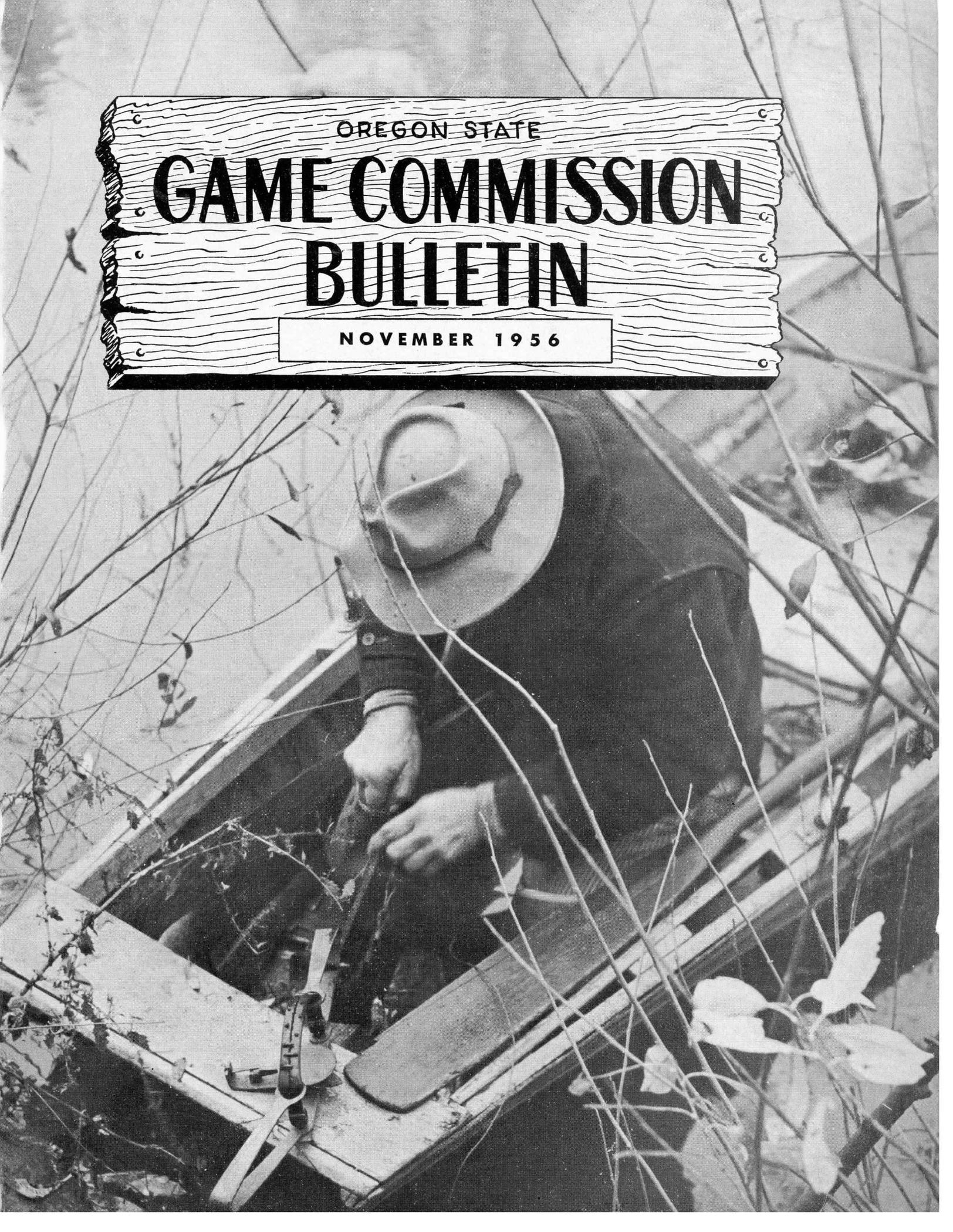
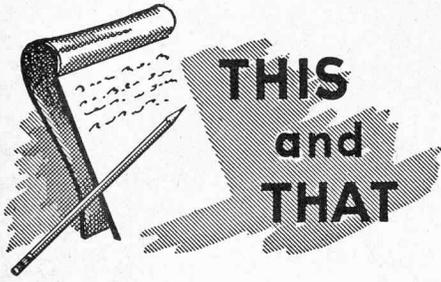


OREGON STATE

GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 1956





PLENTY OF HUNTING LEFT

A joint sport salmon fishery investigation was conducted on the Columbia River with the Washington Department of Fisheries between August 25 and September 3. It has been calculated that 17,174 chinook salmon and 24,535 silver salmon were taken in the ten-day period, making a total of 41,719 fish.

* * *

Anglers fishing Diamond Lake this past season averaged slightly over 1½ fish per person. Trout from the 1955 fry plant appeared in late August and September catches and ranged between 8 and 9 inches in length. Trout from the 1955 yearling plant averaged 2.5 pounds and were nearing 20 inches in length.

