

OREGON STATE
GAME COMMISSION
BULLETIN

JULY, 1956





Hunting regulations for 1956 form the main subject of discussion by the Game Commission at its meetings this month. Following its hearing on July 13, tentative regulations will be published. Final regulations will be adopted at the meeting in Portland on July 27.

* * *

While final figures are not yet available, indications are that this year's catch of spring chinook in the Willamette River will surpass by far the number of fish taken by anglers in 1955.

* * *

During a check of anglers at Devils Lake in Lincoln County on opening day of trout season, 21 boats were counted between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Catch for the 35 anglers interviewed consisted of 4 cutthroat trout 10-12 inches, 2 cutthroat 8-10 inches, 2 perch 8-10 inches, and 4 bass weighing from 3 to 4½ pounds.

* * *

The herd of bighorn mountain sheep at Hart Mountain was increased by six new lambs as of early June and several more were being expected. With the 7 lambs born last year, the original herd of 20 sheep transplanted from British Columbia in 1954 now numbers 32 animals. The sheep are in an enclosure of about 1,000 acres of some of the roughest area on Hart Mountain.

* * *

The fishery division has been conducting tests on the Snake River to determine the growth of channel catfish and extent of the fishery. Field agent Homer Campbell reports fish have been running generally from 12 to 18 inches and weighing from 1 to 4 pounds, but larger ones have been caught. Taken in a net were a 24-incher weighing 7 pounds and a 31-incher weighing 14 pounds. Caught by hook and line near Homestead were four big ones with the following measurements: 14 inches, 2 pounds (2 fish); 16 inches, 3½ pounds; 30½ inches, 17 pounds.

COVER

Adult chukars in rearing pen at the Hermiston game farm. (Photo by Harold C. Smith)

SILVER AND CHINOOK CATCHES

Information recently received from the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission tabulates catch data for silver salmon in an experimental lot of marked fish released in Oregon. The various fisheries took the fish as follows: Washington troller, 9 per cent; British Columbia, 5 per cent; Oregon, 25 per cent; California, 11 per cent. The river gill netters took 27 per cent, the river sport fisheries 2 per cent and the spawning stock was 18 per cent. Hiromu Heyamoto of the Washington Department of Fisheries reported on the experiment and advised that escapement figures were derived from hatchery counts and sport catch figures from boathouse reports, in part.

For Columbia River fall chinook, Jack Van Hyning of the Oregon Fish Commission reported that a group of marked fish was taken as follows: 72 per cent troll fishery, 15 per cent river fishery and 13 per cent escapement. The 15 per cent river take was divided as follows: approximately 2 per cent sport fishery and 13 per cent commercial.

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

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JUNE MEETING OF THE GAME COMMISSION

At its meeting on June 15 the Game Commission considered the following:

BIDS. Accepted low bid of \$7,000 by Tom Lillebo for construction of machine shed for Klamath Management Area; and low bid of \$174,747 by Roy Schrader Construction Company for expansion of Oak Springs hatchery.

OPTION. Authorized exercise of option for \$42,000 to purchase McCorkle tract for White River Management Area.

KLAMATH INDIAN RESERVATION. Heard delegation from Klamath Indian Reservation request that reservation be closed to hunting for non-Indians by Commission regulation. Matter deferred for consideration to July meeting.

DEVILS LAKE. Delegation from Devils Lake Fish Protective League submitted further recommendations in regard to management plans for Devils Lake.

No change was made in the plan to treat the lake but Commission announced it would review stocking program in relation to species of fish before any restocking of the lake was done.

ACCESS. Authorized \$1,500 for access development on Isthmus Slough.

CLOSURE. Passed emergency angling closure below Fish Commission racks on Metolius River.

RESOLUTION. Passed resolution protesting separation of fishery functions from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and creation of a new fishery department.

RIVER MILL DAM. Considered matter of fish protective facilities at River Mill Dam on the Clackamas River.

GAME SITUATION. Heard a preliminary review of current game conditions from game division staff prior to final report on conditions and recommendations to be submitted in time for consideration by the Commission at the July meeting on hunting regulations.

