

OREGON STATE
GAME COMMISSION

BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER, 1958

RED HAT DAYS START
SEPTEMBER 26

BULLETIN

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MIRIAM KAUTTU, Editor
H. C. SMITH, Staff Artist

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Please report promptly any change of address. Send in both the old and new address with notice of change.

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

the cover

In this scene in southern Deschutes County, doves are being trapped for banding purposes.

Each year several varieties of game birds are banded by both state and federal agencies to obtain more information about them. So when you kill a banded bird, report it promptly. (Photo by Harold C. Smith)

GAME COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Rollin E. Bowles, Portland attorney, has been appointed by Governor Robert Holmes to a five-year term on the Oregon State Game Commission. He succeeds Don M. Mitchell of Taft, whose term expired July 19.

Mr. Bowles is a recent past president of the Oregon State Division of the Izaak Walton League and has been active in conservation affairs.

Red Hat Days

As soon as you have finished reading this, please circle the date of September 26 on your calendar. That is the date on which the 1958 Red Hat Days program will get under way. For the fourth successive year Oregon hunters will be reminded in this fashion of their outdoor responsibilities. For the fourth successive year hunters will be asked to sign the Red Hat Pledge which reads:

I give my pledge
To be law abiding
To respect the rights and property of others
To be careful with fire and fire-arms.

Make up your mind now, if you are going hunting, to adhere to the creed outlined above.

Some of you may ask, "What is Red Hat Days?" Briefly, it is a program sponsored by landowners, sportsmen, and resource management agencies aimed at improving landowner-sportsmen relations and providing safer, saner and more profitable hunting opportunities. It is an Oregon product and has gained national recognition.

Each year since inception of the program, the Governor has appointed a state Red Hat Days Committee and a program chairman for each county. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a list of Red Hat Days county chairmen. These men have volunteered to carry the Red Hat message to every corner of the state.

You may ask, "Has the program accomplished any good?" This can very defi-

nately be answered in the affirmative. The Governor's Red Hat Days Committee has reports from land and resource management agencies, the Oregon Cattle-men's Association, timber companies, tree farmers and others which indicate that hunter behavior has improved since this program was initiated. Each year fewer hunter-caused fires have been reported; fewer acts of vandalism, such as fence cutting, cattle hazing, crop damage, and livestock destruction have occurred; and, most important, there have been fewer hunting accidents each year. The Game Division of the Oregon State Police has reported general improvement in hunter conduct throughout the state. The reduction in hunting casualties is particularly rewarding because hunting pressure has increased and greater hunter concentrations occur each year.

It would be remiss of us to fail to emphasize that many problems remain to be solved. A certain minority of hunters continue to violate the basic rules of sportsmanship and some of these are downright vicious about it. It is these irresponsible persons who have created the problems that more often than not have resulted in a reduction in hunting opportunities. Why should a tree farmer let hunters on his property when some vandal shoots up his equipment or actually steals some of his property. This has happened. Why should a rancher permit hunters on his property when some of them shoot near his buildings,

(Continued on Page 8)

COUNTY RED HAT DAYS CHAIRMEN 1958

Benton
Baker
Clackamas
Clatsop
Columbia
Coos
Crook
Curry
Deschutes
Douglas
Gilliam
Grant
Harney
Hood River
Jackson
Jefferson
Josephine
Klamath
Lake
Lane
Lincoln
Linn
Malheur
Marion
Morrow
Multnomah
Polk
Sherman
Tillamook
Umatilla
Union
Wallowa
Wasco
Washington
Wheeler
Yamhill

Henry Kaiser
Byron C. Brinton
Paul R. Biggs
John Verschuere
A. E. Clemons
Walter Barklow
Ed Coles
Robert Miller
Francis Stokesberry
Peter B. Serafin
Clarence Butler
Garland Meador
J. C. Cecil
Jack Tausend
Mark Norton
Jay Macey
Neal Mesman
C. L. Langslett
Burton Chambers
Max Gardner
James Monaco
Roshall M. Groves
Wayne Garner
Ralph A. Wilson
Newt O'Hara
Madison R. Smith
Charles F. Ross
Wallace May
Donald Sutton
Lloyd Keyen
John Garity
Fred Gray
Robert Veatch
Al Raab
Earl Smith
Joe P. Jungwirth