* * *

The Game Commission's summer camp program proved to be highly popular this year. A total of 196 camp sessions were attended with 16,426 children participating. Camps included 4-H, Boy Scout, Girls Scout, Campfire Girls, Denominational, YMCA and YWCA.

A new program to be presented by the education division this winter to school assemblies is on hunting safety.

* * *

Figures are available for archery hunts only at Hart Mountain and Malheur Refuge, where hunters had to check in and out. At Malheur, 135 hunters bagged 33 deer for a success ratio of 24 per cent. Dense rye grass and willow cover resulted in an extremely high crippling loss with 30 cripples reported (12 carcasses recovered). At Hart Mountain success was not as high. Of the 628 archers participating, 23 killed a deer, a success ratio of only 2.7 per cent. Deer were scattered widely due to an abundance of water. Windy conditions also hampered success.

COVER

Trapper setting his traps along the Pudding River. With the opening of the season on furbearers this month, this will be a common sight along many of the streams of the state. (Photo by Tom McAllister)

Varied hunting remains available for several weeks for both small and big game so all a hunter has to do is make his choice.

The last upland game bird seasons close November 12. Ducks and geese, however, may be hunted through December 31. From November 17 to December 16 is open season for Wilson's snipe and brant may be taken from December 1 through February 10.

Holders of unfilled general elk tags may hunt elk in the coast area until November 12 and in the southeast, central and northeast areas until November 21.

Deer hunters who were unable to fill their tags during the general season may use them in four extended seasons for deer of either sex. These include the

Willamette and Hood River Valley season on November 24 and 25; Rogue Valley, November 24 to December 2; and Polk county area, December 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, and 22-23, the first four week ends of the month. The hunting synopsis should be consulted for open area descriptions.

At press time surplus tags were still available for five of the controlled hunts for antlerless deer and were being sold at the Game Commission office for a fee of \$5 on a first come, first served basis. These tags authorize the taking of an additional deer to that allowed under the general deer tag. The five controlled seasons are Northside I, November 24-28; Lookout Mountain, Swan Lake and Spray areas, December 1-4; and Northside II, December 8-10.

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OCTOBER MEETING OF THE GAME COMMISSION

The Oregon State Game Commission met in Portland on October 12 and business acted upon included the following:

BIDS. Rose City Pre-Cut Building Company was awarded contract in the amount of \$5,179 for construction of pond covers at the Klamath trout hatchery.

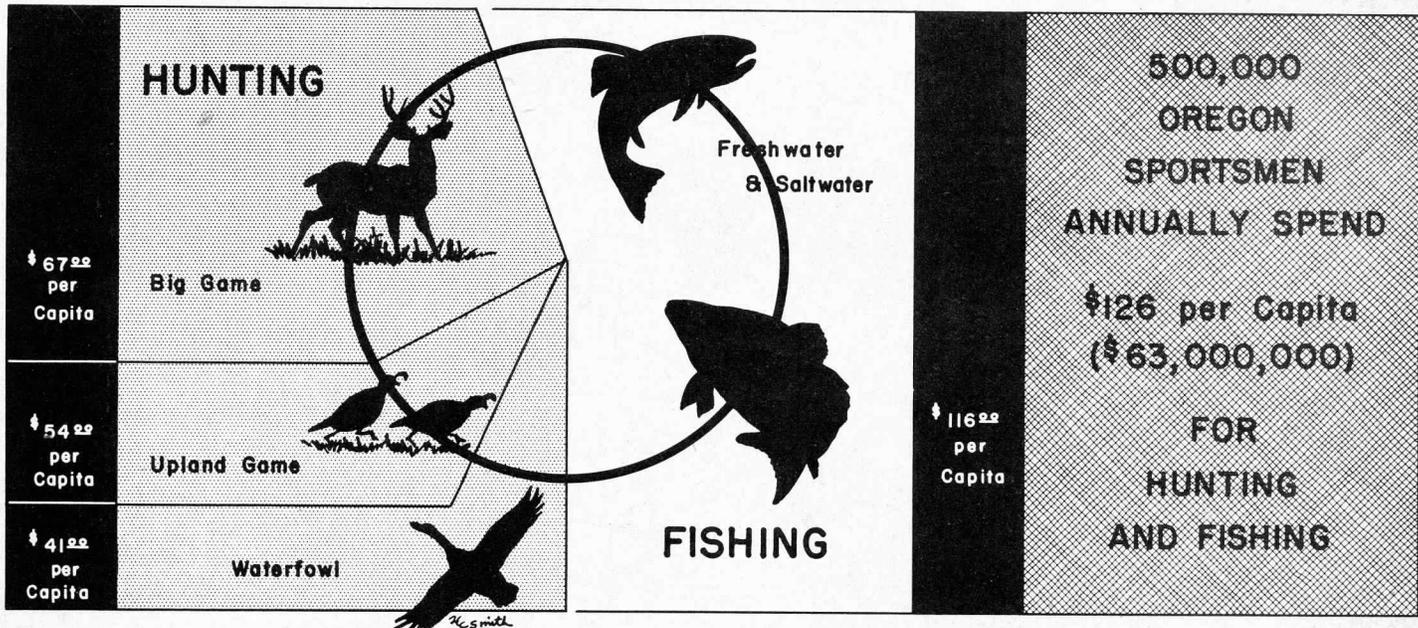
SOIL BANK PROGRAM. Commission decided to follow a policy of cooperation and participation in the Soil Bank Act as it affects wildlife management.