BUDGET. Adopted annual control budget.

POLICIES. Instituted a review of all past policies adopted by the Commission.

GAME MEAT DISPOSAL. Under new policy salvaged game meat of good quality will be disposed of in following order of priority: (1) donation to local charities with agencies assuming handling charges wherever possible; (2) sale to civic groups; (3) sale to individuals (exclusive of Commission and State Police employees); (4) in absence of demand, sale to rendering plants, etc. No meat will be sold for resale in markets, etc.



By Vic Masson, Chief Biologist, Upland Game

THE practices used in the management of any wildlife species are subject to frequent alteration in order to conform with the evaluation of their effects and changing conditions. Artificial propagation and release of game birds has long been a popular upland game management practice. This article explains some of the changes that have occurred in Oregon's artificial propagation program.

Although it is now recognized that game farms have definite limitations, they must be credited with having an important part in the establishment of the ring-necked pheasant in North America. Following the first successful introduction of the pheasant on this continent in the Willamette Valley in 1881, breeding stock was eagerly sought by other states across the nation. By 1903, this demand was so great that Mr. Gene Simpson of Corvallis started rearing pheasants in captivity for sale as breeding stock. These birds were widely shipped both for direct release and for propagation at other game farms. Thus, these first game farm reared pheasants were the original nucleus of many of the flourishing pheasant populations of today.

In 1911, the Oregon Game Commission acquired Mr. Simpson's game farm and appointed him game farm superintendent for the purpose of rearing stock for all available habitat in Oregon. Production

in the early years was relatively small amounting to less than 5,000 birds annually up to 1922. New game farms were added and production increased to a peak of 75,000 birds by 1941. During the war years operations were considerably curtailed but by 1950 had reached another high of 72,000 birds. Although all available habitat in the state had by then been stocked and restocked many times, it was still believed that game farm birds added considerably to pheasant populations and the success of hunters. A high production and release of pheasants was considered a sound management practice. It was also popular with the sportsman as it produced a tangible product that could be seen and counted; thus, he felt his license fees were being wisely spent.

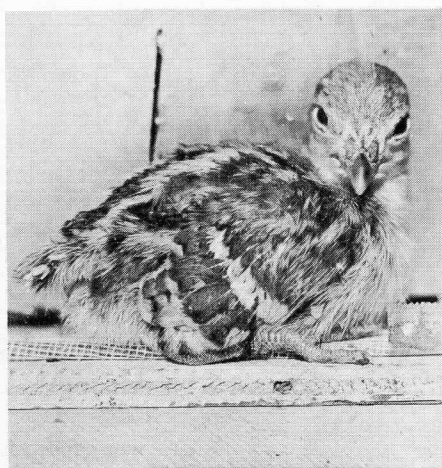
However, by 1951 research and demonstrations in Oregon and other pheasant producing states across the nation indicated that many early beliefs in the values of artificial propagation were not based on facts. Recognition of the small contribution large scale releases of pheasants were making to established populations and hunter success led some states to abandon completely their game farm programs. Survival studies in Oregon showed that an average of less than 30 per cent of the young birds released during the summer were harvested by hunters even under extended seasons and bag

limits. The projected cost of each game farm bird bagged under these conditions was excessive.

Evidence of the small contribution of game farm birds both to the increase of established breeding populations and to the over-all pheasant kill in Oregon is illustrated in the following charts. In Chart I the total pheasant liberations since 1945 are plotted with the state-wide spring breeding densities of pheasants. Presumably, the effect of substantial liberations of game farm pheasants in one year should be reflected in an increased breeding population the following spring. For example, the 1950 liberation of over 71,000 pheasants should have resulted in a decided increase in breeding populations available in the spring of 1951. As shown in Chart I this did not occur as breeding populations continued to decline until 1952 and then started a gradual increase after the liberations had been reduced to half the peak level of 1950. The fact that breeding populations continued to decline during years of highest artificial production and releases serves to substantiate research findings on the relatively small contribution of liberated stock to established pheasant populations.

