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# OREGON WILDLIFE

May-June 1991





# OREGON WILDLIFE

May-June 1991  
Vol. 47, No. 3

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Oregon Wildlife (ISSN 0094-7113) is published every other month by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 2501 S.W. 1st, Portland, Oregon 97201. Volumes 1 through 28 were entitled Oregon Game Commission Bulletin. Oregon Wildlife is circulated free of charge with second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon. Copyright 1991 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without written permission of the editor.

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OREGON WILDLIFE  
P.O. Box 59  
Portland, OR 97207

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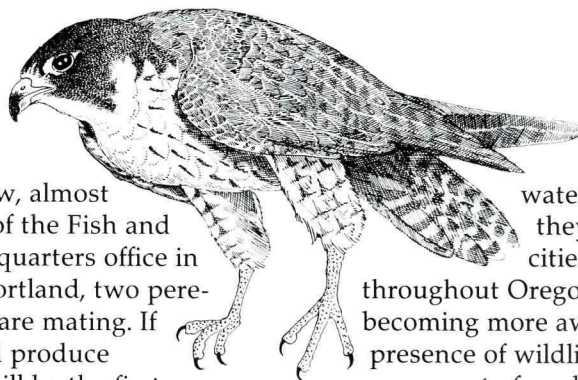
## The Cover

This photo of a western fence lizard by Keith Swenson of Portland is the First Place winner in the annual Wild and Fishy photo contest Wildlife Category.

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# A Place For Wildlife



Right now, almost within sight of the Fish and Wildlife headquarters office in downtown Portland, two peregrine falcons are mating. If they nest and produce young, this will be the first such event here in known history. Very few peregrines are left in the world, making them one of America's most endangered birds.

In other areas of the state, we have located about 16 nesting pairs of peregrine. Many of those birds are out there because of department-sponsored efforts to reintroduce them into the wild. While these introduction and nesting sites have been in remote areas, falcons have also been frequent visitors to Portland. Up until now, however, they have not set up housekeeping.

That such rare and remarkable birds have perhaps chosen to live in the city is exciting. Their presence also illustrates a point. Cities can be places for wildlife as well as people. Too often, we associate abundant wildlife with forests and wetlands far from human disturbance. This view, in turn, could allow us to simply accept that wildlife habitats within the urban environment are expendable.

The fact is that these remnant pieces of the wild within the city do support about 200 species of animals and birds in addition to the pigeons and opossums most people notice. Bald eagles, beaver, waterfowl and great blue herons either live here, or visit for a while. Their presence makes the city a special place, not just for wildlife but people as well.

This month's feature article looks at the department's role in managing urban wildlife and the lands and

waters on which they depend. In cities and towns throughout Oregon, people are becoming more aware that the presence of wildlife is a major component of quality city life. As these people move from awareness to involvement, good things are happening to protect important habitats and retain healthy wild populations.

The falcons' presence in Portland draws attention to the fact that wildlife can live in the city. Do not conclude, however, that downtown office buildings make good homes for all animals. It is still those places that people have not yet built on or paved over that get the real job done. The whole focus of urban wildlife management is to identify such habitats, and influence future development to allow some measure of protection.

Being pro-wildlife does not require an individual or agency to be anti-growth. A prosperous urban environment will grow. The trick is to guide that development so Portland and other cities in the state remain as places where Oregonians want to live. If the day comes when city-dwellers are cut off from and lose interest in things natural and wild, then a key element that makes us who we are is lost. □

Randy Fisher  
Director



# "UPDATE"

## Angling Regulations Meetings

Public information meeting sites and dates for 1992-93 angling regulation proposals have been set. At these meetings, proposed regulation changes will be discussed by department biologists and the public. No new proposals will be accepted but public opinion on the various proposals will be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission during meetings in August and September. All meetings will be from 7 to 10 p.m.

**June 11 — Grants Pass** — City Council Chambers, 6th and A Streets.

**June 12 — Eugene** — Lane Community College, Forum Building, Room 308, 4000 E. 30th.

**June 13 — Roseburg** — Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 4192 N. Umpqua Highway.

**June 18 — Klamath Falls** — Klamath County Public Library meeting room, 3rd and Klamath Avenue.

**June 19 — Bend** — Bend Senior High School, Room C-10, 230 NE 6th.

**June 20 — Gold Beach** — Curry County Courthouse Annex, Colvin Street off Highway 101.

**June 24 — Tillamook** — Swiss Hall, Tillamook County Fairgrounds, Brookfield Road.

**June 25 — Newport** — Marine Science Center meeting room.

**June 26 — Gresham** — Mt. Hood Community College, Building 1710, Z Parking area, 26000 SE Stark. □

## Tip of the Hat

Nearly \$2,600 in fines and 76 hours of community service were ordered as part of an Enterprise man's sentence for killing three elk out of season last October.