HUNTING SAFETY AWARD. Issuance was authorized of an appropriate plaque to be awarded outstanding sportsmen's club in a hunting safety contest.

PANELS. Expenditure was authorized of approximately \$5,000 for panels to be used for protection of haystacks against big game damage in northeastern Oregon.

BOAT ACCESS. In regard to a proposed boat launching site on the Willamette River in the Sellwood area for which the Commission had been requested to furnish funds, it was suggested that a contribution of \$1,500 from the game fund would be a fair share of the cost. This amount was based upon the probable use of such a launching site by fishing boats in comparison with general pleasure boats. Survey of commercial moorages in the vicinity indicated that on a year around basis, number of pleasure boats using their facilities considerably exceeded the number of fishing boats.

NEXT MEETING. The date of the next meeting was set for December 7, in Portland.



Wildlife's Role in Our Economy

WHAT is the value of our wildlife resources? The answer will vary depending upon the person. The value may seem negligible to the man or woman who has only a casual interest. But to the 500,000 hunting and fishing license holders in Oregon there is no doubt in their own minds as to the importance of the fish and wildlife resources. Let something threaten them and they speak loudly. Many a man's strongest wish is to see that the enjoyment of the hunting and fishing is safeguarded, not only for himself, but for his sons and grandsons. To these half a million people who hunt and fish the recreational, social and health values are predominant. These are intangible values and so are hard to measure. R. D. Patton, Professor of Economics at the Ohio State University, in analyzing the recent national economic survey of the wildlife resources,* points this out as follows:

"What is the product of a hunting or fishing expedition? Is it a certain number of pounds of fish or meat? If that is all it is, someone had better tell twenty-five million hunters and fishermen in the United States that there are cheaper ways to provide for themselves and their families. But every one knows that the

Chart above represents possible expenditures by Oregon sportsmen assuming they spent the same amount as indicated for Washington hunters and anglers by the 1954 economic survey conducted by Robert F. Wallace, Professor of Economics, Washington State College.

catch or the kill is not all there is to hunting and fishing. In a way, the tangible product is merely a kind of measure of the success of the fishing or hunting enterprise as a whole. Fishing and hunting would lose their zest if there were rarely any tangible product; but they would lose it just about as quickly if the take were ten or a hundred times more abundant than it ordinarily is. In the latter case, they would quickly lose their character as sport and become a routine matter of providing food for the table to be compared with other conventional forms of food production. No, hunting and fishing provide something more than food to their devotees. There is the break with the routine of work and living; there is the intimate study of the ways of nature and her creatures which man has always found to be endlessly fascinating; there is perhaps travel into a wildly beautiful environment in which man is reminded of and called upon to use the lore of his own primitive origins. While these things defy measurement, who can doubt that they are the really important product of recreational

hunting and fishing? Paradoxically, they are perhaps the most real, while being the most immeasurable, aspects of the sport."

There is, however, an economic side to the wildlife resources which in terms of commodities are measurable and understandable to the average person interested in the economic stability of the state. To the typical hunter and fisherman, the enjoyment he receives is paramount and for this he is prepared to pay in dollars and cents. Just as in agriculture the economic value lies not only in the harvested crop but in the activities relating to the harvesting, processing and disposition of the crop, so do activities relating to the pursuit of fish and game have a marked effect on the general economy. We quote again from Mr. Patton's article:

"... it is clear that hunting and fishing provide sufficient relaxation and pleasure to a sufficient proportion of our people to make expenditures for those purposes stand high among both recreation expenditures and those for such necessities of life as public utility services, health services and many others that might be mentioned . . .

"... These expenditures (hunting and fishing) become an economic measure of the costs which our people are willing to undergo for the benefits of hunting and fishing . . . There is no market value for game fish and animals which

(Continued on Page 4)

* "The Wildlife' Economic Survey and What It Means to Wildlife Management" by R. D. Patton, The Ohio State University. (Presented at the 48th Convention of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, September 14, 1956.)

WILDLIFE'S ROLE IN OUR ECONOMY

(Continued from Page 3)

you have taken yourself; there is no market value for trips away from work to pleasant natural surroundings; there is no market value for pleasure in the care and use of fine hunting and fishing gear. We can only assess these things by the expenditures freely made to go out to get them."

