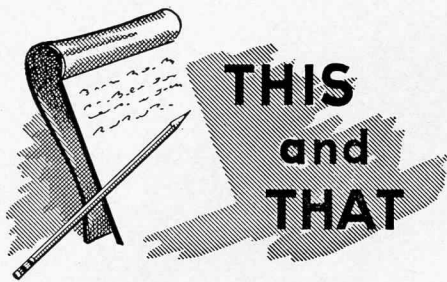


OREGON STATE

GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

JUNE, 1955





Lambing time in the bighorn sheep holding pen on Hart Mountain excited much interest the last two months. The first lamb was dropped April 10 and was followed by seven more up to early May with further lambs expected. Two of the first eight lambs died.

The herd of 20 sheep transplanted last November from British Columbia includes twelve ewes of breeding age. All animals in the original transplant are in good condition. The sheep will be transferred from their 35-acre holding pen to their permanent pasture this summer upon completion of four and one-half miles of eight-foot high fence.

* * *

Two marked cutthroat trout were taken by an angler on Youngs River in Clatsop County approximately five miles downstream from the point of their release. During their migration, they passed over a 50-foot falls.

* * *

A thrill of excitement was stirred up last month in the game division when four mountain goats in the Matterhorn and Sacajawea Peak area of the high Wallowas were reported seen by district game agent, Bob Stein.

In March, 1950 six goats, trapped in northern Washington, were released on Chief Joseph Mountain. For over two years no sign of the goats had been reported and it was not known whether the small band had survived.

However, interest was aroused when Harold Clagus of Joseph reported seeing during March goat tracks and beds in the vicinity of Ice Lake. Stein, flying in the area in May spotted four animals. They included a large male with good horns, a female and a kid, and another female. From the number of tracks in the area, it is probable there are more goats than were sighted.

COVER

The Game Commission's newest and biggest fish liberation tank truck (1,200-gallon capacity) is shown on a bridge across Zigzag River in the Mt. Hood area. Legal-sized rainbow trout, running about 4 to the pound in this load, are dipped out at scattered locations along the stream. (Photo by Harold C. Smith)

Gabrielson Reviews Game Program

The Oregon State Game Commission, in maintaining progress in the fish and game management program of Oregon, has engaged Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute, to review with its own staff the Commission's program and organization.

Dr. Gabrielson was employed in 1948 by an interim committee, acting under H.J.R. No. 14 of the 44th Legislative Assembly, to study and submit recommendations concerning the program of the Oregon State Game Commission at that time. A period of six years has lapsed since that study was made and an extensively stepped-up and expand-

ed program has subsequently been developed.

Certain guide lines and programs are now underway and it is the Commission's desire to continue progress along the lines of the soundest possible principles of resource management. Consistent with this policy and as a supplement to the department's own planning, the Commission has secured the consultation of Gabrielson for a review of progress being made. He is spending late May and early June with the department, during which time he is studying with the staff all major phases of the Commission's program and activities.

MAY MEETING OF THE GAME COMMISSION

The Oregon State Game Commission met on May 13 at the Portland office. Following actions were taken:

Access Policy. Adopted a general policy for acquiring hunting and fishing access.

Access Options. Approved acquisition and development of Siskeyville tract on Wilson River at cost of \$3,000, which provides 1,571 feet of frontage; and acquisition of Kansas Creek tracts on Wilson River providing total frontage of 8,543 feet at cost of \$3,458.

Approved exchange of land on the North Umpqua which would provide an additional one-half mile of frontage.

Approved acquisition and development at cost of \$3,269 of Humke Boat Landing on Nestucca River.

Land Use Policy. Adopted policy prohibiting construction of any facilities by private individuals or organizations for their own use on Commission owned lands; and any recreational facilities constructed by the Commission to be for use by public generally.

Keep Oregon Green. Approved annual contribution of \$250.

Capital Outlay. Accepted low bid of \$1,997 by Harris Ice Machine Works for cold storage repairs at Rock Creek.

