

OREGON STATE

GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER, 1954





A 35-acre holding pasture, enclosed by 3,100 feet of fence, has been completed at Hart Mountain in preparation to receive mountain sheep. In cooperation with British Columbia Game Commission, plans are underway in British Columbia for trapping of sheep to be shipped to Oregon.

* * *

Ninety-nine doves have been banded this season at Summer Lake, 466 at Warner Valley, 55 at Drakes Flat and 2 at Hermiston, making a total of 622. Dove hunters finding any of the banded birds are asked to report to the Game Commission.

* * *

Deer hunters will find something new on the 1954 deer tags. The tag has dates along the edge of the paper and when a deer is killed, the hunter must tear off that portion of the tag indicating the month and day of the kill. This eliminates the old method of punching out the date, which was susceptible of abuse by "meat" hunters who made a practice of using the same tag more than once by punching a small hole which could be ironed out.

* * *

Efforts of the stream improvement division do pay off. This winter, the Molalla River, which has been cleared of all logging jams, had the largest run of steelhead reported for many years.

* * *

The growing importance of steelhead fishing at the mouth of the Deschutes River increases the need for public access. Through cooperation of landowners and lessees, access is again assured fishermen in the Kloan area and also at the mouth of the river on the Sherman county side. Stiles on the Miller property will reduce damage by anglers crossing fences. Anglers are urged to respect the property owners' rights in consideration of the privilege granted them.

* * *

Rainbow stock from Canada has been received and is being reared at the Wizard Falls hatchery. The fish will be used for the initial plant in Diamond Lake following the removal of its trash fish population this fall.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GAME COMMISSION EMPLOYEES HELD

More than 125 Game Commission employees, representing all divisions of the department, met August 2, 3 and 4 in the old Camp Adair area north of Corvallis for their first training school which is to be an annual affair. Prior to this separate conferences for fish and game personnel had been held for several years.

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At the present time the Bulletin is circulated free of charge to anyone forwarding a written request.

GAME HOGS YOU MAY KNOW . . . by Jack Mitchell

THE "LAW-ABIDING OPPORTUNIST"

He doesn't go out of his way to violate and would be very offended if you accused him of theft. Basically, he's not a "bad egg", but add his kind all up and they spell: "GAME HOG"!



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1954 WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

Oregon waterfowl hunters will have an 80 day shooting season this year, extending from noon October 16 to January 3. These dates, selected by the Game Commission from alternatives offered by the federal government, were felt to be the most equitable for the state as a whole.

The duck bag limit will be 9 a day and 15 in possession, provided at least 3 are widgeons or pintails. Not more than 1 wood duck and not more than 1 hooded merganser may be included in possession limit. The separate bag limit on American and redbreasted mergansers has been eliminated. If any are taken, they are to be counted as part of the general duck limit.

For geese the bag limit is the same as last year, 6 a day and in possession, of which only 3 can be of the dark species. This means at least 3 have to be snow geese.

Shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset except on Sauvie Island shooting ground, where shooting will not be allowed after 4 p.m.

Other seasons are noon October 16 to October 30 for jacksnipe with a bag limit of 8 a day and in possession, and December 1 to February 10 for brant. Brant bag limit is the same as last year, 3 a day and in possession.

