

OREGON STATE  
GAME COMMISSION

# BULLETIN

JANUARY 1968



# BULLETIN

OREGON STATE  
GAME COMMISSION

Number 1, Volume 23  
January 1968

Published Monthly by the  
OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION  
1634 S. W. Alder Street — P. O. Box 3503  
Portland, Oregon 97208

#### MEMBERS OF COMMISSION

Joseph W. Smith, Chairman ..... Klamath Falls  
J. Pat Metke, Vice-Chairman ..... Bend  
Wayne E. Phillips ..... Baker  
John P. Amacher ..... Winchester  
George L. Hibbard ..... Oregon City

P. W. SCHNEIDER, Director  
MIRIAM KAUTTU SUHL, Editor  
H. C. SMITH, Staff Artist

Second-class postage paid at Portland, Oregon  
Please report promptly any change of address.  
Send in address label from a recent issue with  
notice of change. Include zip code number. Bulletin  
is circulated free of charge.

### The Cover

Ptarmigan photographed years ago by William  
L. Finley. For pictures of ptarmigan captured  
and transplanted to Oregon last fall, see page 5.

## BULLETIN HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

### Instructors Approved

Months of October and  
November ..... 54  
Total to Date ..... 3,377

### Students Trained

Months of October and  
November ..... 3,402  
Total to Date ..... 119,453

### Firearms Casualties Reported in 1967

Fatal ..... 12  
Nonfatal ..... 65

## JANUARY CALENDAR

### SMALL GAME

Chukar and Hungarian Partridge—  
Open through Jan. 17 in eastern  
Oregon.

Valley and Mountain Quail—Open  
through Jan. 17 in eastern Oregon.

### WATERFOWL Open through Jan. 7.

Columbia Basin ducks—Open through  
Jan. 17.

Black Brant—Open entire month.

# Water-Associated Recreation

RAVEL Research International, Inc., reports in a recent issue of "Travel Capsule" the following percentage of participation by adults in the United States in the nine most popular recreational activities:

Fishing ..... 32%	Golf ..... 12%
Bowling ..... 27%	Tennis ..... 7%
Boating ..... 23%	Ice Skating ..... 7%
Camping ..... 18%	Skiing ..... 6%
Hunting ..... 15%	

Many other studies have been made and although they vary to some degree, all studies do identify a substantial increase in outdoor recreation, particularly water-associated recreation.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, created upon recommendation of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission after a three-year study, has the responsibility, among other things, "To formulate and maintain a nation-wide outdoor recreation plan;" and "To guide and assist the states in preparation of comprehensive state-wide outdoor recreation plans."

Public Law 88-578 entitled "Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965" is administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as a federal grant-in-aid program to federal, state, and local governmental agencies involved in outdoor recreation. Funds for this program are derived from (1) user's fees collected at federal outdoor recreational facilities; (2) sale of federal surplus property; (3) federal tax on motorboat fuels; and (4) appropriations on a reimbursable basis. It was anticipated that this fund would amount to in excess of 150 million dollars a year for the first ten years.

Sixty percent of these funds were to be made available to states and local government. Each governor was requested to appoint a liaison officer to coordinate the program among state agencies and local government. In Oregon, the liaison officer's assignment was delegated to Forrest Cooper, State Highway Engineer. One of his first tasks was the preparation of a State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, commonly referred to as SCORP, to provide preliminary guidelines

under the grant-in-aid program and provide an informational basis for establishing priorities. This plan is to be constantly updated as changing conditions warrant.

Since fishing is considered to be the highest recreational use of Oregon's waters, the Game Commission was assigned the task of preparing that portion of the SCORP plan dealing with water-associated recreation. The Water Oriented Recreational Study was activated January 1, 1966. The study will produce 76 separate reports entitled "Master Plan for Angler Access and Associated Recreational Uses" encompassing all rivers, lakes, and salt-water areas within the state. Like the rest of SCORP, these plans will be constantly updated.

Studies have been completed on approximately 40 streams. The Alsea River Plan could be selected as a typical completed stream basin report. In preparing it, careful consideration was given to recreational needs—both present and projected future demands. The various fisheries and their public utilization were carefully considered before sites were selected.

