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Oct. 8 Iowa Outdoors

1 message

Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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<DNR.Media@dnr.iowa.gov>

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To: Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards <IACCB@mycountyparks.com>



IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCT. 8, 2013www.iowadnr.gov | [facebook.com/iowadnr](https://www.facebook.com/iowadnr) | twitter.com/iowadnr | [pinterest.com/iowadnr](https://www.pinterest.com/iowadnr)

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IOWA WRESTER FACES ADDITIONAL CHARGES

IOWA CITY - State charges will be filed against University of Iowa wrestler Ethen P. Lofthouse Bottorff—commonly known as Ethen Lofthouse--after an October 4 incident, in which a duck was shot in his backyard.

Iowa City police and a DNR officer responded Friday afternoon to a complaint of residents shooting arrows at a duck in the yard of a home on Jema Court. The residence is near Willow Creek Park on the city's west side.

Police say the duck had been shot and taken into the garage. They say Lofthouse admitted he had shot the mallard duck; that he intended to eat it.

Police cited Lofthouse with discharge of his bow, in violation of a city projectile ordinance and for maintaining a prohibited animal; without necessary permits; in this instance lack of proper hunting or migratory bird stamps or fees.

Lofthouse was cited by the DNR for illegally taking the duck; out of season and without required federal and state migratory bird stamps. Additional questioning led to five counts of failure to register harvested deer with the DNR.

Officers say Lofthouse shot the deer while taking part in the city of Coralville deer management zone hunt, which has been underway since September 14. Deer hunters who harvest a deer in any Iowa season or management zone hunt must register that harvest with the Department of Natural Resources before midnight, the day after it is tagged.

MEDIA CONTACT: Erika Billerbeck, Conservation Officer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [319-330-9710](tel:319-330-9710).

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[Editor's note: a photo of the new state record redear is available electronically upon request by sending an email to mick.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov]

STATE RECORD REDEAR SUNFISH CAUGHT FROM WAPELLO COUNTY FARM POND

Jeff Kokemiller had been catching 12-inch and longer redear sunfish in his farm pond since 2009 but the one he caught in the late afternoon on Sept. 27 looked bigger than the others, so he decided to investigate what the state record was for redear sunfish.

1 pound 1 ounce, 11 inches long.

Consider the record smashed.

Kokemiller's redear sunfish weighed 2.04 pounds and was 13-1/8 inches. It was weighed on a certified scale and verified by Iowa Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Mark Flammang.

Kokemiller, from Ottumwa, caught the fish using a worm and hook from his 2-1/2-acre farm pond and plans to have it mounted.

"I was using jigs, but not getting the size of fish I wanted so I switched to a worm and a hook and it worked," he said.

He caught the fish in 14 to 15 feet of water fishing from a kayak.

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WATERFOWL HUNTERS REMINDED TO STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

Waterfowl hunters using boats to reach their hunting location are reminded that they have new laws to follow that are designed to protect Iowa lakes, rivers, and wetlands from the spread of aquatic invasive species.

"Hunters are legally required to drain all water and remove plants and aquatic invasive species from boats and equipment before leaving a water access," said Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator. "Drain plugs need to remain removed or opened during transport."

Duck hunting season opens in the north zone on Oct. 12, in the south zone on Oct. 19 and in the Missouri River zone on Oct. 26.

Boats can be carrying aquatic vegetation inside the boat and/or hanging on the trailer. Aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, and brittle naiad could be among the vegetation on a boat, decoys, or blind. Zebra mussels could also be attached to aquatic vegetation or equipment or in equipment holding water.

These species could be unintentionally transported if waterfowl hunters do not take the proper precautions to prevent their spread.

Aquatic plants can be used for construction and during transport of a shooting blind as long as there are no aquatic invasive species present in the blind and the aquatic plants used are emergent species (such as cattails) cut above the waterline and contain no seed heads, roots, or rhizomes.

Hunters should follow a simple set of procedures each time when leaving the water to avoid carrying unwanted hitchhikers.

- CLEAN any plants, mud, or debris from boat, decoys, waders, and other equipment before leaving a

water body.

- DRAIN water from all equipment (boat, motor, bilge, hunting gear, decoys) before leaving a water body.
- DRY anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, decoys, boots, dogs). Before transporting to another water body either:

Spray your boat and equipment with hot, high-pressure water; or

Dry your boat and equipment for at least five days.

For more information contact Kim Bogenschutz, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator, at [515-432-2823](tel:515-432-2823).

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DNR TO ANSWER FALL HUNTING QUESTIONS LIVE ON FACEBOOK

DES MOINES — Iowans with fall hunting on their minds will want to mark their calendar for Oct. 24, when DNR wildlife research supervisor Willie Suchy will answer fall hunting questions live on the DNR's Facebook page.

