

# **OREGON WILDLIFE**

*SEPTEMBER 1983*

# OREGON WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER 1983  
Volume 38, No. 9

OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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Ron E. Shay, Editor  
Ken Durbin, Managing Editor

**Cover** — This tiny spring seep in the south Harney County desert is less than three feet in diameter, but it attracts visitors ranging from small songbirds, sage grouse and small mammals to antelope, deer and at least one photographer.

*Photo by Ken Durbin*

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM	
INSTRUCTORS APPROVED	
Month of July .....	31
Total Active .....	1,607
STUDENTS TRAINED	
Month of July .....	483
Total to Date .....	303,536
HUNTING CASUALTIES	
Fatal .....	0
Nonfatal .....	2

## Follow Up on the Dry Up

Though I knew exactly what I thought I said in my last editorial, some folks didn't agree. So best I take another whack at it. Let me say in the beginning, I did not mean to paint any individual or group of individuals with a broad brush calling them outlaws or poachers. The point was to pass along a warning that it generally is illegal to sell parts of wildlife and equally illegal to purchase them.

In the past we have mentioned that travellers to foreign countries should be especially careful when buying items to bring home. Such items could be on sale just across the border in Mexico or in a small street stall in Nairobi. The U.S. Customs people have brochures available that tell what wildlife items are definitely not legal to bring back to the country. This may change from year to year, so it behooves vacationers to do some checking before leaving.

Here in Oregon, basically, state law makes it illegal to sell parts of creatures legally classed as wildlife. However, the law does provide that the commission can adopt rules making sale of particular items legal. The rules allow the selling or exchanging of the hide, carcass, or any part of any legally taken furbearer or non-protected mammal. Certain animals are defined as furbearers in the game code. A record of such transactions must be kept and regular dealers have to be licensed. This is only the general idea of the rules . . . anyone planning on getting involved in this should check with the state police.

Additionally, there are provisions for selling or exchanging legally taken deer, elk, or antelope hides or legally taken antlers or shed antlers. The antlers may be sold or exchanged only to individuals licensed to buy them and use them to manufacture handcrafted items. It does not include complete sets of antlers or whole heads and antlers which are mounted for display purposes. Hides also may be sold or exchanged only to individuals with a hide dealer's permit.

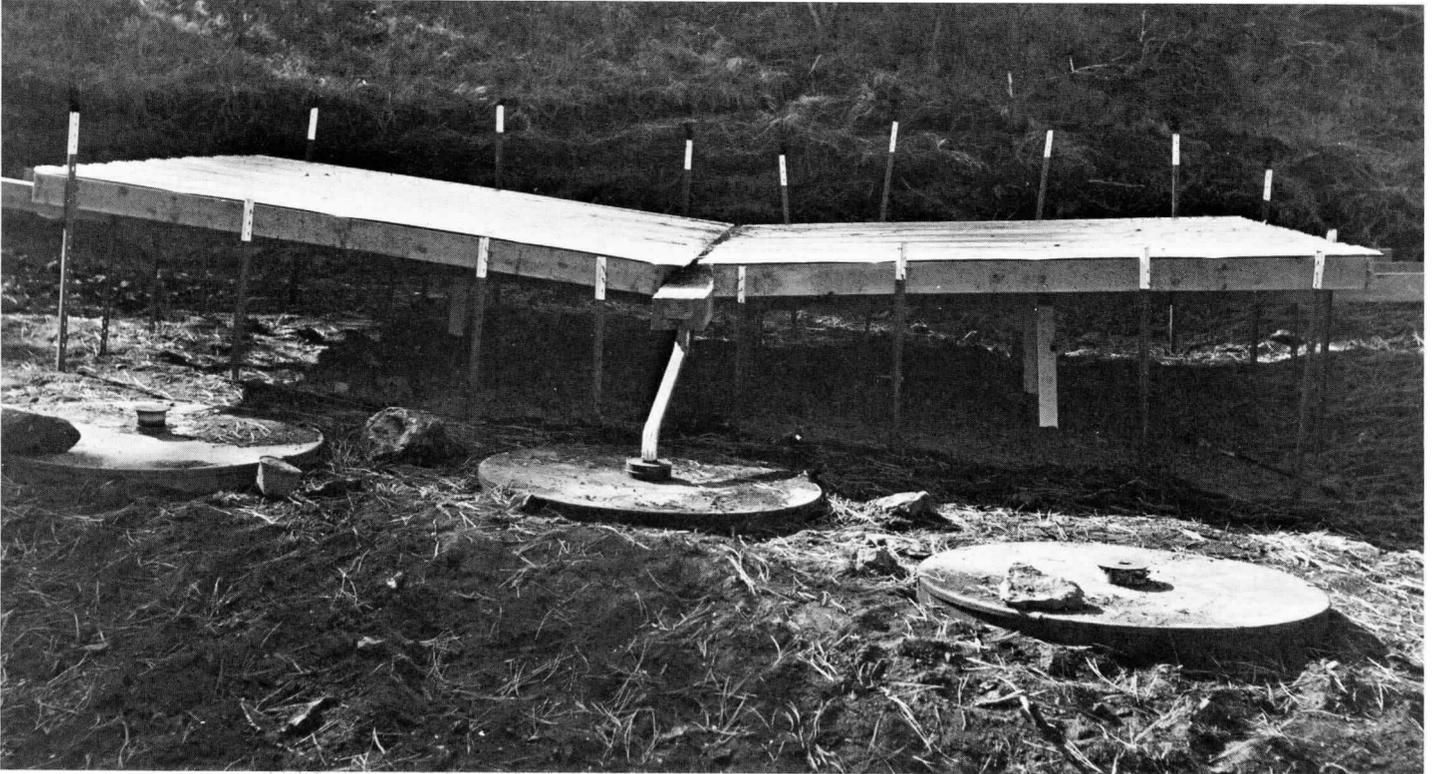
That in essence is the Oregon law. The federal and international laws are much longer and more complex. Again, anyone who plans to get involved with any of this should check the laws first. And, as we were trying to say last month, any person purchasing such items, or fresh fish or meat that might be venison can help stop the illegal movement of such items by making sure everything is legal. Because of hobbies, occupations or locations, some folks are more apt to come in contact with parts, others with fish or meat. We would hope that Oregon citizens will do their best to know the laws and help dry up the illegal market. It will be to the benefit of the fish and wildlife resource. □

*R.E.S.*

## Compact and Commission Meetings

*The Fish and Wildlife Commission will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday, September 12 to hear an informational report on management of the Metolius River. At 1 p.m. the same day, the Columbia River Compact will convene to consider late fall gillnet season adjustments.*

*On Friday, September 16, the commission will hold a general business meeting, and the next day will convene again to hear staff recommendations and take public comments on 1984 angling season proposals. Both meetings will begin at 8 a.m. and all meetings will be held at Fish and Wildlife Department headquarters, 506 SW Mill Street in Portland. □*



The "inverted roof" of this water cistern development collects rain and snow and the water is piped to three underground tanks for storage. From these, water is piped to self-regulating watering fountains down-slope.