Authorized screening of Little Walla Walla river diversion.

Approved following improvements and purchases (subject to review of bids where necessary): construction of rearing pond and replacement of wood pipeline at Hood River hatchery; replacement of wood pipeline at Klamath hatchery; improvement of irrigation canal on Klamath Management area; purchase of farm equipment for Wenaha, White River and Klamath

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

VOLUME X June, 1955 NUMBER 6

Published Monthly by the

OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION

1634 S.W. Alder Street—P. O. Box 4136

Portland 8, Oregon

MIRIAM KAUTTU, *Editor*

H. C. SMITH, *Staff Artist*

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION

Delbert Gildersleeve, *Chairman* Baker

Kenneth G. Denman Medford

Don Mitchell Taft

J. H. Van Winkle Oregon City

Elmer H. Balsiger Klamath Falls

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

P. W. Schneider Director

C. B. Walsh Assistant Director

W. D. DeCew Acting Controller

H. R. Mangold Chief, Supply and Property

Arthur Higgs Attorney

C. J. Campbell Chief, Basin Investigations

R. C. Holloway Chief, Info. and Educ.

John McKean Chief of Oper., Game Div.

H. J. Rayner Chief of Oper., Fishery Div.

George Kernan Engineer

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS

Leslie Zumwalt, Region I,

Route 1, Box 325, Corvallis

J. W. Vaughn, Region II, Box 977, Roseburg

L. M. Mathisen, Region III, 222 E. 3rd, Bend

W. H. Brown, Region IV, Box 742, La Grande

W. C. Lightfoot, Region V, Box 8, Hines

Entered as second-class matter September 30,

1947, at the post office at Portland, Oregon,

under the act of August 24, 1912.

Please report promptly any change of

address. Send in both the old and new

address with notice of change.

At the present time the Bulletin is circulated

free of charge to anyone forwarding a written

request.

Management Areas; construction of six miles of fence on Wenaha Management Area; residence and pipeline at Oak Springs hatchery; garage and utility building at Fall River hatchery.

License Agency Policy. Rescinded previous policy governing establishment of license agencies and adopted new policy, which limits number of agencies to 1,500 in any year and sets out conditions which each agency must comply with in order to be retained.



By R. U. MACE, Chief Biologist, Big Game

AS a parent, I often wonder just how much good it does to talk to a youngster. At times it seems like I'm talking to a stone wall. From the kid's standpoint, though, he probably hears "no" and "don't" so much that he ignores us once in awhile just for the devil of it. Then there are a lot of things he picks up that we don't aim for him to hear. The fact that "little pitchers have big ears" sure was impressed on me last fall during the deer season and I'd like to tell you about it if you have a few minutes to spare.

This job of mine is interesting but it's not all peaches and cream, especially when we get crop damage complaints. In fact, sometimes things get sort of hectic. Like a guy will do, I have the bad habit of taking some of the problems home with me and then stewing and fretting about them half the night. You know how it is when a fellow can't unwind after five o'clock rolls around. Complaints of deer and elk damage, poor landowner-sportsmen relations, too many deer on a winter range for the supply of food, and a hundred and one other things worry me so I grouse around home about them. The wife certainly is a good sounding board but I wasn't aware that the kids were picking up any of the talk. I suppose we get used to having them underfoot and underestimate their hearing ability.

Anyway, about this hunting trip. My boy, Dick, is ten now and the oldest of three youngsters. The others are girls

so Dick and I have to band together for self-protection when the ladies of the house get too much for us. About the best way we know to escape is an occasional hunting and fishing trip. I figured Dick was a little too young for deer hunting, but took him along minus a rifle. It would give me a good chance to teach him a little gun safety and sportsmanship and besides I needed the company. After being desk-bound for some time I didn't feel that I would cover too much ground for him to follow. Besides, he seemed to have plenty of energy for things other than mowing the lawn and cleaning the basement so I guessed he could keep up.