This month's Tip of the Hat goes to Wallowa District Court Judge Eric Valentine who handed down the following sentence:

- 24 months probation
- 120 days in jail, suspended, seven days served
- Fine of \$2,500, suspended
- Fine of \$85, equal to the assessment fee
- Fine of \$270, equal to cutting and wrapping cost of elk
- Fine of \$37.50, equal to cost of x-rays for bullets in elk
- Fine of \$2,200 as restitution to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ordered to serve 76 hours community service to ODFW, Enterprise office
- Ordered to write a public apology to a newspaper of local distribution □

## June Commission Meeting to Set Fall 1991 Hunting Seasons

*1992 Seasons will also be set in changeover to single synopsis process.*

Fall 1991 general hunting seasons for deer and elk will be set during the June Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. Most antlerless deer and elk seasons, bear, cougar and silver gray squirrel seasons will also be established.

The commission will also confirm or amend numbers of tags for 1991 controlled deer and elk hunts that were adopted in January. In addition, the commission will set all 1992 hunting seasons.

Fall season setting in June is a yearly occurrence; in recent years, January meetings have also been used to set early seasons.

Beginning in 1992, January season setting will be a thing of the past. All hunting seasons will be established dur-

ing June meetings and will be published in a single hunting synopsis. The system will work like this: each June, all hunting seasons for the *following year* will be established. In addition, tag numbers for *that year* will be confirmed, using data collected during spring census.

The commission meeting this June will act as a transition. "It will include everything we've done in the past and everything we'll be doing in the future, as well," said Chris Wheaton, staff big game biologist.

"It will be a little confusing at first," said Wheaton. "But in the long run, the new single synopsis system will be much better all around."

Public meetings will be held on a statewide basis during late May and early June to allow public input on department hunting season proposals. This magazine went to press before locations and dates had been established but they will be announced in local newspapers and on radio stations.

"Everyone will get an opportunity to review proposals and make comments," said Wheaton. "We will have a meeting in every wildlife district in the state between May 20 and June 7. We will take their comments and concerns back to the commission on June 15."

The June commission meeting will be held at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife headquarters in Portland at 2501 SW First Street beginning at 8 a.m. Interested members of the public are invited to attend. □

## Oregon Wildlife on Recycled Paper

Beginning with the May-June issue, Oregon Wildlife will be printed on recycled, and recycleable, paper. The wise use and conservation of our natural resources will benefit all inhabitants of the earth, including the fish and wildlife species for which the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is responsible.

We urge everyone to make the most of all their products. Recycling is one of the very best ways we can all contribute to a better world. □

 Printed on recycled paper.

## 1990 Safe Year For Hunters

"We had an exceptionally safe hunting year in 1990," said Mike Bickler, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Hunter Education Coordinator. "It was the second safest year on record."

Among the approximately 350,000 licensed hunters in the state, there were 21 accidents involving firearms. Two were fatal. The safest year on record was 1988, with 20 accidents, including two fatalities.

There was an annual average of 27 accidents and four fatalities during the 1980s. This compares well to totals during the 1960s, including a record high of 94 accidents in 1967. "The dramatic drop can be attributed to implementation of statewide hunter education in 1962," said Bickler. □



# Oregon's Turkey Trap and Transplant Effort

Story and Photos by Pat Wray



District biologist Steve Denney and his assistant Terry Farrell prepare to box two Rio Grande turkey hens for transportation. Turkeys trapped in Denney's district of Jackson and Douglas Counties have provided the majority of turkeys now inhabiting forest land around the state.

**A** farm near Yoncalla, Oregon, 6 a.m.

It is still dark on this cold December morning. Cattle graze peacefully in a nearby pasture. A herd of elk has made itself welcome in the same field. One hundred yards away, near a small stream that meanders along the base of an oak-

covered hillside, two men shiver inside a camouflaged cloth blind. No matter how well you dress, sitting absolutely still in sub-freezing weather is a little uncomfortable.

As dawn seeps through the morning fog, a series of clucks and yelps gives notice of a flock of turkeys gathering on the hillside above. For

20 minutes they mingle, gathering seeds and acorns from the ground. Then, reacting to some unseen signal, they begin to move toward the blind, to take part in a corn breakfast that has been provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for the past several weeks.

As they approach the feed site,





*The first step. Turkeys are baited into the planned trap location for a period of weeks to establish a dependable feeding pattern. Here Steve Denney spreads corn in a daily ritual that will culminate in the trapping and transplant of turkeys to a new spot in the state.*



*Marlin Pose takes a last look at the rocket net emplacement.*

the turkeys begin to walk faster, then run. Their last hundred yards are covered at a sprint, a remarkable display of aggressiveness from wild turkeys, among the most wary of wild animals.

Once at the site they settle down to eat, but it is a meal that will not be easily digested. As soon as the late arrivals show up, the men in the blind send an electronic signal that

ignites a series of black powder charges, and with an artillery-like boom, a large net is launched over the unsuspecting turkeys. All 48 are caught in a tumultuous mass of feathers and net.