The assumption by many hunters that game farm birds provide a major share

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Chukar one week old

GAME FARM PROGRAM

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of the annual pheasant kill has no sound basis. For example, the 1954 total kill of pheasants was computed at 292,000 birds by the hunter questionnaire survey. The total pheasant releases in 1954 was 36,995 birds of which approximately one-half were hens. Thus, if all 18,497 cocks survived until hunting season and 100 per cent of them were bagged by hunters, it would have amounted to only 6 per cent of the total kill. If it is further assumed that the adult hens released all produced broods equal to those in the wild, they could have provided possibly an additional 15,000 cocks for harvest. By combining the two figures and assuming a 100 per cent harvest of all these potentially available cocks, it would still have amounted to less than 12 per cent of the total kill.

Chart II showing state-wide pheasant kill as compared to total pheasant release further illustrates that total game farm releases have little effect on the state-wide pheasant kill. Total kill data is available only since 1950, the year the hunter questionnaire survey was initiated. The lowest annual kills of pheasants recorded to date are for 1950 and 1951 which were also the years of the largest pheasant liberations. Although there is a similarity in trend of the total kill and total release from 1953 through 1955, it is undoubtedly more coincidence than actual relationship since there is such a marked contrast on years of extensive liberations.

On the basis of these and other facts, discussed in detail in the September and October 1951 Bulletins, the Commission authorized a 40 per cent reduction in the 1951 pheasant production and made other changes in the propagation program. It was agreed that funds formerly used for

heavy production and release of pheasants could be more profitably spent in improvement of the habitat for wild populations and in the diversification of game farm production to include additional game bird species for introduction into suitable habitat areas. Modern management concepts indicated that pheasant production should be based largely on the needs for restocking of depleted coverts and in supplementing wild populations rather than as a direct measure for increasing hunter success.

In line with this policy, a full scale habitat improvement program has now been in operation for several years and game farms have undertaken the production of chukar partridge, European grey partridge, and bobwhite quail. Pheasant production has been altered to fit the apparent biological needs. The chukar partridge was chosen for large scale introduction in eastern Oregon. Selection of this bird was on the basis of its successful establishment in neighboring states and the fact that it inhabited a type of terrain not commonly occupied by any of our native species. From 1951 through 1955, pheasant production averaged 37,000 birds per year while an average of 9,700 chukars were produced annually for initial stocking. As of May, 1956, over 45,000 chukars have been released in 17 eastern Oregon counties. In western Oregon, a stock of lowland hunts or European grey partridge from Denmark has been maintained for introduction into the Willamette Valley. Low egg production has curtailed the release of this bird but this problem is now being overcome. In 1954, a breeding

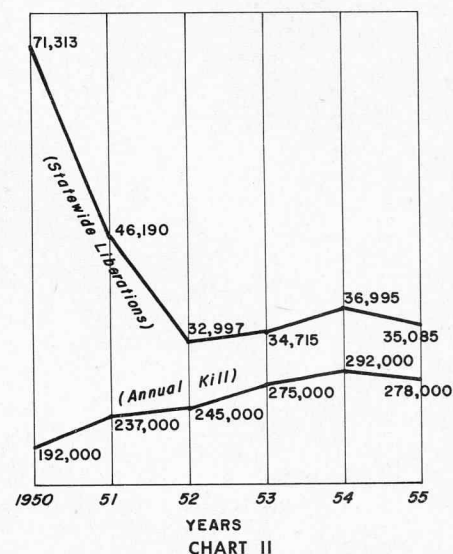


CHART II

stock of northern bobwhite quail was raised from eggs acquired from the Kansas Fish and Game Commission. These birds are being held at the Hermiston game farm. As soon as an adequate production is achieved, this stock will be used to supplement existing populations of bobwhites throughout the state.