1914 A Street
2517 Valley Ave.
178 Harding Blvd.
1135 Grand Ave.
Box 1005
730 Harris
1245 Hillcrest

1001 Penn Ave.
889 S.E. Chadwick

793 N. Alvord
1215 Cascade

Route 2
1615 Leonard Rd.
1639 Lakeshore Dr.
Rt. 2, Box 88
123 Tenth

537 E. Grant St.
Rt. 2
Rt. 5

9134 S.E. Clinton
Rt. 1

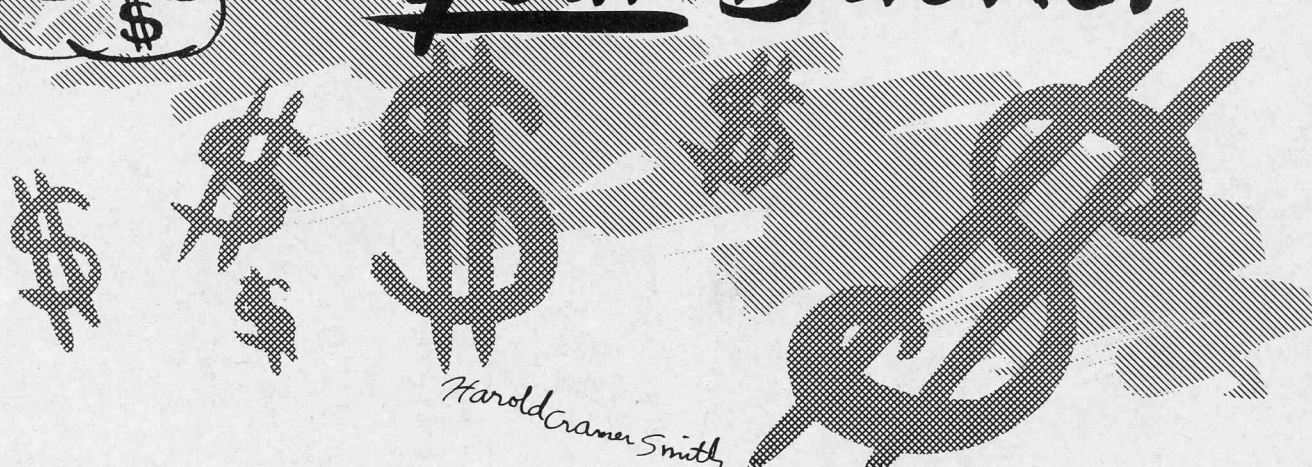
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Rt. 1, Box 96
1204 Ninth

Rt. 4
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R.F.D.
Rt. 1, Box 1

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Condon
Prairie City
Burns
Hood River
Phoenix
Madras
Grants Pass
Klamath Falls
Lakeview
Springfield
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Lebanon
Nyssa
Salem
Lexington
Portland
Dallas
Grass Valley
Tillamook
Milton-Freewater
La Grande
Wallowa
The Dalles
Portland
Mitchell
Newberg



These are ~~\$\$\$~~ Your Bucks!



Harold Cramer Smith

By J. H. Van Winkle
Chairman, Oregon State Game Commission

IF YOU THINK OREGON SPORTSMEN and the state game management department—the Game Commission—have had puzzling problems in the past — you are RIGHT.

If you think these problems have been solved and that all is hunky-dory—you are WRONG.

Demands for more money for every phase of game management are increasing and will increase, we might assume, forever.

This increase is based on the assumption that the presently available supply of fish and game will be maintained or increased in step with the increasing pressure of the anglers and hunters and their improved and more efficient means of taking fish and game.

You and I, as hunters and anglers, want more birds, more fish, more deer, more elk—more of everything. We need more access, more open hunting areas, more boat launching and take-out facilities, more winter ranges, more habitat improvement (for both fish and game), more hatcheries—more, more, MORE!

Research, propagation, stocking, distribution, game damage, reforestation, public shooting areas, boating safety and control, training for examinations before new hunters can be licensed, a larger and better-paid staff, improved law enforcement and many other facets of game management will cost a lot more money in the future than they do now.

