

OREGON WILDLIFE

MARCH 1981

OREGON WILDLIFE

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OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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Cover — Gene Nash, Pendleton, weighs an eight-pound walleye that he caught on a big silver plug in the Columbia River downstream from McNary Dam.

*Photo by Virgil Rupp
of the East Oregonian*

HUNTER EDUCATION
PROGRAM
INSTRUCTORS APPROVED
Month of January 23
Total Active 1,610
STUDENTS TRAINED
Month of January 146
Total to Date 280,827
HUNTING CASUALTIES
REPORTED IN 1981
Fatal 0
Nonfatal 0

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LOOK BEYOND THE CRITTER

March 15 through 21 is National Wildlife Week. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of various kinds of weeks, but Wildlife Week is one of the old timers. It was proclaimed first in 1938 by President Roosevelt.

The poster this year features one of the more fascinating and appealing animals of the ocean, the sea otter. His quiscial face and clever antics make him a natural for such a poster. The idea of the poster is to attract attention and the picture used on this one will certainly do that.

However, we hope everyone who notes the poster will look beyond the critter on the front and to the theme of the week this year, WE CARE ABOUT OCEANS. The otter is one of the inhabitants of our oceans, but only one. If his appeal can focus the attention of many folks on the problems of the oceans, so much the better. However, we're afraid it will be all too easy to just look at the otter and say, "Oh, isn't he cute", and miss the whole point of the theme for this year.

The otter have come back from near extinction due to commercial over exploitation earlier in the century. Such stories are dramatic and make superb visual copy for news media. It is satisfying to know that a creature that exists on earth with us is continuing to be with us and is now out of danger through proper protection and management.

However, the bottom line when it comes to survival of the otter and all of the other myriad forms sharing the ocean with it is a healthy ocean. Preventing ocean pollution, properly managing the harvest of other species and making international agreements to properly use the oceans isn't glamorous and draws few headlines. But as unglamorous as it may be, the protection of the habitat is the prime job that must be accomplished. Without such habitat protection, otters and other ocean critters will not survive and because of the many products that come from the ocean, perhaps humans could be in trouble.

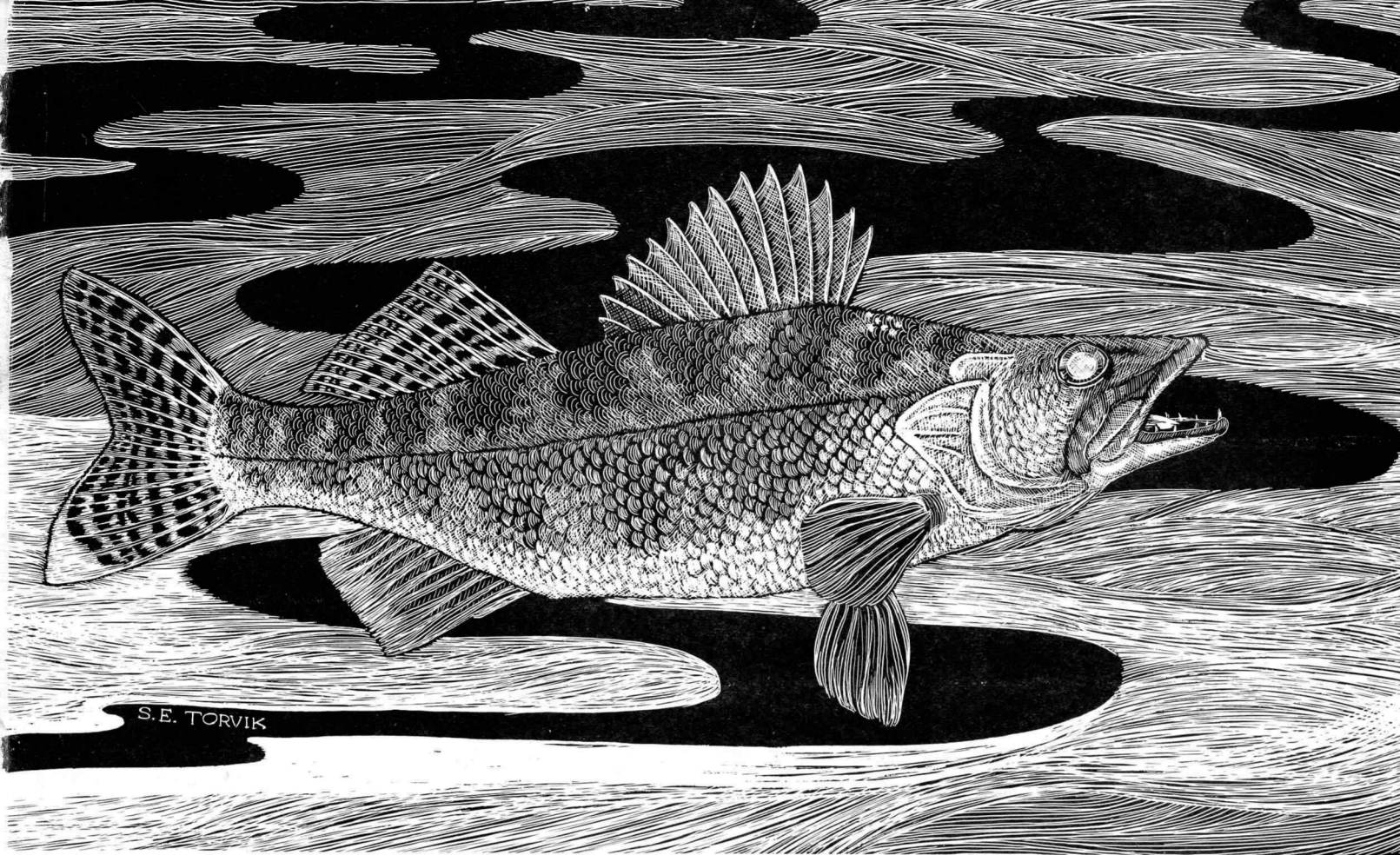
The National Wildlife Federation has called upon two attention getting messengers to put across their message. We hope the sea otter and Walter Cronkite, this year's chairman, are successful in convincing a great many people that WE CARE ABOUT OCEANS.□

R.E.S.