The Alsea was divided into ten atypical areas. Each area was different from the others in recreational demand, topography, type of fishery, popular method of fishing, or problem of access. The pattern of these characteristics dictated the kind and size of the various facilities recommended.

The final recommendations were for the acquisition and/or development of 25 sites on the main stem of the Alsea River or an average of one site every 2.15 stream miles. In addition, ten projects were recommended for tributary streams of the Alsea Basin. The selected sites were all given a priority based on recreational needs and anticipated demands.

Since the Alsea River Plan was completed in April 1966, acquisition and development of five of the recommended facilities are under way—three by Benton County, one by Lincoln County, and one as a joint Game Commission - Benton County project.

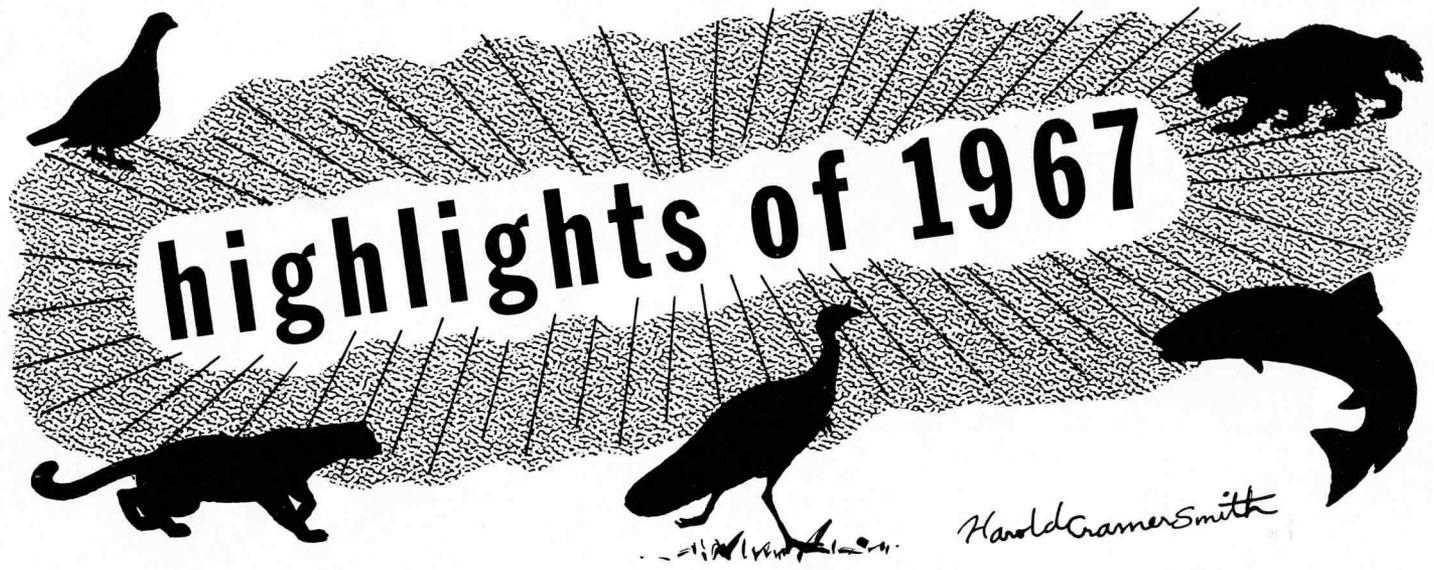
Future articles will describe plans developed for individual streams or stream systems.

## 1968 ANGLING RULES AVAILABLE

Printed copies of the 1968 synopsis of angling regulations may be obtained from any of the Game Commission offices or license agencies.

## TAX BILL GOES UP

The Game Commission's tax bill rose to approximately \$70,000 in 1967 compared to \$50,000 for the year before. These figures include ad valorem, water, and fire patrol taxes.



By R. C. Holloway, Chief, Information and Education

**D**ECISIONS OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH Legislative Assembly affecting fish and wildlife highlighted fish and game affairs in 1967. Of paramount importance to the resource and the people was approval by the Legislature of an increase in fishing and hunting license fees. This was the first general fee increase authorized since 1949. Having been forced to curtail management activities in recent years and faced with the prospect of even further reductions, the boost in fees will enable the Commission to undertake programs essential to maintain the fish and wildlife resource in a healthy condition. Fishing license fee increases became effective the first of the month; hunting license fee increases will not take effect until January of 1969.