# Water for Wildlife

By  
Ralph Opp  
District Wildlife Biologist  
Klamath Falls

Water, or the lack of it, is very often the factor which has the greatest effect on wildlife populations. Water determines how wild animals will be distributed in an area, or whether certain species are even present. All wildlife depends on three essential needs, water, food and cover or shelter.

We have seen many instances where wildlife populations were low simply because water, in sufficient amounts throughout the year, was not available. And we learned long ago that we could often improve this by developing sources of water, provided the food and cover

were already there.

Quite a few years ago we began using water development as a tool to boost wildlife populations. Water, we learned, can also be used to attract or "hold" wildlife in certain areas.

A situation which illustrates this well existed in the late '60's along Highway 97 south of Bend. In this area deer frequently crossed the highway to reach water. They returned across the highway to the areas where they fed and bedded. And deer-vehicle accidents were historically high along this stretch of highway. A series of water developments were

put in so the deer would not have to travel as far for water, and this resulted in a decrease of deer losses along the highway of up to 70 percent.

Cool, well protected and secluded areas are sought by many animals for bearing their young, and these areas can be created or improved by the addition of water. We could go on about the importance of water for wildlife, but this should already be evident to most people.

Not only is a consistent supply of water important, but for most species it is also important that the water be of reasonably high qual-



Here a steel pipe is being pushed through the dam of a man-made reservoir so water can be routed to a watering tank away from the main source. The pond itself will be fenced to exclude livestock use and promote vegetative growth.



In dry areas water sources such as this benefit many species of wildlife as well as domestic animals. The steel mesh ramp permits small birds and mammals to reach the water, and the rocks provide the same function when the water level is low.

ity. Problems can develop when wildlife, and particularly big game, is forced to use sources of unsanitary water. Calf diptheria, a livestock disease, is easily transmitted to deer and other livestock when many animals are forced to use drying muddy water holes. In deer, foot-rot, lump jaw or pneumonia can result from the disease.

There are a number of methods which have been used to develop sources for water. Let's take a look at several of them.

### Ponds or Reservoirs

Farm ponds and reservoirs are generally created to store water for livestock or for irrigation use. But regardless of their intended use, all have side values for wildlife. And there are some simple techniques that can be used to improve these areas both for livestock use *and* for wildlife. A good technique often used is to plumb water out of the pond or reservoir to a source away from the pond. The pond itself is then fenced off to exclude direct livestock use. This means cleaner water since the livestock do not walk in and otherwise foul the main source. The exclusion fencing also allows vegetation to grow to its maximum and provide better food and cover around the water's edge. This usually improves the area for more numbers and greater variety of wildlife. And more sanitary water is provided below the pond in drinking troughs for livestock. Ponds constructed without plumbing have sometimes been plumbed by simply forcing a pipe through the dam so drinking water could be routed away from the storage area.

Of course, if the water is deep enough to have water in it throughout the year, aquatic species like fish, insects and amphibians can also benefit.

### Springs and Seeps

Springs and seeps are water sources that appear at the surface of the ground from stored water sources underground. Water generally comes from these underground sources by way of cracks in the rocks or from porous soils.



This small guzzler is primarily for upland birds. Water is collected on the steel roof and drained to an open tank beneath from which birds may drink. Fencing excludes larger animals which could easily drain such a small facility.



By storing water in underground cisterns, the water is protected from contamination by the wildlife which uses it, and evaporation losses are reduced.

Many streams or rivers have their beginnings at such springs.

Springs are easily abused through sheer overuse by people or animals. As with ponds and reservoirs, springs can benefit from fencing around the spring itself and plumbing to carry water to some sort of collection system be-

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low. Typically such water is routed to a large tank, and from that to a trough.

When the spring is large enough, any overflow can be routed into another fenced area and pond which will create a cooler, wet riparian habitat for the many species which need the habitat type.

### Guzzlers and Cisterns

Wildlife guzzlers or cisterns are unusual but very effective watering devices. Both basically involve the collection of rain and snow, storage of the water and some system to provide it to wildlife during dry seasons. These have been used extensively throughout eastern Oregon.

For simplification, a wildlife guzzler allows storage and drinking from the same container. Guzzlers are usually fairly small, with storage capacity of up to 400 gallons.

Cisterns, on the other hand, collect and store the water in tanks separate from the drinking fountains. They often have storage capacity of up to 2,000 gallons or more. The size, of course, controls the numbers of wildlife that can use it. Bigger animals, requiring large amounts of water have to be excluded from the smaller guzzlers so enough water will be available for long-term use by smaller animals.

Oregon's early cisterns evolved from guzzlers developed by the California Department of Fish and Game. Those early waterers were placed primarily for quail and were dubbed "Gallinaceous Guzzlers" after the gallinaceous birds for which they were developed.

The early California developments were large and simply designed. They consisted of asphalt or rubber-lined water collecting aprons placed on the ground and located uphill from a storage and drinking system. Oregon altered this design by using elevated catch aprons and storage tanks buried in the ground. Later, drinking fountains away from the storage tanks were added.

The first wildlife cistern in Oregon was constructed near Bend in 1958. A float valve system between the storage tanks and the drinking fountains allows the fountains to refill automatically. There are now well over 200 wildlife cisterns in place in central Oregon.

The gallinaceous guzzler idea was improved and used in Oregon for game birds like pheasants and quail, especially in the northcentral, northeast and southeast por-



Arthur Ralph Opp shapes a concrete water fountain in the photo above. Below is the finished product. Water is routed to these fountains through pipes buried underground to protect from frost, and the levels are governed by a float valve system so that they remain full as long as underground storage tanks contain water.



tions of the state. The storage and drinking tank is of precast fiberglass and holds from 100 to 400 gallons. The rain and snow collecting aprons are situated over the tank and are constructed like a roof which slopes inward to drain water into the tank. The guzzler's relatively small size precludes watering anything but birds and other small animals. More than 400 such guzzlers have been installed in Oregon, most of them between 1950 and the early 1970's.

The cistern idea was a marked improvement over the guzzler in that the stored water is not easily contaminated and losses to evaporation are cut down. Because of the larger size, more and larger animals can be accommodated. Cisterns are usually constructed on a gentle slope so water can be routed from the underground storage area to the surface by gravity flow.

The cistern collection roof is usually built of galvanized steel roofing and the size is governed by the amount of rain and snow that falls in a year's time and the amount needed to fill the storage tanks. One square foot of area on a roof will collect about 7½ gallons of water in an area with a 12-inch annual precipitation.