COMMISSION MEETING

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will meet starting at 8 a.m. on Friday, March 20 to set closing dates and other regulations concerning hunting seasons for antelope, bighorn sheep and cougar. The meeting will take place at the Fish and Wildlife Department's Portland headquarters, 506 SW Mill Street.□

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THE WALLEYE IN OREGON

by
Larry Bisbee
Staff Warmwater Fish Biologist

The walleye, *Stizostedion vitreum vitreum*, is included in a group of fish commonly known as the coolwater fish of North America. Included in this group are the muskellunge, the northern pike, the pickerel, the sauger and the walleye. The walleye is the only member of this group found in our state.

One often hears this fish called the walleyed pike. But this name is actually a misnomer since the walleye is not related to the pike in any way. The only real relationship is that both are fish and both are voracious predators on other fish. The walleye is closely related to the yellow perch

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and is the largest North American member of the perch family.

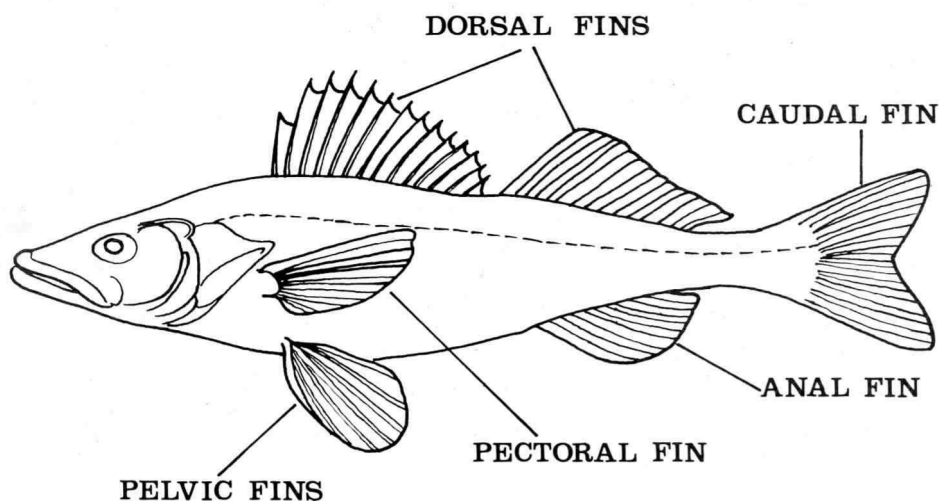
Description

The name walleye comes from the species' distinctive large opaque eyes that glisten like cat's eyes from reflected light. The eyes are one of the main identifying characteristics for this species. The walleye closely resembles the sauger in appearance and the two can easily be mistaken in areas where their ranges overlap.

Other identifying characteristics of the walleye are a torpedo shaped body covered with sandpaper-like scales and two dorsal fins. The first dorsal fin is supported by strong, sharp spiny

rays. The second is separate from the first and is comprised of soft rays only. It is located almost directly opposite the anal fin. The spiny dorsal fin may be dusky, clear or vaguely speckled with a noticeable black blotch located at the base of the last few membranes except in very small fish. The second dorsal and caudal fins are generally speckled with tiny spots arranged in regular rows.

The caudal fin is moderately forked. The lower lobe of the caudal fin and the tip of the anal fin are milk-white. Pelvic fins range from yellow to orange-yellow, pectoral fins are dark or pale olive with a dark



blotch at the base. The mouth is that of a predator, large with the jaws lined with well developed sharp, canine teeth.

Body color is highly variable with habitat and to a lesser extent with size. The background color is usually olive-brown to golden-brown to yellow, with the top surface of the head and back darker, sides paler, and often with golden flecks on the scales. The under surface of the body is usually milk-white or pale yellow. Fish smaller than 14 inches may have vertical bands across the back and down the sides but they are usually absent in adult fish.

Distribution

The native range of the walleye in the United States was in the St. Lawrence and upper Mississippi River drainages and the Great Lakes basin. It has been widely introduced throughout the U.S. into virtually every state west of its natural range.

The only walleye found in Oregon waters are established in the Columbia River upstream from Bonneville Dam. The walleye has been expanding its distribution downstream in recent years with an occasional fish being picked up as far down river as Portland. In 1979 an angler reported catching 16 walleye from Rooster Rock State Park lagoon. They averaged 12 to 13 inches in length with the largest fish reported a 23-inch walleye.

The origin of the walleye in the Columbia River is not definitely known. However, there are reports that two releases were made, one above Hoover Dam in Montana and

one in the Spokane River in Washington. Neither state takes credit for the introduction. There is also a report the walleye were introduced into the upper Clarks Fork River, a tributary of the Columbia River, in the late 1940's.

One of the first indications of the presence of a walleye population building up in the mid-Columbia River region occurred in 1966 when a four to five pound fish was taken during the commercial gillnet season in the Oneonta area below Bonneville Dam.

For many years there was some question as to whether or not the walleye population in the mid-Columbia River region was originating from natural reproduction in the area or whether they were fish originating in Roosevelt Lake in Washington and dropping out of the lake into the lower river areas. Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake above Grand Coulee Dam in Washington has a well established fishable population of walleye.

The outmigration of juvenile salmonids has been monitored at John Day Dam since May 1973 by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Incidental catches of both juvenile and adult fish of other species have also been recorded since start of the program. During 1979, juvenile walleye have shown up consistently in the gatewell catches indicating natural reproduction is occurring and a strong year class has become established.

Life History

Walleye inhabit both lakes and streams but prefer large, fertile, deep

lakes with clear, cool water. They like lots of open water. Optimum water temperatures range from 38 to 42 degrees F. in winter and 70 to 73 degrees F. in summer for maximum growth. Walleye are most active at night. Due to very light sensitive eyes they retire to the deeper cooler waters after sunrise and migrate near shore to feed in the shallower waters in the evening and predawn hours of the day.

Adult walleye feed primarily on fish. However, they will feed on other things such as midgefly larvae, mayflies, crayfish and frogs when the opportunity arises.

Walleye are important components in the predator-prey balance in lakes which have extensive open water. Yellow perch are an important prey species in the walleye diet.

Young walleye feed extensively on insects and small crustaceans. Once the small walleye reach two inches in length they turn to feeding on small fish. They are highly cannibalistic if small yellow perch or other forage minnows are not readily available. This characteristic can be very troublesome where walleye have been reared in hatcheries. Small walleye will begin feeding on each other and can form long chains of small fish fastened together head to tail as they try to devour each other but find their intended prey too large to swallow and difficult to release!

