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the cover

Many persons go hunting just for the pleasure of outdoor camping. These big game hunters are enjoying everything, including the art of spud peeling (he probably wouldn't be caught dead doing this at home). (Photo by Ron Shay)

ELK APPLICATIONS DUE

Applications for controlled and unit elk hunt permits must be in the Portland office of the Game Commission by 5 p. m., September 18, in order to be included in the drawing to be held a week later, September 25. Application forms may be secured from license agencies. Each applicant is required to have a hunting license and general elk tag. A total of 2000 permits will be issued for the 12 areas open to hunting for elk of either sex.

The Red Hat Days Story

The Red Hat Days story began early in the winter of 1955 when a group of sportsmen asked themselves the question, "What can we do to reduce the problems that have strained relations between sportsmen and landowners?"

They were agreed that two courses of action were available: (1) more restrictions in the nature of limited access, more stringent laws and regulations and costlier enforcement; or (2) a state-wide educational program aimed at making sportsmen aware of their outdoor responsibilities. The latter course was chosen; groups, associations, and agencies interested in the problems were contacted, the state's chief executive endorsed the program; a state committee was appointed and the wheels were set in motion for the initial observance of Red Hat Days in 1955. Two chapters of the Red Hat story have now been completed, one in that year and the second in 1956. The third is now being written.

What has the story disclosed thus far? What gains, if any, have been made? A review of the activity for the past two years may help answer these questions.

Since its inception the Red Hat Days program has been cosponsored by approximately 26 state-wide organizations representing a variety of land use and recreational interests. A state committee appointed by the Governor provides direction for the program but its success at the grass roots level has been dependent upon a county organization headed up by Red Hat Days county chairmen, also appointees of the Governor. The program has been financed and publicized through voluntary contributions of money, services, and materials. Sportsmen's groups and timber companies have provided almost all of the cash contributions. Other agencies and business firms have contributed many hundreds of dollars worth of services and materials without charge. Radio and television stations, and newspapers have provided much free time and space to publicize the Red Hat Days program. The two primary publicity items have been the Red Hat Pledge cards and buttons; posters and window display cards have also been used extensively.

The objectives of the program are best described by the RED HAT PLEDGE which reads:

I give my pledge
To be law abiding

To respect the rights and property of others

To be careful with fire and firearms.

These are the points that have been emphasized in the Red Hat story thus far. The program has been directed primarily at hunters but the principles of the pledge are applicable as well to all users of the outdoors. Has hunter behavior improved as a result of the Red Hat Days program? First of all it should be made clear that the majority of hunters are and always will be conscientious, courteous, and law abiding. It has been a relatively small minority of the hunting fraternity who have created the problems. It is for them that the Red Hat program is designed.

A summary of observations following the 1955 hunting seasons disclosed progress in areas where previous statistics, such as on hunter-caused fires and firearms casualties, were available. This was extremely encouraging considering that more efficient methods of assembling such information were developed and considering the additional publicity and interest aroused over such activities. Reports from farmer-timber owners, and land management agencies revealed that hunter behavior was improved over previous years. This is not to imply that there were not acts of vandalism, trespass and other unlawful activities.

In its initial year the Red Hat program was received with considerable enthusiasm and was well accepted in all parts of the state.

Last year Red Hat Days, with the newness worn off, made less of an impact on the public although publicity efforts were approximately the same as in the previous year. This was to be expected and it does not necessarily mean that the program was received with less enthusiasm. Progress was again noted in the reduction of the number of hunting casualties and hunter-caused fires. It is difficult to assess the total picture of hunter behavior. Many reports came in to the Red Hat Days Committee indicating that hunter behavior was the best that had ever been observed. Other reports were received painting a rather poor picture of hunter behavior. Last year, more than ordinary efforts were expended in assembling information on hunter conduct. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association made the most intensive survey in this respect. Their survey

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why do you hunt?



By C. B. Walsh, Assistant Director

EACH year toward the end of the summer my wife says that she begins to detect a growing absent-mindedness on my part. She says that while she is talking to me, she will notice a far-away look in my eyes and she suddenly realizes that I haven't heard a word that she has been saying. After many years, she has come to recognize the symptoms and she knows exactly what to expect next. The absent-mindedness and far-away look increase at a rapid rate. The next step follows soon. Guns that have been in the rack for months are cleaned and recleaned. Old camping gear comes out of the closet and is spread out over the living room floor. What causes these strange reactions? It's obvious, of course—hunting seasons are approaching.