Early cistern storage tanks were of metal, but we use fiberglass now which gives these facilities a long useful life. Plumbing is placed underground or is otherwise frost-proofed so that the cisterns often provide almost year-around sources for water.

Extras such as nestboxes and salt are also often placed near water sites to increase their usability for birds and other animals, and in some situations vegetation is developed around the area. Fencing to protect these areas is usually used.

Wildlife water needs no property boundaries, and many developments have been placed on private lands. A debt of gratitude is owed land owners who allow water developments, as they often mean permanently setting aside a piece of land for special use by wildlife. Landowners including Weyerhaeuser Company, Crown Zellerbach, Boise Cascade and Modoc Lumber Company in southcentral

Oregon have been especially cooperative in the water development program.

Volunteer groups have helped develop many installations. This helps keep costs down and is also a good learning experience for people who help with the work. Many developments in central Oregon have been assisted by volunteers.

The cost of a water development may run from \$500 to \$3,000, but most have a 20 to 30-year useful life so the per year cost can be relatively low.

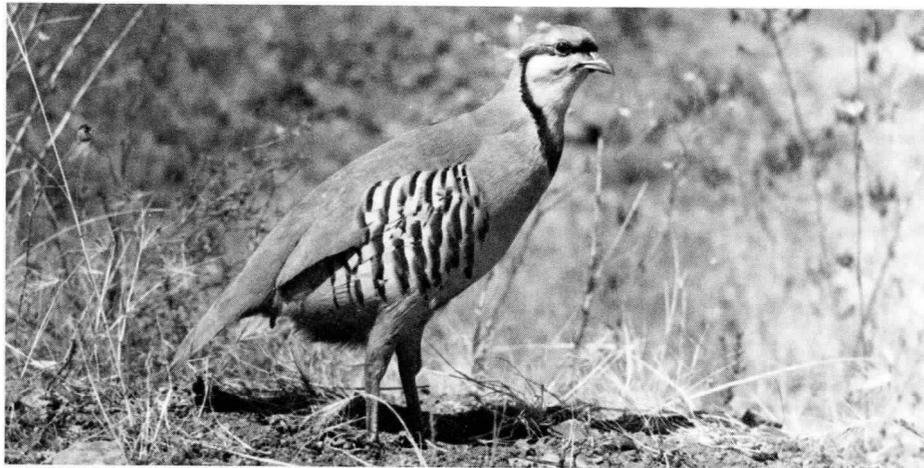
Guzzlers bring in a vast variety of wild creatures ranging from the most common birds, insects and small mammals, to such exotic species as bears, cougars and even bats. Bats have been seen taking a drink on the wing from fountains having only two or three feet of water surface.

The importance of water developments can hardly be overemphasized, and developments need not be limited to agencies such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Many opportunities also exist for private citizens to provide water for wildlife, ranging all the way from ponds and reservoirs on private lands to shallow pans placed in the back yard to be frequently filled for neighborhood birds. Just remember that a clean and consistent water source is important.

"They aren't making land any more," it has been aptly said, but we can improve the land we have for wildlife, and adding water is often one of the best ways to do it. There is a real sense of accomplishment that comes from creating a source for water and later returning to see it used by a variety of wild creatures, including many that were not there before! □



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## 1983 Game Bird Seasons

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	OPEN AREA	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Blue and Ruffed Grouse	Sept. 1-Nov. 8 and Nov. 26-Jan. 15 Sept. 1-Sept. 25	Western Oregon, Hood River and Wasco counties Eastern Oregon	3 in combination 3 Blue Grouse and 3 Ruffed Grouse	9 6 of each
Chukar and Hungarian Partridge	Oct. 15-Dec. 31	Eastern Oregon	6	12
Cock Pheasant	Oct. 15-Nov. 13 Oct. 15-Nov. 27	Western Oregon Eastern Oregon	2 2	6 8
Valley Quail	Oct. 15-Nov. 13 Oct. 15-Dec. 31	Western Oregon Eastern Oregon	5 10	10 20
Mountain Quail	Sept. 1-Nov. 8 and Nov. 26-Jan. 15 Oct. 15-Dec. 31	Western Oregon, Hood River and Wasco counties Eastern Oregon	5 2	10 2
Turkey	No Fall Season	Controlled spring gobbler season in April 1984		
Sage Grouse	Sept. 17 & 18	By permit in seven eastern Oregon areas	2	2
Mourning Doves	Sept. 1-30	Entire state	15	30
Band-Tailed Pigeons	Sept. 1-30	Entire state	5	5
Ducks (a) includes Mergansers	Oct. 15, '83-Jan. 15, '84 Oct. 15, '83-Jan. 22, '84	Entire state except (b) Columbia Basin counties (b)	7 7	14 14
Coot	Oct. 15, '83-Jan. 15, '84	Entire state	25	25
Black Brant	NO OPEN SEASON			
Common Snipe	Oct. 15, '83-Jan. 15, '84	Entire state	8	16
Geese	Oct. 15, '83-Jan. 1, '84 Oct. 15, '83-Jan. 15, '84	Western Oregon (c) Eastern Oregon	2 3	2 6

### EXCEPTIONS

Oct. 15, '83-Jan. 22, '84	Columbia Basin counties (b)	3(d)	6
Oct. 15, '83-Jan. 1, '84	Baker and Malheur counties	2	2
Oct. 15, '83-Oct. 28, '83	Klamath and Lake counties	1(e)	2
Oct. 29, '83-Jan. 15, '84	Klamath and Lake counties	3(d)	6

- (a) The daily bag limit may include not more than two redhead or two canvasback or one each. The possession limit may include no more than four singly or in the aggregate.
- (b) Columbia Basin counties are: Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla.
- (c) The following areas are closed to all goose hunting:
1. That portion of Coos and Curry counties west of Highway 101.
  2. That portion of Tillamook lying south of an east-west line passing through the most westerly point on Cape Lookout.
- (d) The daily bag limit may be increased to six provided not more than three are dark geese and three are white geese. White geese are snow and Ross' geese. All other geese are dark geese (Canada, cackler and white-fronts).
- (e) The daily bag limit may be increased to three provided two are white geese and one a dark goose. The possession limit may be increased to six provided four are white geese nor more than two are dark geese.



A poor deer season is generally forecast in eastern Oregon, but as this photo shows, there are still a few bucks around.

## 1983 Big Game Hunting Outlook

*By Rod Ingram  
Staff Big Game Biologist*

Oregon's big game hunters kicked off the 1983 big game season with the opening of the antelope hunting seasons in August. The early Gerber Reservoir antelope bow season began on August 6 and ran through August 14. The second hunt will run from September 3 through September 11. Although this is an excellent recreational opportunity, hunter success is always low.

The rifle antelope season began on August 20 and ran through August 26 for about 2,100 hunters. Abundant water supplies throughout eastern Oregon had antelope widely scattered but early reports again indicate good hunter success.

