

C. J. Campbell



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The Cover

A ruffed grouse in western Oregon.
(Photo by Robert Mace.)

BULLETIN HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructors Approved

Month of July 15
Total to Date (Corrected) 2,948

Students Trained

Month of July 455
Total to Date 56,900

Firearms Accidents Reported in 1963

Fatal 0
Nonfatal 8

BIMONTHLY GAME BULLETIN IN 1964

Only six issues of the Game Commission Bulletin will be published during 1964 instead of the usual twelve.

The Commission reluctantly finds this necessary because of the decrease in funds that will be available for this biennium.

Rather than cut down the number of people receiving the Bulletin, the Commission prefers to save money by issuing the Bulletin every other month only. The decision is made with regret for the Bulletin has not missed a single month since the first issue came out in April 1946.

ANGLING REGULATION HEARING SET FOR NOVEMBER

The 1964 angling regulations will be considered by the Game Commission on November 8 and 22, two months earlier than in previous years.

A change in the statute at the last legislative session permits the Commission to hold the hearing in November or December. Dates selected will make it possible to have the regulations printed and distributed by January 1 or very soon thereafter.

The hearing will start at 10 a.m. Friday, November 8, at the Commission's headquarters in Portland.

AUGUST MEETING OF THE GAME COMMISSION

The Oregon State Game Commission at its meeting on August 20 considered the following business in addition to hunting regulations:

Chairman. Elected J. W. Smith as chairman of the Commission and John Amacher as vice-chairman.

Budget. The Commission reduced operations for the present biennium more than \$800,000 below the level authorized by the legislature because a new forecast of revenue is well below that anticipated when budget was prepared a year ago. With this reduction added to the already reduced budget, the Commission will have close to 1½ million dollars less for expenses than was available this past biennium.

Capital Outlay. Accepted low bids for repair of Butte Falls Hatchery intake and for construction of shed on Sauvie Island. Authorized earth fill dam and water control structure on Sauvie Island and replacement for power supply at Cedar Creek deer project.

Angling Hearing Dates. Decided to hold hearing on 1964 angling regulations on November 8 and 22.

White City Lagoon. Granted easement to White City for construction of sanitary lagoon (Camp White property).

Next Meeting. Decided to meet the latter part of October with exact date to be set later.

Wildlife Award Presented Commission

The trophy pictured was presented by the Order of the Antelope to the Oregon Game Commission at its 28th convention held last July at the Blue Sky Hotel on Hart Mountain.

The trophy, on a base of Philippine mahogany, is made of banded Rhyolite with an engraved plaque and two statuettes of bighorn sheep. It was specially made by Oscar Deming, Fish and Wildlife Service biologist for the Sheldon and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuges. The trophy was accepted by Commissioner Tallant Greenough in behalf of the Game Commission.

On November 8, 1954 the Game Commission first released in a small pasture on Hart Mountain 20 bighorn sheep brought from British Columbia. Next year the sheep, now numbering 25, were turned into a larger enclosure. By 1959 the population had increased to the extent that some had to be released on the west front of the mountain. In 1960 and 1961 several sheep were transplanted to the Steens Mountains and appear to be

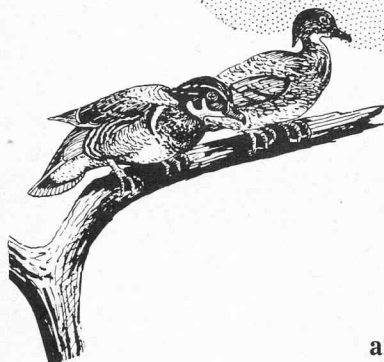
establishing themselves there. The Hart Mountain population presently is estimated at 120 to 130 sheep.

"Order of the Antelope Wildlife Award, 1963, to the Oregon Game Commission for successfully re-introducing California Bighorn Sheep to the Rimrocks of Southern Oregon."



1963

Game Bird Outlook



By R. U. Mace, Chief Biologist, Upland Game
and By C. E. Kebbe, Chief Biologist, Migratory Birds

GAME BIRD REGULATIONS adopted on August 20 will provide generous hunting opportunities this fall. As in the past, the Commission considered all available information regarding the supplies available, the wishes of the hunting public, and the conflicts involved with agriculture and other land uses. Providing as much recreation as possible was a major consideration in setting seasons and bag limits.