Meanwhile, both men erupt from their blind. Two more pickup loads of people speed to the site from a hiding spot several hundred yards



*Dave Jones places one of the rocket weights in position. When a black powder charge behind each weight is ignited, the weights carry a large net over the feeding turkeys.*



STEVE DENNEY

*Conditioned by weeks of baiting to come to the trap site, a flock of Rio Grande turkeys settles down to breakfast.*





STEVE DENNEY

*The rockets fire. Parallel wiring ensures simultaneous ignition.*



STEVE DENNEY

*A specially designed net donated by the Oregon Hunters Association, falls over 48 turkeys.*



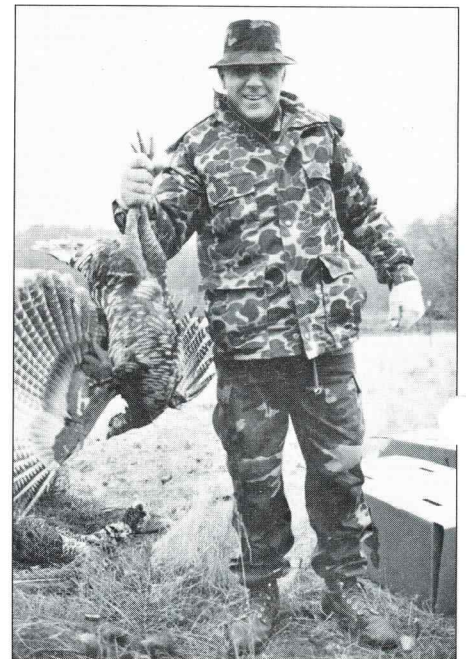
*And now the work begins. Turkeys are removed from under the net by Dave Jones.*

away. Then things begin to settle down as the birds realize escape from the net is impossible and accept their capture as fact.

Turkeys are removed from the net and placed in cardboard boxes provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation. The turkey-filled boxes are loaded into pickups. Net and blind are taken down and packed

away. Then it's off to the Department of Fish and Wildlife office in Roseburg, where the birds will be tested for diseases. They will then be re-boxed for delivery to sites around the state and released to form the nucleus of new flocks.

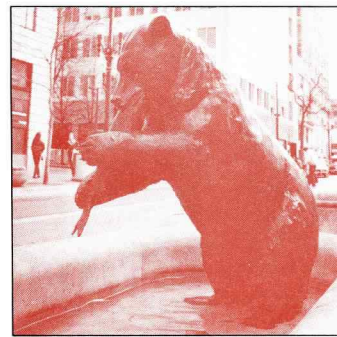
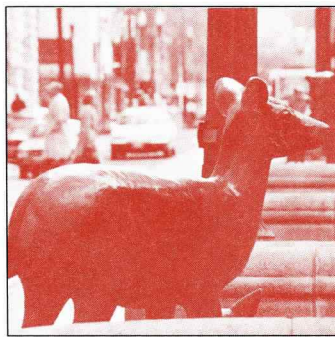
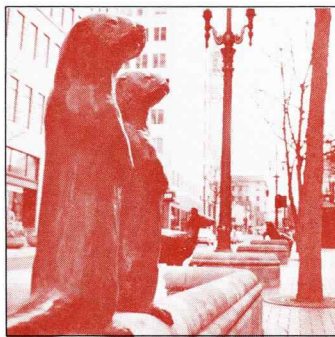
Meanwhile, back in Yoncalla, the elk herd settles back in to feed. The cattle never even flinched. □



*And transferred to boxes. Here State Representative Bill Dwyer prepares to put a hen into turkey transportation boxes provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation.*



# GLASS CANYONS AND ASPHALT PLAINS



## A Place For Wildlife?

By Jim Gladson

**I**magine this scene: a peregrine falcon wheels about on updrafts scanning the sky for the next unlucky duck. Nearby, a bald eagle perches in a tree, watching over a marsh for potential prey. In an adjacent river, salmon push upstream to spawn, past a beaver gnawing on a recently felled alder tree.

Although the scene described above may sound like a romantic vision of some remote Alaskan village, it actually gives an accurate picture of an average day in Portland.

"Most people are really shocked when they learn about the numbers and variety of wildlife living in the Portland area," says Doug Cottam, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife urban biologist.

The title "urban biologist" may sound strange because the towering buildings, freeways and parking lots of cities seem to be an environment made to serve people alone. Not so, says Cottam. "There is a surprising amount of habitat left around the city, and it is used. The bottom line is that if animals and birds have a place to live and something to eat, they can survive."

That such places do remain is a combination of human foresight, the ability of wildlife to adapt, and just

plain luck. Forest Park, in the center of Portland, is the largest natural forest in the United States found entirely within a city boundary. Marshes such as Oaks Bottom south of downtown remain because people had the foresight to protect these special environments.

Some wildlife have also adapted to the human environment, making their homes in unlikely places. Nighthawks nest on the flat, gravelled roofs of downtown office buildings. Kildeer seem to like the gravelled areas of freeway exchanges while hawks prefer median strips as hunting grounds. Peregrine falcons begin their dives from the edges and ledges of skyscrapers.