Game farms are currently maintained near Corvallis, Hermiston and Ontario. All pheasants allocated for western Oregon are produced at the Corvallis game farm located on the E. E. Wilson game management area north of Corvallis. The Chinese strain of ring-necked pheasants is produced at this station. Birds are shipped from this farm as adult breeders held over the winter and released in the

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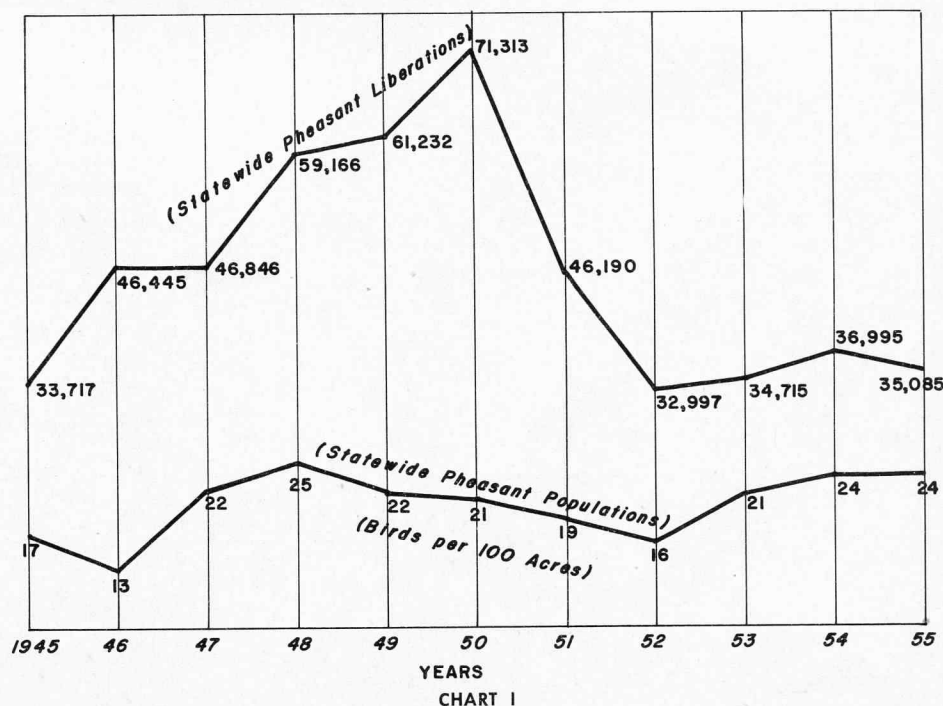
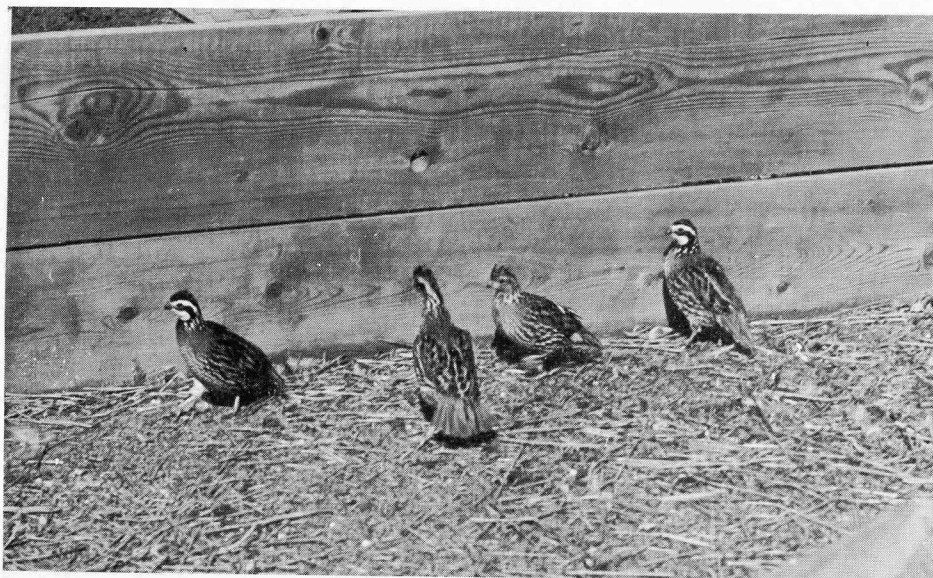


CHART I



Bobwhite quail at the Hermiston game farm

GAME FARM PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 4)

spring; as young birds 8 to 10 weeks old released in the summer; and as adult cocks from 14 to 16 weeks of age released immediately prior to and during the season. A stock of grey partridge is also held at this station.