Hunters will be able to shoot one or more species from September 1, when the pigeon and dove seasons open, until January 31, when the brant season ends. It will be possible to enjoy several different types of hunting on a single outing and combine bird shooting with a trip for big game.

Upland Game

Pigeon and dove seasons extend through the month of September and the forecast is for more birds this year. Hunter success always depends upon weather conditions prior to the opening. Both species migrate southward with the onset of rain and cool weather so early season hunting is most productive.

Grouse seasons commence on September 7 and, except for sage grouse, provide hunting opportunities comparable to last year. Blue grouse numbers appear to be down somewhat throughout the state while a modest increase in ruffed grouse is apparent. Wallowa County offers the best hunting opportunity this year although some birds will be available throughout the Blue Mountains, Cascades, and Coast Range. While fire conditions will influence the amount of west-

ern Oregon open to entry, a September season was authorized because few hunters participate at a later time.

Sage grouse production dropped below last year over much of the range; however, conditions in Malheur and Harney Counties are better than areas to the west. Some of the apparent decline is due to the difficulty of seeing broods in dense grass cover which is present throughout southeastern Oregon. A short season in Malheur and southern Harney Counties will permit some harvest in the better areas. Insect defoliation has destroyed many sage brush stands in southeastern Oregon, and since those plants are an important source of food for sage grouse, the Commission decided to protect the birds in Lake County as a safety factor.

August inventories of pheasants, quail, and partridge revealed good production this year with the greatest increases apparent in chukar and valley quail populations in eastern Oregon. On the basis of the optimistic outlook, regulations have been liberalized.

More chukars were seen in the August production survey than during the previous two years. As a result, the season will extend from September 7 through December 31, and the liberalized bag limit will permit 8 birds daily and 16 in possession.

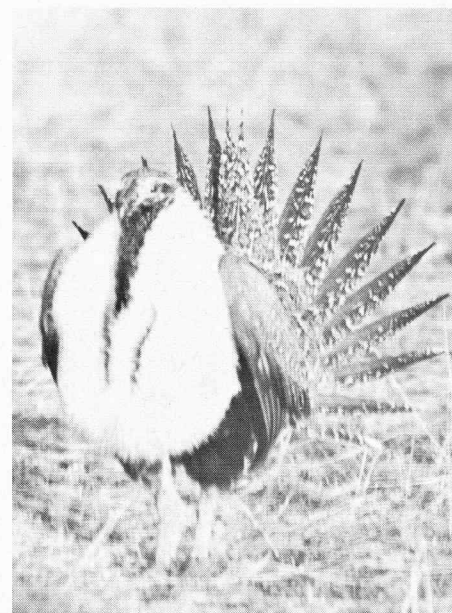
Hungarian partridge are not numerous but hunting seems to have little effect on the population. Since Huns are similar in appearance to chukars and occupy the same areas, a common season is desirable.

Chukars will be found in abundance on many deer ranges, making it possible to plan a joint hunt. The Malheur, Owyhee, and Snake River drainages look particularly promising for a combination hunt of this type.

Valley quail production is up in eastern Oregon with the populations particularly high in Lake, Harney, and Malheur Counties. The season has been extended through December, the same as for chukars, to take advantage of the abundant supply. Mountain quail have been included in the eastern Oregon extended

(Continued on Page 4)

Strutting sage grouse.