To determine the amount of these expenditures, several types of economic surveys have been made in the past. The results vary but all give an idea as to the approximate amounts spent. In 1954, Robert F. Wallace, Professor of Economics in the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the State College of Washington, conducted a survey in that state. His findings were published under the title of "An Evaluation of Wildlife Resources in the State of Washington." From his introduction we quote several comments we find pertinent in connection with this discussion:

"... To the extent that the various individuals of the society are willing to enter the market and to bid for scarce goods and resources in terms of the importance each man attaches to each particular type of resource, so those resources will tend to flow into the hands of the individuals who prize them most, thereby affording a maximum of satisfaction and happiness to the individual as a whole. The expenditures individuals are willing to make in order to obtain particular goods or resources, are a measure of the importance attached to those goods or resources as compared with that assigned any other things which might be obtained with the same money.

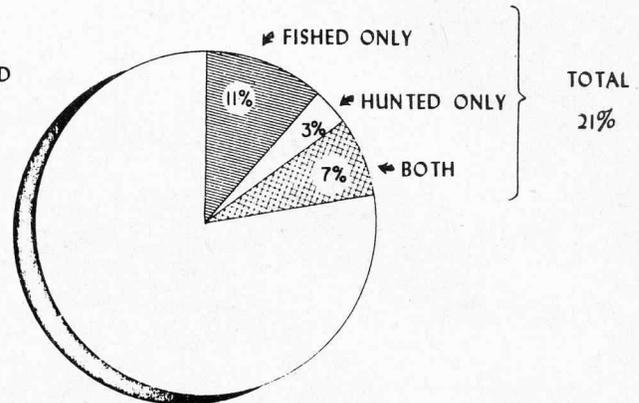
"... Friends and neighbors may differ in their choices, but democracy jealously guards the right of all to do as they choose and makes no value judgments on the preferences of free men.

"In discussions of the evaluation of wildlife resources some observers have objected that wildlife could not be considered as producing income but that on the contrary it simply caused money to be spent. This objection is obviously a simple case of faulty logic based, perhaps unconsciously, upon making value judgments with respect to one kind of spending as compared with another. All expenditure creates income for somebody, since what one man spends another must receive. The check a man writes for his packer or sporting goods store is no different from the one he writes for the grocer or the dairy..."

Since conditions in Oregon are similar

**... 25 million persons (21%)
aged 12 or more
fished or hunted in the United States in 1955**

* 21 MILLION FISHED
* 12 MILLION HUNTED



| types of fishing | |
|------------------|---|
| | PERSONS AGED 12 OR MORE IN MILLIONS |
| FRESH WATER | 18.4 |
| SALT WATER | 4.6 |

| types of hunting | |
|------------------|---|
| | PERSONS AGED 12 OR MORE IN MILLIONS |
| SMALL GAME | 9.8 |
| BIG GAME | 4.4 |
| WATERFOWL | 2.0 |

to those in Washington, their figures on expenditures have been used in the chart at the head of this article to give an approximate idea of possible expenditures by Oregon sportsmen.

National Survey

Of current interest is the recently completed 1955 National Fishing-Hunting Survey conducted under the direction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the request of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, representing the 48 state fish, game and conservation departments. The primary purpose of the survey, carried out by Crossley, S-D Surveys, Inc. of New York, was to obtain nationwide information on the number of persons 12 years old and older who engaged in recreational fishing or hunting during 1955, the number of days in which they fished or hunted, and the total amount of money they spent in these recreational pursuits.

The results are subject to the limitations inherent in projecting results from cross-section sampling. In this connection, the results of this survey for the nation as a whole are considered accurate within five per cent. For regional figures and other breakdowns of the report, the potential statistical variation may be greater. The survey does represent the most extensive effort made to date to compile economic data on fishing and hunting expenditures in the nation and, therefore, its findings are of general interest.

The National Survey found that in the United States during 1955, 25,000,000 fishermen and hunters spent 3 billion dollars for 500 million days of sport, and drove their automobiles 10.4 billion miles in the pursuit of their recreation. There were 118,366,000 persons 12 years or older in 1955. Breakdowns of these figures follow.

(Continued on Page 5)

WILDLIFE'S ROLE IN OUR ECONOMY

(Continued from Page 4)

Fishing

The report shows that 20,813,000 individuals (13,737,000 licensed, 7,076,000 unlicensed) fished during 1955. These included 12,938,000 men and 4,689,000 women (18 and older), and 3,186,000 minors. There were 18,420,000 fresh-water and 4,557,000 salt-water fishermen.

Fishermen spent a total of \$1,914,292,000 or an average of \$91.98 per person. Less than 2 per cent of this total, \$37,240,000, was spent for fishing license fees. Fresh-water fishing expenditures totalled \$1,425,353,000 (\$77.38 per person) and salt-water fishing expenditures \$488,939,000 (\$107.29 per person).

It is interesting to note that the expenditures of the Pacific Coast salt-water angler averaged \$156 compared to \$91 for the East Coast and Gulf area.