Pheasant production for all eastern Oregon counties is centered at the Ontario game farm in Malheur County. The Mongolian strain of ringnecks is reared at this station since they are considered better adapted to eastern Oregon conditions. Releases from Ontario are as adult breeders in late spring following egg production and as young birds from 8 to 12 weeks of age in the summer. Facilities are not available at this station for holding large numbers of adult birds until fall or for early spring release.

The Hermiston game farm in Umatilla County has been devoted almost entirely to chukar partridge production since 1953. Chukars are shipped from this station both as 8 to 12 week old birds in the summer and adults held over the winter for spring release. A stock of northern bobwhite quail is maintained at this station as well as small numbers of valley and mountain quail.

The scheduled production at each game farm in 1956 is listed below:

	Pheasants	Chukar Partridge	Grey Partridge	Bob White	Total Production
Corvallis	13,000	0	2,000	0	15,000
Ontario	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Hermiston	0	8,000	0	2,000	10,000
	23,000	8,000	2,000	2,000	35,000

may be made on cooperative shooting areas or heavily hunted lands that are open to the general public. In no case are entire truckloads of birds released at just one site. Adult cocks in the fall are stocked in areas offering the best possible chance of their being harvested during the hunting season. Returns on these birds seldom exceed 60 per cent and often run as low as 15 to 20 per cent even under these circumstances.

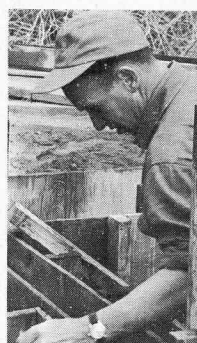
State game farms are no longer utilized strictly for pheasant rearing. The operations of modern farms have been so diversified as to be valuable also in the production of new species for initial introductions, in maintaining small stocks of native species for specific projects and in producing shrubs and trees for use in habitat improvement work. A full scale shrub nursery is maintained at Hermiston and a smaller unit at Corvallis. The present trend in pheasant propagation on these farms is toward a smaller annual production and release. In the past this program has been subject to periodic changes wherein production was increased or decreased for various reasons. Oregon game farms are still maintaining sufficient pheasant breeding stock to insure the prompt restocking of productive habitat that may be depleted by adverse weather, disease or some other catastrophe.

Game farms still have a place in the management picture but their primary value at present lies in the production of

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wilfred V. "Vic" Masson, is a native of eastern Oregon and went to high school at Mt. Vernon. He then attended



Oregon State College, graduating from the fish and game management course in 1940.

He first started work on a temporary basis with the Game Commission in 1941 and also spent some time with the U. S. Forest Service. Following service with the 17th

Gen. Hosp. in the U.S. Army from 1942 to December, 1945 Vic returned to the employ of the Game Commission. His first assignments were game work in Grant and Lake counties and then he took over the district game agent job in the Umatilla area. Promotion to his present position as chief in charge of upland game came in early 1953.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION MEETS IN 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"WILDLIFE Management must Progress with Western Development" was the theme of the 36th annual conference of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners held in Vancouver, B.C. June 7, 8 and 9. The meeting was attended by representatives of the eleven western states and province of British Columbia Association members. Also represented were various governmental and conservation agencies of both Canada and the United States.

"Continental Resource Problems" and "Recent Technical Advances in Fish and Game Management" were subjects of two of the general sessions.

Technical sessions were devoted to progress reports on the following topics: Fish Guiding, Screen and Ladder Developments; Manipulating Hunting Presures; Techniques and Survey Methods in Fisheries Management; Techniques and Survey Methods in Game Management; and Fishery Research Findings. "A Commissioner's Place in a Progressive Wildlife Research Program" was the subject of one technical session.

By form of resolution the Association took the following actions:

Protested transfer of fisheries functions of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to new agency of the Department of Interior and requested action be delayed until all agencies concerned are granted an appropriate hearing; also stated Association stood ready to assist Administration in efforts to bolster present fisheries branch of the Service in order that it can better carry out its present and future duties.