1963 UPLAND GAME AND WATERFOWL SEASONS

Species	Open Season	Open Area	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Upland Game:				
Mourning Dove	Sept. 1-30	Entire State	10	20
Band-tailed Pigeon	Sept. 1-30	Entire State	8	8
Silver Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1-Oct. 31	*Southwest Area	4	4
	Entire year	*Northwest Oregon	No Limit	
Blue and Ruffed Grouse	Sept. 7-22	*Eastern Oregon	3	6
	Sept. 7-15	*Western Oregon		
Sage Grouse	Sept. 7-15	Harney and that part of Malheur Co. S. of U.S. Highway 20.	2	2
Cock Pheasants	8 a.m. Oct. 12-Nov. 24	All counties except Malheur	3	12
Malheur Pheasants	8 a.m. Oct. 26-Nov. 24	Malheur county	4	12(d)
*Quail	8 a.m. Oct. 12-Nov. 24	All counties except Malheur	10(a)	20
*Malheur Quail	8 a.m. Oct. 26-Nov. 24	Malheur county	10(a)	20
*Extended Quail	Nov. 25-Dec. 31	*Eastern Oregon	10(a)	20
Chukar and Hungarian Partridge	Sept. 7-Dec. 31	*Eastern Oregon	8	16
Waterfowl:				
Duck	**1 p.m. Oct. 8-Jan. 5	Entire state	4(b)	8
Goose	**1 p.m. Oct. 8-Jan. 5	Entire state	3(c)	6
Coot	**1 p.m. Oct. 8-Jan. 5	Entire state	25	25
Black Brant	Nov. 18-Jan. 31	Entire state	3	3
Snipe	Oct. 26-Dec. 9	Entire state	8	8
American & Red-breasted Merganser	**1 p.m. Oct. 8-Jan. 5	Entire state	5	10

FOOTNOTES TO SEASON TABLE

- (a) Singly or in the aggregate.
 (b) Includes not more than 2 wood ducks and 1 hooded merganser a day, and 2 wood ducks and 2 hooded mergansers in possession. No open season on redheads or canvasbacks.
 In addition to other bag and possession limits, 2 more mallards are allowed in the daily bag and 4 more mallards in the possession limit in Baker, Gilliam, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wasco Counties.
 (c) Daily bag limit may be increased to 6 providing 3 or more are snow geese. One Ross's goose allowed in daily bag or in possession.
 (d) One hen pheasant may be included in the possession limit in Malheur County from November 16 through November 24.

*DEFINITIONS:

- Quail—applies to valley quail and mountain quail. (No open season on bobwhites.)
 Western Oregon—All counties west of the summit of the Cascades.
 Eastern Oregon—All counties east of the summit of the Cascades, including all of Klamath County.
 Southwest Area—All of Benton, Linn, Lane, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Jackson, and Josephine Counties and Klamath County west of U. S. Hwy. 97.
 Northwest Area—All of Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Polk, Columbia and Yamhill Counties.
 **Daylight Time.

Game Bird Outlook

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season and fair hunting is anticipated in the northeastern section of the state.

Production measurements in early August revealed a pheasant crop comparable to last year over the state as a whole. A slight decline in the number of pheasants observed in western Oregon is believed due largely to the late harvest of crops which made birds difficult to see. Fewer pheasants were seen in the Klamath Basin and Crook County but the rest of eastern Oregon showed an increase. Approximately 20 per cent more birds were seen in eastern Oregon this year than last and the outlook in Umatilla and Malheur Counties is quite favorable. An early hatch was indicated by the fact that 86 per cent of all broods observed were at least a month old on August 1st. On the basis of this information, the Commission authorized a state-

wide season (exclusive of Malheur County) extending for a week longer than last year. Bag and possession limits remain the same.

An increase in the acreage of alfalfa seed and a forecast of a later than normal harvest of beets and other crops in Malheur County induced the Commission to postpone the opening of the pheasant and quail season in that area until October 26. Hunters, dogs, and harassed birds have in the past caused substantial losses of valuable alfalfa seed and destroyed landowner tolerance for both wildlife and hunting. This consideration of the landowners' problem should increase the area accessible to hunters and make the birds more available. Since pheasant production is above normal in Malheur County this fall, one hen is included in the possession limit during the last nine days of the season to hold the population at a compatible level and reduce crop damage next spring.

Waterfowl

The drought, which has eliminated much of the waterfowl breeding area in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Great Basin since 1959, has apparently broken. The improved marsh conditions allowed ducks in limited numbers to nest successfully and raise large broods. This crop of birds should provide Oregon hunters with better hunting than was experienced in 1962.

Summer breeding ground surveys indicate a modest increase in duck production. Based on these findings the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed the western states a choice of (1) a 90-day straight season with a bag limit of 4 ducks a day and 8 in possession, or a bag limit of 5 and a possession limit of 5; or (2) a 75-day season with a bag limit of 5 and a possession limit of 10, or a bag and possession limit of 6. A split season with a 10 per cent penalty in season length was a further option for both the 90-day and 75-day seasons. Regardless of the choice of dates, all seasons had to be scheduled within a 93-day framework extending from October 5 to January 5.