Definitely related to and of great potential value to the wildlife resource were the anti-pollution laws enacted by the Legislature. Of major significance was strengthening of water pollution control

statutes. Implementation and enforcement of the new laws can only serve to benefit the production of fish and game. Of almost equal importance was a strengthening of laws controlling the removal of gravel from stream beds and banks. Industries and agencies concerned with preserving water quality and aquatic environment cooperated in obtaining passage of this much needed legislation.

Another landmark was reached when the Legislature placed the cougar in the same game animal category as the black bear. Previous to this action the cougar was an unprotected animal, subject to killing at any time and place. Comparatively few cougar remain in Oregon and following up on the Legislature's action, the Game Commission adopted a regulation prohibiting the hunting or killing of cougar for a full year.

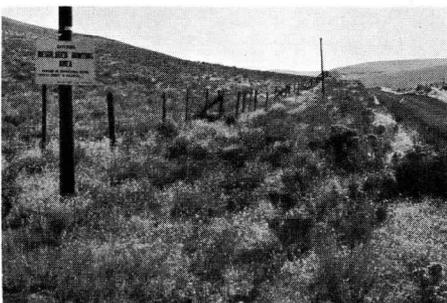
There were developments during the year other than in the area of legislation that are worthy of note. As many readers

know, it was approximately seven years ago that the Commission brought in the wild Merriam's turkey, having obtained the birds from Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. The introductions have proved successful, particularly in Wasco County. Last fall, for the first time, a general turkey hunt was held in the Wasco management unit. Previously, controlled hunts had been held for a limited number of hunters. About 4,000 hunters participated in this first general season; and although the great majority returned home empty-handed after attempting to match wits with this wily game bird, around 150 of them were able to sit down to a wild turkey dinner on Thanksgiving day.

LAST FEBRUARY, the eastern cousin of the Merriam's turkey was obtained from the state of Tennessee and released in the Galice area of the Rogue River. The birds have not been established sufficiently long to evaluate success.

Measured by inches of newspaper copy, the most significant fish and game event of the year by a wide margin was the postponement or closing of hunting seasons including a delay in the opening date of the general deer season. No other event could come close to matching this in degree of public interest. This is understandable when you consider that the plans of approximately 300,000 deer hunters are affected by decisions of this kind. An unprecedented summer-long drought and abnormally high temperatures in late September forced postponement of the general deer season for one week. This

(Continued on Page 6)



Boundary sign used on the Heppner regulated hunting area.



Field with cattle is posted as safety zone in the regulated area.



With Mrs. Amacher standing by, John Amacher receives the Conservationist of the Year award from Governor Tom McCall.



Sponsors and award winners at the Conservation Achievement Awards Program banquet, left to right: front row, E. R. Cameron, Sears-Roebuck Foundation; Red Dunning, master of ceremonies; H. R. Rancourt and Fred Koehler of Oregon Wildlife Federation; middle row, Senator Robert L. Elfstrom, John Kinzella of MacLaren School for Boys, Andrew S. Landforce, Mrs. Karl Onthank, John Amacher; last row, Dayton Hyde, Governor McCall, Charles Stanton, Fred Carlson of Powder River Sportsmen's Club.

## Conservationist-of-the-Year Award Goes to Amacher

Recipients of state conservation awards, given under sponsorship of the National Wildlife Federation and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, were honored at a banquet in Portland on December 2. This was the third year for the conservation achievement program, handled locally by the Oregon Wildlife Federation.

Awards were presented by Governor Tom McCall to the following: Conservationist of the Year, John Amacher, Winchester; Youth Conservationists of the Year, MacLaren School for Boys; Water Conservationist of the Year, Karl W. Onthank (posthumously); Conservation Communications Award, Charles Stanton, Roseburg; Legislative Conservationist of the Year, Senator Robert L. Elfstrom, Salem; Conservation Organization Award, Powder River Sportsmen's Club, Baker; Conservation Educator of the Year, Andrew S. Landforce, Corvallis; and Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, Dayton Hyde, Klamath Falls.