The bear season began on August 27 as did the general bowhunting season. Bear hunters and harvest increased sharply last year and the bear population appears to be doing well in many parts of the state.

### **Bowhunting**

The bowhunting seasons continue to attract increasing numbers of hunters since adoption of the single weapon concept in 1979. A 30-day early season with several late season hunts provide good

hunting opportunities, but there are several regulation changes from last year. An either sex bag limit for deer applies in all of western Oregon except the Applegate, Evans Creek and Rogue units where bowhunters will be restricted to bucks with a forked antler or better. The bag limit in all eastern Oregon units is one buck deer with visible antler. All late bowhunting elk seasons were placed on a controlled hunt drawing and hunter numbers are limited in most hunts. Bowhunters participating in these hunts must have a controlled hunt permit and an unused elk tag.

### **Deer**

The general buck season for Oregon's 280,000 deer hunters will open on October 1, but season lengths will vary in the state. Mule deer fawn survival was poor for the second year in a row in eastern Oregon and the poor body condition of pregnant does coming out of the severe 1981-82 winter is the primary cause. The poorest fawn survival was in southcentral and southeast Oregon.

Overall, mule deer populations declined slightly and bucks will be fewer than last year. Yearling bucks, which were fawns last year,

will be down substantially in some units.

A short buck hunting season from October 1 to October 6 was adopted for 26 units, primarily in southcentral and southeast Oregon. The season in remaining eastern Oregon units will run from October 1 through October 12. Hunters should check the regulations for season length in the unit they plan to hunt. With the exception of two damage control hunts totaling 300 permits, there were no antlerless permits issued for mule deer this year.

Hunting prospects for the mule deer season range from poor to fair with the best chances in central and northeast Oregon. Hunting prospects in the permit entry areas in the Steens and Whitehorse units should be good. The bag limit in the Trout Creek hunt will be a buck deer with visible antler as it is in the rest of eastern Oregon. The Steens Mountain bag limit remains a buck deer with at least four points on one antler.

Generally blacktail populations had good fawn survival and populations are up from last year. The western Oregon deer season will run from October 1 through November 8, comparable to the 40-

day season in 1982. In nine northwestern Oregon units, a hunter choice season is offered the last four days of the season. Antlerless deer harvest in southwestern Oregon is regulated by permit and permits have been cut about 40 percent from last year. Most of the reduction is in the Medford-Grants Pass area where fawn survival was poor.

The best hunting prospects for blacktail deer will be on the east slopes of the Coast Range and the lower west slopes of the Cascades extending south from Salem. Only fair prospects are expected in the Medford area.

### Elk

Rocky Mountain elk populations are up slightly from 1982 and this increase will be reflected in a slight increase in the number of older bulls. However, calf survival in some units is poor and this means fewer yearling bulls will be available. Overall population will be down slightly from last year.

A split bull season is again in effect for 1983 with the first period running from October 29 through November 2 and the second period from November 9 through November 17. The second period will open on a Wednesday. Approximately

70 percent of the Rocky Mountain elk hunters have been selecting the first period and in some units, this percentage is much higher creating crowded hunting conditions. The Snake River and Chesnimnus units continue as permit entry bull hunts and all permits were issued through the controlled hunt drawing in mid-August. The three point antler regulation was retained for bulls in the Snake River Unit.

Bull elk hunting is quite dependent upon weather conditions and hunter success is expected to be about the same as last year although fewer yearling bulls will be available in some units.

The second period hunt in East Murderers Creek, North Beulah and Northside units is again limited to hunters with controlled permits and the bag limit is one elk. In southeastern Oregon, a single season with 1,000 permits was adopted and the bag limit is also one elk. Success is low in this area as the elk are widely scattered over a large area. Five hundred permit holders in this area in 1982 took only 60 elk.

Roosevelt bull elk seasons are also split into two hunt periods; November 12 through November 15 and November 19 through November 25. Hunter pressure and

bull harvest is nearly evenly divided between the two hunts. Tioga and Saddle Mountain units are continuing under the three-point bull regulation and hunters are restricted to hunting only these two units with a Saddle Mountain-Tioga tag. These hunts are not on a permit system this year and elk tags for Saddle Mountain and Tioga units may be purchased from any license agent.

Roosevelt elk populations appear to be increasing in the Cascades and southwestern areas of the state with a slight decrease in the northcoast area. About 35,000 Roosevelt elk hunters are expected to average slightly less than 10 percent success in 1983.

### Sheep and Cougar

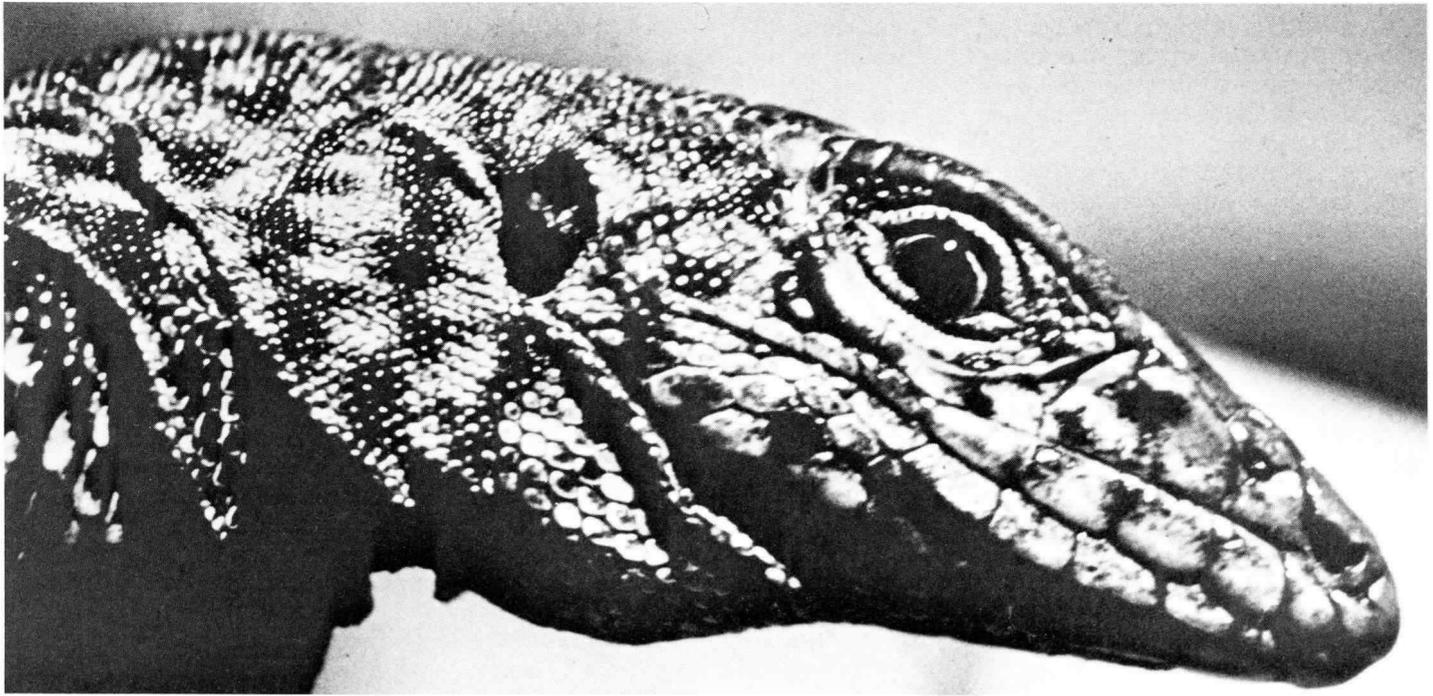
Sheep and cougar hunts continue to become more popular each year and permits for both species were increased this year. These permits were issued by controlled hunt drawings on June 2. Hunter success is generally good for both species.