Now this strange malady is not unique, I am certain. The same thing happens to at least a quarter of a million others here in Oregon and it invariably follows the same pattern. The build-up starts with the first crisp mornings of fall. Each day the feeling becomes a little more intense. This continues until the opening day of the first hunting season. By that time the tension has built to such a point that it is almost explosive. We have all observed this and have experienced it but have you ever stopped to wonder just what causes this mass phenomena? Probably you haven't. It just happens to you. I doubt if I had ever given it any particular thought, or

if I had, I merely passed it off with the thought that it is all because I like to hunt.

Just recently I began to think a little more about it and strangely enough, the thing that made me stop and think about it was an article about fishing. Fishing, of course, doesn't usually start one to think about hunting, unless luck is unusually bad, but this particular article brought out a point that I felt was worth passing along.

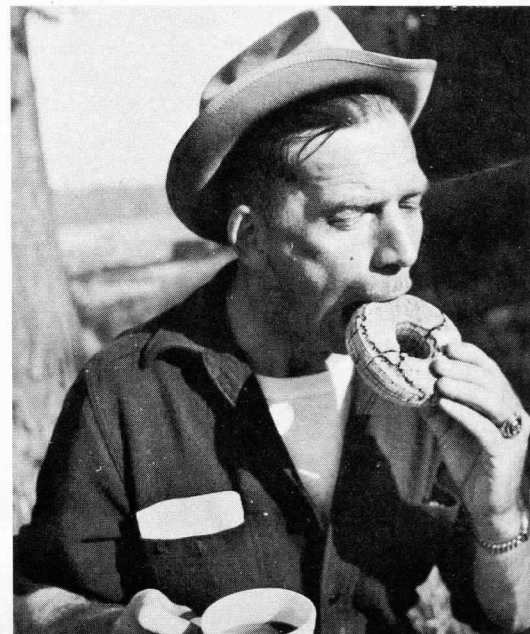
In this story, a small boy had walked up to an angler, who was busily engaged in casting a plug. The boy watched the angler for some time, then out of a clear sky asked the simple question, "What you fishin' for, Mister?" The answer from the busy fisherman was just one word, "Bass." The story would have been the same if the answer had been trout, salmon or any other game fish. In this case, however, after answering the question the fisherman began to wonder. Just what was he fishing for? It was certainly a simple question but it could be taken two ways. Changing it just a bit it could have been stated, "Why are you fishing?" Was it a fact that he was fishing for the sole purpose of catching a fish or was there more to this sport of angling than just catching a fish. Surely he was fishing for more than a bass.

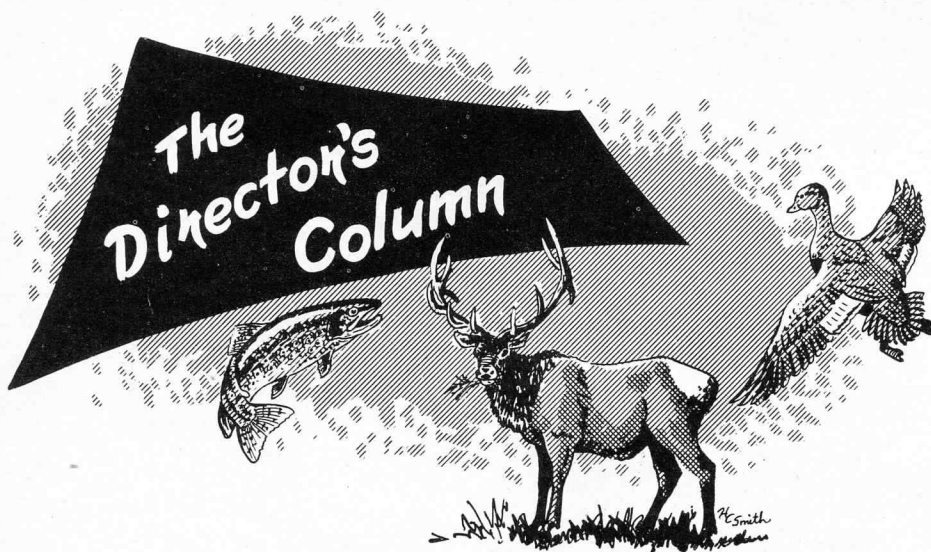
At the time that I read this article, I was the victim of the strange malady that we have just described. As the