We loaded up our gear and took off after school was out Friday afternoon. Now, I don't take my deer hunting too seriously and use some of my vacation during the season to meander around looking at different ranges. Killing a deer is not a life or death matter and I can return home completely satisfied without firing a shot. On this particular trip I decided to visit a section near the Ochocos over in Crook County. The area is mostly winter range but some deer stay there the year around and I was hoping to run into one of them.

After we got under way, Dick opened up the sandwiches mother fixed and we munched on them for awhile. He didn't say much, just eating and looking the country over. Guess he was saving all the questions for later. After dark, he went to sleep and I drove on with

no company except the radio. It was pretty late when we got where I wanted to hunt so I pulled off to the side of the road and anchored the car. After throwing out the sleeping bags and blowing up the air mattresses, I had a struggle getting Dick into the sack. That boy sleeps hard and is about as limp as a wet rope after he passes out. But we finally got bedded down and I went to sleep practically before my head hit the pillow.

It wasn't too early when we woke up the next morning — probably seven o'clock, I would guess. After breakfast we loaded up our stuff and moved down the road a mile or so until we found a good camping spot where there was room for at least one more tent. After setting up camp and straightening things out a bit, I made a few sandwiches for lunch and we drove down the road to find a place to hunt.

Well, we hadn't gone far before I noticed Dick watching something out of the corner of his eye. Pretty soon he said, "Dad, what are all those 'No Trespassing' signs for? Does that mean we can't hunt here?"

After mumbling something about the guy probably putting them up for a purpose, I got to thinking it might be a good idea to visit the rancher. It would give the kid a chance to see more than one side of the picture so when we got opposite the ranch house, I wheeled across the cattleguard and up the fellow's lane.

(Continued on page 6)

1954 Big Game Ho

Table 1—1954 GENERAL ELK SEASON

County	No. of Hunters	Kill				Per Cent of Hunters Successful	Per Cent Spike Bulls
		Bulls	Cows	Calves	Total		
Clatsop.....	4,960	410	599	166	1,175	23.7	....
Columbia.....	479	31	50	26	107	22.3	....
Coos.....	1,323	233	....	....	233	17.6	....
Curry.....	22	1	....	....	1	4.5	....
Douglas.....	520	64	....	....	64	12.3	....
Lane.....	302	40	....	....	40	13.2	....
Lincoln.....	163	10	....	....	10	6.1	....
Tillamook.....	251	11	....	....	11	4.4	....
Western Oregon Subtotals.....	8,020	800	649	192	1,641	20.5	....
Baker.....	1,786	179	174	45	398	22.3	28.2
Crook.....	361	18	12	1	31	8.6	23.1
Grant.....	3,190	351	137	32	520	16.3	30.6
Harney.....	356	18	20	11	49	13.8	7.7
Malheur.....	240	12	8	1	21	8.8	33.3
Morrow.....	1,013	161	....	....	161	15.9	39.0
Umatilla.....	4,540	788	....	....	788	17.4	52.4
Union.....	3,588	631	....	....	631	17.6	58.3
Wallowa.....	3,434	766	....	....	766	22.3	50.6
Wheeler.....	230	20	8	4	32	13.9	26.7
Eastern Oregon Subtotals.....	18,738	2,944	359	94	3,397	18.1	47.7
Tagholders not Hunting	1,100	....	....	....	....	....	....
State Totals and Averages.....	27,858	3,744	1,008	286	5,038	18.8	47.7

THE 1954 deer kill established an all-time record with an estimated 112,486 bagged during the general season. A record number of deer tags was issued, totalling 215,047. Approximately 83 per cent of all hunting license holders bought a deer tag. In addition to the general season kill, 136 deer were taken during the Alfalfa controlled hunt and 294 during the eight special archery seasons.

Bucks represented 73 per cent of the general season kill while antlerless deer made up the remainder. Approximately 69 per cent of the bag was composed of mule deer with the rest being black-tails from western Oregon.