In addition, we would like more empha-

sis on hunting and boating safety to embellish our enjoyment and safety of Oregon's outdoor resources.

NOW ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU AND I as citizens of Oregon and as businessmen desire more industry, more agriculture, more intensive water and land development, more population, as well as more hunting and fishing. Unfortunately these two great desires on our part are not always compatible.

Our population has increased and will continue to increase, but land and water areas of our state cannot increase.

Add to this situation the fact that development for industry and agriculture often decreases land available for fish and game habitat and shrinks the available fishing and hunting areas.

When, or if, is this aggravating spiral going to level off? I don't think it ever will. We can anticipate a time when the bag limits might be so restrictive that hunters and anglers will rebel at restrictions and quit buying licenses.



If and when that condition prevails, financing game management will be a greater problem than any we have had in the past or can foresee in the future.

Oregon's licensing rates are about on a par with those of the other 10 western states, according to a recent survey. In fact, Oregon's fee schedule is about the median, neither the highest nor the lowest.

This does not mean that Oregon licenses to hunt and fish are at the right level. Conditions in other states vary from those in Oregon. Some have tremendous out-of-state license sale income; others combine factors not prevalent in Oregon.

AS THE NUMBER OF LICENSED HUNTERS AND ANGLERS increases, there will be fewer fish and game birds and game animals for each licensee. There is a limit to the amount of game available to the rod and gun. That limit will decrease with the years because of the inevitable loss of native habitat.

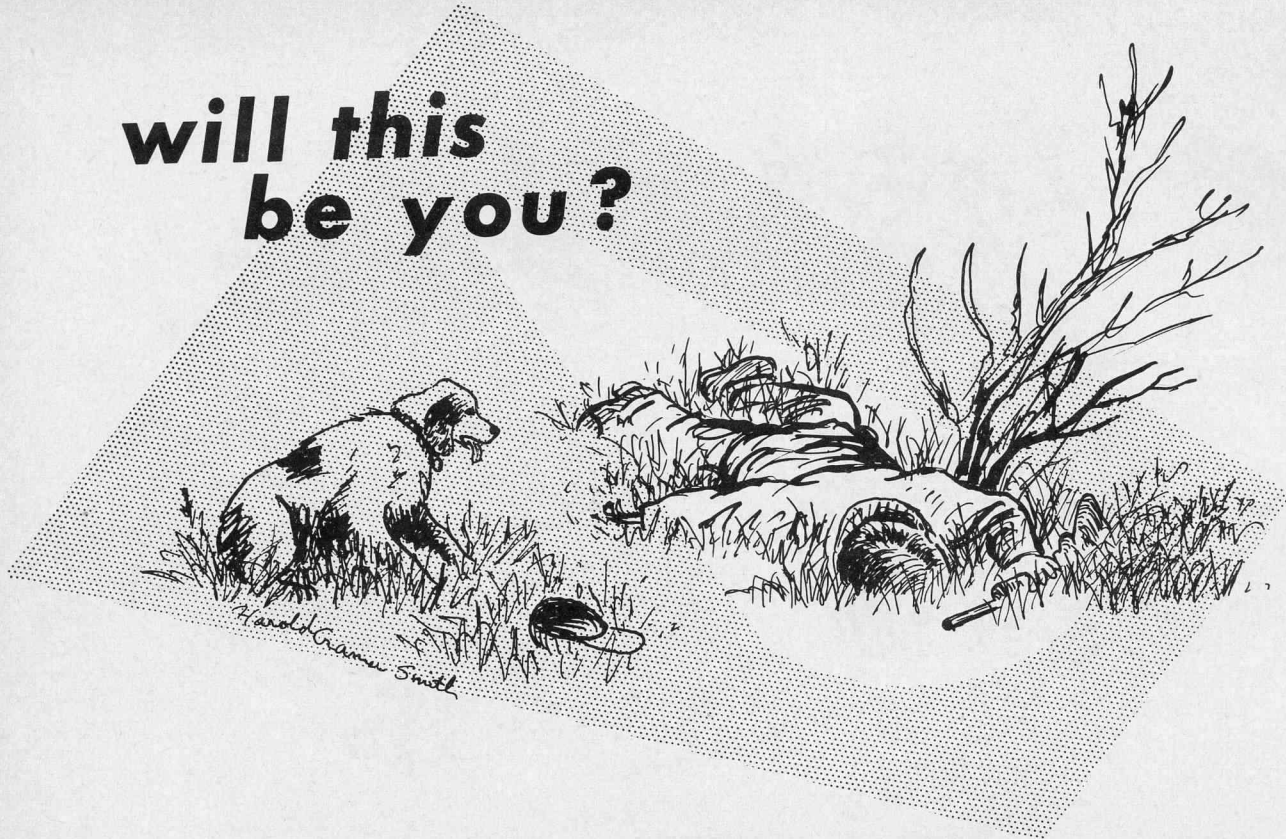
The 40-hour work week, highways and roads into nearly every nook of Oregon's wildlife habitat and the zooming emphasis on outdoor recreation combine to irritate the aggravating problem.