fisherman in the story, I began to wonder. Just why was it that I could just barely wait for the pheasant season to open? Why couldn't I sleep the night before I left for a deer hunting trip? Why was I completely happy to slog through the mud of a marsh and the driving rain to reach a duck blind? My wife thinks no one in his right mind could enjoy something like that. Surely this was not just to supply a few birds and some meat for my locker. I could get meat at the corner market possibly cheaper, possibly better, and certainly

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And what does our author enjoy most while hunting? Chow—even if it's nothing more than strong coffee and hard doughnuts.





THE Oregon State Game Commission, an operating agency of the executive branch of state government, is responsible for the protection and management of one of Oregon's important renewable natural resources—fish and wildlife. Like any other management and service entity, either public or private, the Commission deals with many goods and services as well as regulatory and surveillance duties within a framework of duties imposed by the people of the state through the legislature. The Game Code, under which this Commission operates, is one developed over a period of many years by the legislature. It places serious responsibilities upon the Commission and its employees toward the resources involved which can neither be exceeded nor avoided.

In the performance of the broad duties prescribed by statute in a growing state and in a climate of an increasing demand for a product in relatively short supply, it has been necessary over the years to expand the Commission's physical plant and operating program. As more knowledge of the resources involved has been acquired, a more effective management and operating program has been activated. The physical plant alone in terms of capital investment represents an initial cost of approximately \$7,000,000. The operation and maintenance of this physical plant, as well as the execution of the numerous day to day functions of the Commission in the fish and game resources field, as in any other field of endeavor, costs money.

There is an occasional misunderstanding as to the source of revenues available to the Commission in carrying out its program. If inquiries and com-

ments frequently reaching this office are indicative, many individuals assume that general tax funds are used. Such is not the case. Traditionally, except for certain federal funds in recent years, the sole source of revenue available to the Commission has been and continues to be that derived from hunting, angling and trapping licenses issued. Only the direct user who engages in hunting, fishing or trapping pays the direct assessment. From this license revenue the Commission also must meet other financial obligations such as the payment of local taxes on certain properties and for other state services.

Federal funds available to the Commission arise primarily from excise tax revenues on sporting arms and ammunition and sports fishing tackle under the terms of the federal Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts respectively. These are shared in common by all the states and again originate with the direct user of fish and game who pays such taxes at the time he purchases his equipment. Other federal funds are represented by elements of the Columbia River Fishery Development Program and of the Willamette Valley Project of the U. S. Corps of Engineers. Willamette Valley Project funds are made available on the basis of restitution and protection of fish and game occasioned by the extensive installations being constructed in this river system.

Although the point of the above comments is to make clear that general tax monies are neither used nor available to the Commission for its program, nevertheless, license revenues constitute public funds which must be used effectively and prudently. Every possible value must be and is realized from every

expenditure made. With the increasing demand for fish and game and more intensive use of land and water for other purposes, the management of our fish and game will become more complex and costly. Under the present method of financing, the scope of the program will be determined from year to year by both the license structure and the number of license holders. It may be that, as in some other states, a new concept and a re-evaluation of the fiscal aspect of our fish and game program must be made.

P. W. SCHNEIDER.

THE RED HAT DAYS STORY

(Continued from page 2)

revealed an unfortunate incidence of trespass, damage to property, and the killing of domestic stock. However, this cannot be interpreted as meaning that hunter behavior was worse than in previous years. The effort expended in assembling the information plus the attendant publicity merely brought to light a situation that has existed in previous years to which public attention had not been drawn before. As a matter of fact it is entirely possible that hunter behavior generally was better last year than in previous years. A true picture of these conditions can be obtained only following many years of systematic collection of such information.

Visible gains have been made in more than one aspect of hunter behavior in the past two years. Even had there been no gains, the Red Hat Days story has provided a most important lesson—an appreciation of the problems that do exist and their magnitude and an awareness on the part of the public that these unfortunate incidents do happen. This, in itself, is worth the effort and time that have gone into the Red Hat Days story thus far.