Winner of the top award, Mr. Amacher has been active for many years in Oregon's

natural resource affairs, practically ever since he came to this country as a young man from Switzerland. He now is a citizen of both countries.

He sparked the idea of a county parks system and served as chairman of the Douglas County Park Board from its inception in 1950 until his resignation in 1966. It has served as a model for other county park systems.

He was the Douglas County representative in the Oregon Legislature in 1953 and 1955 and a member and chairman of the House Fish and Game Committee.

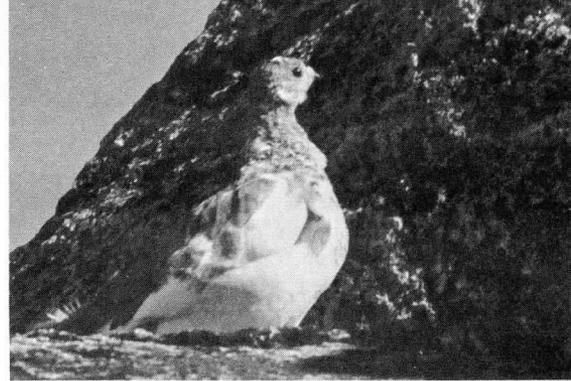
For many years he promoted scientific management of our fish and wildlife resources and continues to encourage sound programs based upon competent research and management. He has been a member of the Game Commission since 1959 and has served as its chairman. He has involved himself in the growing problems of water quality and for some time represented the Game Commission on the State Sanitary Authority. Espousing careful use of all natural resources, he has courage-

ously objected to land and water use activities which have proven destructive of existing values.

Active in local and state sportsmen's organizations, he years ago helped foster the concept of a statewide federation of sportsmen's organizations, such as the Oregon Wildlife Federation.

He is a past chairman of the Douglas County Selective Service Board, a former member of the O & C Advisory Board, and a past director of the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce. Some years ago the Portland City Club honored him with the Oregon Citizen of the Year Award for conservation.

One could expect that after such a long period of active participation in conservation matters, John Amacher would tend to relax a bit and depend upon others to carry on. Such is not the case. His devotion to these matters continues today as in the past, and his efforts are limited only by his physical capacity. His is a conviction that citizenship carries with it responsibilities of a continuing nature.



This one keeps a sharp look-out.

What's going on below? These ptarmigan appear suspicious of the unusual activity in their private domain.

## Ptarmigan

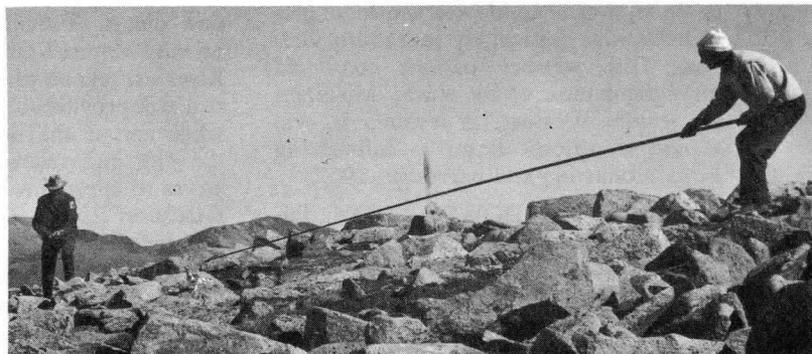
Two releases of white-tailed ptarmigan were made in Wallowa County last fall in an effort to provide Oregon with still another upland game bird.

Fifteen birds came by air from the Colorado Department of Fish and Game. They were released at the end of Big Sheep Creek road near Bonny Lakes.

The second release of 21 birds resulted from a joint operation by the Washington and Oregon game department personnel in the North Cascade Primitive Area, a short distance south of the British Columbia border. Using a nylon-covered wire loop attached to the end of a 15-foot telescopic pole, the men were able, without difficulty, to capture 21 birds in about four hours. Transported by mules to camp, the ptarmigan were placed in a 20-foot square holding pen constructed of fish netting. They soon relaxed and settled down to their drinking and feeding activities. The trip to Joseph was by air, and from there the birds travelled by pick-up truck to the head of the Lostine River road. In excellent shape on arrival, the birds again showed a keen interest in their food and drink when released.

