Jim Mayhew's preface in the 1987 edition of "Iowa Fish and Fishing" they would find a reference to Maynard Reece's original artworks of the fish plates having been

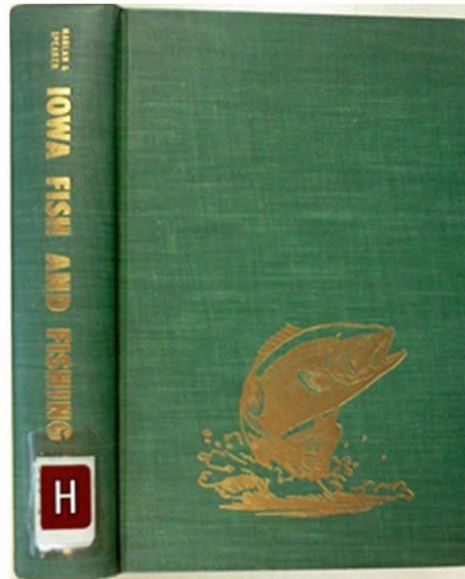
mounted and framed and put on display in the visitor center at the Rathbun Fish Hatchery. Those originals are no longer on display at Rathbun. Sometime between July 2015 and the end of 2016 the originals were removed and sent to an art conservator to be restored and treated to repair damage caused by exposure to bright lights and the environment of a fish hatchery. The originals were then sent to the State Historical Museum and Archives. High quality copies now hang at the Rathbun Hatchery visitor center. Jeff Kopaska of the Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau took the initiative in starting this conservation project with funding from the Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

It has been another thirty-one years since the 1987 edition was written. With the coming of e-books and the internet and smartphones will another paper version of "Iowa Fish and Fishing" ever be written?

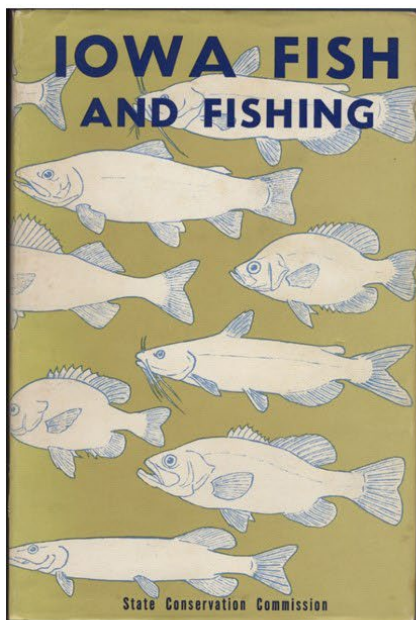
The front covers of "Iowa Fish and Fishing"



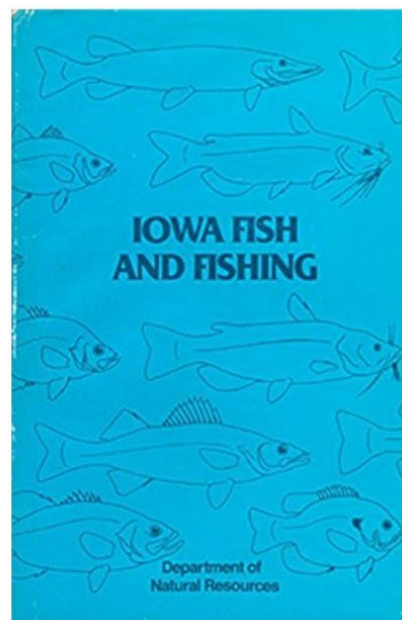
The first (1951) and second (1952) editions,



The third (1956) edition.



The fourth (1969) edition.



The fifth (1987) editions,