The story has only begun. Far greater gains must be made in order to assure the continuation of present hunting opportunities. Whether or not the story of Red Hat Days has a happy ending depends upon you and you alone. You will write the final chapter by the way in which you meet your outdoor obligations.



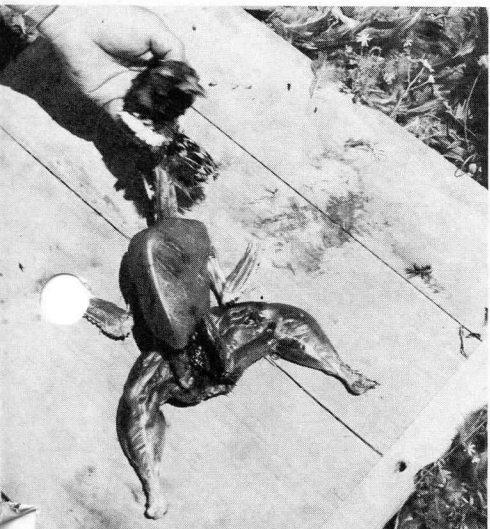


1. A bird in the hand is of prime importance. The plumper the pheasant, the better the eating, especially when it has been properly cleaned and dressed as here demonstrated.



3. Reach in under the breast and pull out entrails in one group. Lungs may be taken out separately. Slit skin to remove crop if full of food. Wipe excess blood and intestinal juices from body cavity with dry cloth, leaves, or grass. (Cleaned gizzard, heart and liver may be put back into body cavity).

6. Law requires identity of sex, so if bird is dressed in the field the head should be left "attached" to the body until you reach home.

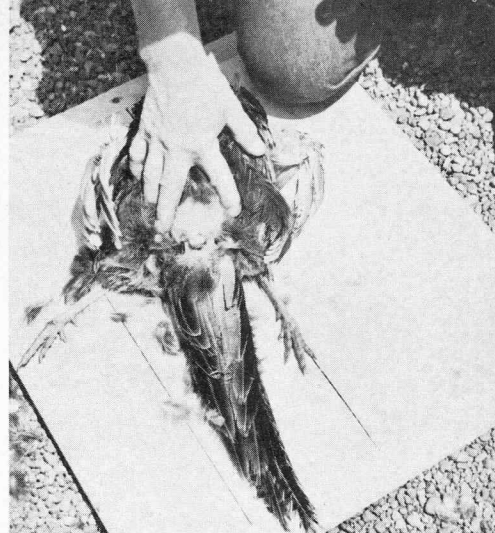


How To Dress Your Pheasant



4. Birds may be dressed by (a) dry picking, most easily done while bird is still warm; (b) using scalding water and wet picking; or (c) skinning as shown here. Start at any break in the skin or start by tearing with fingers.

7. Meat may be readily preserved by freezing in plastic bag. Bird may be left whole for roasting, if that's the way you prefer it, or

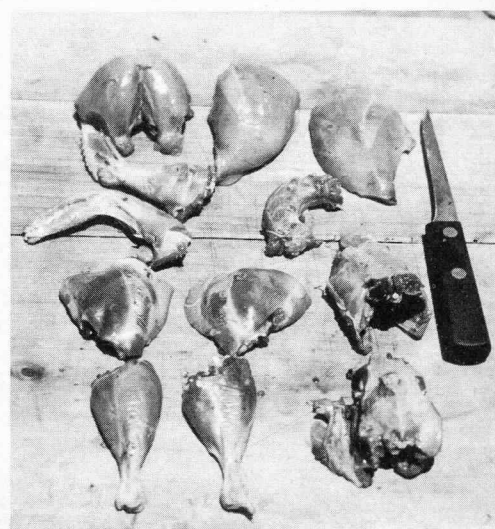


2. Start by plucking feathers from around the vent area. Then with knife slit around vent and up to top of breastbone. Pull vent and attached intestine out a few inches.



5. Pull skin away from breast, then pull out along legs, wings and neck and away from back. Sever legs at knee joint and wings at wrist joint. Tail feathers may be pulled out or tail cut off completely. Wash thoroughly with cold water, removing all shot, imbedded feathers and blood clots from the meat.

8. It may be cut up for frying, as preferred by many. Soaking meat in salt water solution for several hours removes excess blood.





When the pigeons aren't flying, what more could you ask for than just to sit and relax in the sunshine?