Perhaps you feel by now that the prospect seems hopeless, but it isn't hopeless. Let's take another look.

To get all of these things we want may be possible but if attainment is possible, we must find many more an-

(Continued on Page 6)

will this be you?



WILL you be one of the statistics this year? You don't think so?

Well, let's take a look at the records and see what ingredients are needed to cause a hunting accident.

Naturally, a firearm is necessary, plus a hunter and in most cases a thorough sprinkling of *carelessness*.

In case you are statistically minded, or a gambler at heart, let's look at a few of the figures. Your chances of being involved in an accident last year were 1 in 7,616. The year before, 1 in 6,120. So as you can see, progress is being made. Though the number of hunters has been increasing, the number of accidents is gradually going down. However, if you are 19 or under, the cards are stacked against you since in 1957, the chances of being involved in an accident in this age group were 1 in 2,805—an indication that too many young hunters are acting in the woods just as they are on the highways. Poor insurance risks!!

While we're considering odds, it might be well to look a little further and examine some of the causes of the accidents. As was mentioned earlier, most accidents involve carelessness. There is a small percentage of accidents that seem unavoidable and can truly be called accidents—mainly the ricochet and line-of-fire mishaps. During the last four years, though, this

category has made up only 20 per cent of the totals. In other words, 80 per cent of our hunting fatalities and woundings could be prevented; preventable in that they could be avoided if everyone who hunts would treat his weapon with the respect it is due. *In 1958, approximately 30 hunters will be wounded or killed needlessly if our average continues and carelessness continues.* Will you be one of them?

Now let's look more closely at the records. Deer season leads the field in terms of hunting accidents, which is to be expected since during this season we have the greatest number of hunters afield at one time. Because of the type of weapons used, accidents are usually quite serious. During recent years, there has been a decided increase in the number of hunters wounded by the sidearms they are carrying. Almost without exception these sidearms accidents can be attributed to *carelessness*.

Next in order of frequency are the upland bird season shootings. The line-of-fire category accounts for many in this