The ptarmigan is a hardy bird and is established in Washington and Colorado. If it does as well in northeastern Oregon, releases are planned also for the High Cascade country.

(Left) Ptarmigans in turkey poult boxes are placed on mules for their first ride by Robert Mace, Oregon upland game chief; Larry Wadkins, Washington game biologist; and Bill Brown, northeast supervisor for Oregon Game Commission. (Right) Wadkins holding a ptarmigan.

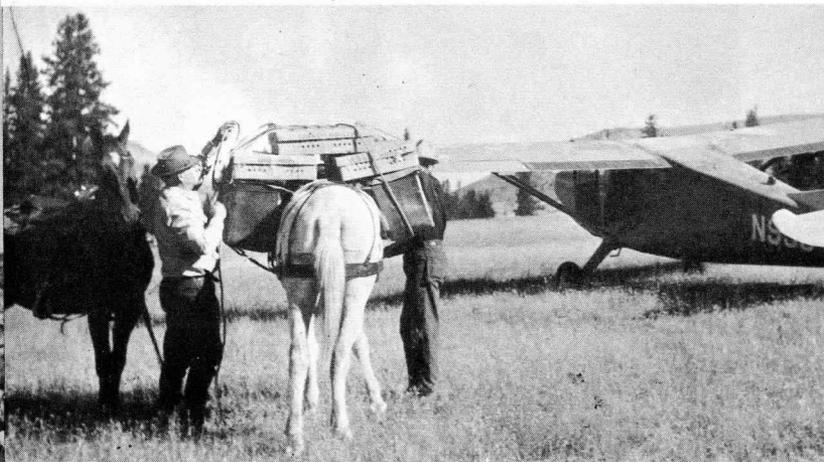


A bird is safely captured by use of a long telescopic pole with loop at end.



Birds are kept in this holding pen made of fish netting until time to move.

Birds are transferred to plane on first leg of air trip to Oregon.



# Highlights of 1967

(Continued from Page 3)

brought about what must surely be a record high in the number of telephone calls handled at the Commission's Portland switchboard in a single week.

Preliminary evidence indicates that the deer kill in 1967 will have been influenced more by a reduction in the length of the season and the number of hunters participating rather than any appreciable reduction in individual hunter success.

Although some rainfall occurred, unexpectedly, prior to and on the day the deer season had originally been scheduled to open, warm, mild weather soon prevailed again, particularly in eastern Oregon. This weather pattern continued throughout most of the Rocky Mountain elk season. Weather, as it often is, was a most significant factor in influencing game production and harvest in 1967.

JUBILEE MEADOWS FISHING impoundment, near Tollgate on the Umatilla National Forest, was completed last fall. This 97-acre public fishing lake was constructed in cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service. The lake will fill this winter and spring and, with the stocking of catchable size and fingerling trout later this spring, is expected to provide fishing when the lake opens in April. For those of you who may question the advisability of constructing a fishing lake

so far removed from the major population centers, it is interesting to note that Bull Prairie Reservoir, an impoundment constructed in an equally remote location, has enjoyed heavy use since it was opened. Similar heavy use is expected at Jubilee Meadows. As funds become available, the Commission expects to construct a number of other fishing lakes throughout the state.

Some of the additional revenue expected from the increase in license fees will be used to increase fish production. Increased hatchery production can not be accomplished to any appreciable degree without additional rearing facilities at existing stations or the construction of completely new plants. Anticipating this, the Commission acquired property on the Crooked River last year on which are located springs that will provide an excellent hatchery site when and if the need arises. Moreover, the site and related easements provide access to approximately 2½ miles of the Deschutes River in the vicinity of Foley waters.

Less spectacular, but of lasting importance, were two projects carried on during the year and which will be continued this year. First, a field crew has been systematically studying the major drainage basins of the state to obtain data on fish and wildlife requirements as they may relate to development of a statewide water use plan. Important in this work are recom-

mendations for seasonal minimum stream flows to accommodate fish life.