WHY DO YOU HUNT?

(Continued from page 3)

under easier conditions. Surely it was not just to try my skill with rifle or shotgun. I could do that at the trap grounds or the rifle range. I certainly hope it wasn't the outcropping of a primitive lust to kill. There must be more. There must be many values that go along with hunting that go far beyond the meat value. If this weren't true, this mass excitement wouldn't take hold of us all as it does. The other values are there, there can be no doubt of it. These other values are always difficult to put into words but difficult as they are to describe, they are the real values—the values that count.

In this day of modern game management we hear it said many times that game is a crop—a crop to be harvested wisely. We now realize that our winter ranges will support just so many deer and if they are overstocked, not only do we have deer losses during hard winters but our range is injured as well. We hear that we should kill a certain number of deer in this area and a certain number in another area. We hear that in a certain area brood counts for pheasants are up and we can kill a few more than last year or that there has been a good waterfowl hatch so the season will be longer and so on. This is as it should be if we are to manage our wildlife resources wisely but it is also possible that with our modern scientific approach, we as individual hunters may be losing something that is priceless. Perhaps some of us are so used to thinking in terms of the kill that we have become a little calloused, even to the point where we hunt primarily to gather meat. And perhaps some of us actually are hunting primarily for prestige, bragging material to put it bluntly. Some of us may be thinking of hunting

strictly as a competition with our fellow hunters to too great a degree—get the game before the other fellow does. With each of us gradually changes have come, changes in our hunting philosophies. These changes have come so gradually that we as individuals have not noticed them in ourselves. We notice in others but only in the other fellow.

It is quite possible that we have deteriorated as a group and if we stop to look around, we can see that this has had some extremely bad results. Who hasn't heard the story during hunting seasons—hunting accidents, vandalism, law violations, all seemingly on the increase. It is true that the great majority of these unsportsmanlike acts are carried out by a rather small per cent of our hunters. But stop and think of your own actions during the past few years. Have you ever been in such a hurry to change hunting camp location that you forgot to leave a clean camp? Have you ever been tempted after a long unsuccessful day to take a pot-shot at a covey



Nature can always provide an amusing sight if you stop long enough to look—like this golden mantel squirrel showing off for your benefit.

of quail that were running across the highway? Have you ever been a little careless with your shotgun when a big cock flushed between you and a fellow hunter? Well, perhaps, none of us would care to admit it even though in some small way we may be guilty of contributing to this growing lack of sportsmanship. Why not admit it and seek some method of correcting this trend?

This year let's stop for a moment and re-examine our personal values. Stop whatever you are doing and ask yourself, "Why do I hunt?" After a little thought the answer may be something like this, "To get outdoors and once again enjoy the crisp fall air. To enjoy camping with my friends (how that fresh air builds up my appetite). To make new acquaintances among my fellow hunters. To renew my old acquaintances with all of the wonders of nature. To test my skill and knowledge at stalking." And finally, "To make a clean kill if my stalking is successful."

Let's enjoy our hunting, every minute of it and all of it. Why not take a little more interest in the dog as he works out the pheasant cover? Why not enjoy the antics of the ground squirrels while waiting for that deer? And when bluebird weather keeps the ducks from flying as often as you would like, instead of glowering at the empty skies why not look around a bit. Ten to one a tule wren will try to make friends with you or a muskrat will express his displeasure of you for sitting on his home. There are all manner of pleasant experiences readily available if we just look for them.

It's really pretty simple. There are two ways we can go about our hunting. One way, we can try to beat the other fellow to the game, pay little attention to the landowner, be fast on the trigger, anything to fill the bag. The results of this type of a hunt are easy to guess. One might get meat for his locker but something is missing.

Let's point out two examples. Have you ever seen two otherwise normal men argue over which one of them shot a particular duck? One of them probably eventually winds up with the duck but both of them end up in a state of anger that probably ruins the pleasure of their whole hunting trip. As a second example, have you ever heard of a hunter who was so anxious to make a kill that he fired before he was certain of his target, and an accident was the result? The tone of his hunting trip changed at once. The joy and pleasure of the hunt turned to tragedy in an instant, and the tragedy might last for a

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1957 Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits

East and west, north and south, Oregon hunters should be happy with the open waterfowl season from October 12 to January 14 allowed this year.