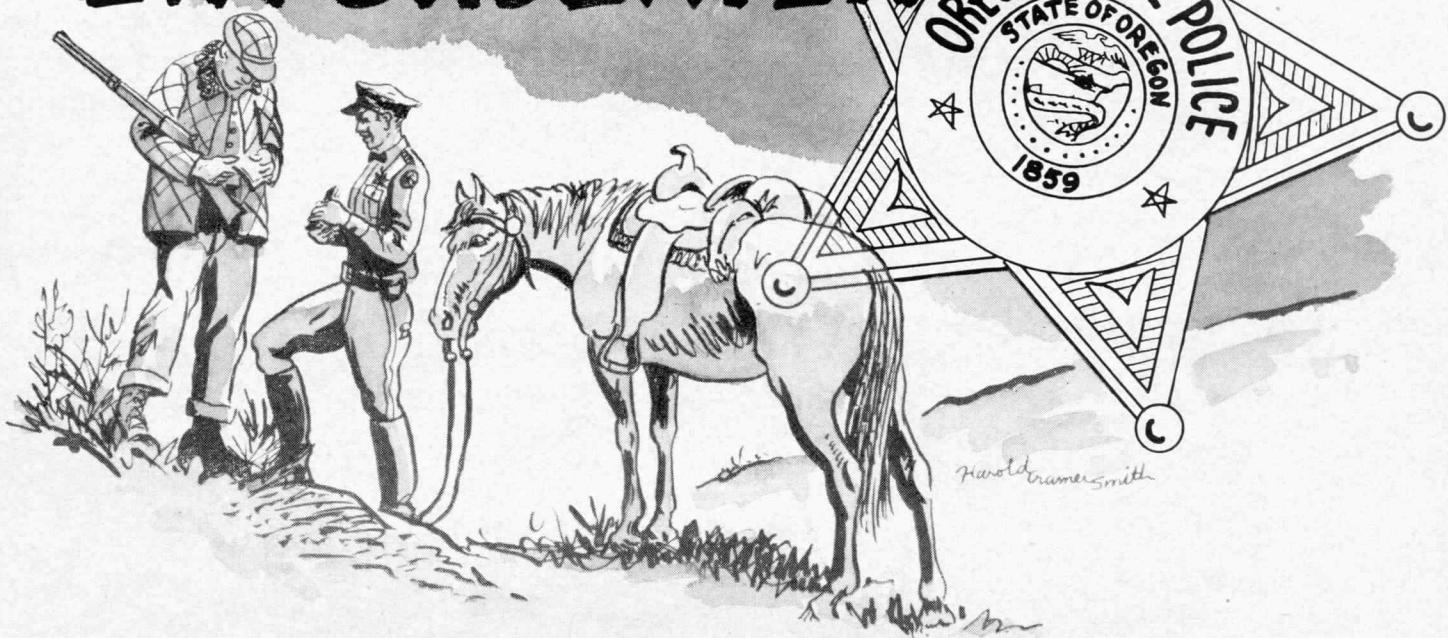
The bag limit for coot, which may be hunted during the waterfowl season, remains at 15 a day and in possession.

COVER

A California or valley quail.
(William L. Finley photo)

Field agents this season have recorded chukar observations in practically every county where liberations have been made. The largest brood seen was eleven young.

GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT



By CAPTAIN IRVING A. LARSON
Department of State Police

IN the great State of Oregon, where field, forest and stream abound with game and fish, there is a place where the hunter or fisherman may seek pleasure and relaxation and return home with fruits of his trip more tangible than a mere "fish story."

With the growth of population comes the ever increasing pressure on our game resources. To the sixty-seven members of the Oregon State Police assigned to the enforcement of the fish and game laws, I wish to pay tribute.

Some of the essential requirements of a successful game enforcement officer are that he possess a keen interest in game conservation, that he have a knowledge of fish and game, and a willingness to work long hours in good weather or bad.

A game officer's work is based on a well-planned operational practice, yet removed from a fixed schedule. In the course of a game patrol he may find evidence of a crime which may require his working "around the clock." To discontinue his work on a case simply because he has worked his usual shift is not in keeping with the requirements of a game officer. The old adage "do not put off until tomorrow what you

By legislative statute, game law enforcement comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of State Police, which is headquartered at Salem under Superintendent H. G. Maison. Activities of their Game Division are supported by an appropriation from the game fund.

Because of the close relationship existing between game law enforcement and the Game Commission's general program, this article is felt to be of interest to the Bulletin readers. Ed.

should do today" most certainly applies in this specialized field of enforcement.

The work is varied and changeable. Checking anglers on a coastal or inland stream may be in order today and for tomorrow the same duty may be performed by means of a boat on a lake or reservoir some distance removed. This could require hiking by trail from one body of water to another or it might be that a horse would be used. By resorting to animal transportation, the task is lightened somewhat and a great deal more territory can be covered. And then when the hunting seasons open, the routine is entirely different. New areas must be visited and the work now planned to meet changing conditions as the sports-

men go to the field for game of many species. Between times, the poacher is apt to be active and vigilant patrolling over little used roads at odd hours is the answer to this threat. In addition to these commonly accepted enforcement type duties, there is the ever present job of gaining and retaining the good will of the people who live in the area as well as those who enjoy its recreational advantages. Public education in the interest of conservation is a concurrent and continuous task.