By pure chance, early urban growth patterns also helped, according to Cottam. "The easily-developed areas were settled first, often enclosing or avoiding more rugged or marshy sites. In recent years, people began to realize how important these undeveloped lands were and have tried to protect them," he said. "We have been able to identify and preserve some of these areas." But many others have already been lost and the threat continues.

### A Matter of Quality

It is the nature of prosperous ur-

ban areas to grow. Portland's expansion is regulated at several levels by state land use laws and a variety of other local, state and federal requirements. Protection of fish and wildlife habitat, even in an urban area, must still be considered.

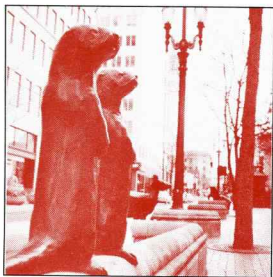
Enter Cottam and his boss, non-game biologist Joe Pesek. They speak for the "critters" that occupy the metropolitan area. This includes nearly 200 species of birds, mammals and fish, according to Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates.

Pesek, a native Oregonian, was among the first department biologists assigned specifically to manage the non-hunted, usually called non-game, species. He remembers an appearance before the Portland City Council soon after he took the job in 1980. "I introduced myself as a non-game biologist. One of the council members asked if that meant I was a 'pigeon and opossum biologist.' " At that time, even city leaders were not fully aware of the wildlife bounty within the city limits.

Pesek is responsible for nongame species inhabiting lands from north-coast beaches to the Cascades summit, and south to the borders of Marion and Lincoln counties. Frequent demands in the tri-county area of Portland, however, bring him into Cottam's urban area on a regular basis.



## A PLACE FOR WILDLIFE?



Photos by  
Randy Henry



Great blue herons nest in colonies, called rookeries. The presence of such rookeries in the Portland area led to adoption of the heron as the city bird.

Development in Oaks Bottom south of downtown Portland is limited to the work of resident beavers.



As a team, supported by dedicated citizens of the community, Cottam and Pesek help protect Portland's quality of life. Maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations within urban environments is an important component in drawing new businesses and people to the state for economic growth. But the addition of more people and businesses brings more difficulties as well.

People move to Oregon because, as the state tourism division claims, things DO look different here. Progress, however, has a way of taking on a life of its own. Subdivisions, condominium complexes and business offices are built to serve a growing population and increasing enterprise. Such development can consume remaining wildlife habitats unless care is taken.

The first priority for Cottam, Pesek and their colleagues in urban areas throughout the state is to represent the needs of fish and wildlife to public decision-makers and private developers when development choices are made. Convincing a developer or a planning agency to protect wildlife values is not always easy, according to Cottam.

"The biggest threat to wildlife habitat in urban areas are developments that use every square inch of a property for buildings and park-

ing. They leave no room for other life," says Cottam.

Cottam acknowledges that there may be sound financial reasons for maximum use of available land. "The cost of land demands that a developer use as much of the property as possible to cover the investment," he said. Like so many natural resource issues, urban development is a question of balancing human needs with those of fish and wildlife.

Cottam and Pesek regularly advise land use decision makers on development impacts and offer options to protect fish and wildlife. Their objective is not to stop development — the city will grow. They try to make consideration of fish and wildlife values a key part of the development process. Both biologists often work directly with businesses to find ways to preserve habitats and even turn habitat protection into an asset for developers.

"The challenge for us is to show business people that maintaining wildlife habitat as part of a development can actually add value to a property," says Cottam.

A classic example is Mentor Graphics, a Beaverton area company that preserved a wetland area as part of its office complex development. "They later moved to another location, but they liked the natural marsh so much that they recreated

it as part of their new complex," Cottam said.

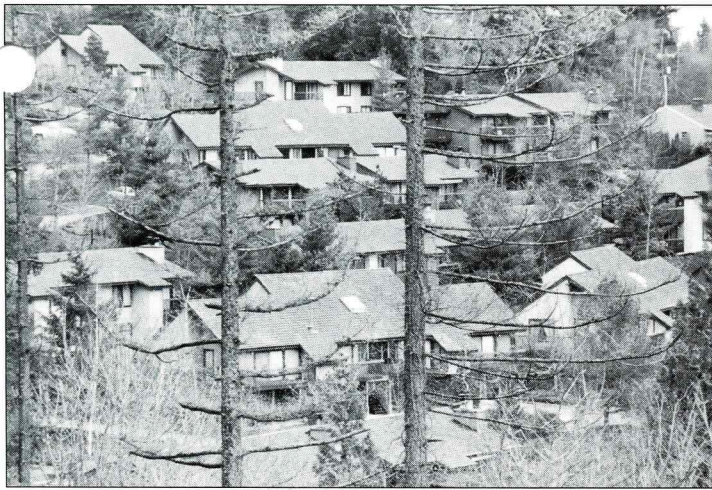
## People Protecting Fish and Wildlife

Cities do not have to be just glass, concrete and asphalt. This fundamental belief guides the efforts of department biologists. They act as expert advisors for a variety of groups seeking to protect remaining pieces of the natural urban landscape. Such activism is often found within neighborhood and community groups, according to Cottam. "The 'Friends of . . .' groups are among our most frequent contacts," says Cottam. "People can, and do, make a difference in preserving living places for fish and wildlife."