The first week end accounted for approximately 31 per cent of the total kill. Peaks of success were apparent during the week ends and the hunter's choice season. About 8 per cent of the kill was made during each of the week ends following the opening with 33 per cent bagged during the three-day hunter's choice season.

Table 1 summarizes the 1954 general elk season. The kill of 5,038 animals exceeded that of the three preceding years by a substantial margin. Included

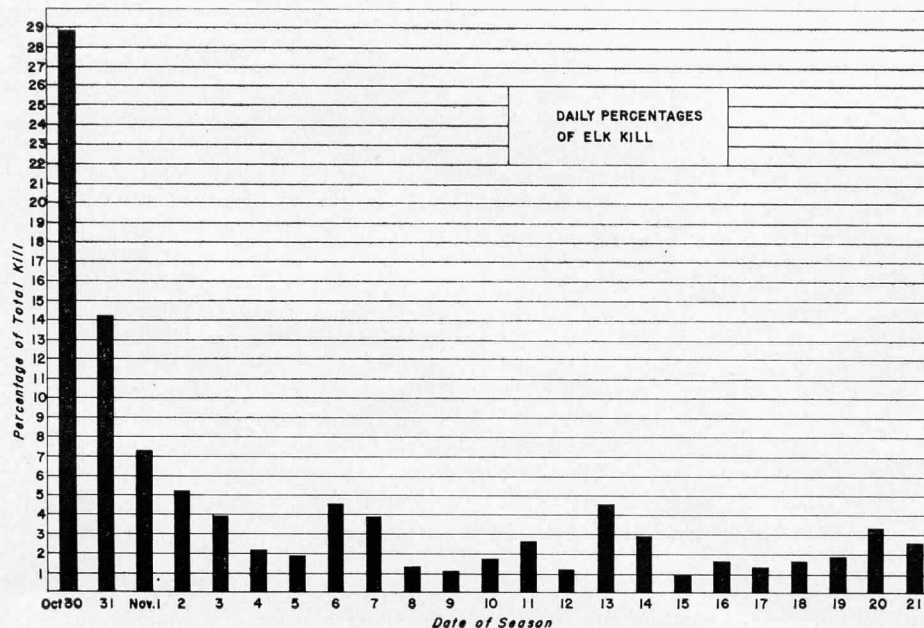


Figure 1



Harvest

in the total were 841 antlerless elk taken during the three-day Clatsop and Columbia county season which accounts for a sizable portion of the increase. A total of 27,858 elk tags was issued. This figure was exceeded only by 1951 when 28,745 tags were sold. An additional 376 elk were bagged during the five controlled hunts held on various problem ranges.

Figure 1 depicts the elk kill by date, emphasizing the high proportion bagged during the first week end.

The controlled antelope hunts resulted in the harvest of 334 bucks by 589 participating hunters. A total of 200 permits was authorized for each of three areas with hunters averaging 57 per cent success.

As in the past, the big game kills were determined by analysis of report cards submitted by hunters. In addition to this analysis, a random sample of all hunting license holders are questioned each year to measure the statewide success of big game as well as upland game and waterfowl hunters. Tests of the procedure indicate it to be consistently reliable as an estimate of the kill.