The other project involves development of a master plan for angler access and associated recreational uses on the major stream systems, lakes, and ocean shore. This is the Game Commission's assignment in preparation of a comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan. Studies have been completed on approximately 40 streams or stream systems as well as on two high use lakes and a portion of the Pacific shore. At least as many remain to be completed.

A highlight that was a catastrophe was complete destruction of the joint exhibit of the Game and Fish Commissions at the State Fair grounds in Salem. This permanent exhibit, in which several thousand dollars had been invested, had been a major attraction at the Fair for several years.

THE PHENOMENAL OFFSHORE salmon sport fishery highlighted the summer months. Participation was up as was the catch, which at some ports was double or almost triple previous high figures. Much credit is due the hatchery operations of state and federal agencies as well as to the habitat improvement work which has most certainly contributed to increased natural production.

Improvement of big game winter

(Continued on Page 7)

Archer Mer Raetzman of The Dalles displays wild gobbler he downed November 22, the last day of the first general turkey season in Oregon. The bird weighed 12 pounds dressed and is the first one reported taken by bow and arrow. It was shot near Jordan Creek in the Wasco game management unit. Raetzman also shot his buck this fall with a bow and arrow, as did his wife.

Shown are results of juniper chaining operations in the Goodlow Mountain area. As part of the Commission's big game winter range improvement program, land is cleared of junipers to permit growth of other plants more palatable to deer.



# Highlights of 1967

(Continued from Page 6)

ranges received increased emphasis in the past year. Among projects started were the following:

1. Fencing on a black-tailed deer winter range near Klamath Falls to regulate livestock use.
2. A juniper chaining project on the Goodlow Mountain winter range east of Klamath Falls. Fencing and seeding are also involved.
3. A fencing project to regulate livestock use on the Gearhart range near Bly in Klamath County in cooperation with the Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser Company, and the grazing permittee.
4. A cooperative seeding project with the Bureau of Land Management on the Keating range in Baker County.
5. A cooperative seeding project with the Bureau of Land Management adjacent to the foothills on the east side of the Steens. Fencing will be done to control livestock use.

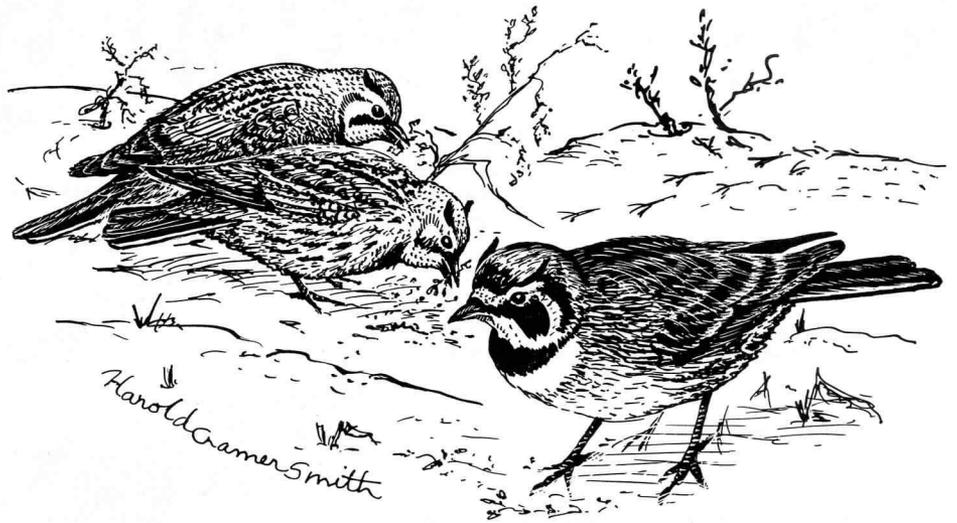
Other projects had been started previously and additional ones are planned for initiation this year.

Of importance to naturalists and to those who feel strongly about preserving all species of Oregon's native fauna was the confirmed sighting of a wolverine at Waldo Lake. In the fall of 1966 one of these animals was killed near Three Fingers Jack, and later on an apparently authentic report of a wolverine sighting was received. It is worthy of mention that through action of the Legislature in 1967, the wolverine was declared a furbearer and is now a protected animal.