The federal regulations permitted a choice of dates for a 95-day season within the outside dates of October 1 to January 15. The 15-day increase over last year's season made it possible to set a general season that will more nearly fit the varying waterfowl conditions in Oregon.

To compensate for the extension of the season, the federal government reduced the daily duck bag limit. Oregon had a choice of either 5 birds a day, 10 in possession, or 6 birds a day and in possession. The former was chosen as it was felt that most hunters preferred to have a possession limit double the daily. A bonus limit of three widgeons and/or pintails is allowed in addition to the daily or possession limit. So Oregon hunters may take 8 ducks a day, have 13 in possession, provided at least three ducks are of the bonus species.

The goose limit remains the same as last year, 6 daily or in possession, including not more than 3 of the dark species. An exception to this is that not

more than 2 Canada geese may be included in the limit in Yamhill, Polk, Benton, Linn and Lane counties.

The brant season selected is from November 16 through January 24 with a bag of 3 daily or in possession. A 30-day season is again allowed for jacksnipe and will run from November 16 through December 15. Bag limit is 8 daily or in possession.

This year a separate bag limit of 5 a day, 10 in possession, will prevail for American and red-breasted mergansers. Last year mergansers had to be counted with the general duck limit.

Other general regulations on waterfowl remain the same as before.

For the public shooting grounds, shooting dates will vary somewhat. Malheur shooting ground will be open only through December 1 and Warner Valley through November 24. Summer Lake shooting ground will be open the entire waterfowl season. At the Sauvies Island public shooting ground hunting will be allowed only on even-numbered days in 1957 and odd-numbered days in 1958 except that shooting will be allowed on January 14, the last day of the waterfowl season.

after the last venison steak is fried or the last duck is roasted. This year, before we go hunting let's ask ourselves, "Why do I hunt?" and if the answer is for the total pleasure of the hunt rather than just a little meat in the pot, there is no better way to start the season than with the Red Hat Pledge:

I pledge

To be law abiding

To respect the rights and property of others

To be careful with fire and firearms.

WHY DO YOU HUNT?

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lifetime.

Then there is the other alternative. We can hunt for the full pleasure of hunting, being courteous to others, law-abiding, thoughtful of the landowner, careful with our fire and firearms, and in the end achieve a thorough enjoyment of every minute of our trips. The memories of a hunting trip patterned along these lines will be with you long

Down through the years the good fellowship of this old hunting camp scene has represented to many one of the chief pleasures of any hunting expedition.



Separate synopses are being printed for both the migratory waterfowl regulations and the trapping regulations. Copies will be available for distribution sometime in September.

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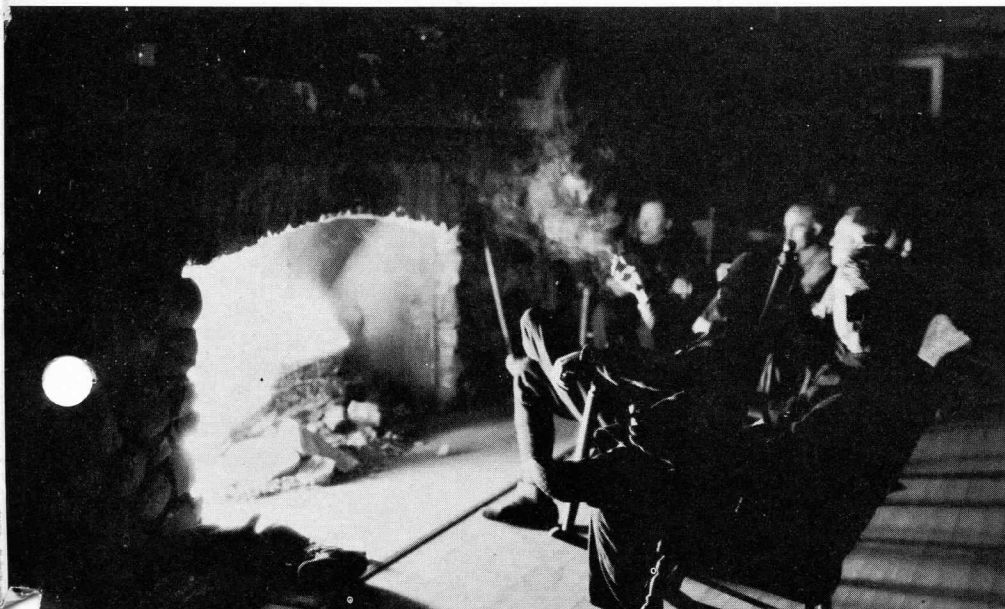
Boat fishing on North Umpqua River reservoirs became permissible with the expiration in August of the statute prohibiting angling from boats. To replace the law the Game Commission passed a regulation closing to boat fishing the North Umpqua River from Winchester Dam to Soda Springs Dam and also small areas on Lemolo and Toketee reservoirs popular with bank anglers. At Lemolo Reservoir boat fishing will not be allowed above lines located 1,200 yards below the head of the arm in the North Umpqua River channel and 625 yards below the head of the arm in the Lake Creek channel. At Toketee Reservoir the area closed to boat fishing is that part above a line designated by markers located about 600 yards below the head of the reservoir.