Suchy will be available via Facebook from noon to 2:30 p.m. To ask a question, post it as a comment on the "Live Q&A" post that the DNR will post at noon that day. You can also post questions ahead of time on the DNR's Facebook Timeline at www.facebook.com/iowadnr. Questions received after 2:30 may be answered at a later time.

To make sure you see the Live Q&A when it is posted, make sure you "like" the page on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/iowadnr and click on "like" and make sure "get notifications" and "show in news feed" are selected.

Commenters should also view the DNR's Facebook posting policy ahead of time at <https://www.facebook.com/iowadnr/info>.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown, DNR, at [515-281-5131](tel:515-281-5131) or Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov

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WATCH MIGRATING RAPTORS FROM THE HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL BRIDGE

The Third Annual High Trestle HawkWatch on the High Trestle Bridge Bike Trail between Woodward and Madrid will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Oct. 12.

Learn about wonders of migrating raptors on a dynamic setting that spans Des Moines River Valley. Binoculars and spotting scopes will be available but participants may want to bring their own, along with a bird book.

Indoor programs will be held at the Woodward Community Center depot on north side of Woodward on Main Street.

High Trestle HawkWatch is provided by the Iowa Wildlife Center, Boone YMCA Camp, Boone and Dallas County Conservation Boards and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

MEDIA CONTACT: Pat Schlarbaum, Wildlife Technician, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [515-432-2823](tel:5154322823).

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TAKE A WALK IN AN IOWA STATE PARK OCT. 9 FOR HEALTHIEST STATE WALK

DES MOINES — Consider joining in on the Healthiest State Walk Oct. 9 by visiting an Iowa State Park, and log your jaunt in the DNR's Healthy & Happy Outdoors system for a chance to win prizes.

Walkers can use the interactive map at www.iowadnr.gov/h2o to find a park near them. Following their walk, they can log the details in Healthy & Happy Outdoors for a chance to win the October prize package, which includes nature shirts, a bird feeder, binoculars and bird feed.

Iowa's Healthiest State Initiative is encouraging all Iowans to walk 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) on Oct. 9. For more information on the Healthiest State Walk, visit <http://www.iowahealthieststate.com/healthiest-state-walk>.

The Healthy & Happy Outdoors initiative, or H2O, connects Iowans to natural resources and helps them enjoy an active lifestyle. Visit us at www.iowadnr.gov/h2o.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown, DNR, at [515-281-5131](tel:515-281-5131) or Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov.

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POWESHIEK COUNTY WOMAN WINS HEALTHY AND HAPPY OUTDOORS SEPTEMBER PRIZE DRAWING

Christy Pifer, of Poweshiek County, won the Healthy and Happy Outdoors (H2O) September prize package of fishing poles, tackle box and lures.

October's prize is a wildlife watching package which includes a gift certificate for a bird feeder and one bag of seed from Des Moines Feed and Garden Shoppe, Alpen Optics compact binoculars, an H2O t-shirt, a Hug-It t-shirt and a Trek-it long sleeved t-shirt.

All outdoor activities logged October 1-31 will be automatically entered for the wildlife watching package prize drawing.

Healthy and Happy Outdoors is an initiative geared to connect Iowans with outdoor resources as a way to reduce stress and improve health. Iowans can go online to www.iowadnr.gov/h2o and find over 30 types of outdoor activities at more than 1,600 parks and recreation areas across the state.

Participants who register for H2O and log activities will automatically be entered for prize drawings. Each activity logged counts as an entry. H2O will continue awarding monthly prizes through the year. Complete rules and promotional details are available on the H2O web page.

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CEDAR RAPIDS MAN WINS ADVENTURE READY GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY

Mark Ganzeveld, from Cedar Rapids, is this week's winner of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Adventure Ready Gift Card Giveaway. Ganzeveld won a \$50 gift card generously donated by Sportsmans Warehouse.

Hunters and anglers who purchase one of four new licenses in 2013 will be automatically entered into a weekly drawing for a \$50 gift card.

To participate in the drawing, Iowans can simply purchase one of the four qualifying licenses at any license retailer or on the DNR's website at www.iowadnr.gov. The four qualifying licenses are:

- **Bonus Line License** – resident and nonresident anglers can fish with one additional line (with the purchase of the annual fishing license, which allows two lines), for \$12.
- **Outdoor Combo License** – annual resident hunting/fishing/habitat combo license for \$47.
- **Angler's Special** – a three-year resident fishing license for \$53.
- **Hunter's Special** – a three-year resident hunting license with habitat included for \$86.

The DNR will draw every Monday at noon and announce the weekly winner on its website and through Twitter on Tuesday afternoon. The promotion will run through December 23, 2013.

Mills Fleet Farm is sponsoring the Oct. 14 gift card drawing. Weekly winner announcements, gift card sponsors and complete drawing details can be found at www.iowadnr.gov/giveaway.

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