Hunters are reminded of the tag sale deadlines for general deer, bear and elk tags. The last day to purchase deer and bear tags is September 30. The deadline for Roosevelt bull elk tags including Saddle Mountain and Tioga unit tags is November 11 and for Rocky Mountain bull elk tags is October 28. Second period hunters must also purchase tags by the deadline date. A December 31 deadline was adopted for controlled tags. Many license agents return their supply of licenses and tags to the Portland office after January 1, which in past years, made it difficult to purchase a tag after that time.

Deer hunters in western Oregon will have the best prospects and hunters who want a better chance at bagging a buck and a longer hunting period are urged to hunt in western Oregon this year. For the elk hunter who is feeling crowded, the second period bull seasons provide a few more days of hunting with fewer hunters. If hunters take the time to read the regulations and hunt accordingly, they will have a more enjoyable hunting season. □



A Rocky Mountain bull elk.  
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Just another pretty face, the western whiptail lizard is one of Oregon's native species.

*Photo by Dr. David Kerley, Eastern Oregon State College.*

# Scales and Tails

*By  
Ron Rohweder  
Nongame Biologist  
LaGrande*

"Oops, there it goes!"

A flash of movement through the brush or across a rocky draw is the closest encounter people usually have with Oregon's lizards. Because of these startling episodes, many people are not familiar with this branch of the animal kingdom.

Animals comprising the class Reptilia include lizards, snakes, turtles, alligators and crocodiles. There are more than 4,000 species scattered throughout the world. Oregon has 28 species and the eight counties in northeastern Oregon have 18 species. Eight of these are lizards. Oregon lacks the wide range of reptiles found in many other parts of the world, and many of our species are on the edge of their range.

To see and recognize a lizard, snake or turtle takes determination, concentration and some knowledge of habits and habitats. During the summer of 1982, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife contracted with Stuart Croghan to conduct a field survey of reptiles and amphibians in southern Baker County. This project was financed by the nongame tax checkoff fund. Its purpose was to survey for all species of amphibians and reptiles with emphasis on locating the desert horned lizard and the northern range of the western whiptail lizard. A third species, the longnose leopard lizard was also located near Huntington. Finding this lizard established a slight northerly extension of its usual range, excluding two

isolated populations along the Columbia River.

Let's take a look at each of these species.

## **Western Whiptail Lizard**

The western whiptail is an agile and swift lizard. It is alert and very active, thus difficult to see standing still. The adults have a body three to four inches long, and a tail which ranges up to eight inches. This slender-bodied lizard feeds during daylight hours, and, during the hot summer months, most of the hunting for food occurs in the morning. On cooler, overcast days they can be seen throughout the day.

Whiptails prefer to live in an open brush desert area, but can sometimes be found in rather

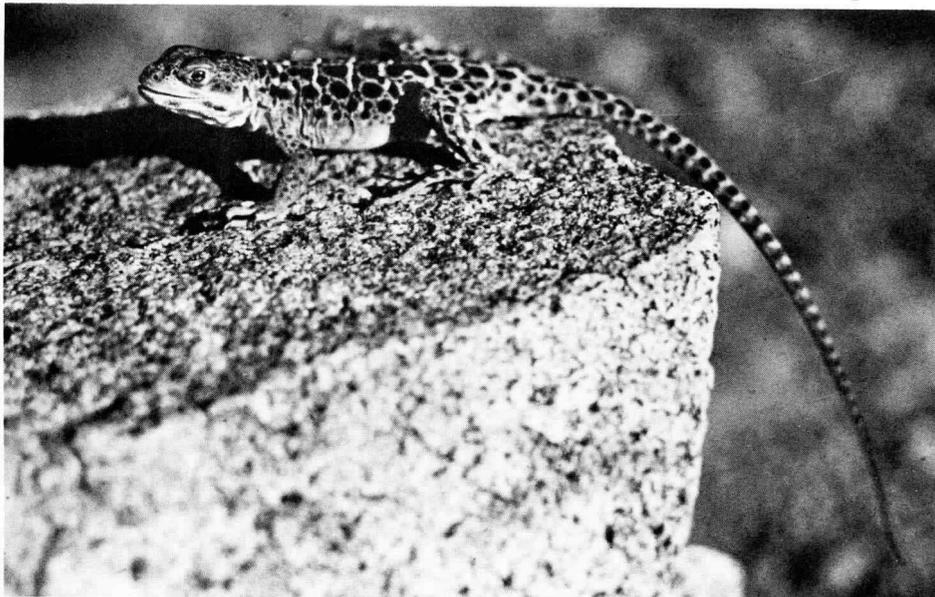


The western whiptail lizard appears to be more tail than lizard. This species is quick and alert, and most often found in open brush desert areas. Food consists of insect larva, adult insects and spiders.

dense stands of sagebrush. Food usually includes insect larva, adult insects and spiders.

#### Longnose Leopard Lizard

The leopard lizard is a large, ferocious looking lizard which hunts during the daylight hours. They range up to 15 inches in total length, the females being the largest. Longnose leopard lizards generally live in sandy desert shrubs which lack dense stands of grass. When frightened, they often get up on their well-developed hind legs and race off at surprisingly high speeds. This lizard receives its name from the pattern of leopard-like spots which provide excellent camouflage.



One of Oregon's larger insects, the longnose leopard lizard may reach 15 inches in length. This is one lizard which can make vocal sounds and will hiss and try to bite if picked up.

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Ravenous feeders, leopard lizards eat insects such as grasshoppers, beetles, and cicadas, as well as other lizards. They are one of few lizards which make vocal sounds, and they often hiss and attempt to bite if picked up. The adult females deposit three to five eggs in loose, sandy soil during late June and July, and the eggs hatch in 40 to 65 days, depending on soil temperature.