Biologists also act as catalysts for protection of existing habitats or creation of new sites. Their official assistance may come in the form of advice, funding and coordination of information gathering, or a combination of all three.

Donations to the Nongame Wildlife Fund Tax Checkoff, for example, have helped finance projects to seek out and map wildlife habitats in the Portland area. Additional evaluation of urban wetlands continues, with some of the information gathering being handled by volunteers. Today, the Metropolitan Service District's





Because growth in the Portland area is limited to areas inside an Urban Growth Boundary, previously undeveloped woodlands within this boundary are being converted to commercial and residential use.



Bald eagles are regular winter visitors to Portland, including such areas as Oaks Bottom and Sauvie Island.

## A PLACE FOR WILDLIFE?



(Metro) "Greenspaces" program draws heavily on past efforts to identify and preserve some of the lands that make Portland a special place.

Creation of wetland habitat at Jackson Bottom near Hillsboro began several years ago as a cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Unified Sewerage Agency. Their aim was to find innovative ways of handling wastes as part of the Tualatin River Basin cleanup while also benefiting wildlife.

Today, the Jackson Bottom project enjoys considerable community involvement and support. Local residents have ably carried on with continuing habitat development of the area, freeing department biologists to seek out other opportunities. "There is no doubt that residents in many areas have made a tremendous difference in keeping wildlife in their communities," says Cottam.

### People Can Be Problems Too

Diverse urban wildlife populations depend on people who understand and care about the needs of fish and wildlife. Oregonians are traditionally concerned with such needs. As the state grows, however, many new residents arrive with little understanding of fish and wild-

life habitat requirements.

Joe Pesek has seen a change in the make up of city dwellers. "More and more people are coming here from other states where there may be no interest in experiencing or protecting the natural environment. Their idea of recreation is going to the theater or a restaurant. Open or green spaces for them usually mean developed parks, jogging trails and swimming facilities," Pesek said.

A park facility featuring mowed grass to the edge of a lake or stream, bordered by a jogging or bicycle trail, is about as valuable to wildlife as a paved parking lot. There is no wildlife cover and little food in such places. Cottam and Pesek are working to change the basic perceptions of what urban open spaces should be.

"We point out that the edges of water bodies should be left to natural growth. Trails should be away from the water. All you need to protect wildlife is a buffer where they can feel safe from human contact," he said.

The message appears to be getting through. Pesek reports that park planners are now contacting the department to find out more about developing facilities that protect wildlife values. "Preserving these habitats serves two purposes," says Pesek. "First, the wildlife have a place to live. Second, people who use these

areas get a chance to see and appreciate wildlife — a chance they might not otherwise have. This appreciation of wildlife can lead to stronger community support for preserving or restoring other areas," he said.

### A Place For Wildlife

Portland is a people place, but fish and wildlife live here too. The Portland City Council learned long ago that Joe Pesek and Doug Cottam are much more than pigeon and opossum biologists. In fact, a few years ago the council adopted the great blue heron as the city bird. That was not a token gesture. Council members also decided against a highway location that would have destroyed or seriously disturbed a heron nesting area along the Columbia River.

The next time you drive across the Sellwood Bridge at the southern end of downtown Portland, watch for bald eagles that may be hunting nearby in Oaks Bottom. Or look up when you hear a strange bird call in the skies above Lloyd Center. It could be a rare peregrine falcon.

One block of the Portland Transit Mall features metal sculptures of several wildlife species. For some cities, that's as close to the real thing people will ever get. For Portland, the artworks merely serve as silent reminders of life all around. □

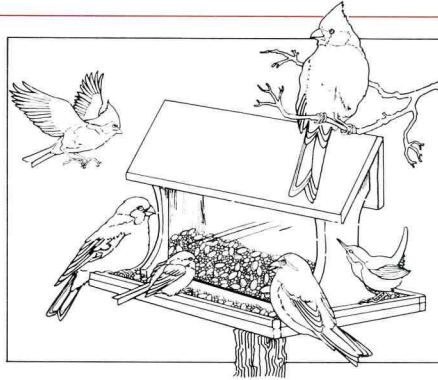


# NATURESCAPING

While much of the work to protect urban wildlife and their habitats takes place in government offices and meeting rooms, concerned individuals can also help. This opportunity exists, literally, in peoples' back yards.

During April, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife conducted a series of training sessions for more than 100 Portland area residents on how to landscape their yards for wildlife. Some of these people will also be trained to teach additional classes in the metro area.

This "Naturescaping" program will offer in-depth instruction on how to make yards inviting for a variety of wildlife species using relatively simple and economical techniques. Naturescaping options range from simple placement of bird feeders and houses



to the building of small ponds and brush piles. Plants used in the landscape are also key components in productive backyard habitat. All of these approaches will be covered as part of the classes.