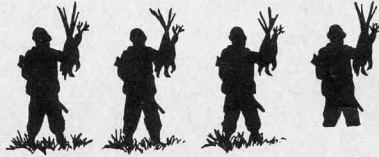
NO. OF HUNTERS PER ACCIDENT

1956



6120

1957



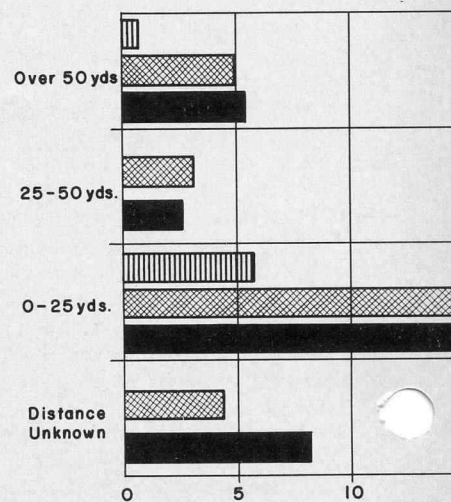
7616

1957 Juvenile
(19yrs. & under)



2805

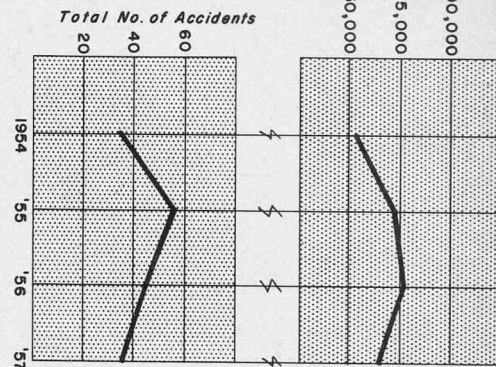
* each symbol = 2000 Hunters



NUMBER

Average - '54, '55, '56

No. of Hunting License Sales



| | Self-Inflicted | Mistaken for Game | Accidental Gun Discharge | In Line of Fire and Ricochet | Loaded Gun in Boat or Car | ? Unknown & Other |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| '54, '55, '56 Average | 14 | 5 | 24 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 1957 | 6 | 5 | 21 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| THU 8/1/58 | 5 | | 5 | 1 | 1 | |

group and often the wound consists of a shot pellet or two lightly imbedded in the skin. Close-range shotgun accidents, though, are among the most gruesome, and loaded guns in cars and boats take their annual toll.

Another class of shootings includes those which occur while hunting miscellaneous and small game. These mishaps occur while the shooter is after anything from sparrows to cougars. All listed here took place outside the regular hunting seasons and many involved young hunters after squirrels and rabbits. This classification of hunting casualties has increased alarmingly during the past few years and *already in 1958 there have been at least eight such accidents.*

Waterfowl hunting accidents come next on the list and though there have been fewer of these than some of the others, quite a number have been the short-range shotgun blasts which are frequently fatal.

Regardless of what kind of bird or animal is being hunted, it is quite apparent that the cause of most accidents is *carelessness.*

To illustrate this the records for this year are typical.

One young hunter was killed by his own rifle when using the butt for a pry. Another had his rifle lying under his legs while sitting on a log and was wounded in the leg when he picked up the rifle and it discharged. Ricochet caused another wounding and a defective weapon still another. A gray digger shooter was wounded by his own partner when a rifle was dropped and fired accidentally. And the old bug-a-boo of a loaded gun in the car caused a shell fragment to be lodged in the knee of a hunter's sister.

What can be done? Laws definitely aren't the entire answer, or is a program of gun safety training. Last year a gun accident

happened to a young fellow who just a few days before had attended one of the Game Commission's school programs on gun safety.

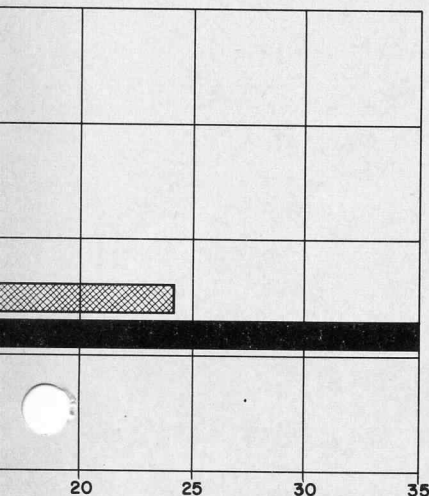
There is an old saying "familiarity breeds contempt" and watching some of the older hunters in the field seems to prove this. Good gun training largely starts at home and formal courses only reaffirm the ideas or make them more complete. Perhaps if all hunters with a son following in their footsteps would stop and check their gun handling habits, some of this needless suffering could be avoided.

Education of the young hunter should at least give him a correct start. More and more hunter safety courses with competent instructors are being offered in the state. We have personally attended a number of them and it seems that *no hunter, regardless of age, knows it all.* The few hours spent at one of these courses are not wasted if the time is spent with an open mind and a desire to be a safer hunter.

We're heading into another hunting season. Hunting is not a dangerous sport. A gun is not dangerous when in the rack or lying on a table. It is the human element that causes the danger and therefore *you* hold the key to the safety of the sport and the weapon.