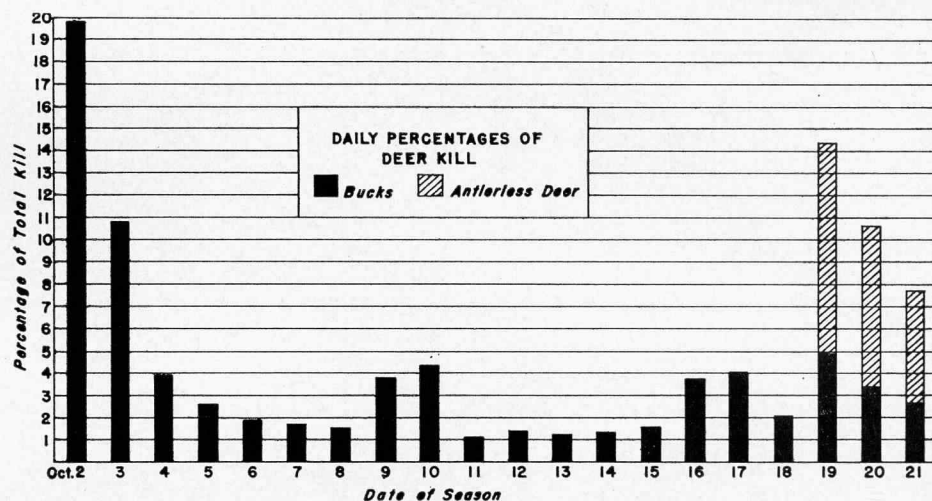


Figure 2

Table 2—1954 GENERAL DEER SEASON

County	Number of Hunters	Bucks	Antlerless	Total	Per Cent of Hunters Successful	County Area in Square Miles	Deer Harvested per Square Mile
Baker.....	7,279	3,841	1,656	5,497	75.5	3,084	1.8
Benton.....	3,976	1,148	796	1,944	48.9	647	3.0
Clackamas.....	3,670	926	423	1,349	36.8	1,890	0.7
Clatsop.....	3,879	897	365	1,262	32.5	820	1.5
Columbia.....	2,755	551	430	981	35.6	646	1.5
Coos.....	4,254	1,368	.....	1,368	32.2	1,611	0.8
Crook.....	12,117	4,870	2,410	7,280	60.1	2,980	2.4
Curry.....	1,042	472	.....	472	45.3	1,622	0.3
Deschutes.....	14,204	5,279	1,675	6,954	49.0	3,041	2.3
Douglas.....	9,178	3,455	967	4,422	48.2	5,062	0.9
Gilliam.....	789	389	143	532	67.4	1,211	0.4
Grant.....	13,517	7,238	2,432	9,670	71.5	4,532	2.1
Harney.....	8,823	4,843	1,549	6,392	72.4	10,132	0.6
Hood River.....	1,674	356	128	484	28.9	1,529	0.9
Jackson.....	6,289	1,978	277	2,255	35.9	2,817	0.8
Jefferson.....	2,884	1,364	320	1,684	58.4	1,794	0.9
Josephine.....	2,052	546	127	673	32.8	1,625	0.4
Klamath.....	17,077	7,003	2,995	9,998	58.5	5,973	1.7
Lake.....	15,704	6,442	3,466	9,908	63.1	8,270	1.2
Lane.....	12,366	4,345	1,858	6,203	50.2	4,594	1.4
Lincoln.....	1,573	558	.....	558	35.5	1,006	0.6
Linn.....	5,747	2,020	823	2,843	49.5	2,294	1.2
Malheur.....	4,847	2,495	874	3,369	69.5	9,870	0.3
Marion.....	3,845	947	653	1,600	41.6	1,173	1.4
Morrow.....	2,864	1,278	543	1,821	63.6	2,059	0.9
Multnomah.....	366	50	35	85	23.2	424	0.2
Polk.....	3,694	1,376	349	1,725	46.7	739	2.3
Sherman.....	592	227	98	325	54.9	830	0.4
Tillamook.....	7,839	2,445	.....	2,445	31.2	1,115	2.2
Umatilla.....	6,182	2,461	913	3,374	54.6	3,231	1.0
Union.....	5,677	2,670	1,148	3,818	67.3	2,032	1.9
Wallowa.....	4,691	2,850	838	3,688	78.6	3,178	1.2
Wasco.....	3,676	1,088	614	1,702	46.3	2,387	0.7
Washington.....	2,254	603	152	755	33.5	716	1.1
Wheeler.....	6,285	3,078	1,324	4,402	70.0	1,707	2.6
Yamhill.....	2,139	602	46	648	30.3	709	0.9
Tagholders not hunting.....	9,247						
Totals and Averages	215,047	82,059	30,427	112,486	54.7	96,350	1.2

WHY DAD?*(Continued from page 3)*

I didn't mention whom I worked for when he came out of the house. I just introduced myself and said that we were on a deer hunting expedition. Brother, that did it! He hit the roof. In the space of five minutes, he covered the subjects of hunters, fishermen, the Game Commission, high taxes, and the world series. It was fortunate that Dick was there or I'd probably have heard some new words. As it was, he did a pretty good job of squaring me away and I could see that Dick was taking it all in.