While it may be difficult for an individual homeowner to believe their small yard makes a difference, department nongame biologist Joe Pesek says it can, as part of a larger effort. "One nature-

scaped yard may not offer much habitat, but several such yards within a neighborhood really can attract and support greater wildlife populations. Spread such developments over an entire city and you have really created something important," he said.

Phase One of the Naturescaping Program will focus on residential yard improvements in the Portland area. Future plans call for classes in other Oregon cities as well as seminars to inform larger landowners and professional landscapers about opportunities to create wildlife habitats.

For more information on the program write:

Oregon Department of  
Fish and Wildlife  
Naturescaping  
PO Box 59  
Portland, OR 97207 ☐

# ISSUES FOR THE NINETIES

Maintaining wildlife and their habitats in urban environments will be the topic of the next "Issues 90s" session organized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. It will take place from 7-9 p.m. on May 14 at Department headquarters in Portland. This is another in a series of meetings the agency conducts to discuss natural resource issues. These informational sessions will be held periodically

throughout the year to provide important information on topics that affect Oregon's fish and wildlife.

The tentative agenda includes presentations on:

- Current urban wildlife management programs — what are we doing now?
- Challenges facing future efforts to identify and preserve wildlife and wild places in high-growth urban areas .

- Creating habitat at home or in the community (Naturescaping).

Future Issues 90s topics for the next two years include:

- Biodiversity — managing for species richness
- Oregon's Marine Resources
- Forest Health
- Managing Wildlife for Non-Harvest Use
- Accessibility of Outdoor Resources ☐



# WILD AND FISHY III

Welcome to Wild and Fishy III, Oregon Wildlife's annual photography contest. Our readers submitted photos in categories of Wildlife, Scenics, Fishing and Hunting.

As you can see, the Scenics category was particularly strong and, as a result, we selected an honorable mention as well.

A number of outstanding photographs were not selected, a tribute to the quality of competition.

Congratulations to the winners and to everyone, thanks for taking part.

Start shooting those pictures for next spring.

## WILDLIFE



*First Place*  
This photograph of a western fence lizard by Keith Swenson of Portland is the First Place winner in the annual Wild and Fishy photo contest Wildlife category.



*Second Place*  
Lyle Marshall of La-Grande captured Second Place with this photo of a mule deer fawn.

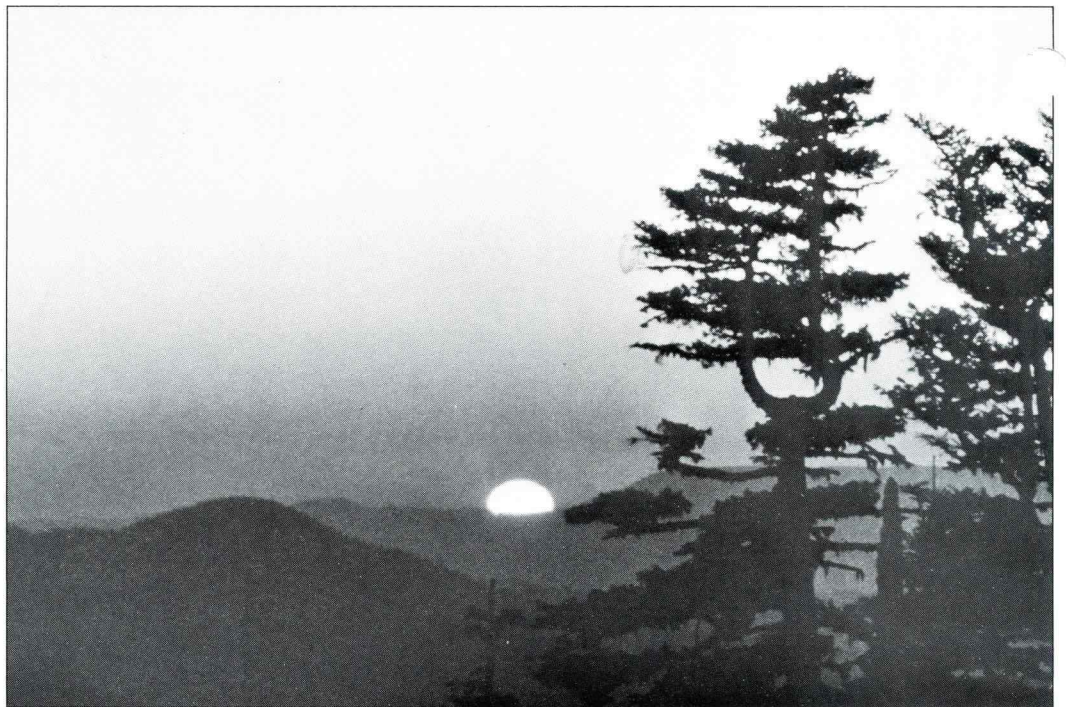


*Third Place*  
This golden-mantled ground squirrel garnered Third Place for R.A. Higgins of Tigard.