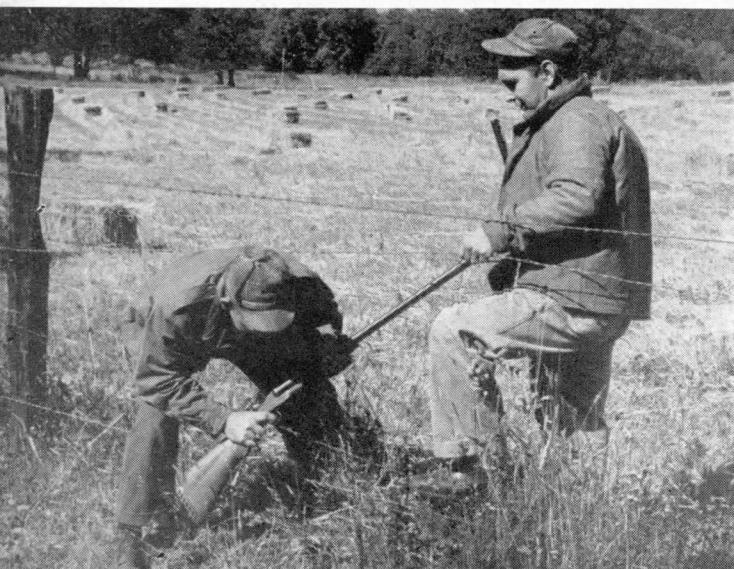
In the spring it becomes necessary to shift officers temporarily to meet the unevenly distributed pressure. Lowland waters have become very popular early angling locations. Then with the opening of the mountain lakes about a month later, it becomes necessary again to shift personnel to meet another change in angling conditions.

With the opening of the seasons for big game, upland game birds and migratory waterfowl there is once more the problem of coping with the concentration of hunters at various and widely spread places. When taking into consideration the fact that Oregon

(Continued on page 7)



1. The inevitable fence is a serious hazard to this type of hunter. This is an excellent way to lose a hunting partner.



2. At close range, a shotgun is even more destructive than a rifle. This type of fence crossing also asks for disaster.



3. Fences need not be the invitation to disaster as shown by the proper method of crossing.

HUNT SAFELY AND HUNT AGAIN!



4. Basic safety rules say to treat every gun as if it were loaded and watch that muzzle. Pictured is a sight unpleasant to any hunter.

EACH year a number of hunters are killed and wounded because of their own or another's carelessness. The pictures on these two pages show some of the common causes for hunting mishaps and in some cases the remedies.

Though many of the situations may seem rather ridiculous, they are based on actual happenings of past years.

The majority of accidents are self-inflicted so involve only one person, but every hunter has the responsibility of knowing and obeying the 10 commandments of safety.

As the number of hunters in the state increases, so will the duty of each hunter increase—his duty to hunt safely and in a sportsman-like manner. The cause of many hunting accidents can be traced directly to greediness on the part of the shooter. It has been proven time and time again that a moment's hesitation to make sure of a target may prevent a lifetime of regret. It is in the hands of every hunter afield to prevent hunting accidents!

The pictures were posed for your Commission photographer by two safe hunters, Dick Nelson and Dean Beard, to give some pointers that we hope will prevent accidents this year.