In order to allow as many recreation hunting days as possible within the framework and to span choice hunting periods in all parts of the state, the Commission selected an October 8 to January 5 duck and goose season with a bag limit of 4 ducks and a possession limit of 8. Two additional mallards are allowed in the bag in nine counties in northeastern Oregon where wintering populations of these birds have continued to increase with the development of habitat in the Columbia Basin.

Canvasbacks and redheads are still in short supply and are again offered com-

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"Stay out of my bailiwick!"



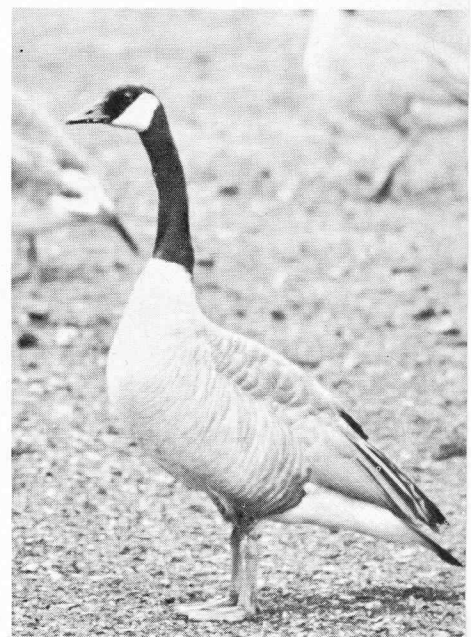
Heads and tails.



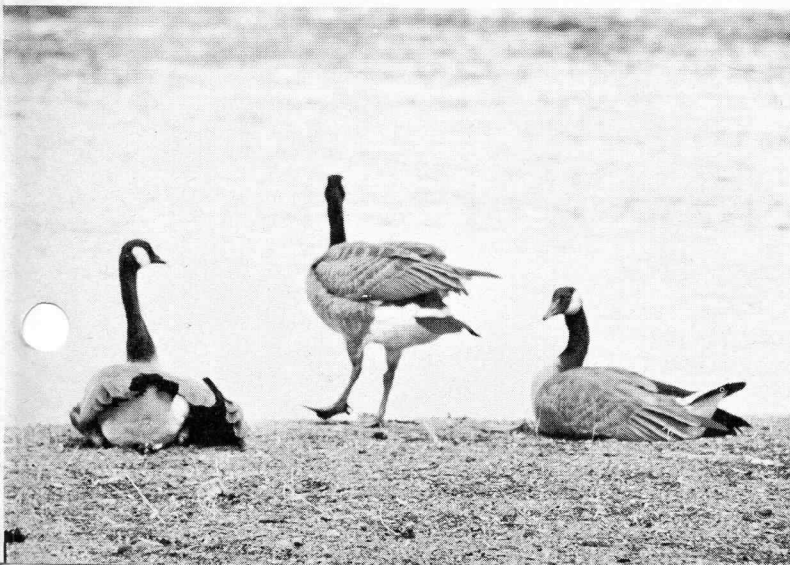
"I am goin' my way."

Gaggle of Geese

By
Ron Shay



Head honker.



"Stepping out again?"



"What this place lacks is quiet and peace."



Drawings were held August 14 for antlerless deer tags for the following units: Baker, Clatsop, Deschutes, Fort Rock, Grizzly, Klamath, Maupin, Maury, Metolius, Ochoco, Paulina, Rogue, Sherman, Silvies, Trask, Warner, and Wasco. Those applicants whose numbers were not drawn will be issued tags for their second or third choice if available. If all choices on an application are filled, it will be returned so the hunter can indicate a choice of one of the unfilled units.

Tags for unfilled units will be issued in the order applications are received.

* * *

The first returning summer steelheads reared at Whistler's Bend experimental rearing impoundment on the North Umpqua, released a year and a half ago, were seen coming through the Winchester counting station. Twenty-two of the steelhead examined bore the Whistler's Bend mark. Bulk of the fish from this release is not expected in the river until next summer.

