

## **WILDLIFE FLURISHING IN IOWA**

Doug Clayton has been a State Conservation Officer of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for 25 yr. As a field officer in Pott. County, he has seen progress in the return of native wildlife in western Iowa. Everyone has seen the deer and now wild turkey in the rural and urban landscape. Doug said Iowa has been exporting wild turkey to other states in trade for river otter. Now the river otter are reproducing and growing in cleaner river environments. Hunting permits have increased in response to wildlife populations; however, legislators have not approved raising fees to be comparable to surrounding states. Doug noted the resources for wildlife conservation management in Iowa are being reduced. This could impede future management. The large number of trophy deer in Iowa has led to considerable poaching activity, Doug explained. The TIPS hotline has been very useful in prosecuting offenders. This hotline allows all citizens to be part of the wildlife management in Iowa.