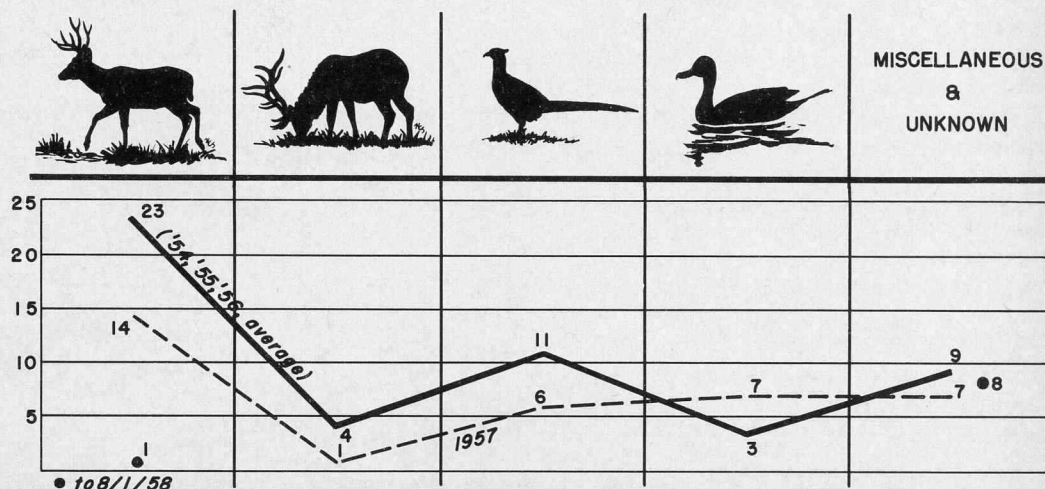
If every hunter practiced and preached the first commandment of gun safety, "To treat every gun with the respect due a loaded weapon," 80 per cent of our hunting deaths and woundings wouldn't occur. *No one but you can prevent hunting accidents . . . it's as simple as that!*

— Ron Shay



F ACCIDENTS

1957 THU 8/1/58



NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS BY GAME HUNTED



In the spring, scenes like this are common on opening day in Oregon's lake country.

These are Your Bucks!

(Continued from Page 3)

swers than we have now. Obviously we will need expansion of present programs, and develop new ones. To get answers that will lead to new programs we must expand our research. These things are possible, but they will cost money.

We are face-to-face with the problem of managing Oregon's game resource so that every license holder is given a proper opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and expect a reasonable return for his efforts on the lake or stream and in the field, marsh and mountains.

NO GAME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CAN GUARANTEE hunter and angler success. There are too many factors of efficiency in fishing and hunting, each different with the individual, to assure every-day success. Then there are weather, water and terrain factors that further complicate the chances of success.

Aside from these facts, we run into the brick wall of money. From whence will come the money to keep our heads above water?

Admitted that more money will stave off the ultimate reduction in bag limits and provide the State's folks with a semblance of the hunting and fishing we Oregonians have enjoyed for a century, where is this new or additional financing coming from?

Increased license fees are the easy answer. But, it is not easy to convince legislators that such fees should be in-

creased. Oregon hasn't had a hunting and fishing license increase since 1949.

National surveys by the Sports Fishing Institute and other organizations place the daily "rental" on the outdoors, based on fishing and hunting license fees, at about FIVE CENTS. That, friends, is about ten per cent of the cost of a jigger of whiskey, or the price of two and one-half cigarettes. It could be, you know,

that we are paying too little for the right and privilege to enjoy the outdoors.