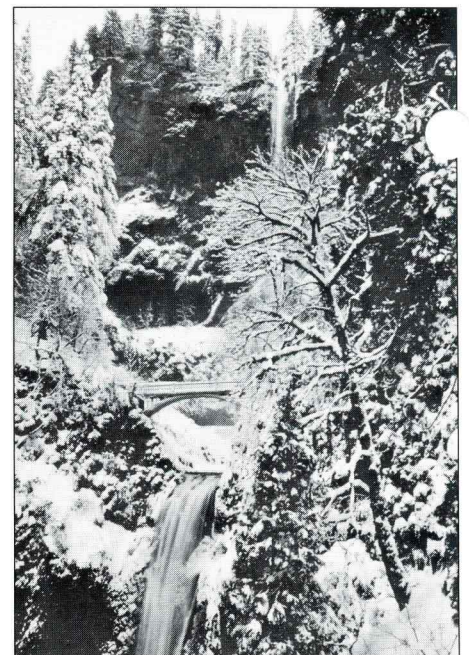


# SCENICS

*First Place  
Autumn sunset from  
Mary's Peak by James  
Lee of Gresham.*



*Second Place  
James Lee of Gresham collect-  
ed Second Place as well with  
this well composed coast pic-  
ture.*



*Third Place  
A winter view of Multnomah  
Falls won Third Place for  
Keith Swenson of Portland.*



*Honorable Mention  
Which way up?  
This shot of Mount Hood  
reflected in Trillium Lake  
won an Honorable Men-  
tion for Marlynn Rust of  
Lake Oswego.*



# FISHING



*First Place - Early morning mist on a river full of fishermen was the subject of this photo by David Brown of Boise.*



*Second Place - A Deschutes River silhouette by Coby Drenkle of Portland.*



*Third Place - A hefty Owyhee River fish gave David Brown of Boise the opportunity to shoot this picture of a happy youngster.*

# HUNTING



*First Place - David Brown of Boise shot this photograph of a successful father-son goose hunter on the Owyhee River.*

*Second Place L. Cutsforth of Woodburn captured a sense of patterns and silence in this winter scene.*



*Third Place Dennis Potter of Lebanon took this shot of a happy mule deer hunter with his buck.*





# Cause and Effect, the Hard Way

By Pat Wray

*Siletz River anglers almost got a very painful lesson in cause and effect. Even without the pain, the lesson was well worth learning. We . . . all of us . . . are custodians of the land where we recreate . . . whether we own that land or not. We ignore our responsibilities only at the risk of losing our privilege of using the land.*

**I**t's not as famous as the Rogue but western Oregon's Siletz River is one of the very best summer steelhead rivers in the state. It boasts good fall Chinook, winter steelhead and coho runs as well. A 12-mile section of the river upriver from Logsdon is surrounded by land belonging to the Georgia-Pacific timber company. The only vehicle access to that stretch of water is a logging road maintained by Georgia-Pacific.

Recently, Georgia Pacific announced the impending closure of its Siletz River logging road to the public. A public outcry followed which included personal intercession on behalf of anglers by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fisheries chief Jim Martin. Georgia-Pacific decided to leave the road open but to request assistance from people using the river in keeping the area safe and clean. Nearly 100 people attended a G-P sponsored public meeting in Newport. Some of the points made there are applicable for future tranquil relations between recreationists and landowners.

Several factors were involved in the company's initial decision to stop public access. These included concern for employees working on roads and culverts, potential liability for accidents involving log and rock trucks and increasing incidents of vandalism and unauthorized dumping of garbage. None of the problems were the sole responsibility of anglers, but neither were anglers blameless. And in the long run, anglers would lose most from closure of the road.

Part of the problem is the historic

mindset of people who have grown accustomed to unrestricted use of the area. They have begun to think of it as public land. It is not. It is privately owned by a corporation whose rights and responsibilities take precedence over desires of recreationists.

"We had several situations where G-P employees working on the roads were nearly hurt by private vehicles that were being driven irresponsibly. Some individuals became belligerent when they were delayed on the road while our folks worked on culverts," said G-P Resource Manager Carl Ehlen.

Unauthorized dumping has also been a serious problem. Instead of using a landfill or paying for removal, some people are dumping their accumulated household garbage next to the road. Most of these violators, nearly everyone agrees, are not anglers. Nonetheless, anglers have contributed to the problem, by discarding plastic wrappers, soda cans, used fishing lines and various other items.

The Newport meeting provided a forum for the exchange of opinions. Everyone there agreed that some action was necessary.

"As much as I hate to see public access limited, I can understand Georgia-Pacific's actions; some of the things you see thrown out along the river are enough to make you sick," said Gene Stewart of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Luckily, participants in the meeting were able to agree on some things that may help maintain public access to the Siletz River Gorge.

"We asked them to take a person-

al interest; to get vehicle license numbers of people who are behaving irresponsibly along the Siletz River and to contact the state police or Georgia-Pacific," said Carl Ehlen. As might be expected, participants in the meeting were very supportive of the G-P decision to leave the road open, and agreed unanimously to help in any way that they could. Choirs almost always listen well to the sermon.