* * *

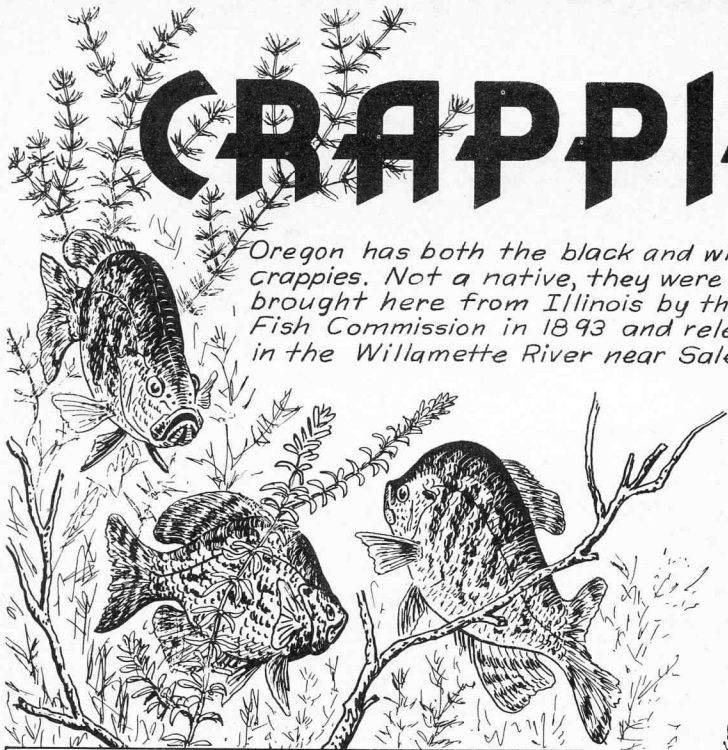
The calculated sport catch of Willamette River spring chinooks totalled 11,500 for 1957, compared to 16,400 in 1956, according to data compiled by the Fish Commission, assisted by the Game Commission. The fish averaged 16.1 pounds, the total weight of the catch being 185,150 pounds or 92.6 tons.

An estimated 95,458 man days of effort were expended in 1957, requiring an average of 8.1 days of angling to catch one salmon.

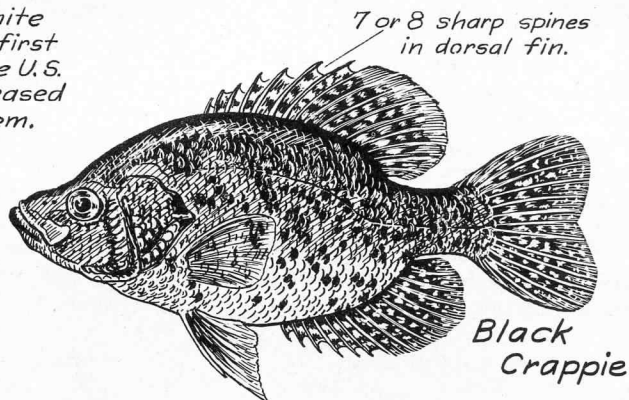
The total run of spring chinook salmon in the Willamette River was estimated to be 52,800 fish. Sport catch was calculated at 21.8 per cent of the total run. Of the total catch, 4,329 chinooks were taken in the lower river and 6,280 in the upper river to Oregon City. Peak of the catch occurred between April 21 and 28.