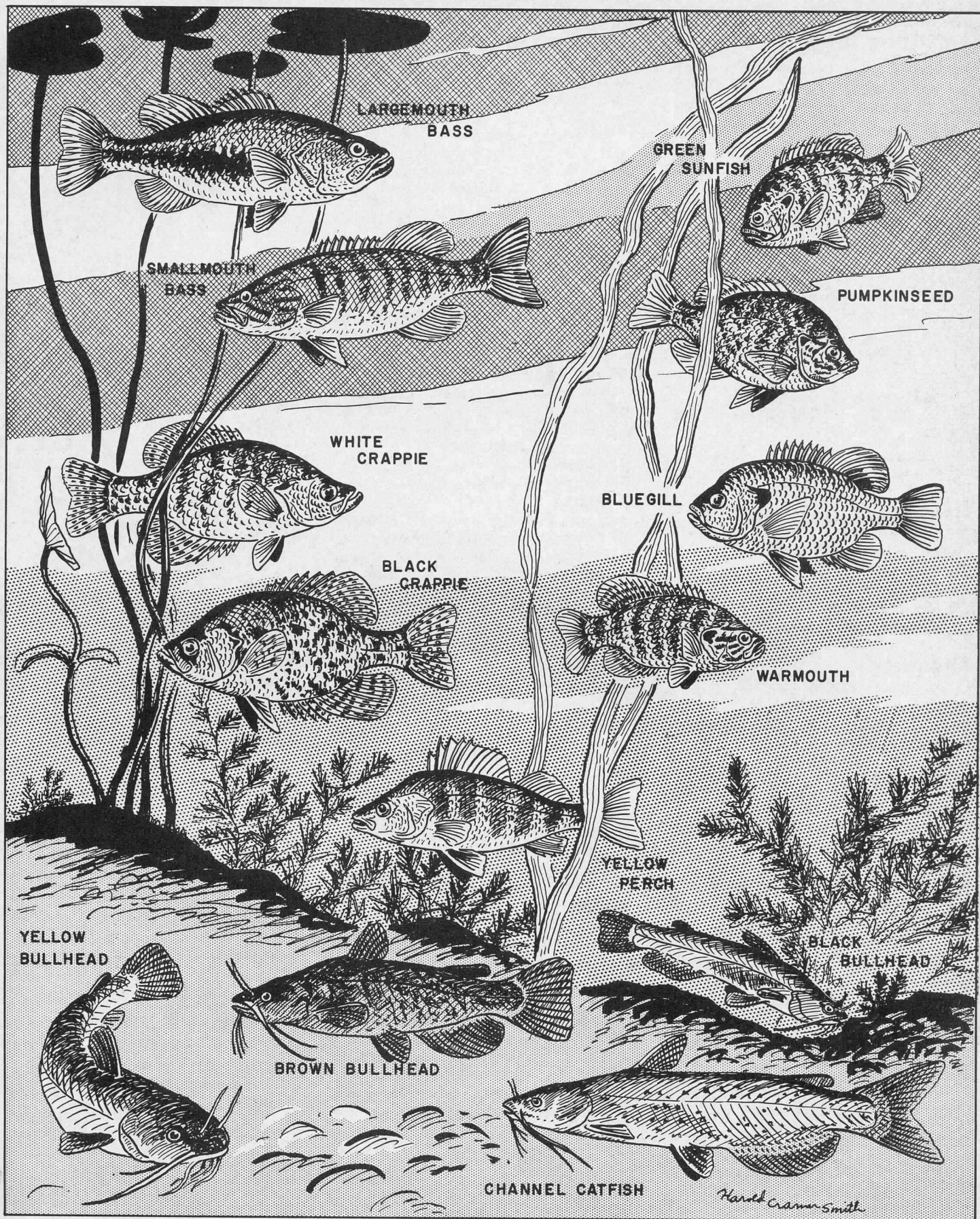
INCREASED INTEREST IN HUNTING AND FISHING has brought annual boosts in license revenue, thus providing funds for maintaining current Game Commission programs. Declines in license revenue, however, occurred in 1957 and 1958. If the trend continues downward, the Game Commission must face up to a program of retrenchment at the very time when it should be planning expansively to utilize every foot of water, every marsh, every field, every range to meet the demand for more game.

We might go to the legislature for additional money from the general fund. We might propose higher license fees. We might develop some stamp plans, similar to the federal waterfowl stamp, to finance certain types of developments. There may be other financing plans not occurring to this writer. Perhaps you readers might have some helpful suggestions; we would be happy to hear them.

The one inevitable conclusion, however, is that your game department must have more money, and not too far into the future, if it is to maintain the present level of hunting and fishing, to say nothing of the future demand that we can anticipate with a definite degree of assurance.

In the fall, it is the hunters at the more popular game areas that form the crowds.





OREGON'S WARM-WATER GAME FISH

MORROW COUNTY SPORTSMEN DISTRIBUTE POSTERS

Members of the Morrow County Hunters and Anglers Club are doing their best to promote better landowner-sportsmen relations in their county.