* * *

Any youngster 17 years of age or under desiring to hunt this fall is reminded he must possess a certificate of competency in safe handling of firearms. Hunter safety instructors have been holding classes in most cities, towns, and some rural areas. A list of instructors is available at game license agencies.

* * *

The estimated trout catch at Diamond Lake as of the middle of July was 126,700. The bigger proportion of the fish were the native rainbow strain. Opening weekend produced approximately 22,600 fish for 4,050 anglers.

* * *

Catch data analysis for the Sandy River indicates that an estimated 25,076 anglers this season caught 1,302 steelhead of which 15 per cent (195 fish) were marked. The calculated escapement above Marmot Dam was 3,326, which is substantially greater than the 10-year average of 2,380 fish.

Dodging Deer is No Highway Game

By Jerry Chiappetta*

A drive in America's "North Country" can be a refreshing thing with nature's panorama unfolding before the windshield of your car—your giant screen through which you view the country.

But there is a hazard engineers can't fence out; a hazard lawmakers can't legislate against; a hazard that can ruin your motor trip—maybe even you or your family. This is the hazardous game of dodging deer and other big game that gets worse with each new driver, with each new mile of high-speed super highway.

Actually, hitting deer is one of this nation's most startling, unpublicized motoring problems today as we discovered during a five-month 50-state survey of this highway headache.

We learned for the first time that in 1960, 113 deer and other large animals were killed on our highways every single day of the year, or 41,311 for the year BY ACTUAL COUNT.

One of the many wildlife experts we interviewed for this exclusive study said that for every single big game animal reported as "known killed on the roads, there must be at least 50 others hit by cars or causing accidents that are never reported to us." If this specialist is anywhere near correct, and I believe he is, this means there are more than two million animal-caused mishaps every year in the U.S.A.!

Our study was concerned with big game animals only because no state even attempted to keep records on the millions of rabbits, pheasants, and other small creatures which are killed each year or cause motorists headaches and nervous moments on the roads.

We asked for statistics on only known dead deer and we came up with some fantastic results. Pennsylvania had the most shocking report—about 7,500 deer killed every year on highways.

Other states with high kills on the roads included:

*NOTE: Reprinted from the "Dodge News Magazine" via the "South Dakota Conservation Digest." Personal experience prompted writing of this article by Jerry Chiappetta, outdoor editor of The State Journal of Lansing, Michigan. When a deer leaped in front of his car, he couldn't stop. His car was nearly demolished; his wife and three children ended up in a hospital; the deer was killed. With new curiosity, he investigated and found that deer and cars are a highly dangerous mixture in every part of the United States—including Oregon and other western states.

California, about 5,000 per year; Michigan 3,000; New York, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Minnesota all had over 1,000 kills per year.

No state escapes the problem. Even Hawaii and Alaska were included. The 49th state reported 44 moose killed by motor vehicles. Hitting one of these one-ton-plus animals can be terrifying. One woman on the Maine turnpike was killed in such a mishap.

Our purpose here is not to frighten any motorist but to point out by actual state-by-state figures how serious this problem is. And there is nothing anyone—except the driver—can do about it.

We can't change the weather, but we always like to know what the report is like. So knowing the habits of deer and what makes one want to cross a highway is halfway toward avoiding a collision with one of these fine animals.

We learned that spring and fall are the two most dangerous seasons, although deer are always crossing. In the spring, deer and other large animals are on the move after a hungry winter in the deep woods. They are looking for the lush, green grass along the roads and looking for the salts used in many states to melt ice and snow.

In the fall, hunters and dogs keep the animals stirred up and on the move. The mating instinct also keeps the animals on the move.

Most large animals involved in highway collisions—deer, bear, moose, antelope, mule deer and blacktail deer—are night creatures who hole up during the daylight hours. Therefore most of them are on or near highways from a few hours before sundown until a few hours after sunrise.

Don't relax your guard at high noon. A dog or hunter may kick up a deer and send him bounding your way as you drive by!

Dozens of interviews with game experts, traffic safety officials, and policemen who are veterans of deer country highway patrols produced the following suggestions for defensive driving in big game country:

First, don't laugh at "deer crossing" or "game area" warning signs. Slow down in these areas, especially at night and

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Game Bird Outlook

(Continued from Page 4)

plete protection. Wood ducks, however, have increased and hunters will be allowed to take 2 of these beautiful birds as part of their daily bag.