Hunting

Hunting attracted 11,784,000 individuals (9,951,000 licensed, 1,833,000 unlicensed) of whom 9,675,000 were men and 418,000 women (18 and older), and 1,691,000 were minors. There were 4,414,000 big game hunters, 9,822,000 small game hunters, and 1,986,000 waterfowl hunters.

Hunters' expenditures totalled \$936,687,000 or \$79.49 per person. Of this total, slightly less than 5 per cent, \$44,049,000, was paid for hunting licenses, tags, and duck stamps. Total for big game hunting was \$323,909,000 (\$73.39 per person), and for small game hunting, \$494,033,000 (\$50.30 per person); and for waterfowl hunting, \$118,745,000 (\$59.79 per person).

Fishing and Hunting

Of the 118,366,000 individuals aged 12 or over in the United States in 1955, the survey found 24,917,000 fished or hunted or did both.

There were 13,133,000 who fished only; 4,104,000 who hunted only, and 7,680,000 who did both.

Total expenditures for fishing and hunting combined amounted to \$2,850,979,000 during 1955, of which about 3.5 per cent, \$81,289,000, was for fishing and hunting licenses, tags and stamps. Average expenditure for each sportsman was \$114.42.

Travel

Trips of more than 1 day were taken by 31.64 per cent of all fishermen while 20.7 per cent of all hunters took multi-day trips.

A typical fisherman traveled 319 miles during 1955 in pursuit of his sport and a typical hunter traveled 206 miles.

Miscellaneous

A total of 566,870,000 man days was spent in hunting and fishing during 1955.

Rural areas produced the most hunters and anglers, 11,410,000; suburbs came second with 6,001,000; towns were third with 5,337,000 while the largest cities were lowest with 2,169,000.

By age groups, the total numbers of hunters and fishermen were the highest in the 45-64 year group, which had 6,272,000. Other groups were as follows: 35-44 years, 5,978,000; 25-34 years, 5,104,000; 12-17 years, 3,788,000; 18-24

years, 2,517,000; 65 years and over, 1,258,000.

Total number of hunters and anglers of men 18 and over was 16,293,000; of women 18 and over, 4,836,000; and balance of 3,788,000 were minors.

Of the estimated 48,389,000 households, one out of every 3 had at least 1 hunter or fisherman; 1 of every 4 households at least 1 fisherman; and 1 of every 5 households had at least 1 hunter. In rural areas every other household had a fisherman or hunter.

(Continued on Page 7)

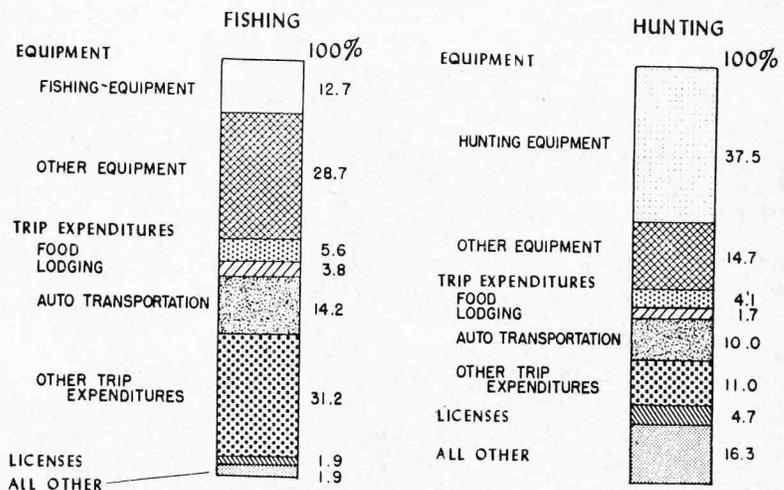
... 1955 expenditures primarily for fishing and hunting* totaled approximately 3 billion dollars

| | FISHING | | HUNTING | | FISHING AND/OR HUNTING | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | per individual** | million dollars | per individual** | million dollars | per individual** | million dollars |
| TOTAL | 91.98 | 1,914.3 | 79.49 | 936.7 | 114.42 | 2,851.0 |
| FOR EQUIPMENT | 38.13 | 793.7 | 41.46 | 488.6 | 51.46 | 1,282.3 |
| FOR TRIPS | 50.34 | 1,047.7 | 21.31 | 251.1 | 52.13 | 1,298.8 |
| FOR LICENSES | 1.79 | 37.2 | 3.74 | 44.1*** | 3.26 | 81.3*** |
| FOR ALL OTHER | 1.72 | 35.7 | 12.98 | 152.9 | 7.57 | 188.6 |

** AGED 12 OR MORE, LICENSED & UNLICENSED

*** INCLUDES DUCK STAMPS

DIVISION OF EXPENDITURES



* Transportation, lodging, food and refreshment costs excluded when trip not primarily for fishing or hunting; otherwise automobile cost computed at 3.5 cents per mile for fuel, etc., and meals at excess over 31 cent basic home cost. Equipment restricted to 1955 purchases in U.S. used primarily for fishing and hunting.