After the dust settled, I got to inquiring about some of his troubles and he certainly had good grounds for violence. It appears that some individual had been doing a little spotlighting along the main road two nights before and plunked a darned good beef right between the eyes. The previous spring a fisherman had left a gate open and some yearlings got into his alfalfa. You know what green alfalfa can do to cattle under the right conditions. Three died from bloat before he could get them out. These were just two of the irritations that had been raising his blood pressure over the years and I just happened to come along at the right time to trigger the explosion. He not only disliked all hunters and fishermen, but also the Game Commission, which he considered responsible for the conduct of these vandals.

We continued talking for a time and darned if he didn't invite us to take a hunt on the hill behind his house. He pointed out his beef pasture and asked that we be careful. Needless to say, we jumped at the chance.

After parking the car out of the way, we started up the hill. I got to thinking that this rancher was a darned decent sort and after the way he warmed up, maybe he didn't think I was so bad either.

While all this was going on, Dick had kept still and I almost forgot he was following me. After climbing about a hundred yards, I stopped to catch my breath and he came alongside. He opened the conversation by saying, "Dad, that man is pretty swell, isn't he? If everyone would treat him nice, I'll bet they could hunt here, too."

Well, that gave me a chance to tell him about the relations between land-owners and sportsmen and the problem created by a few thoughtless individuals. "You know, Dick," I said, "some people forget all about courtesy when they go hunting. At home they wouldn't think of driving their car across some-

body's lawn. Yet, they do as bad, or worse, when hunting. You can't blame that rancher for posting his property. We'd do the same thing. It's a shame that everyone can't remember to be courteous and respect private property when hunting or fishing. A few careless characters can ruin the privileges for all of us." Even if it was a pretty long speech for me, I felt better after getting a pet gripe off my chest. Besides, I needed the rest.

After we started on, Dick wandered off to the side ways. I didn't worry as long as he kept in sight. Pretty soon he dropped behind a ridge and I didn't see him for several minutes. It wasn't long before I heard, "Hey, Dad, come here."

I drifted over and found him squatted down beside a pile of bones and a few patches of deer hair. To me it was just another carcass and I didn't think much about it. Probably a winter kill as the range was in pretty rough shape. There weren't many shrubs around and the nearest bitterbrush plant looked pretty ragged.

Dick had been thinking, though, and he wasn't about to pass up the subject. He had probably been saving all his conversation until now and he wanted to know more about that deer. I told him it was maybe a winter kill although the remains were too old to be sure. Right there he lowered the boom when he said, "Dad, this must be one of those winter ranges you are always worrying about. I've heard you tell mother about deer dying here in eastern Oregon." Like I said before, I never figured he heard half of what we said and you could have knocked me over with a feather. The way he can ignore me sometimes when I tell him to mow the lawn or get ready for bed.

According to my stomach, it was about noon so we moved under the shade of a juniper tree and got out those sandwiches I had made. Dick finished one and was reaching for his second before I got the wrapper off mine. While I was eating, I got to think-

(Continued on page 7)

This high-skirted juniper tree is typical on an over-browsed deer range. Looking for feed, deer stand up on their hind legs in order to reach as far up the tree as possible.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN WYOMING

The 35th annual conference of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners will be held at Moran, Wyoming on June 16, 17 and 18. President of the Association is Lester Bagley of the Wyoming Fish and Game Commission.

The theme of the conference is "What is the Place of Wildlife in Land and Water Development?" and the keynote address will be given by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, President of the Wildlife Management Institute.