#### Horned Lizards

Horned lizards (sometimes called horned toads) have a blunt nose, short tail, and a flattened body. A crown of large horn-like scales stick up on the back of the head, and numerous other pointed

scales occur on the body. There are two species of horned lizards in Oregon. The short-horned lizard inhabits much of central Oregon's high desert and plains. Specimens have been found up to the crest of the Cascades, while the desert horned lizard occupies the warmer lower elevations of Lake, Harney, Malheur and southern Baker counties. In 1954, Denzel Ferguson observed a single specimen of the desert horned lizard near Huntington, Oregon.

The preferred habitat is sand and gravel flats with low shrubs such as sagebrush or greasewood. Unlike the leopard and whiptail lizards, which can escape from predators by running at high speed, the horned lizard must depend on camouflage for protection as it cannot move quickly. Color can vary, but individuals usually blend with the soil and rock where they live. One of the preferred foods of the desert horned lizard is ants; however, other insects and spiders are also eaten.

The adults emerge from hibernation from mid-April to early May, depending on soil temperatures. Mating occurs shortly after, and egg-laying takes place in mid-June. The young hatch 50 to 60 days later. They reach mature size in about two years.

Locating all three species in a relatively small area near Huntington was a significant find. Previously, there were records of the longnose leopard lizard near The Dalles and at Hat Rock State Park, but both of these populations appear to be extinct. Further investigation needs to be done at Hat Rock Park.

The four-week field survey in southern Baker County confirmed some old distribution records and provided us with new information on these three species of lizards. Future field work may expand our knowledge, but for now it appears this is the most northern range of the western whiptail lizard, longnose leopard lizard and the desert horned lizards in North America.

Man's attitude regarding reptiles, particularly snakes, has often been one of fear and distrust. Much of this stems from a lack of



The horned lizard is unable to move quickly so relies on camouflage and shorn-like scales on its back for protection from enemies. The shape as seen in the photo at the bottom of the page may explain why these are sometimes called "horny toads."

knowledge and numerous myths about these interesting and beneficial animals.

Next time you see a flash of movement through the brush, take time to become acquainted with these secretive animals. A field guide can help with identification and tell you something about the habits and habitats of this group of animals. Good references include: *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* by Robert C. Stebbins; *Knowing Oregon's Reptiles* by Alan D. St. John; and *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Pacific Northwest* by Ronald Nussbaum, Edmund Brodie, Jr. and Robert M. Storm.

The reptiles are fascinating animals which are uniquely adapted to the areas in which they live. Give in to your curiosity, and you may well find a new range of interesting subjects to observe and study in the out-of-doors. □



## Fish and Wildlife Commissioners Named

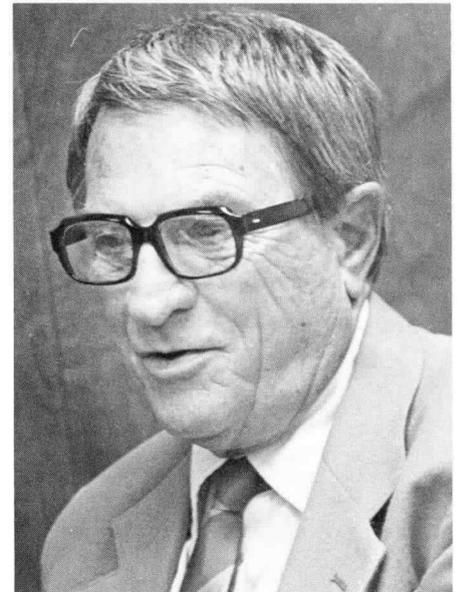
Gov. Vic Atiyeh has appointed Phillip W. Schneider of Portland and reappointed Don Barth of Newport to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Schneider succeeds Ken Klarquist of Portland, whose term expired on June 30, 1983.

Schneider, the newly appointed member, retired in 1980 as Northwest Regional Executive of the National Wildlife Foundation. Prior to joining that organization, Schneider spent 30 years with the Oregon State Game Commission, and served as its director from 1951 to 1969.

Schneider has served on a variety of committees related to energy and natural resources, including the Northwest Power Planning Council, Western Forestry and Conservation Association, Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission and the Columbia Gorge Commission. He is also past president of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners and of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners.

Schneider is a graduate of Oregon State University, and received that institution's Distinguished Service Award in 1977.



Phillip W. Schneider

Barth, the reappointed member, is marketing director for the banking division of Poorman-Douglas Corporation, a data processing service bureau in Portland. Prior to joining the company in June, Barth was president and chief executive officer of the Bank of Newport.

Barth graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington in 1973. □

## Audubon Film Series Set

Five natural history films, each narrated in person by the cinematographer-naturalist who produced it, will be featured in the 1983-84 Audubon Wildlife Film Series.

The opener for the season is "Saguaro Country", a documentary of plants, animals and birds adapted to the Sonoran Desert's high daytime temperatures and cold nights. It was produced by Arthur C. Twomey. The film will be shown at 8 p.m. on Monday, October 3, in Portland's Benson High School Auditorium.

The second film will follow on November 2. Robert E. Fultz' "Olympic Wilderness" features the wildlife of the high mountains and rain forests of the Northwest. Fultz is a former ranger-naturalist with Olympic National Park.

Other films to complete the series in the early months of 1984 will be "Golden Sea of Cortez", "Yosemite and the High Sierras", and "Okavango" (African Wilderness).

Additional information on the films or season tickets are available from the Portland Audubon Society, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland 97310; or from John T. King, Film Committee Chairman, 3320 SW 100th Avenue, Portland 97225.

The cost of season tickets is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. □

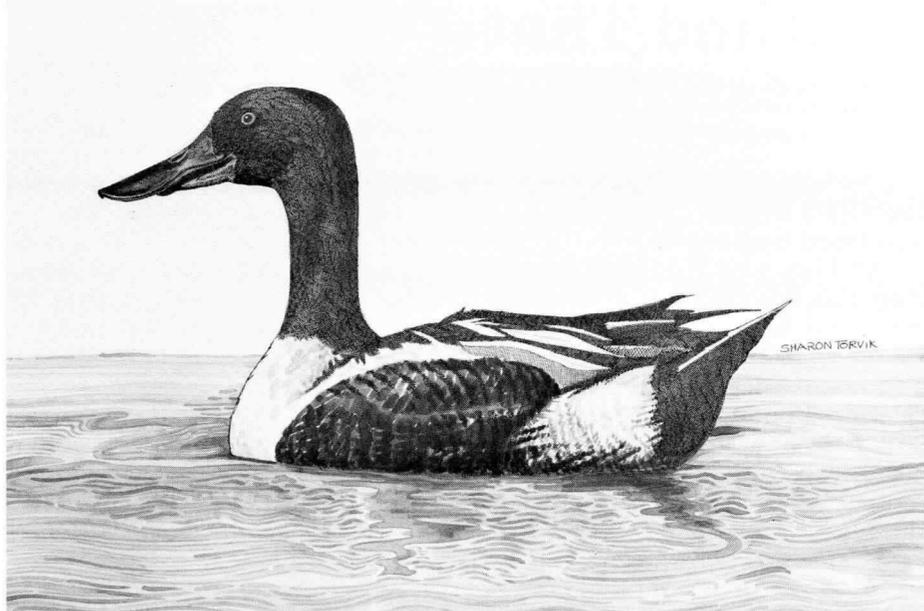
## Tip of the Hat

Two south coast men who plead guilty of possessing illegal game after killing a deer out of season were recently sentenced in Brookings.