5. One of the basic rules of hunting safety, and actually only a rule of good sense, is "Make Sure of Your Target" . . .



6. Here, movement in the brush turns out to be the neighbor's goat, not a deer.



7. Automobiles are a handy means to get to the hunting grounds, but can also be the means to a quick end.



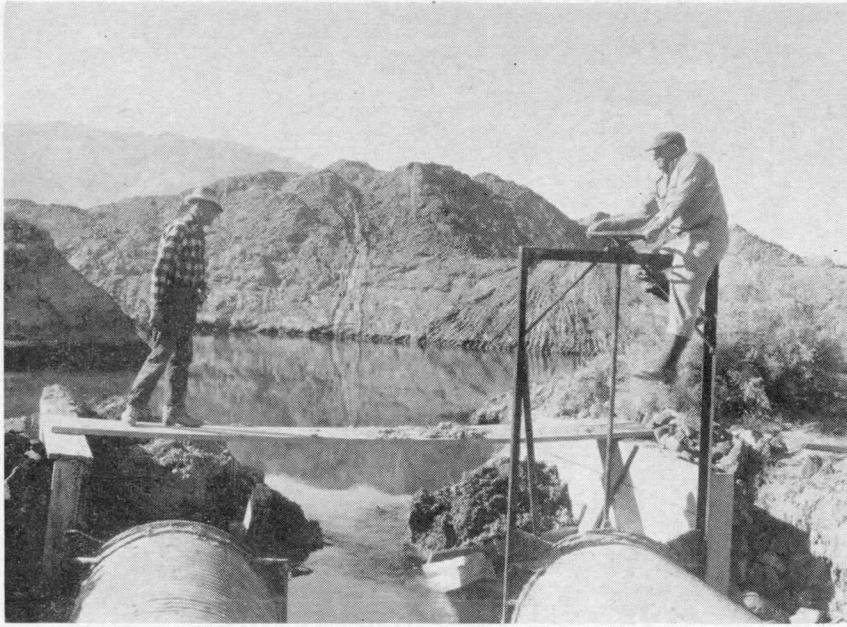
8. "Road Hunting" is one of the most dangerous practices engaged in by hunters. A double mortality could result from this situation.



9. Keeping a gun barrel free of mud and dirt is a good idea, but doing it this way may put an abrupt end to hunting days.



10. A safe way of removing debris from a gun barrel proves no risk to man or beast.



A water control gate on the Summer Lake Management Area. Water stabilization on marshlands is important for waterfowl management.

THREE thousand additional acres of meadow and marshlands! Water stabilization on all 7,000 acres of marshland! Two hundred seventy-nine acres of food crops for waterfowl food!

These are but a few of the accomplishments that have been carried out since the beginning of the Summer Lake project in 1943. The story actually began on June 2, 1943 when the Game Commission activated the project. This project was designed to operate with funds derived from the Pittman-Robertson Act.

The project plan stated that the primary species of wildlife to be benefited would be migratory waterfowl, and that at least 50 per cent of the area should be set aside as refuge. This plan has been fully carried out and has made the Summer Lake area a haven for many a duck and goose.

Other incidental uses for the land were listed as furbearer management, livestock grazing, and upland game bird management. Total acreage involved was listed as slightly over 13,000 acres upon the completion of the project.

After the acquisition plans were underway, the second phase was approved for development of the land.

Main part of the development plan was the construction of several dikes and water control gates. These were necessary to stabilize the water flows in the area and thus better utilize the land for waterfowl. In conjunction with the dike construction was the building of access roads to various parts of the

area, and the maintenance of these roads, which of course, still continues.