WHY DAD?

(Continued from page 6)

ing that this would be a good time to discuss the deer situation with him.

I started by telling him that most of the deer which wintered in this area spent the rest of the year higher up in the mountains behind us. They had about ten times as much summer range as winter range and the number we could have in the herd depended pretty much on whether or not they lived through the winter. We looked at the soil and I told him it didn't produce much food as moisture was short. And then he spotted some fair bunchgrass and asked me why deer couldn't live on that. Well, that was a hard question to answer for a ten-year old, but I found that they've been teaching these kids something in school. When I mentioned the low protein content of dry grass during the winter months, he knew what the score was. Sort of surprised me when he said that he guessed deer needed protein and minerals and other things just like we do. And then we talked about the chance of crusted snow covering the grass so deer couldn't feed on it during part of the winter.

About that time we finished our lunch and I got up and walked over to some bitterbrush. "This is one of the plants," I said, "which provides protein for the deer and remains above the snow where they can reach it." We looked it over and saw where deer and cattle had chewed on the twigs. I didn't have to talk long before he got the idea that there was a limit to how much of the plant could be eaten each year if it was to live. All the junipers had been browsed by deer as high as the boy could reach and that sort of impressed him. He didn't know that they stood on their hind legs to reach feed.

Well, the upshot of the thing was that Dick pretty well answered his own questions. After we had talked about

Working elk census in the mountains of Wallowa County is not exactly a bed of roses, judging from an accident report on a knee injury filed by Bob Stein, district agent.

Bob had scheduled a trip to work the breaks of Joseph Creek in the Chesnimnus area. Coming down the north slope of the creek, he slipped on the ice, twisting his knee and hitting it on a rock. After resting a bit, he decided he was able to go down to the creek and up the other side to his goal at Hunting Camp. How he made out is best described in his own words:

"After walking up the ridge about two miles I found it necessary to use snowshoes and after about a half mile of this the knee was beginning to hurt quite a bit. I was closer to Hunting Camp than my pickup at this time and it was too late in the day to make it back before dark so I continued towards Hunting Camp. It soon became necessary to rest after about every 50 yards and I realized that I could not make it. The only thing I could do was find a place to spend the night.

"I picked out a fir thicket on a north slope in order to be out of the wind, which had been increasing in intensity and coldness since dark, and dug out a place in the snow under the biggest tree I could find for a fire. The snow depth came up to my arm-pits and the little 6x6 hollow that I dug served very nicely in sheltering me from the wind. The tough part was securing firewood.

"The 48 hour night was uneventful except for 7 jets, 2 big bombers, 1 airliner, and 1 coyote which were heard above the roar of the wind. I tried counting snowflakes to pass the time but gave this up after 3 inches had fallen.

"I had carried a package of venison

the range situation for awhile, he saw that the area could support only so many livestock and deer. Also, that the food value of plants varied and shrubs were the important ones for deer on the winter range. It wasn't hard for him to understand why deer die during the winter months and why we should harvest the surplus in the fall.

After our talk, the rest of the trip was sort of an anti-climax. I felt as proud as punch that the boy had put two and two together and figured out some of his own answers. We moseyed around the rest of the afternoon and didn't see any deer close enough for a shot. Before leaving, we stopped at the house for a drink of water and thanked the

Elk Census Not a Lark

hamburger with me for camp meat which was used as supper and breakfast. I do not recommend smoked, raw venison hamburger as a balanced diet.

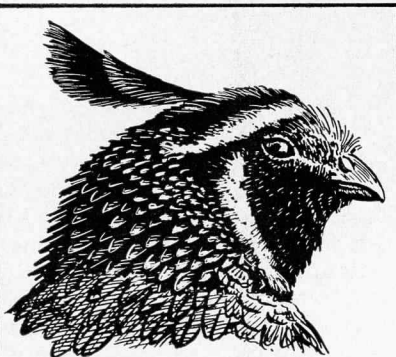
"My main concern was getting back to my pickup before the main part of the storm blew in. My knee had steadily grown more painful and I had about 5 miles of snowshoeing and 4 miles of steep terrain between me and the car.