Flights of geese are expected to be similar in size to those which winged down the flyway last year. The season has been set to run concurrent with the duck season with a bag limit of 3 geese a day and 6 in possession. One Ross' goose can be legally taken for the first time since 1931.

Hunters should find fair shooting in Klamath, Lake, and Harney Counties during October on both geese and ducks. Elsewhere early hunting will be primarily on locally raised mallards.

By early November large flights of mallards, widgeon, and teal arrive from the north to winter in Oregon. These birds will provide most of the late hunting in western Oregon and along the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

A summary of game bird seasons and bags limits is provided in the accompanying table.

Dodging Deer Is No Highway Game

(Continued from Page 6)

invite your wife or other passengers to help you keep a big game lookout.

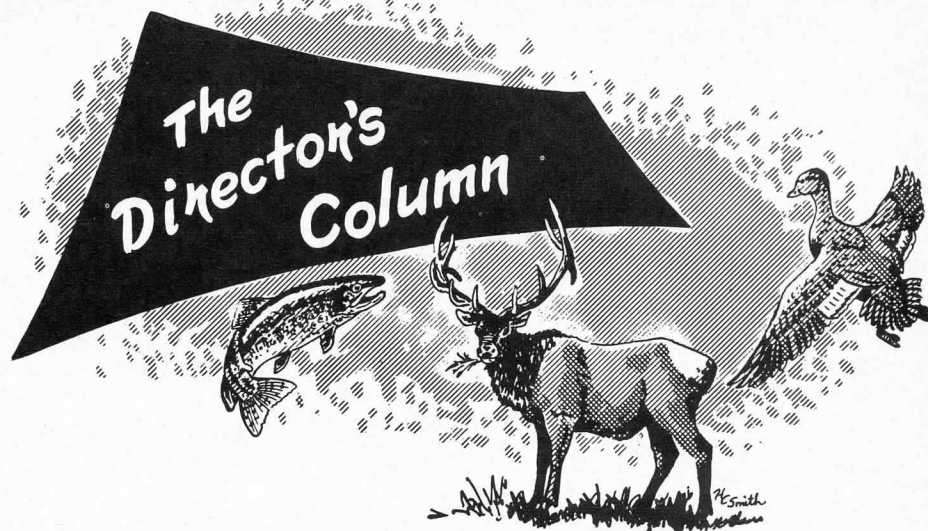
Deer don't necessarily cross right at the sign, so don't relax too much just because you pass such a warning. Driving, as any good motorist realizes, is a full time job. Having extra eyes scanning the edge of the highway for animals is a big help.

Next, if you see one deer leap across the road, look out for others nearby. They travel in pairs or small groups most of the time.

If you see a deer "frozen" by your headlights on the roadway, blink your lights, sound your horn and immediately slow down. Stop if necessary. Don't trust the animal to get out of the way. Blinking your lights can break that trance and allow the animal to get out of the way.

Finally, the experts suggested that should there be a deer in your lane and it is impossible to stop safely—KILL THE DEER rather than swerve into the oncoming traffic or lose control of your car and wind up in a ditch!

These tips are from veterans in the field who hope your next drive through big game country will be a safe and enjoyable one. After all, the deer you don't kill might be next year's hunting trophy.



CONTINUED welfare of fish and wildlife resources of this country has always been an important objective of our people. This interest and economic importance for the perpetuation of these resources resulted in early provision for an appropriate agency charged with the stewardship of fish and wildlife.

The Oregon Game Commission is typical of the type of agency established in every state. In common with other functions of government, or for that matter of private enterprise, it takes money to operate programs such as executed by this Commission. Likewise, many years ago the principle was established that the financing of a fish and game program in most states depended essentially upon revenues accruing from the issuance of hunting and angling licenses. As the task of maintaining fish and game stocks became more complicated, dependence solely upon license revenue under a so-called dedicated fund and self-sustaining program has become difficult. Many states have had to broaden their base of financing fish and game programs by securing additional funds over license revenues from various sources ranging all the way from general fund appropriations to pari mutuel revenues.