As efficient predators, a large population of walleyes can severely limit management of a fingerling trout fishery. Because of its predacious nature on other fish, the walleye has not been considered for introduction into other waters of the state, particularly trout waters.

Walleye can develop into large fish with lengths of 36 inches and weights of 25 pounds or more. The world record weighed 25 pounds, and was taken in 1960 from an impoundment in Tennessee. The Oregon walleye record was established on October 28, 1980 with a fish weighing 11 pounds, 13 ounces. The fish measured 32 inches in length and had a girth of 17½ inches. It was taken in the Columbia River at Umatilla on a flatfish. It has been rumored that larger fish have been taken but not reported by anglers.

The life of a walleye begins near the rocky, windswept shoreline of a lake or impoundment in early spring soon after temperatures reach 38 to 44 degrees.

Eggs are randomly broadcast over the rocky substrate in water rarely more than four feet in depth. They are adhesive and become attached to rocks and other debris on the bottom.

Female walleye produce 13,000-45,000 eggs per pound of fish. Maximum production could be as great as 600,000 eggs from a large 30-inch female. Once the eggs have been depos-

ited and fertilized they hatch in a period that varies with water temperature. At 40 degrees F. incubation time is 26 days. But at 57 degrees F. they may hatch in only seven days. The fry are ½-inch long upon hatching.

The average life span of a walleye is about seven years. In Wisconsin very few fish were found to be more than 10 to 12 years of age. One Oregon walleye taken during the shad gillnet fishery in the Columbia River in June 1979 measured 25.2 inches in length and weighed six pounds. It was judged to be six years of age.

Fishing

Walleye are highly prized as sport fish in the midwest and eastern states. They are also known as one of the finest of the white-meated fish on the dinner table.

In the midwest this fish is popular throughout the year, but especially so in the winter ice fishery where it is taken on jigs, live minnows or by spearing through holes cut in the ice. Winter ice fishing there is popular with both anglers and spectators. On a good day a large northern Minnesota lake may host as many as 6,000 people and 3,000 ice fishing shelters. Inside the dark shelters anglers wait patiently for an unsuspecting pike or walleye to drift into the area they can see beneath their shanty.

The Oregon walleye fishery is centered on the Columbia River upstream from Bonneville Dam. The sport is in its infancy and is scarcely known except to a small number of enthusiasts. Interest in the walleye is growing rapidly, however, as word of its availability spreads.

The Columbia River walleye fishery is of interest both to bank and boat anglers although boaters seem to have the most consistent success. At present the fishery is concentrated in two main areas. One is below John Day Dam and the other below McNary Dam.

Below John Day Dam good opportunities exist for both bank and boat fishermen. The best bank angling occurs in late May and June in backwater areas that open directly to the main river. The better sloughs seem to be those that connect with the river under a bridge or trestle instead of through a culvert under the railroad track and Highway I-84.

One area which has been productive for bank anglers is located about 5½ miles downstream from John Day Dam and approximately one to two miles below the town of Rufus. The area is a series of deep gravel pits excavated at the time the dam was built. The backwaters are fairly deep with shallow gravel shoal areas nearby.

Most of the boat angling below John Day Dam takes place in the first 1½ mile stretch below the dam. Some of the best fishing occurs around the islands immediately downstream from the dam. This area



Don Brandt, Stanfield, gaffs a hefty walleye that struck a trolled plug in the Columbia River downstream from McNary Dam. Photo by Virgil Rupp.

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Jeff Beck of The Dalles, holds two walleye taken from the Columbia River downstream from John Day Dam in the Rufus area. Note the characteristic reflection of the flash in the eyes. Photo by John Beck.

is thought to be an excellent spawning area for walleyes with sizeable shoal areas consisting of small to medium sized gravel and rubble adjacent to deeper water channels. The majority of the fish are taken from water 15 to 30 feet deep adjacent to these shallower rocky areas.

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Another popular area upstream is the stretch from McNary Dam downstream to just below the Umatilla bridge. It is primarily a boat fishing area with little bank access on the Oregon side and only limited access on the Washington side just below the shipping locks. Boaters have their

best success in a 20 to 30 foot channel formerly known for steelhead angling. There is fast, rough water in this section and sudden winds can create problems so boaters should keep the potential danger in mind. Boat fishermen in both areas do well from early July through November.

So what should one do if he wants to try for a walleye? Since this fish is a voracious predator, a moving lure or bait resembling a small or crippled minnow is likely to be most successful.

Boat fishermen usually have their best success by letting their boats drift downstream with the current, bumping their lures along the bottom in 15 to 30 feet of water. Many anglers use a dropper line with enough lead to get the lure down quickly, and rig their lures to work about a foot off the bottom. Flatfish type plugs are popular for this. Steelhead weight spinning or casting tackle is well suited for this kind of fishing.

Leadhead jigs, large spoons, spinner and night crawler combinations and a wide range of plugs are all popular baits with the boat fisherman. Trolling is sometimes done to locate fish, with angling then concentrated in any area where fish are found.

Catch rates for boat anglers through the July to November period seem to be more consistent than those for bank anglers. Averages of about three fish per hour are not uncommon.

Bank anglers cast spoons, jigs, or any minnow-imitating plugs. Some of the best success has been found still fishing with night crawlers or casting spinners trailing small imitation rubber fish. Dead or preserved minnows fished behind a spinner should also produce well. The use of live minnows is prohibited in Oregon waters.

If fish are feeding close to the surface, as they often do, flies or shallow running lures will give good results. Streamers and hair flies should be retrieved in a short, jerky motion. Deep running lures should be retrieved rather slowly near the bottom. One should remember that the walleye has a tendency to school and once one fish is taken more can generally be caught from the same area.

Other angling methods include drifting good sized shiny lures right

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Department biologists pull a test gillnet from a Columbia River backwater area. Fish taken in sampling nets provide data on walleye growth, food preferences, age of use of differing habi-

tats, and other data to gradually help us learn more about the walleye, a relative newcomer to Oregon waters.

along the bottom on the edges of holes and sandbars, casting deep-running plugs or jigs into deep holes and retrieving them along the bottom, and casting plugs along the dropoffs from sandbars or along rocky ledges when fishing late evening through early morning hours.

These are a few of the basic methods used in walleye fishing. However, the best methods will be worked out by the fisherman himself to suit a specific situation.