THE WATERFOWL HEX

DURING the hunting season of 1955-56 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service made an intensive study to determine the total shooting kill of waterfowl. The season's toll amounted to 15,152,200 ducks and 906,635 geese for a total of 16,058,835 birds. These figures include both retrieved and non-retrieved birds. The non-retrieved portion amounted to 3,070,964 birds—21 per cent of the total kill, which was left in the marshes and sloughs.

For the past 15 years there has been an increasing emphasis on waterfowl management by Federal, State and private agencies and the waterfowl flyway councils. Cripple data has been gathered by many agencies, with the Federal Service's 1955-56 studies being the most recent; but over the years it appears that the national average for waterfowl loss is at least a disgraceful 25 per cent waste.

This annual loss is cutting drastically into our breeding stock and into our harvestable crop. It's poor business and poor sportsmanship to allow a fourth of the total annual waterfowl kill to go down a rathole because of carelessness.

The total figures for waterfowl cripple losses are not picked out of the air. Originally cripple losses were guesses, but the recent studies by state game departments and by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service provide reliable figures.

These figures from state and federal studies report only birds knocked down within sight of the observer and not retrieved! To give some figures, X-ray work by William Elder of Missouri and Jim Jordan of Illinois indicated the amount of lead thrown at waterfowl. In a study of 3,638 adult dabblers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Elder found by X-ray examination that one of four drake ducks was carrying body shot. Jordan, in Illinois, on a study of some 1,700 birds, found that adult ducks showed an incidence of 35 per cent of body shot—whereas, juvenile birds indicated a level of 14.5 per cent carrying one or more shot pellets! In other words, we have a staggering number of waterfowl that have been mighty close to death's door.

What is the cause of crippling loss? How can it be reduced? Who is interested in reducing this loss? Three questions, simple in nature but involving a mighty tough factor to work with, for the one real controlling element is the "human being."

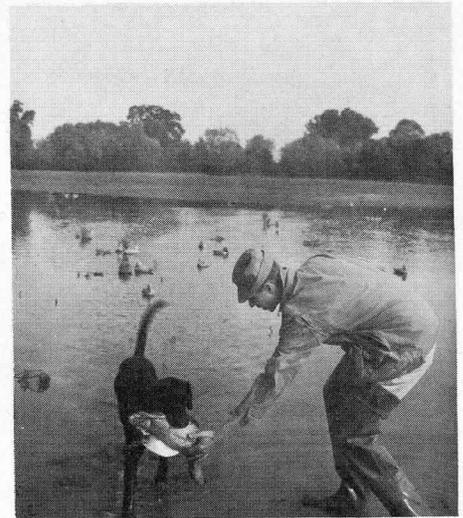
Cripple loss stems from three basic elements, the human, the gun and the target. If there were perfect understanding and coordination between gun and man, the loss of cripples would be within reason. Where reason would lie is debatable, but it certainly shouldn't be 25 per cent. We always will have some crippling in all forms of shooting—it's inevitable—but as sportsmen and conservationists, we want to cut this loss to a minimum. Primary responsibility for this waterfowl wastage rests with the gunner. From there on we can speak only of basic issues—trigger-happy shooting, failure to use retrievers, inability to judge distances, inability to judge the effective range of a load, and poor marksmanship; predawn shooting hours, type of shooting, population available, period of season, not killing cripples immediately, type of cover, weather conditions, and an endless number of other reasons that contribute to the loss of birds.

It can be said that the number of waterfowl lost can be correlated with the attitude and proficiency of the hunter, his equipment, and the gunning conditions under which he shoots. Of these factors, the hunter's personal attitude governs the number of dead and crippled waterfowl he leaves behind him to such an extent that other factors become trivial.

In a Pennsylvania study, Randall found that novice hunters have a higher crippling loss than the average or veteran hunter owing partly to such causes as shooting at out-of-range birds and using inadequate shot loads. The cripple loss by the average and veteran hunter were reduced by more than 40 per cent when retrievers were used.

Few of us go through a season without having cause of self-reproach over unrecovered crippled and dead birds. Even if we are indifferent to the humane aspect, we cannot ignore the fact that it is idiotic to allow at least one-fourth of the total annual waterfowl kill to be wasted! Maybe a rundown on some of the causes of crippling will strike a chord of self-reproach in us, and when the same situation arises this fall, possibly we will check ourselves in time to become a statistic reducer and a duck saver.

1. *Trigger-happy shooting* — Oh, boy! We've got this in every phase of the business. Just how it affects us is hard to describe but I confess I go through a



For waterfowl hunting a good dog is a necessity.

stage of it more often than I care to admit. You are the only one that can change that; think it over.

2. *Inability to judge distance* — This undoubtedly is the greatest single cause of avoidable loss. Just why this occurs in gunner after gunner involves psychology and lack of shooting experience. The hunter who shoots at all out-of-range birds and occasionally bags one is not demonstrating skill but mere ignorance in the proper use of his fowling piece; the sky shooters cripple more ducks than all other hunters put together. A real sportsman waits until the bird is well within range so that if one is crippled a quick second or third shot will help erase the blunder of a partial hit. The extra shot carried in many duck guns should be reserved to rake a cripple the moment it is down.