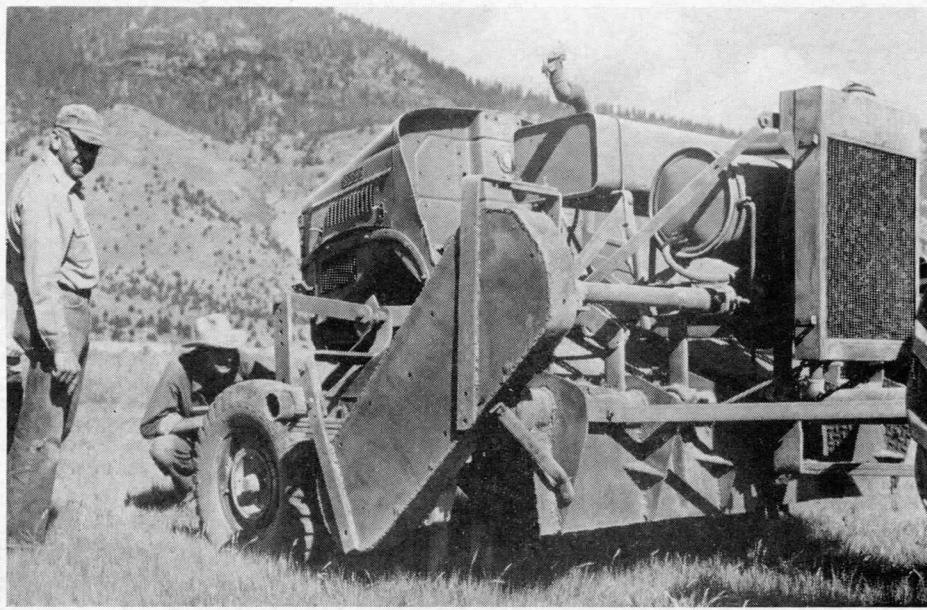
As in many parts of eastern Oregon, water is a critical commodity. The lake provides much water for the necessary projects and Ana River is an important source for filling the various areas and thus manipulating the habitat.

To those who see the area now, it might seem that the job of being manager would be a nice arrangement what with the good looking buildings and modern conveniences. However, when Hugo "Pop" Leyva took charge of the area on October 1, 1944 these buildings were but a suggestion in the project plans. "Pop" and A. V. Meyers, who is

now in charge of federal aid work for the Commission, pioneered the first public shooting session held at the lake. "Pop" has not only seen the area grow in size and importance, but has added materially to its success with his ideas and hard labor. One example of this is the greasewood beater he invented. This mechanical monstrosity was created by him in an attempt to eliminate the rank growth of greasewood and let the grasses take over.

Previous to the time he went to work for the Commission, "Pop" served fourteen years with the Oregon State Police. He is assisted at the area by

(Continued on page 8)



This queer looking contraption is the locally famous brushbeater invented by "Pop" Leyva (standing) to get rid of the greasewood so prevalent in the Summer Lake area.

GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Continued from page 3)

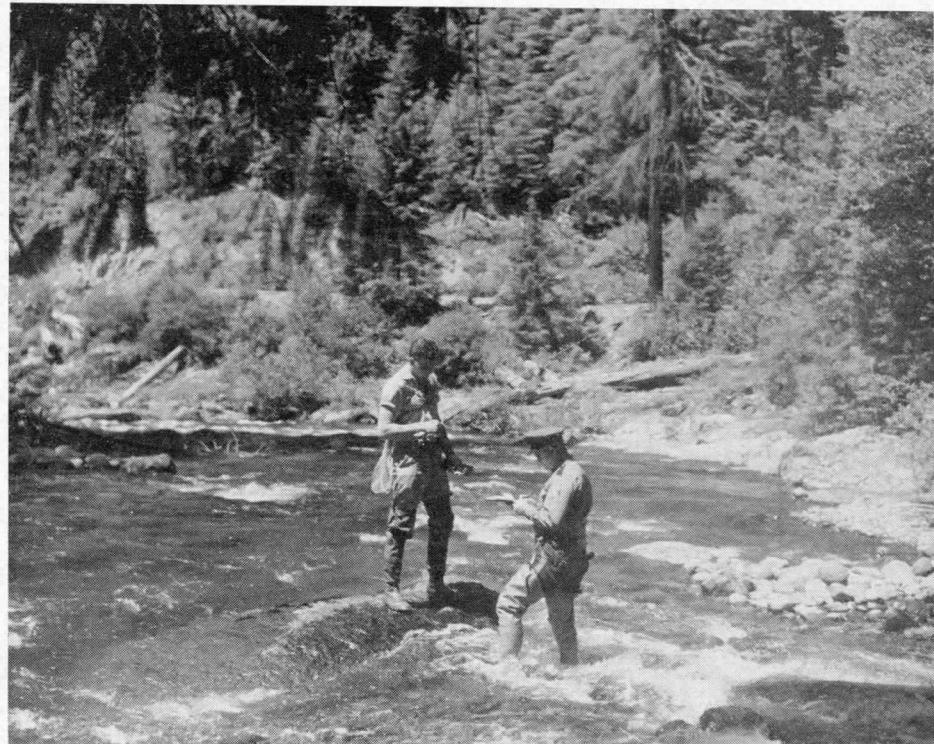
has a land area of 96,350 square miles and a water area of 631 square miles, excluding the Pacific coastal waters, it is not difficult for one to realize that game law enforcement in this state is a big job.