This Commission traditionally has relied upon license revenue to maintain basic elements of its program. Over 82 per cent of its financing has arisen from this source with the bulk of the remainder coming from the specific tax on sporting arms and ammunition and sports fishing tackle. No general fund revenue has ever been available to it. Furthermore, the Commission, unlike most governmental entities, pays local property taxes on certain of its properties.

In recent years a worrisome trend has developed which is tending to jeopardize the possibility not only of the Commission's ability to develop a program commensurate with the needs of the resource but to maintain its wholly inadequate current program. This has to do with the gradually increasing diversion of game funds to functions over which the Commission has no jurisdiction although still cloaked with the responsibility for stewardship of the resources involved.

Each diversion, when taken individually, poses a logical and arguable validity. The accumulative effect, however, of such diversions is resulting in a gradual and effective deterrent to this Commission's program.

It is probably not realized that of total revenues currently accruing to the Oregon Game Commission, a total of 19.8 per cent or about one-fifth is allocated to other agencies or authorities for functions and programs beyond the purview of this Commission. In fairness to the recipients of these funds, all of whom carry out fine programs, it should be pointed out that most of the diverted funds involved are devoted to related programs and consequently contribute to the welfare of the resource either directly or indirectly. However, this practice has made it necessary, at a time when there is a crying need for the Commission to expand certain elements of its program, to curtail its operations instead. Fortunately this growing tendency has occurred at a time when most categories of the resource are in excellent condition. It is hoped that a reversal of this trend will take place before serious declines in Oregon's splendid fish and wildlife resources result.

P. W. Schneider

HOME ON THE RANGE

CURRENT EMPHASIS upon the elimination of sage brush, rabbit brush, and juniper as a means of stimulating grass production for domestic animals on arid ranges is being carefully examined by wildlife and public land management agencies to determine the effects of those programs upon beneficial forms of wildlife.

Studies of the food habits of wildlife indicate that many species rely heavily on shrubs for both food and cover and that sage brush frequently provides a large part of the winter diet of mule deer, antelope, and sage grouse. These findings give cause to question the contribution of large scale grass rehabilitation programs to wildlife values.

Several segments of study have been initiated by the Oregon Game Commission in an effort to evaluate the effects of range developments and determine practical methods of increasing wildlife production.

This year the Bureau of Land Management is chemically treating about 158,000 acres of range land to suppress shrubs that are competing with grasses

for the available moisture. Nearly half of this treated area is in the Vale District in Malheur County where an extensive range improvement program is to compensate for a temporary reduction in the number of domestic animals permitted upon public lands.

Many different types of development, including spraying, burning, reseeding, fencing, and water development, are scheduled in the Vale District. However, the dominant treatment will be to spray the shrubs in areas that have good soil and a remnant of grass cover and through protection allow the grasses to recover. Herbicides are applied by airplane and helicopter and an effort is made to preserve shrubs in areas that are heavily used by wildlife.

In designing range improvement programs, the Bureau of Land Management has sought technical assistance from the Game Commission to preclude any detrimental effect on wildlife production and, where possible, to enhance wildlife values.

The two agencies have cooperated fully but much of the knowledge required



Plane used for spraying sage brush.

to reliably forecast effects on wildlife is not available.

In an effort to evaluate the effects of various treatments applied in the Vale District, one of the Commission's biologists will systematically record changes in the distribution and density of antelope, deer, sage grouse, chukars, and quail on treated areas and compare findings with the trends occurring in similar untreated areas. These findings, when coordinated with the Bureau's records of the actual changes in vegetation and other benefits resulting from the treatments, should provide a basis for more efficient "multiple use" planning in the future.

Dr. Lyle Calvin of the Statistical Department of Oregon State University has assisted with design of the Vale project study to assure that the findings will be secured in a statistically sound manner. Close liaison is also maintained with other O.S.U. departments that are in a position to provide technical assistance.

Other segments of the study include a search for methods of making native shrubs such as sage brush more palatable through use of fertilizers, trial plantings of other potential food plants, systematic evaluation of the effect of water development on distribution of wildlife, and studies of the effects of insects, rodents, and domestic animals on plants that contribute to production of wildlife.

—Miles O. Langdon,
Game Range Technician

Helicopter being loaded for spraying job.



Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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