IN SEPTEMBER of last year white-tailed ptarmigan were released in the Wallawas. Fifteen of the birds were obtained from Colorado, and an additional 21 were obtained in the North Cascades Primitive Area in a cooperative trapping project with the Washington Department of Game. This is the first known introduction of this bird into Oregon.

Last fall the Commission initiated a pilot project involving regulated hunting access on approximately 110,000 acres of private land south of Heppner in Morrow County. Forty landowners were included in this cooperative project known as the Heppner Regulated Hunting Area. The Commission provided patrol personnel and vehicles and posted the area with appropriate signs delineating safety zones and open hunting areas. More than 90 percent of the total area was posted with "Welcome to Hunt" signs. The project

GAME BULLETIN



## The Horned Lark

THE HORNE LARK is one of the most widely distributed land birds in the world, with races or subspecies found throughout the northern hemisphere. Its range extends from the Arctic coasts of Europe, Asia, and North America south to Africa and Colombia, South America. Over much of this vast territory, the bird is a permanent year-round resident but becomes a migrant in the northern regions when snow and ice cover its food supply and force it to warmer climates.

In Oregon the horned lark is a bird of the wide open spaces and most commonly observed during the spring and summer months in fields and rangelands in the eastern part of the state. West of the Cascades it is an uncommon resident in a few localities in the Rogue and upper Willamette Valleys.

By late fall the local populations are joined by migrants from the North to form large flocks of wintering birds. When snow blankets the countryside, they frequently seek food along open roadways and are often the only living things to be seen in miles of travel through eastern Oregon.

The horned lark is a ground-inhabiting bird about the size of a common English sparrow. It is well camouflaged for its life in open fields, with a brown streaked

back which blends with its surroundings and white underparts which provide protective coloration when it is in flight. A black bib, yellow throat, and black cheek patches add to the camouflage and make the bird difficult to detect. Its habit of walking instead of hopping distinguishes it from many other small ground birds.

Two small pointed tufts of black feathers on the head are perhaps the bird's most characteristic feature and give origin to the common name "horned lark." These tufts are carried erect during the breeding season and appear as conspicuous horns. At other times the tufts lay flat and are visible only as a dark stripe above the eye.

For a nest, the female scratches out a depression beneath a clump of grass in a dry, open field. This she lines with a few straws and roots. Four spotted gray eggs are laid and two broods of young are normally raised during peak activity in April and June.

During the summer months, a large part of the horned lark's diet is composed of grasshoppers, weevils, and moths; but when these insects disappear for the winter, the menu shifts to a diet of weed seeds and waste grain. These beneficial feeding habits make the horned lark a popular resident of farm lands throughout the state.

-- C. E. Kebbe

was considered highly successful and may well be the forerunner of similar efforts in other parts of the state.

The foregoing recitation of "highlights" is by no means a complete report on Commission activities and important fish and wildlife developments in 1967. A review of the issues of the Bulletin for the past year would reveal many other important

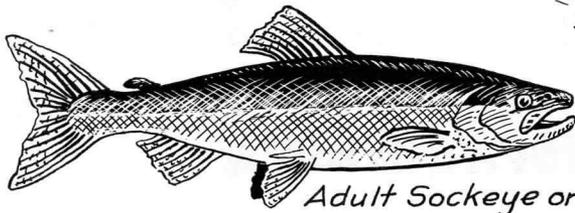
events. But again, it must be emphasized that 1967 was the year in which the stage was set. With mounting pressure on the wildlife resource, direct and indirect, the people, through the Legislature, in authorizing the fee increases have provided the Commission with the tools to meet this pressure. The events of 1967 provide a basis of optimism for the years ahead.

# SOCKEYE SALMON

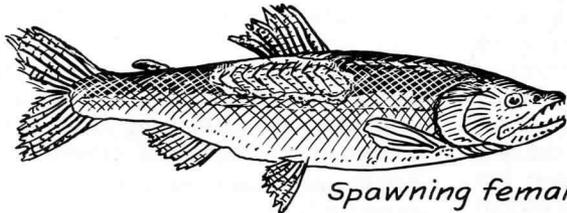
*Oncorhynchus nerka*

Common names (ocean) red & blueback  
(landlocked) kokanee, yank, little redfish  
and silver trout.