Most walleye taken in the sport catch average two to four pounds but eight to 10 pound walleye are not uncommon. Larger fish, 15 to 20 pounds have been reported but never confirmed. Although the walleye is a

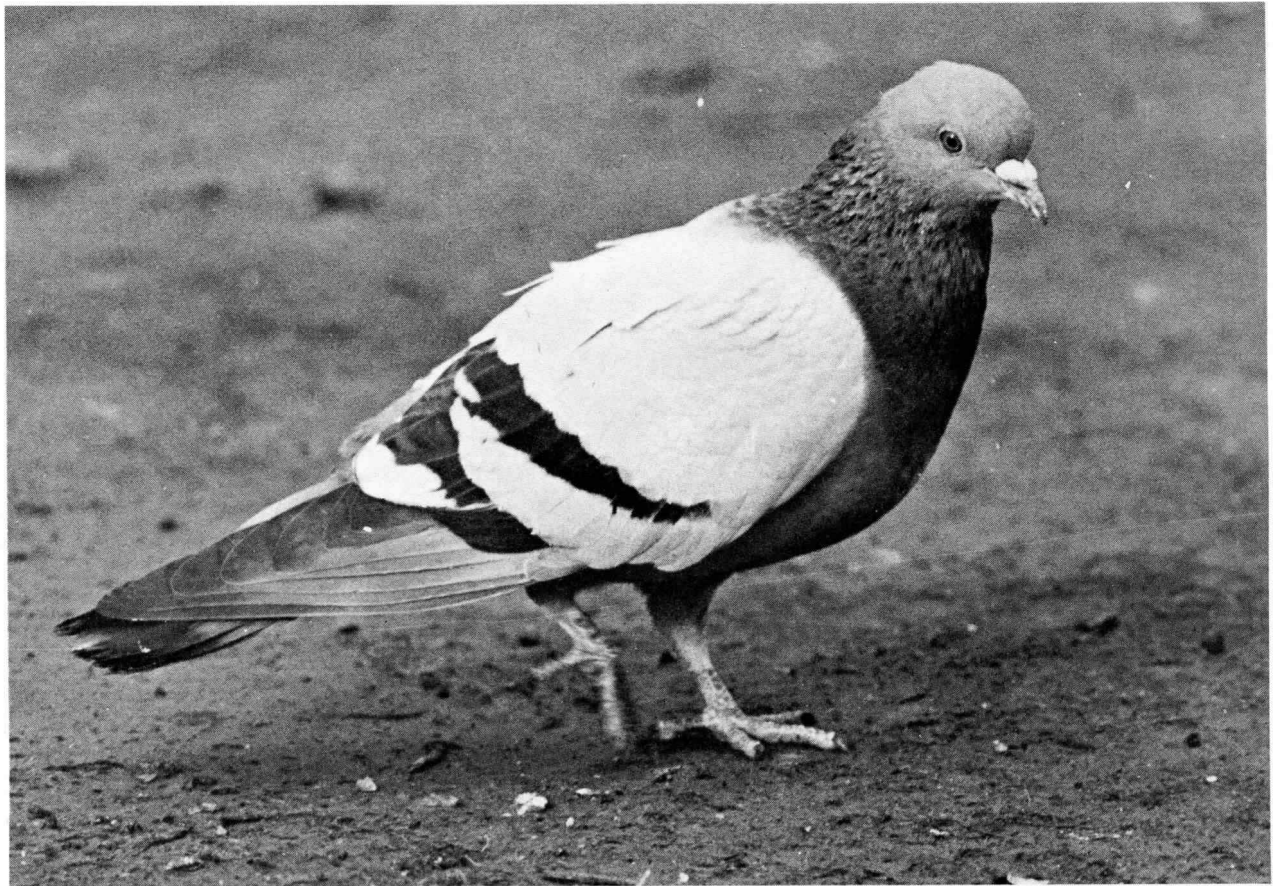
gamefish, there are no bag or length limit restrictions on angling for this fish in Oregon.

Under Oregon law the walleye cannot be dealt in commercially unless the Commission specifies otherwise. It may be legally taken only by angling.

Near the end of the winter season for the Indian set-net fishery in February and March 1979 above Bonneville Dam, a surprising number of walleye were taken incidental to the salmon catch. A total of 396 pounds of walleye were reported. The walleye in some catches averaged nearly eight pounds. The average weight for one 31 fish sample was 4.9 pounds each.

The adoption of an administrative rule by the Fish and Wildlife Commission last year made it permissible for treaty Indians taking incidental walleye by net while lawfully fishing in established seasons to retain them for personal use.

The walleye has the potential to provide a tremendous fishery in the Columbia River but thus far it has scarcely been explored. Incidental net catches and other information indicates a wide distribution of walleye in the pools upstream from Bonneville Dam and there are undoubtedly many areas not yet known to anglers where walleye could be taken if fishermen take the time and effort to find them. □



A rock dove, or common pigeon. Photos by Jim Gladson

THE ROCK DOVE

by Jim Gladson

The term "wildlife" is a relative concept. It means many different things to different people. The elk, the cougar or the soaring eagle are universally agreed to be "wildlife" in every sense of the word. But other animals and birds seem to inhabit an in-between space where, although they are wild and not domesticated, the term "wildlife" somehow does not fit in many peoples' minds.

More often than not, this discrimination is based on where the animal chooses to live and how it seeks its food. The pigeon is a good example.

To the urban dweller, the pigeon, properly called the rock dove, is simply there. Its presence seldom calls for a second look. Aside from those

who enjoy feeding them in city parks, the majority opinion of most humans about pigeons is one of disinterest or even dislike.

Animals or birds that live on the leavings or handouts of man lack snob appeal in the wildlife hierarchy. Yet one should acknowledge a certain respect for any species that does what the pigeon does if for no other reason than it does it so well.

The rock dove is common in most temperate climates of the world. The scientific name for the species is *Columba livia*. These birds do have a wild origin in Europe, but centuries of domestication has blurred the lines between the wild bird and those considered merely feral. The term feral

refers to animals or birds that come from domestic stock but now live in a wild state.

The rock dove in Oregon is feral. The only native pigeon regularly found in Oregon is the band-tailed pigeon which is a near relative and similar in appearance to the rock doves.

The average rock dove weighs in at over one-half pound with a length of 13 inches and a wing span of 25 inches. The bird is predominately gray with a white rump and two black bars on its secondary wing feathers and a black band on its tail. It also may have iridescent green or red spots on its neck.