According to the *Curry Coastal Pilot*, Curry County Justice Court Judge Lloyd Olds fined each violator \$750 with \$225 suspended, sentenced each to 180 days in jail with 90 days suspended, and revoked hunting privileges for each for three years. In addition, the men were placed on three years probation.

A tip of the sportsman's hat goes to Judge Olds. □

**OREGON WILDLIFE**



## Northern Shoveler

This duck is sometimes mistaken for a mallard because of its dark green head and neck. Its swift, erratic flying style resembles that of a teal. But the distinct feature that sets the Northern shoveler apart from all other ducks is right at the end of its lengthy nose.

The shoveler's bill is almost as long as its head, with a flattened spoon-shaped tip. The scientific name is appropriately descriptive, *Spatula clypeata*. This surface feeding bird has earned several bill-related common names including spoonbill and mud-shoveler. But the bill is far more than decoration.

Shovelers have a unique feeding style. They sweep their flattened bill back and forth on the water surface filtering out small animal and plant organisms. In shallow water they dunk their heads and sweep up similar, nearly microscopic material from the bottom soils. Often, several shovelers will get together and turn swiftly round and round in the water to stir up a meal.

In size the shoveler falls about midway between the smaller teal and the more bulky mallard. It has a wing spread of about 10 inches and weighs about 1.5 pounds. The green head may appear black in some light, but the white chest and chestnut belly and sides also help to identify the species.

Shovelers breed primarily in Canada, Alaska, and the northern plains and intermountain states of the U.S. Some do nest in Oregon and Washington, but it is the migration periods that bring these birds here by the hundreds of thousands. Upper Klamath Lake in southern Oregon is a favorite stopover during the trips to and from wintering grounds in California and Mexico.

Northern shovelers are ground nesters. They usually pick a site near, but not alongside, water in their preferred habitats of freshwater lakes, marshes and sloughs. The nest is a scraped patch of ground lined with grasses and down.

The hen lays an average clutch of about 10 eggs during May and June. She deposits them in the nest at the rate of about one per day. The eggs hatch in about 25 days. Chicks are ready to fly in about four to six weeks after breaking from their eggs. □

Jim Gladson

# This and That

Compiled by Ken Durbin

## Northeast Oregon

### Steelhead Seasons Set

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has adopted fall and winter steelhead seasons for the Grande Ronde and Snake rivers. A catch and release season opened on the Grande Ronde September 1 and will continue through November 30 in the section from the Washington state line upstream 16 miles to Wildcat Creek. No fish may be kept, and there are no special restrictions on hooks or tackle.

On the Snake River, a steelhead season also opened September 1 and will run through December 31, in the section from the Washington border upstream to a deadline 400 feet below Hells Canyon Dam. Bag limits differ by area. In the section from the Washington border upstream to Wildsheep Rapids, two steelhead with a dorsal fin  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches or less in height may be taken per day, four in possession or in seven consecutive days. No more than ten may be taken during the season. The dorsal measurement is to allow the catch of hatchery produced steelhead while protecting wild fish which generally have larger, undamaged dorsal fins. It is illegal to possess any steelhead with a freshly cut or mutilated dorsal fin in this area, and only barbless hooks may be used.

From Wildsheep Rapids upstream to the deadline, the bag limit is two steelhead per day, four in possession or in seven consecutive days, with a season limit of ten fish. Any steelhead may be kept in this area.

\*

## Population Boom

The saying, "they breed like rabbits" did not come out of thin air. A single female European rabbit, theoretically, could have 16 million descendents in four years, says *International Wildlife* magazine.

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## Migratory Bird Permit Considered

The House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment held a hearing on July 26 to discuss legislation that would require hunters to possess a federal permit to take upland migratory birds. The purpose of the permit is to get the names and addresses of sportsmen who hunt those birds so that adequate harvest surveys may be conducted. The bill, H.R. 891, was introduced by Congressman Harold Sawyer (Mich.). It responds to the critical lack of harvest data on doves, woodcock and other upland migratory birds.

*Outdoor News Bulletin*

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## Thermal Skunk Plants

A "furnace" in a plant? Because skunk cabbages often begin to bloom before the snow melts, the plant produces its own heat when blooming, which melts the snow around it, says National Wildlife's *Ranger Rick* magazine. This heat also attracts insects chilled on nippy nights, which may pollinate the plant.

Unlike flowers which produce sweet smelling scents to attract bees and butterflies to accomplish pollination, the skunk cabbage attracts flies with the help of its foul smelling odor like that of rotten meat mixed with skunk spray and garlic.

\*

## States Oppose BLM Program

Fish and wildlife agencies from 13 western states have gone on record in opposition to the Bureau of Land Management's Cooperative Management Agreements Program (CMA), the Wildlife Management Institute reports. That program sets range condition objectives for grazing permittees to achieve, and leaves the grazers on their own to decide when and how long to keep their livestock on public lands. The agencies said that the CMA, as proposed, does not consider wildlife adequately.

*Outdoor News Bulletin*

## Elk Book Honored

The highly acclaimed *Elk of North America: Ecology and Management* has been named by *Choice Magazine* as one of the Outstanding Academic Books for 1982-83. *Choice* is the review publication of the American Library Association.

The 736-page book, a Wildlife Management Institute publication, was compiled and edited by Jack Ward Thomas and Dale E. Towell and authored by 24 nationally known wildlife management professionals. The volume also received The Wildlife Society's prestigious Editorship Book Award in March of this year.

Released in 1982, the elk book has been critiqued very favorably in the popular media for its readability, thoroughness and attractiveness. Sportsmen and other conservation-minded citizens, as well as wildlife professionals, have been highly complimentary of this unique volume.

The book is available from Stackpole Books, Cameron and Kelker Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105 for \$39.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

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## Birds Over Animals, 2 to 1

Although birds and animals evolved on nearly identical time schedules, there are more than twice as many different species of birds as animals alive today, reports *National Wildlife* magazine. At last count, there were more than 8,700 species of birds, ranging in size from the condor to the tiny hummingbird, compared to 4,000 species of mammals.