When we think of our fish and game resources, we think of the opportunity it affords you and me to go out of doors and test our skill as a hunter or angler. Our chances for success have been greatly increased by the sound management program being carried on by the Game Commission. As the fish and game belong to the state, it is intended that you and I should share equally. Bag limits are set by the Game Commission and are the amounts one legally can take. Any time a person takes game in excess of the bag limit, he is taking a part of the share of another sportsman.

During the year 1953 game enforcement members checked 135,082 hunting and angling licenses. The primary purpose in checking these licenses is to prevent persons from taking advantage of others by hunting or angling without the benefit of a license. At the time the sportsman is contacted the fish or game in his possession is also checked.

Perhaps the violator who causes the game officer the gravest concern is the night hunter. This individual, who is as far removed from being a sportsman as is possible, uses a blinding light to enable close approach to the animal, which is then shot at very close range without any chance of escape. This reprehensible and illegal practice is hazardous to human life and is especially frowned upon by ranchers for this reason and also because livestock losses are frequently suffered. The courts view this highly dangerous and costly practice with deep concern and the penalties usually are severe for those offenders who are apprehended and convicted. This is gratifying to the enforcement officer, because it effectively helps him in a material way to hold these criminal acts to the minimum.

Each game patrol car is provided with two-way radio equipment. It is possible for the officer to communicate from car to station or from car to car. It might be said that this radio equipment is a game officer's most potent weapon, for regardless of where he might be he has contact with others if assistance or information is needed. By the use of the radio, road blocks may be set up in a hurry and violators apprehended before they have an op-



One of the many duties of a State Police officer assigned to game law enforcement is checking licenses and bag limits of sports fishermen. (Oregon State Police photo)

portunity to conceal or destroy the fruits of their crime.

In the performance of their game duties members come in contact with many persons who are seeking information as to places to angle and hunt. Here is an excellent opportunity for the officer to promote public relations by being able to assist a sportsman and thereby help to make his trip or vacation a more pleasant one. Members are encouraged and instructed to become familiar with the geography of the state so as to be in a better position to give factual and complete information regarding game resources and tourist attractions.

It is needless to say that the game officers are extremely interested in their work. Necessity requires that they work on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, taking their day off during the week. In other words, they find their work the heaviest when the majority of the people play.

Members are given the benefit of what we feel is a sound training program. They are instructed in the criminal laws of the state, a knowledge of which is so vital both to themselves and the state which they represent. They are especially instructed in the laws pertaining to fish and game, and the new men are given the opportunity to work with men of long experience.

In-service training is conducted each year to keep the members well posted at all times. Through this type of training it is hoped to eliminate as much as possible trial and error type of enforcement.

I am indeed proud of the fine group of state police officers assigned to the enforcement of the fish and game laws of the state. They are loyal, sincere, and honest in their convictions. I challenge anyone to produce a finer group of men from any state and firmly believe none has a better record.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Captain Irving A. Larson was promoted to his present position as head of the Game Division of the Department of State Police on January first of this year, after almost 20 years of service with that department.

He started out as a game officer assigned to the Gold Beach area in March, 1934. Later he was transferred to Coquille and received a sergeant's rating in 1941. In 1948 he was transferred to the Salem office and made a headquarters lieutenant, in which

(Continued on page 8)

Flushing Bar Saves Pheasants

By RUSSELL L. ROBBINS
Iowa Cooperative Research Unit

From Iowa Farm Science, July, 1954.

Many nesting pheasant hens are killed or injured by tractor mowers in Iowa each year during the cutting of the first crop of hay. This cutting usually takes place when pheasant nesting is at its peak. And the most important problem in management of the ring-necked pheasant within Iowa's primary range is the loss in production suffered during the nesting season.