Rock doves found in the parks of Portland are basically the same as

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Pigeons inspire a wide range of emotion ranging from great admiration on the part of those who feed them in parks, to bitter anguish on the part of those responsible for maintaining public buildings and those who have occasion to walk under them.

those found in New York or even London. But in Oregon there are populations that can be considered truly wild. Large flocks inhabit the rocky river canyons of southeast Oregon, Smith Rock in the southern sage country and the bluffs along the Columbia River.

These seed eating birds of the wild may live on natural seeds or may concentrate diets on agricultural lands. The city variety often lives directly from the human hand or indirectly from man's trash. One flock in Portland roosts under a bridge across the Willamette River and dines at the grain elevators downstream. Whether the nest is on a building ledge or a rocky desert cliff, these birds are thriving.

The nests, regardless of location, are a haphazard collection of sticks and other materials. Usually a brood consists of two chicks, or squabs. Depending on the climate, the birds may produce two or more broods per year.

Pigeons possess an unusual means
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of feeding their young. The crop in the adult's throat becomes filled with a fluid, naturally enough called milk, that the naked and helpless chicks drink by sticking their heads in the parental mouth and sucking the milk out. The chicks do this for more than a week while they are gradually shifted to other foods.

The ability to suck fluids through the beak is another different trait of the pigeon. While most birds scoop water and toss it down the throat, the pigeon submerges its beak and sucks up the water much like a person would use a straw.

Also unlike many birds, the pigeon prospers in captivity. This trait has made it a natural for human rearing and a variety of human uses such as racing and message carrying. The first records of pigeon domestication date back to Egypt in the fourth century B.C.

In the eastern U.S. cities of the last century rock dove numbers were controlled in part by peregrine falcons. These dwellers of the desert canyon rims were once urban birds like the

pigeon, but the decay of the city environment forced the falcon out.

With few natural predators and little human interference, rock doves have increased to the point that they do cause significant damage to some buildings. The birds have been known to pick mortar from between bricks to use as grit, thus weakening structures. The health and aesthetic problems surrounding pigeon droppings are also well known.

The prosperity of the pigeon in the absence of the peregrine may make a comeback for the falcon possible. Peregrines have been reintroduced to the skyscraper canyons of New York City and buildings in Washington, D.C. The favored falcon food is abundant.

Now that the worst pollution has been cleaned up, the peregrine pilot program appears to be working. In the end, the predator-prey relationship may once again make the noble falcon a city bird and the rock dove a useful link in the biological food chain. □

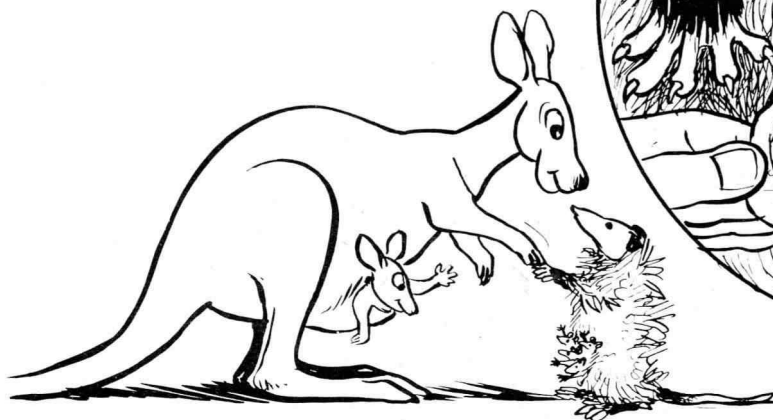
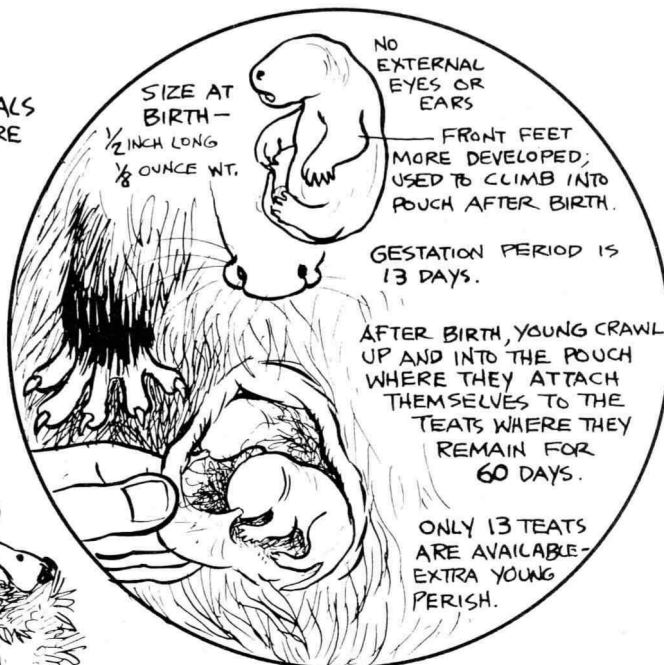
UNDERSTANDING the OPOSSUM

SLOW IN BOTH WIT AND MOVEMENT, UNKEMPT LOOKING AND A CARRION EATER — THE OPOSSUM WOULD WIN VERY FEW POPULARITY POLLS. BUT AS FAR AS SURVIVAL IS CONCERNED THIS RELATIVE NEWCOMER STANDS NEAR THE TOP.



THE OPOSSUM IS TRULY A LIVING FOSSIL. IT SURVIVES TODAY UNCHANGED FROM ITS APPEARANCE A MILLION YEARS AGO. AND IT ALSO IS SURVIVING MAN'S ACTIVITIES AND HAS INCREASED ITS RANGE AS WELL.

OPOSSUMS ARE MARSUPIALS—MAMMALS THAT HAVE AN ABDOMINAL POUCH WHERE THE PREMATURELY BORN YOUNG COMPLETE THEIR DEVELOPMENT. EXCEPT FOR THIS HEMISPHERE, ALL OTHER MARSUPIALS ARE FOUND ONLY IN AUSTRALIA.





AS THE OPOSSUM EXTENDED ITS RANGE NORTHWARD, ITS SOUTHERN-DESIGNED EARS AND TAIL OFTEN WERE FROST DAMAGED.