Below is a reprint of a poster the club members are distributing to hunting and fishing camps in their area. If they get their message across to even just a few hunters and fishermen, they feel that their time and money have been well spent.

Mr. Hunter or Angler

- PLEASE LEAVE A CLEAN CAMP
 - PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF FIRE
 - PLEASE OBEY AND RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THE LANDOWNER, AND BE CAREFUL WITH FIREARMS
 - PLEASE OBEY THE GAME LAWS
- Our Future Hunting and Fishing Depends
on YOUR Cooperation

The Morrow County
Hunters and Anglers

Red Hat Days

(Continued from Page 2)

trample his crops, leave his gates open or knock down his fences. These things, too, have happened.

I have heard some people say, "I don't go hunting any more; it's too dangerous." It really isn't dangerous, but when you observe or hear about the antics of some of these people, or if you have had some shots whistle by you at close range, you can hardly blame some people for getting a little gun shy.

It doesn't have to be this way. To conform to the Red Hat Pledge isn't asking much of anyone; in fact, it's the bare minimum that can be asked. The great majority of Oregon hunters are responsible persons but their hunting opportunities are endangered by a very few who must be weeded out or converted. There is no place for an irresponsible, careless person in the field with a gun, masquerading as a sportsman.

1958 WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS for the 1958 waterfowl season are similar to those in effect last year.

Hunters again will enjoy a full 95-day season for ducks and geese, running from 8 a.m. October 11 to January 13. The regular duck bag limit is 5 a day, 10 in possession (including not more than 1 wood duck and 1 hooded merganser). The number of bonus birds has been increased from 3 to 4. The hunter, therefore, may increase his bag limit to 9 a day, 14 in possession, if at least 4 of the birds are either pintails or widgeons.

A separate bag limit of 5 birds daily, 10 in possession, is in effect for American and red-breasted mergansers.

For coot an open season of 105 days will prevail from 8 a.m. October 11 through January 23, with a bag of 25 a day or in possession.

Brant season will extend from November 22 through January 30 and the bag limit is 3 brant daily or in possession.

Jacksnipe may be hunted from November 1 through November 30 and the limit is 8 daily or in possession.

Other regulations in regard to shooting hours, methods of taking, and transportation remain the same as last year.

Shooting dates in effect on Game Commission operated public shooting grounds are as follows:

Malheur Refuge—October 11 through November 30.

Warner Valley—October 11 through November 16.

Summer Lake—October 11 through January 13.

Sauvies Island—October and January: Odd numbered days; November and December: Even numbered days.

(During regular waterfowl season.)

Copies of the complete synopsis of waterfowl regulations will be available about the middle of September.

Red Hat Days provides one means of minimizing these problems. Red Hat Days, in itself, is not the answer. The answer can be found only in the heart of each person who goes hunting. This can be the best and safest hunting year on record. It will be with your cooperation. Red Hat Days serves only to remind you of your outdoor responsibilities and of your obligations to your fellowmen.



Hunters are reminded that September 15 is the deadline for receiving applications for all elk permits, both controlled and unit hunts; for the following controlled deer season tags (\$5 fee): Astoria, Corvallis, Mill Creek and East Goose Lake; and for any unused unit deer permits. Public drawing will be held at 9 a.m. September 22.

* * *

A reminder to those hunting the Silver Lake management unit area: ANYONE hunting in the area must check in and check out. This applies to buck hunters as well as those holding the antlerless deer permits. There will be checking stations at Horseglade Camp, Silver Lake and Summer Lake Management Area.

* * *

Chinook salmon angling intensity on the lower Willamette River reached a record high this spring of 137,875 man days. The calculated catch was 15,500 salmon, greater than the twelve year average of 11,750 fish although 5 per cent lower than the 16,400 catch from the parent run in 1953. An average of 8.9 man days effort was recorded for each salmon.

A total of 2,259 fish were weighed for an average of 18.2 pounds. Weight of the total catch was calculated at 282,000 pounds, or 141 tons.

The calculated total run in the river for 1958 was 62,500 salmon.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

1634 S.W. ALDER STREET
P. O. BOX 4136
PORTLAND 8, OREGON