Some idea of the extent of this loss is indicated by studies conducted by the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit of Iowa State College in Winnebago County during the spring and summer of 1953. Of an estimated 78 hen pheasants on the 1,520-acre study area, 33 were killed or injured during the first hay cutting. Thus, hay mowing was responsible for killing or crippling 42 per cent of the hen pheasant population. This loss can be reduced by using a game flushing bar when mowing.

Old Idea, New Bar

The idea of using a flushing bar certainly isn't new. Many bars were designed and used on horse-drawn mowers, but they weren't strong enough to

be adapted to modern, high-speed tractor mowers.

Now an all-metal flushing bar has been designed and tested in Ohio. The bar is constructed so that it may be mounted on tractors in front of the cutter bar. Weights attached to steel cables hanging from the bar flush hen pheasants before they're hit by the mower.

This flushing bar reduced mortality by about 45 per cent when tested in Ohio. During the spring and summer of 1953, the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit tested this bar in north-central Iowa on 10 alfalfa and red clover fields, comprising 110 acres. Here, the bar reduced mortality by about 35 per cent—a decided saving of hen pheasants.

Plans Available

The fact that the Ohio flushing bar can be quickly and easily attached to a tractor plus the fact that it doesn't interfere with mowing should make the bar generally acceptable for farm use. Free plans for the Ohio flushing bar may be obtained from the State Conservation Commission, East Seventh and Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

in 1953. The annual report of the game division points out that hunters using Summer Lake last year managed to take slightly over two birds each, most of which were geese. Almost 6,000 snow geese fell to the scatter-gun artist plus numerous pintail and mallards. Total waterfowl kill in 1953 was 12,128 with 5,278 permits sold. During the period of operation, 37,108 permits have been sold.

Being the oldest management area in the state, Summer Lake has truly led the way for development in other parts of the state. As hunting pressure increases, so will the value of the area as it continues to provide not only direct recreation to hunters but, more important, continues to provide resting, nesting, and feeding grounds for raising the waterfowl of tomorrow.

THE SUMMER LAKE GAME MANAGEMENT AREA

(Continued from page 6)

three full-time employees and extra help during hunting season.

Though the specifications state that at least one-half of the area must be used for refuge, hunters are benefiting directly as well as indirectly by the work being done. The area is benefiting future hunters by the nesting grounds it is providing for present waterfowl populations. Also the feeding and resting areas established are attracting birds as indicated by the 148,180 migrating birds utilizing these features on November 2nd of last year.

As a public shooting ground, only Sauvie Island, immediately adjacent to Portland, accommodated more hunters

CONTROLLED ELK SEASON PERMIT APPLICATIONS READY

Applications are now available for the controlled elk season permits in the Tillamook Burn, North Fork John Day, Walla Walla, and Promise (Wallowa county) areas. Application for any of these permits, which are free, must be filed at the Game Commission office by 10 a.m. October 19 in order to be eligible to be included in the drawings to be held later in the month. For the Tillamook Burn, 200 permits will be issued for the taking of bull elk with at least three points from November 20 to 22. There will be 225 permits issued for the Promise and 400 each for the Walla Walla and North Fork John Day areas to take elk of either sex from November 27 to December 1. The free permit is valid only if the hunter holds an unused general elk tag.

CENTRAL OREGON LAKES ATTRACT ANGLERS

A Fourth of July check on twelve lakes and reservoirs in the Bend district gives a sample of the angling pressure on our popular fishing waters. The following tabulation shows the number of anglers at each lake that weekend:

Paulina Lake	2,500
East Lake	3,600
Wickiup Reservoir	850
South Twin Lake	280
North Twin Lake	200
Crane Prairie Reservoir	1,700
Little Cultus Lake	200
Big Cultus Lake	140
Big Lava Lake	650
Little Lava Lake	100
Mud Lake	30
Elk Lake	320
Total	10,570

About the Author

(Continued from page 7)

capacity he served until his present appointment.

"Irv" Larson is a native Oregonian, born in Columbia county, and is a graduate of Oregon State College. Quiet spoken, cooperative, and giving the impression he knows his business, he is well liked by his fellow workers and those with whom he comes in contact.

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