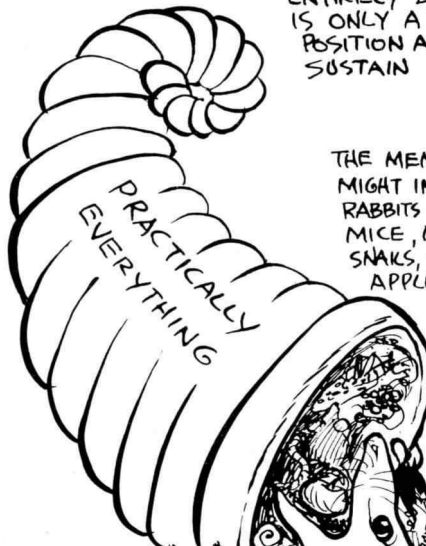


THE OPOSSUM HAS A PREHENSILE TAIL. IT IS USED LIKE A FIFTH LIMB. OPOSSUMS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED PUSHING LEAVES UNDER THE BODY INTO THE CURLED-UNDER TAIL, THEN CARRYING THIS MATERIAL TO ITS DEN.



THE TAIL HELPS THE OPOSSUM WHEN CLIMBING TREES. ALTHOUGH AN ADULT MIGHT SUPPORT ITS WEIGHT ENTIRELY BY ITS TAIL THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY POSITION AND IT CAN NOT SUSTAIN IT FOR LONG.

THE OPOSSUM IS NOT A FINICKY EATER. ALTHOUGH IT PREFERS ANIMAL MATTER- DEAD OR ALIVE - IT DOES EAT VEGETATIVE MATERIAL ESPECIALLY IN THE FALL.



THE MENU FOR THE YEAR MIGHT INCLUDE : CAR-KILLED RABBITS AND SKUNKS, INSECTS, MICE, MOLES, SNAKES, FROGS, SNAKS, SPIDERS, GRAPES, APPLES, POKE BERRIES, WHEAT, CORN.

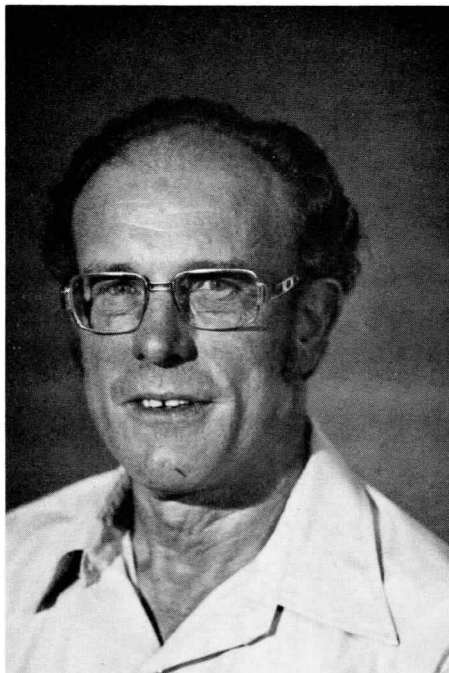


"PLAYING 'POSSUM", NOW A PART OF OUR IDIOM, HAD ITS ORIGIN IN THE CATATONIC STATE. OPOSSUMS ENTER WHEN FRIGHTENED OR THREATENED. THIS FEIGNING OF DEATH MAY SAVE IT FROM SOME OF ITS ENEMIES BUT FOR THE NON-BELIEVERS IT BECOMES AN INVITATION FOR AN EASY MEAL.





Harry Wagner



Bill Wingfield



Ken Goebel

Department Employees Honored

Two Department fisheries people were honored by the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society during its joint meeting with The Wildlife Society in Eugene. Harry Wagner, who has been involved with fish and wildlife research since his career began with the Game Commission in 1959, was named Outstanding Fishery Worker of the Year while Roaring River Hatchery Manager Bill Wingfield received an Award of Merit for his work with the rainbow trout rearing program.

Wagner was cited for his early work with the Department's steelhead hatchery and release program. "His pioneering research work on size and time of release and the parr-smolt transformation stands today and will continue to serve as reference to a successful marriage of research findings implemented by management."

Wagner became chief of the Commission's Wildlife Research Section in 1973 and within six years had developed a fishery research program that has continued to be considered the best in the nation.

With reorganization of the Depart-

ment's research programs, Wagner came to the Portland office in 1979 as Assistant Chief of the Fish Division, where he continues to direct the fisheries research and development.

Wingfield's start in the hatchery business began in 1947 at Rock Creek where he stayed until being appointed assistant manager at Roaring River in 1952 before moving to Alsea five years later. Several years later, Wingfield operated the Diamond Lake egg-taking station, where during one spawning season, he helped take 22 million rainbow trout eggs. In 1962, he returned to Roaring River Hatchery as manager.

It's during his current tenure at the Scio station, he has led in the development of an exceptional group of rainbow brood fish, which have doubled their average size and produce nearly four times the eggs-per-female. This Roaring River strain has been sought after for the state's catchable rainbow program and to bolster rainbow management programs in neighboring states, Canada and South Africa. □

Ken Goebel Honored By Outdoors Group

Retired Northwest Regional Screen Shop foreman Ken Goebel was honored recently as the 1980 Oregon Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year by Shikar-Safari Club International, a world-wide group of hunters and conservationists.

Goebel, who retired last December after 34 years, was cited for his sustained efforts in maintaining Department facilities and equipment and for long hours work in improving habitat for Oregon's wildlife resources.

His career began with the Oregon Game Commission habitat crew in the Northeast Region, moving up to foreman there before transferring west of the Cascades to assume the same position at Corvallis in 1971. □

Super Flea

Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine reports that the common flea is the long jump champion of the world. They can leap as far as 12 inches — more than 120 times their own length. For a human that would be like jumping a whole city block. □

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Tax Law May Help Wildlife:

Tax code changes made by Congress last year may help conserve wildlife habitat, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The revisions allow landowners to receive increased federal tax benefits for donating property to be used for conservation purposes.

Section 6 of Public Law 96-541 permits property owners a federal tax deduction for the surface value of land while allowing the subsurface mineral rights to be retained by the original owner.