3. *Poor marksmanship* — This hits us where it hurts! For ten months, old Betsy sits a'mouldering in the cabinet or in a damp gun case, and then on the legal hour of the opening day we proceed to do our practicing on live birds. We have just enough feel to get the birds in the outside pattern and do our damage. One federal official, who has observed gunners in the field for many years, said that many of the cripples of the first few days are caused by "good" gunners, but "good" gunners who haven't shot since last season and consequently the first day out often becomes a "sighting-in" time that costs plenty of lost ducks.

4. *Ability to judge properly and range of modern shells* — Here is a matter that can become a real issue. Our modern shells are hard-hitting, but they are not radar-guided, nor does the man who

(Continued on Page 8)

FEDERAL AID FUNDS ALLOTTED

Oregon will receive during the current 1957 fiscal year \$514,273.21 in federal aid funds for wildlife and fish restoration projects (Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson). One-third of this amount will have to be matched with state game funds. The Pittman-Robertson apportionment for wildlife projects is \$410,673.56 and the Dingell-Johnson funds for fish projects are \$103,599.65. The total amount of federal aid funds for the nation is \$21,062,000, about \$2 million more than in 1956.

Pittman-Robertson funds are received from the 11 per cent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. One-half of the funds are apportioned to the states according to ratio which the area of an individual state bears to the rest of the states. The other fifty per cent is allotted on the basis of the number of paid license holders in each state.

Dingell-Johnson funds come from the 10 per cent tax on sport fishing equipment. Sixty per cent of the money is distributed according to the number of license holders and 40 per cent according to area.

WILDLIFE'S ROLE IN OUR ECONOMY

(Continued from Page 5)

Comment

What group or segment of people benefit from this enormous yearly expenditure? All the people benefit in some way. Among those who benefit more or less directly are people engaged in the manufacture of firearms, fishing tackle, automobiles, trailers, and automotive equipment, tents, sports clothes, boots, shoes and optical equipment; owners and employees of hotels, motels, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, hardware stores, and sporting goods stores; guides, ranchers, and many others engaged in various other occupations and enterprises. Farmers often benefit by sale of produce to population swollen small towns and communities upon the advent of the hunting and fishing season.

The number of participants, the amount of money expended, and the sustained interest from youth to old age, all emphasize that hunting and fishing continue to be the most popular American sports. Apart from benefits to national health and well-being, it is evident that conservation actions are warranted purely on the grounds of national income, as well as for their recreational values to approximately 20 million adults and 5 million minors who fish and hunt.



Group inspected various habitat developments in eastern Oregon such as this guzzler, designed to catch rainfall and provide water for upland game.

Habitat Improvement Conference

HABITAT improvement agents and other interested personnel from seven western state game departments met recently in Pendleton. This conference was similar to one held in Boise, Idaho two years ago. A series of panels paved the way for discussions of the major activities and problems of the development programs for upland game.

The upland game projects are available to private farm lands. The purpose is to improve cover, food or water conditions through plantings or construction of needed facilities. Surveys are made by trained personnel to determine needs. The landowner provides the land and approves the proposed developments. These are often designed to benefit the farmer by providing windbreaks, field border and erosion control plantings. The departments provide materials and labor for installing the improvements. Plantings are usually maintained for the first few years. There is a continual search for better plant species, better weed and rodent controls, improved construction designs and materials, and more economical procedures. Evaluation of results is an important part of such programs.

The new Soil Bank Act may provide impetus to habitat improvement activities and it occupied a prominent position on the conference program. Representatives from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation state office explained the Conservation Reserve program to the group and answered many questions.

The twenty-five representatives attending from Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, spent the last half-day on a field tour. The group saw habitat developments in the wheat country west of Pendleton. Some of the equipment used by Oregon crews was demonstrated. The final stop was made at the shrub and tree nursery located at the Hermiston state game farm.

Such meetings provide an opportunity for project personnel to learn from each other through discussion of improved techniques and technical details for the benefit of their own programs.

DEER AND ELK HUNTERS

Remember to Mail in Your Report Card.