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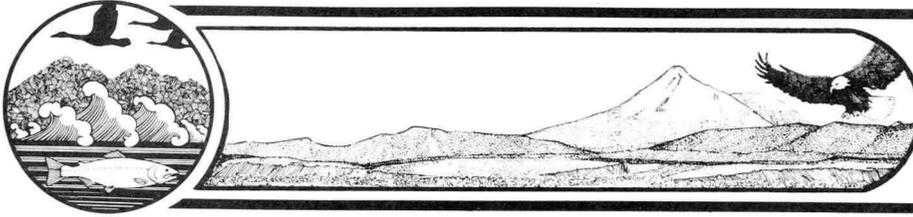
## A Bird's Work is Never Done

Large birds may have as many as 25,000 feathers. Each feather contributes to the streamlining of its body and *each* must be preened from time to time to be kept in good shape.

*National Wildlife magazine*

SEPTEMBER 1983

# THE WAYS OF WILDLIFE



## Learning By Experiencing

### Things That Go "Bump" in the Night

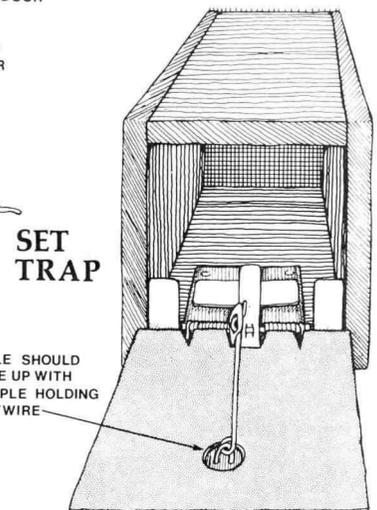
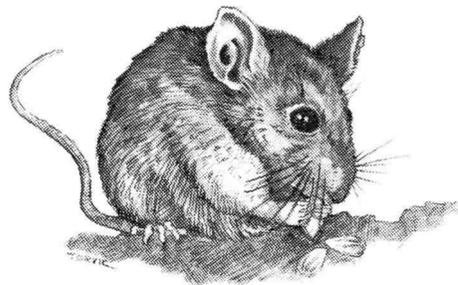
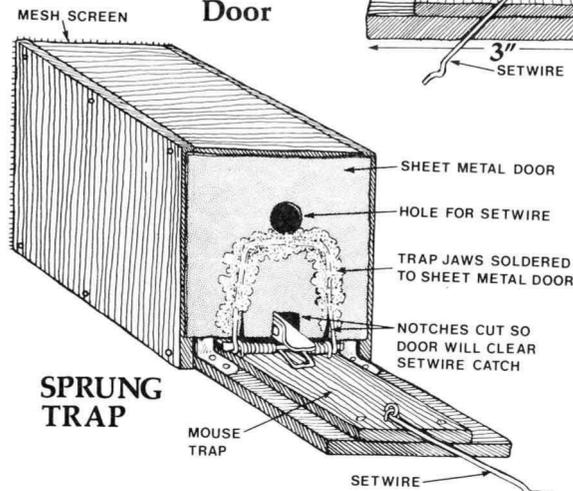
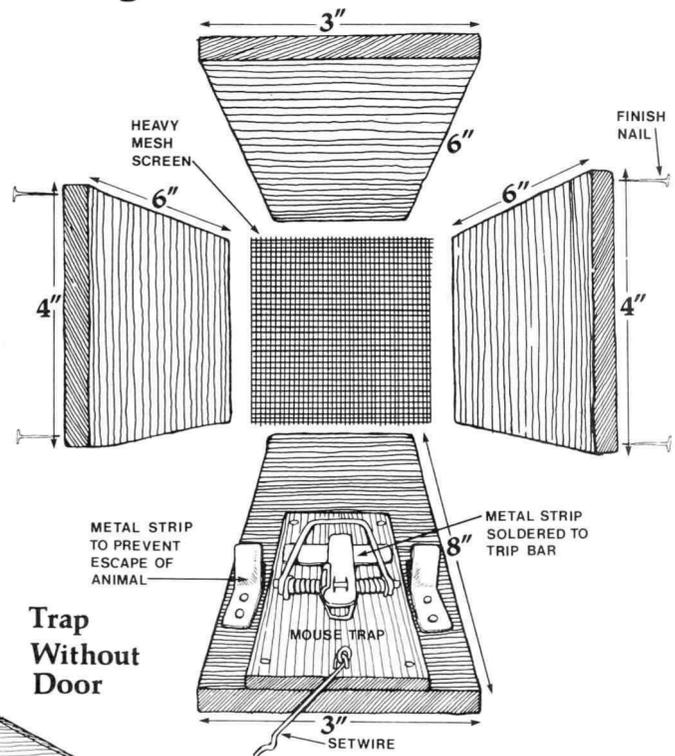
Have you ever listened, really listened, to the sounds around you as you lie under a tree in a sleeping bag trying to go to sleep? These sounds, like the trees around you, attempt to hide in the darkness. But they cannot quite remain unnoticed.

Many of these sounds are made by small mammals that are most active at night and rest during the day. Such animals are said to be **NOCTURNAL**. What animals make these sounds? Do you know which animals explore your area as you sleep?

One way to find out is to trap the animals as they go about their nightly search for food. The trap illustrated here is easy to build out of one-fourth or three-eighths-inch plywood, and is designed so that it will not injure the animal.

Biologists use traps like these to find out what animals inhabit an area and how many of the animals are present. They set and bait a number of traps (using oatmeal, peanut butter, etc.) and wait for darkness to come. Later that night, they check the traps and identify the animals they have caught, then immediately release them back into the area.

Try your hand at building a set of these traps. Next month, we will show you how to use the traps and how to interpret the information you have gathered to estimate how many animals are present. You may learn what it is that goes "bump" in the night. □



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

National Hunting and Fishing Day, 1983

We observe September 24, 1983, as National Hunting and Fishing Day in recognition of the historic contributions of America's sportsmen to our national conservation efforts.

Conserving our national and wildlife resources is one of the most important responsibilities we have to this and future generations of Americans. For nearly a century our nation's hunters and fishermen have been in the forefront of efforts to preserve these natural assets and end the loss of essential animal habitats. Through special license fees and taxes, the men and women who enjoy our outdoor resources have helped support effective conservation programs. The \$5 billion raised by sportsmen's self-imposed fees are largely responsible for the wildlife heritage we treasure today.

Hunting and fishing activities provide outstanding recreational opportunities for fifty-eight million Americans each year. Hunting plays an important part in scientific wildlife management programs as a means of keeping animal populations in balance with available habitats.

On this notable occasion, I urge all our citizens to join with outdoor sportsmen in their efforts to ensure a bright future for America's natural and wildlife resources.

*Ronald Reagan*



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