"As soon as daylight cracked the next morning (at 5:24 a.m.) I buckled on the snowshoes and started hobbling back over the route which brought me there the day before. The first three miles weren't too bad because I was in timber and out of the wind. As quick as I hit Horse Pasture Ridge, a bare, open slope, the situation changed abruptly. The wind was howling along about 60 mph and the snow pounded like lead from a pellet gun. Three miles of this and I was down out of the snow with just the icy wind left.

"I reached Joseph Creek at 1:30 p.m. and felt that I was finally in a fairly good location as far as position from the pickup was concerned. I pushed along with my snowshoe, which had become a crutch since I got out of the deep snow, until I reached the bottom of the trail which would take me to the top of Joseph Creek Canyon and the car. By climbing a little and resting I finally found myself about half way up the canyon wall beneath where the car was parked. I also found myself in a dandy blizzard which had been wind and rain from the bottom up to this point. I kept plugging along walking a few feet and resting until I was about a quarter from the top. It became necessary to use the snowshoes again and after what seemed a long time, I arrived at the pickup at 6:30 p.m."

rancher for his hospitality. He sure had calmed down since our first meeting.

Sunday morning we had another little hunt. Just took it easy and enjoyed one another's company talking about various plants and other things we saw. As a matter of fact, our visiting spoiled my only chance for a shot when a deer caught us off guard. But I didn't object. The trip paid off in full on our way home that afternoon. Dick had just settled himself for a little nap when he turned and said, "Dad, I had a swell time even if we didn't get a deer." Now, what more can you ask. Yes, sir, that kid's going to make a good sportsman. And I think I'll take him with me again next year.



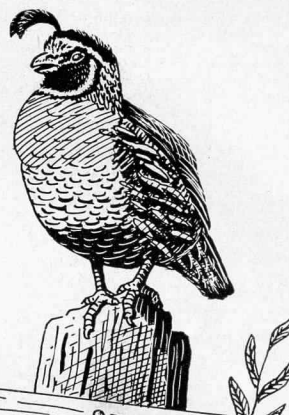
Males have black throat patch.
(plume normally carried forward)



Female has gray
throat patch, and
shorter plume.

Valley Quail are small, blue-gray
chicken like birds with a head
plume that curves forward from
its crown. Weigh 4-5oz. and are
about 11 inches long.

From late May till late July this
little fellow may be seen on
prominent perches standing guard for
his mate while she incubates the eggs.



A native of Klamath, Lake, Jackson and
Josephine Counties now spread over entire
state by transplantings. Like brushy
cover with patches of sky between. Quail
move around as they feed not staying
long in one spot. Junipers provide
important escape cover and roosting places
east of Cascades while blackberries
furnish cover and roosts in western
Oregon.

Valley Quail lay from 12 to 16 creamy
white, gold flecked eggs in a slightly
hollowed nest on the ground under an
old brush heap, bushes, rocks, old
fences or logs. Chicks hatch in
about 24 days and are very active
from birth. Try wings after 15 days and
can keep up with the adults after
8 weeks.

Harold Gramer Smith



Late fall finds the coveys and broods
banding together in flocks of up to 100
or more. Flocks thin out by March to
30-40 in coveys and then split
into mating pairs by mid-April. Food
consists mainly of seeds of all types
with greens and fresh shoots eaten in late
winter and spring. Ants and other insects
are readily used in summer months.



Magpies, crows, ravens and ground
squirrels break up many quail nests.
Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks catch
young quail while coyotes, bobcats,
foxes and skunks add to the list
of predators.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

1634 S.W. ALDER STREET
P. O. BOX 4136
PORTLAND 8, OREGON

F STANTON
2127 SW BERTHA BEAVERTN
HIGHWAY
PORTLAND 12, OREGON