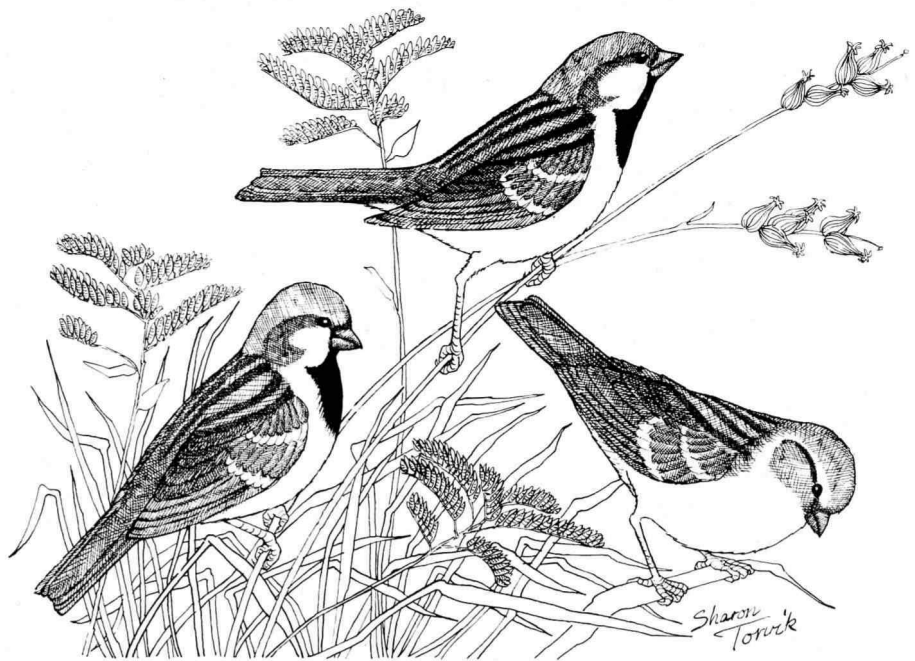
Congressman John D. Dingell (Mich.) said the new provision removes a longstanding impediment to the donation of thousands of acres of land in need of protection and allows property owners to receive a fair tax deduction without being deprived of their mineral rights in the property. Dingell sponsored the provision.

Aside from allowing subsurface rights to be retained by the original owner, the new law also extends indefinitely the authority for tax deductions on specified conservation easements. That authority would have expired this year.

The types of conservation purposes for which the partial interest donation must serve to qualify for a federal deduction include: preservation of land for outdoor recreation or education, protection of relatively natural habitat for fish, wildlife or plants, preservation of open space, and preservation of historic land or structures.

Congress noted some examples of the type of wildlife habitats that it considers eligible for donation under the new law. "Examples," it stated, "include habitats for rare, endangered, or threatened native species of animals, fish or plants; natural areas that represent high quality examples of a native ecosystem terrestrial community, or aquatic community; and natural areas which are included in, or which contribute to the ecological viability of a local, state, or national park, nature preserve, wildlife refuge, wilderness area or other similar conservation area."□

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HOUSE SPARROW

On any given day when a person of city or town steps into his backyard and sees a bird, the chances are good that bird will be a house sparrow. They are among the most plentiful birds in Oregon and all of the United States.

What makes this fact a trifle shocking is that a little over 100 years ago there were no house sparrows anywhere in North America. While exact dates vary, most accounts credit or blame an Englishman for release of the birds into New York's Central Park in the mid-1800's. Within 30 years, the English transplants were found throughout the U.S. and part of Canada.

Scientists call the bird *Passer domesticus*. Americans call it the English sparrow. The English call it the house sparrow. Only the scientific name is technically correct since the bird is not related at all to the North American sparrows. Rather it is grouped within the Old World bird family of weaver-finches and serves as the only representative of that family in the New World.

The house sparrow had three things going for it when it first took wing in the U.S. It had few natural predators, it produced several broods of young each season and it was aggressive.

The house sparrow builds a loosely woven nest lined with feathers. Favored locations are tree cavities, cracks and crevices of buildings and occasionally in bushes or on tree limbs. They are also likely to run other species from nests and take over housekeeping.

Once nesting begins, a pair of house sparrows, which mate for life, may hatch and raise three or more clutches of chicks with four to six birds per clutch. Coupled with the ability to scavenge for food and adapt to almost anything, this productivity guaranteed the rapid spread of the bird.

Ironically, when the house sparrow first began its spread in the U.S. it was protected from shooting and killing when most other birds were not. Today, it is one of the few birds that can be trapped or shot on an unregulated basis.

Despite its vulnerable position, this bird is not against taking handouts on park benches and sidewalks. Studies have also shown it is street-smart enough to avoid persons perceived as dangerous while coming within inches of people who offer no threat. Even then, tolerance is about the best a house sparrow can expect.

With its black throat, white cheeks and chestnut colored nape, the male house sparrow is an attractive bird, but even diamonds would lose some appeal if they were always underfoot.□

Jim Gladson
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THIS AND THAT

Compiled by Ken Durbin

Conservation "Hot Line"

At times I reckon all of us have felt that, no matter what our geographic proximity to the so-called seat of government in Washington, D.C., it is next to impossible to keep abreast of just what is going on. Oh, we read in the paper that this bill or that bill is under consideration, we hear and see the news on radio or TV, but it is difficult for us average folks to stay current on these vital issues. Not so anymore! The staff at the National Headquarters of the Izaak Walton League of America (Arlington, Va.) have developed a "Hot Line" which makes all sorts of information about key conservation issues available for the mere cost of a phone call. The information is in the form of pre-recorded messages which are updated each week, or more often if the situation warrants. For the real scoop on what is or is not going on at that "little ole town on the Potomac River," call 1-703/522-5848.

*

Bottle Ban Helps Clean Up Michigan

Michigan, through a petition drive spearheaded by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, succeeded last year in gaining overwhelming voter approval for a "bottle bill" which created a ban on throwaway containers.

With one year behind them, here are some results:

- Beverage container litter has decreased 84 percent from the previous year.
- All forms of litter are down 41 percent.
- Michigan disposal costs show an estimated saving of \$18 million through reduction in solid waste.
- Some 72 million cans and 2,000 tons of aluminum and steel were recycled in the state.
- The aesthetic values can be measured in the greatly improved appearance of Michigan landscape.

South Dakota Conservation Digest

New Conservation Directory Ready

Is there an organization devoted to saving the trumpeter swan? Or one concerned with protecting American deserts? Who's in charge of conservation in Sweden? Where are the U.S. National Seashores?

The place to look for answers to all these questions is the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Directory, now available in its 26th edition.