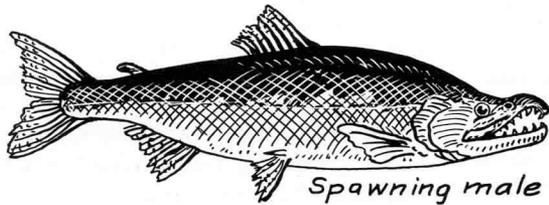
Ranges from the Columbia River to  
Alaska and westward to Japan.



Adult Sockeye or Kokanee

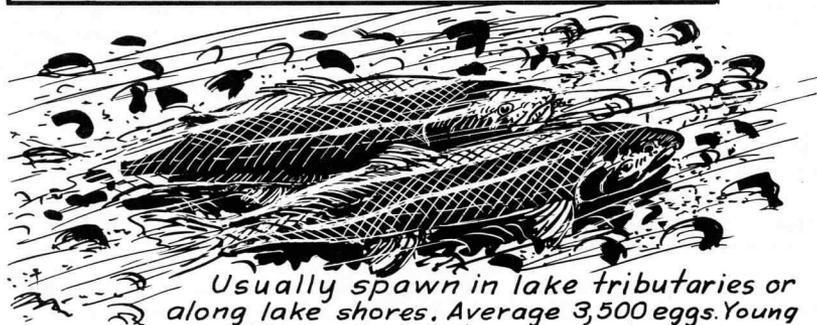


Spawning female



Spawning male

Sockeye is a medium-sized salmon, 3 to 7 lbs.  
Back is greenish-blue with silvery sides &  
belly. Bodies of spawning fish turn muddy  
to bright red in color. Kokanee weigh 1/2 to 3 lbs.

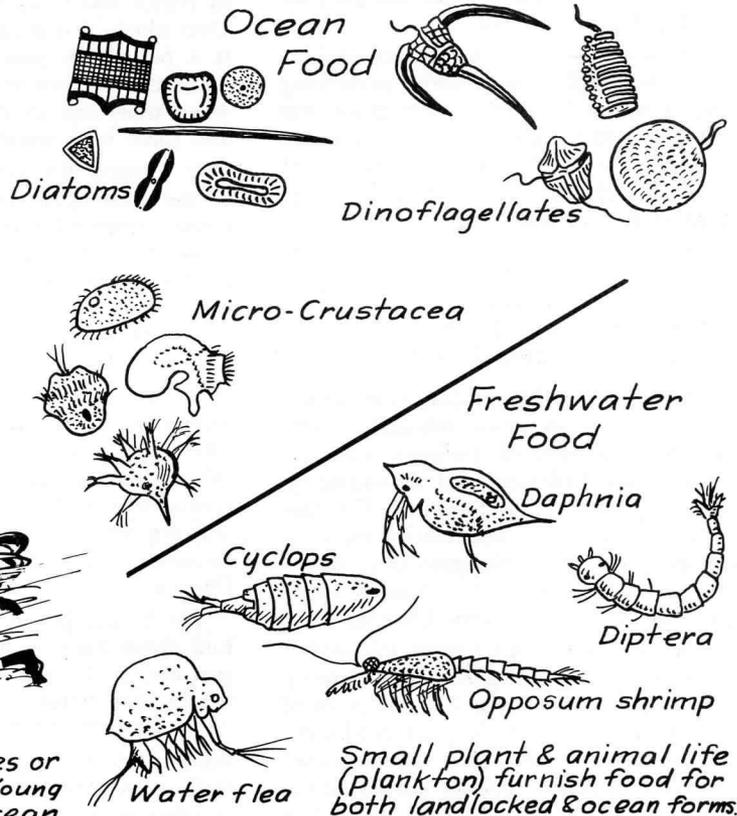


Usually spawn in lake tributaries or  
along lake shores. Average 3,500 eggs. Young  
spend year in lake then migrate to ocean



Harold Cramer Smith

Prefer streams headed by lakes for  
spawning. Enter streams in June to  
August, during third or fourth year of  
life. A number of Oregon lakes have  
the landlocked form (kokanee).



Oregon State Game  
Commission Bulletin

1634 S.W. ALDER STREET  
P.O. BOX 3503  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