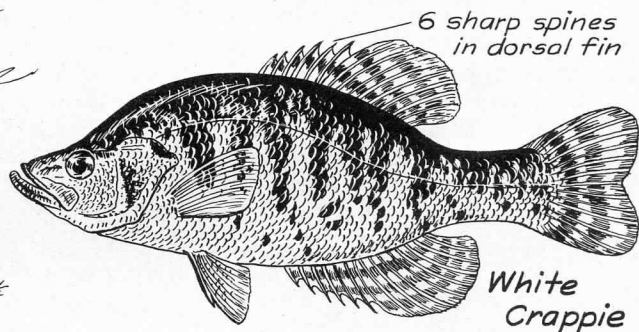
CRAPPIES



Oregon has both the black and white crappies. Not a native, they were first brought here from Illinois by the U.S. Fish Commission in 1893 and released in the Willamette River near Salem.

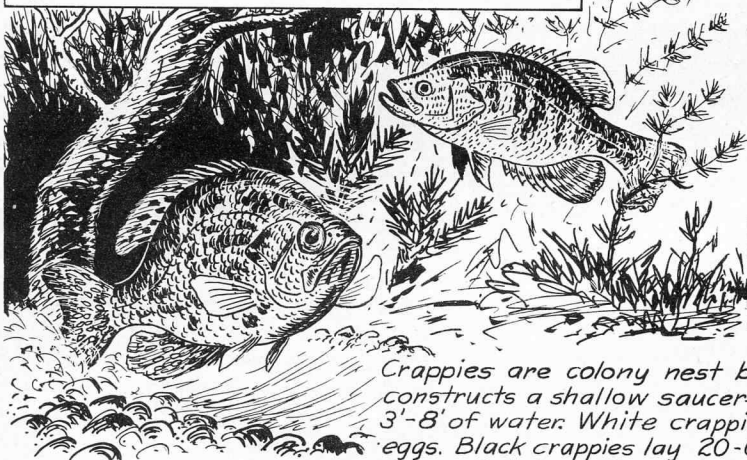


Robust body - gold color with dark markings forming no pattern. Lengths 6"-12". 1 to 2 lbs. Oregon's fish average 8".

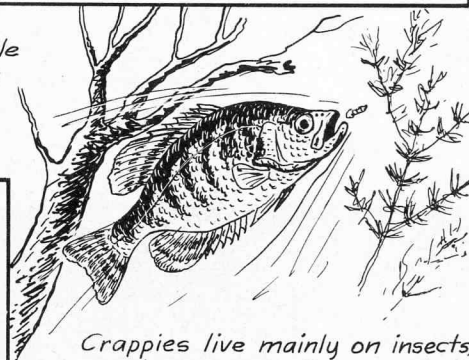
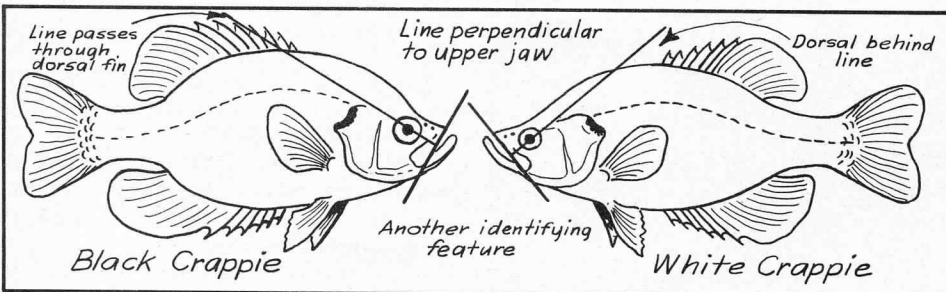


Body elongated - silvery appearance with dark markings forming vertical bars. May be light or dark in general color. Lengths 10"-16". 2-3 lbs. Oregon's fish average 8".

White Crappies can survive in moderately turbid waters. - found in oxbows, lakes, sloughs and ponds where the water is sluggish. The black crappie prefers clear quiet water.



Crappies are colony nest builders, the male constructs a shallow saucer-shaped nest in 3'-8' of water. White crappies lay 2-14,000 eggs. Black crappies lay 20-60,000 eggs. Spawn in late spring or early summer.



Crappies live mainly on insects, crustaceans, crayfish, worms & other small fishes.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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