The new directory's 300 pages list about 12,000 individuals and about 1,800 organizations concerned with natural resource use and management.

The NWF directory also contains:

- * A guide to major colleges and universities offering professional training careers in conservation and environmental fields.
- * Lists of all National Wildlife Refuges, Parks, Forests, and Seashores in the U.S.
- * Guides to available conservation periodicals, directories, and films.
- * A list of the top conservation officials of 115 foreign governments.

The 1981 Conservation Directory is available for \$6 by writing the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

*

"America's Wildlife Today" Five Poster Series

"America's Wildlife Today" is a series of five full-color posters that combine handsome wildlife photography with the message of the success of sportsman-financed management programs in restoring a wide variety of wildlife species to healthy and abundant numbers. Included in this set is a poster that details the hunter's contribution to wildlife conservation through license fees, excise taxes and duck stamps.

These informative posters are ideal for use in conjunction with hunter education courses and are perfect for distribution to schools, libraries and other organizations. The posters are available from NSSF Headquarters 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Conn. 06878 at \$4.00 per set, \$3.50 per set for 2-5 sets and \$3.00 per set with an order of six or more.

Audubon Society Adds \$5,000 To Reward

A \$5,000 contribution from the National Audubon Society has been added to the reward fund for information about the murder of two Idaho Department of Fish and Game officers last month.

The fund now totals more than \$8,000 (as of February 5), director Jerry M. Conley said.

The reward fund is "for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible" for the fatal shooting of senior conservation officers Bill Pogue and Conley Elms.

Contributions to the fund may be addressed to the Idaho First National Bank, P.O. Box 157, Homedale, Idaho 83628.

*

Mrs. Groover's Elephant Stew

1 elephant
2 rabbits (optional)
salt
pepper
brown gravy

Cut the elephant into bite-sized pieces (this should take about two months).

Cover with brown gravy and season to taste.

Cook over a kerosene stove for about four weeks at 445 degrees.

This will serve about 3,000 people. If more are expected, then the two rabbits may be added.

Virginia Wildlife

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Don't Underestimate The .22

Stacked up against a popular center fire cartridge such as the 30-06, a .22 rimfire may look like the classic 97 lb. weakling who always gets sand kicked in his face by the beach bully. But looks can be deceiving and, in the case of the .22, they certainly are.

A high velocity .22 pushes a 40 grain solid point bullet out of the barrel at 1,255 feet per second and develops 140 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. It will travel its first 100 yards in .26097 seconds. Velocity at 100 yards will still be at 1,016 feet per second, and at 200 yards the bullet will still be traveling at 893 feet per second. The point is, even though it's a relatively small cartridge, a .22 should never be taken lightly.



Oregon's

WILDLIFE WINDOW

Wildlife is a natural resource. This means that by definition it has value. So, what is the value of wildlife to you? That is probably a tough question for most people to answer. Individual tastes and interests vary. So do the kinds of wildlife values. This means that the possible combinations of real or perceived values are virtually endless.

At least five kinds of wildlife values can be listed. Wildlife as a group has spiritual/aesthetic value. Certain species are still worshiped by native cultures. For others, just the opportunity to see or even know of their existence lifts the spirit. Ecological and scientific value is another recognized merit. Wildlife has provided the scientific community with useful substances, biological models, and indicators of environmental quality. In addition they provide a wide range of ecological services from pollinating fruit trees to spreading the eggs and seeds of other wildlife and plants to new environments. Political elections have been won or lost on wildlife issues. The social camaraderie of wildlife pursuit is a prime factor in this form of recreation. Social and political value also cannot be overlooked when considering wildlife.

The values noted above are not the only ones nor even the most obvious.

Perhaps most often recognized are the recreational and commercial/economic ones. Recreational values may be either consumptive such as hunting or fishing or nonconsumptive such as photographing and just watching. Millions of people enjoy

wildlife in both ways. Value of the meat harvested by the consumptive users and the recreational benefits enjoyed by both groups are incalculable.

In the United States over 60 million people fish and over 20 million hunt. In Oregon those numbers are something over 800,000 fishermen and over 400,000 hunters. Just the value of the licenses and tags these Oregonians buy runs over \$13.5 million annually. This is only about three percent of the wildlife value generated when associated expenses for food, transportation, equipment and lodging is con-

sidered. This wildlife-related economic value to the community is substantial. Commercial users also reflect the values of wildlife through the array of marketable products they bring in. In Oregon commercial fishermen land over \$100 million worth of seafood annually. The value of these wildlife is also raised by the additional money spent on boats, gear, licenses and fuel.

Do wildlife have value to you? Even if you care nothing about them nor use them in any way you can bet they do!

THIS MONTH'S WINDOW

Values

Investigate the amount of money spent in your community by hunters, birdwatchers, fishermen, wildlife photographers or commercial users. Which form of wildlife use contributes the most to the local economy?

How would you measure the value of an endangered species that is not used in any manner and seldom seen?

Design a way, other than money, to represent the value of wildlife to individuals, to the community, to the planet.



VIOLATORS GET JAIL TERMS

A story from the WALLOWA COUNTY ENTERPRISE indicates shooting of cow elk illegally in that area is not going to be tolerated.

One individual was convicted of illegal possession of cow elk and another man found guilty of aiding the first one. Each was fined \$525 and sentenced to two days in the county jail. Additionally, their hunting privileges were revoked for two years.

According to the ENTERPRISE, District Judge James Monce said that he views game poaching as a serious offense and will deal with such violations accordingly.

Thanks to Judge Monce of Enterprise.

A Madras man recently found that taking an extra deer could be costly. When found guilty of taking two deer instead of the legal bag limit of one, he was fined \$400, sentenced to serve seven days in the county jail and lost his hunting license and deer tag privileges for two years.

Sportsmen owe a tip of the hat to District Court Judge George Neilson of Madras for the passing of the sentence on the errant hunter. □

ON YOUR STATE TAX FORM—

- 16 Oregon Nongame Wildlife Fund. I wish to contribute \$1 ☐, \$3 ☐, \$5 ☐, None ☐ of my tax refund to the Nongame Wildlife Fund. If joint return, spouse's contribution \$1 ☐, \$3 ☐, \$5 ☐, None ☐ Fill in the total contribution if any. A contribution will reduce your refund • 16



SUPPORT OREGON'S NONGAME WILDLIFE



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P.O. BOX 3503
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