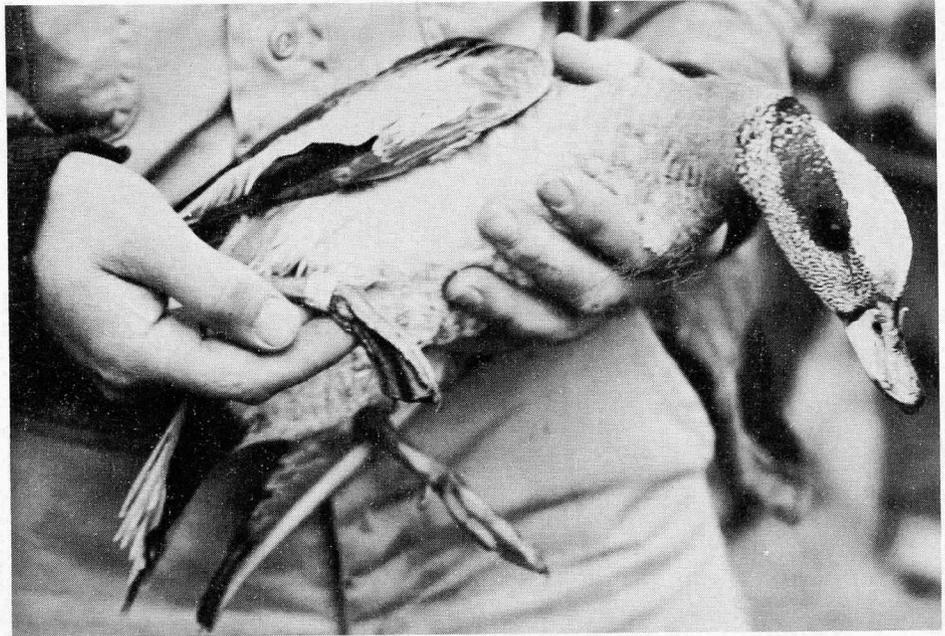
THE WATERFOWL HEX

(Continued from Page 6)

purchases a box of long-range shells automatically acquire the skill that is needed for pointing the gun for that kind of shooting. A fundamental knowledge of the proper range and killing power of the shooting equipment still is basic. Even with the gun loaded with long-range shells, let's still remember that in long-range shooting the lead is the thing and that it's mighty important to have at least three to five pellets of number six chilled shot to kill cleanly. Of course, that's dependent upon the size of the duck and the location of the pellet penetration. Long-range shells have made real contributions to good sport when used intelligently. The numerous devices that make a garden spray of a scattergun must come back to reality and should not imply killing at foolish ranges. Shooting at birds that are out of range is the greatest single cause of avoidable loss. Why is this done? Probably because the hunter simply cannot judge distance. If that is the case, he should pace off and put a marker at thirty yards (consistent killing range), fifty yards (near maximum consistent killing range) and seventy yards (out of consistent killing range). Just as a man becomes intimately familiar with his automobile and the maximum speed it will endure, so must he recognize that his gun also operates within limits.

5. *Failure to retrieve birds* — The failure to retrieve birds is a wide-open case and ranges from the lack of a retrieving dog to just downright piggishness, in cases where birds are shot just for target practice or where a fellow is too lazy to exert himself to pick up a downed bird. Many shooters do not own or use dogs and must rely upon their own resources to retrieve. All is well and good if the bird is stone dead and water conditions are such that either boots or a boat can be used to pick up. The gunner shooting over deep or tidal water without a boat or dog to aid in retrieving is a heavy contributor to the cripple loss. It takes will power to shove out after a downed bird and especially when the "limit" still is to be reached and there is danger of flaring any incoming birds.

Failure to retrieve birds can't be passed over without a few words about



WATERFOWLERS!!

If you find a band on a duck, be sure to turn it in. Game Commission banded over 2,000 birds this fall.

the "eatin' ducks." How many of our smaller and "inferior" ducks are knocked down before the legal limit of "good" ducks is obtained? No one writing about ducks, sportsmanship, or laws can change many attitudes or individual levels of sportsmanship. Each of us must decide whether, in the pursuit of sport, we are justified in shooting ducks that will be wasted for the sake of getting a few.

6. *Type of shooting* — The various agencies interested in reducing cripple wastage have facts that show the effect of different types of shooting on cripple loss.

Pass shooting: the highest degree of shooting ability is necessary for successful pass shooting and unfortunately, this type of shooting attracts many of the inexperienced gunners and thus results in the highest cripple loss.

Decoy shooting: This is the favorite type of shooting method and is best suited for the average gunner. If a gunner is conscientious, and is backed by a dog, the cripple loss can be held quite low; again dependent as is all other shooting, on weather and water conditions.

Jump shooting: This type of shooting is a favorite with many gunners and

both by the nature of the sport and the situations usually encountered, cripple loss is relatively light.

Henry Davis of the Remington Arms prepared a yardstick for scoring and states that a good gunner will score 50 per cent on pass shooting or over tall timber, and will score 75 per cent when shooting over decoys or jump shooting.

7. *Period of season* — Most studies indicate that early season cripple loss is the most severe. We can attribute this peak loss to several factors; many of us know some secret ones of our own. As the season progresses, the vegetation becomes sparser, the birds are easier to find and also, the gunners who persist usually are dyed-in-the-wool shooters who know how to point and swing a gun.

In many aspects of the whole waterfowl problem, there are comparatively few things that we can do as individuals to help waterfowl.

Nevertheless, as far as cripple and dead bird losses are concerned, one of the best ways in which we can help to reduce this tragic loss is to readjust our sights and our standards of sportsmanship.

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