When all is said and done, future fishing opportunities on the Siletz River and many other places probably depend on the actions, not of sporting organizations and conservation groups, but of individuals who care. Luckily, there are many Oregonians who fit that mold. People like Corby Chappell of Corvallis, whose Siletz River fishing gear always includes a plastic bag for trash that he picks up along the river. Chappell lives by a credo that too many people have forgotten, or even worse, have never learned. "Leave it looking better than you found it."

And if everyone does, chances are that the Siletz River Gorge and places like it will be accessible for generations to come. □

*Georgia-Pacific has no plans at this time to close access to the Siletz River road, according to Carl Ehlen. "We will be closing some of the side roads to reduce four-wheel drive damage, but the main trunk road will remain open to anglers and others who want to use the river. We are timing and moving a lot of timber in that area though, so everyone should use extreme caution."*



# Too Rare To Let Go

By Randy Henry

Cindy stood on the bank of the small eastern Oregon stream. She watched a man and woman walking in the stream bed, carrying some equipment. She climbed down the bank to say hello.

"Well, hello there," said the man. They were wearing Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife uniforms. His nametag said Bill. Cindy asked what they were doing.

"We're looking for a very rare trout — a redband trout," said Bill. His partner continued walking carefully down the stream. She wore a backpack with a wand attached to it and a cable dragging in the water.

"I'm visiting my relatives," Cindy volunteered. "They own that ranch," she said, pointing behind her. "I just got here yesterday from 'em. What do you mean rare? There are lots of trout around, aren't there? They grow 'em in swimming pools! I've seen zillions of them."

Bill explained that she was probably thinking of rainbow trout raised in swimming pool-like hatcheries. "They look similar, but are quite different. Redband trout evolved to live in desert streams. Redbands survive where rainbow trout can't."

Just then the woman with the backpack yelled "Clear" and pulled a trigger on the wand. A 400 volt discharge stunned all the fish within a few feet of her. They floated toward the surface of the pool. She and Bill were protected from the charge by their rubber waders and gloves. Bill used a dip net to scoop the fish into a bucket.

"Why are you killing fish? I thought you said they were rare!" said Cindy.

Bill brought the bucket ashore and down on a rock. "Have a seat," he said. "I'll explain it while I measure these fish."

"This whole desert basin was a big lake about 10,000 years ago, dur-

ing the last ice age. Many fish inhabited the lake, until the weather started warming and water levels dropped. Eventually, all that was left were these little streams and lakes with no outlets. Only a few species of fish adapted to the change," explained Bill.

"You see, the rainbow trout you fish for back home like deep, cool water with lots of oxygen in it. These shallow, alkaline streams have relatively little oxygen and get pretty warm in the summer besides. Rainbow trout can't live in them very long. But redband trout can."

"What does alkaline mean?" Cindy asked.

"It means that the water is more basic than acidic. If you were to measure pH, the pH of the water in these streams would be greater than seven. Anything below seven is considered acidic."

"But you said they were rare. And if they're rare, why are you killing them?" she asked.

"We just stunned them. We're trying to find out how many are here and if they're pure redband. You see, rainbow trout have been stocked in the reservoir and in some of these streams. They sometimes cross with the redband."

"Oh. Is that the reason they're rare?"

"There are lots of reasons, actually. Some of the fish introduced here by man compete with the redband. Irrigation takes water from the streams that these fish need. Dams seal off parts of the rivers that fish spawn in. And before these fences were put up, cattle grazed right down to the water. For years there was no brush or trees along the streambanks, as a result there was no shade and little protection from erosion. The water was often muddy and it would get warmer than even these fish could stand."

"Is the redband the only fish that's rare around here?" asked Cindy.

"No. Next week we'll be working with another team of biologists at McDermitt Creek, way down south. Another fish, the Lahontan cutthroat, is even more rare than the redband. Some people estimate that there are only 150 true Lahontan cutthroats in Oregon, maybe only 300 in the whole world. There used to be millions and they sometimes grew into huge fish. Like the redband, they could live in shallow, silty desert streams. Another fish found near Hart Mountain called the Warner sucker is rare, too, and getting more so."

"What happens if they all die?" asked Cindy.

"Well. We hope that doesn't happen. We have laws that help us try to keep them from becoming extinct. That's what we're doing now," said Bill.

"I know. Instead of trying to save all these fish, why not just bring rainbow trout over? Then I could fish in this stream!" said Cindy.

"It would be easier, but these fish are important. They have evolved over centuries to become the best possible fish for these streams and we just can't let them become extinct. A very important part of the natural world is lost whenever a species disappears. And it happens at a cost that we don't understand until it's too late. Do you understand?" asked Bill.

"Yes, I think I do." In the distance a high pitched bell was ringing. "I'd better go. But thanks for telling me all about these fish. I guess I thought trout were trout."

Cindy waved as she crossed the fence and began walking home. □



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