Opposed S. 3444 calling for creation of Federal-State land study commissions and proposing disposal of public lands to private ownership without public hearings and without securing opinions of federal agencies now charged with management of such lands.

Opposed use of water evaporation preventives on western reservoirs by the Bureau of Reclamation until every effort is made to explore their detrimental effects on fish, wildlife and all aquatic plants and animals.

Recommended passage of S. 2372 clarifying and strengthening Public Law 732, the Coordination Act, relating to integration of wildlife conservation programs of state and federal jurisdiction with water resource developments.

Urged Congress to recognize federal responsibility to provide monies for the

permanent maintenance and operation of fishways, salmon hatcheries and other facilities constructed with federal funds to alleviate or mitigate damage to the salmon fishery on the Columbia River by federal river development projects.

Requested Congress to enact legislation as follows:

1. That state game and fish laws apply to all federally owned or controlled lands except national parks and Indian treaty lands; (2) that military authorities be required to observe state game and fish laws and state enforcement agents be allowed on military reservations for purpose of enforcing such laws; (3) that congressional approval be required for all military withdrawals sought by the Defense Department which are over 5,000 acres in size.

Urged federal, state and city agencies having holding reservoirs now closed to angling to develop suitable plans for the implementation of angling in waters under their control since no public health problems are involved and most such reservoirs are accessible to large urban centers of population and could provide a great expansion of angling areas.

Requested Secretary of the Interior to take immediate action to: (1) order that no further reduction of waterfowl areas in the Upper Klamath Basin, through homesteading, be allowed; (2) support legislation which will permanently set aside land and water areas and water supplies for waterfowl management in the Upper Klamath Basin.

Urged Congress to give immediate attention to amending the Federal Power Act so that the Federal Power Commission must first secure approval of the State through appropriate license before a federal license and permit may be issued for the construction of facilities in streams falling wholly within the boundaries of one state.

Commended Congress for \$4,000,000 appropriation of recreational needs and wildlife habitat development on national forests, and urged enactment of legislation to assure sufficient money each year to maintain and expand such needs within the Forest Service.

Urged Congress to appropriate sufficient funds from general treasury to maintain various divisions of Fish and Wildlife Service and that not less than \$6,000,000 a year be made available to the Service for the next ten years to com-

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Grey partridge at the Corvallis game farm

GAME FARM PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 5)

game birds for initial stocking — they cannot be expected to supply birds of any species in sufficient quantities to support the hunting load. Good hunting of upland birds is dependent on the successful production of wild stock. Failure of the wild crop results in poor hunting regardless of the numbers of game farm birds that are released.

The actual availability of pheasants for hunting is largely dependent on the tolerance of the landowner both to the pheasant and to the hunter. In these days of intensive farming and increasing human populations, any irresponsible action by a hunter that arouses the resentment of the landowner serves not only to decrease further the area available for hunting but also the numbers of birds available to himself and others. A given area of land will provide only a certain number of birds for harvest even under ideal conditions. The hunter should well consider that the key to better hunting in many cases lies in his cooperation with the landowner and not in the number of game farm birds that may be released in any one year.

Six Roosevelt elk were transplanted recently from Vaughn Mountain in Douglas County to the head of Rock Creek in the north Umpqua area. This is the third successful trapping attempt there since the elk trap was installed in 1953. That year 9 elk were moved and 3 more were trapped in 1955.

FUR CATCH REPORT

1955-56 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY AND NUMBER OF TRAPPERS' REPORTS	OTTER Av. Price \$20.65	MINK Av. Price \$13.71	MUSKRAT Av. Price \$.97	*BEAVER Av. Price \$11.90	RACCOON Av. Price \$.96	SKUNK Av. Price \$.53	CIVET CAT Av. Price \$.67	WEASEL Av. Price \$.60	WILD CAT Av. Price \$2.56	xFOX No. Amount	#MISCEL- LANEOUS	TOTAL AMOUNT
Baker	1 \$ 20.65	50 \$ 685.50	477 \$ 463.09	294 \$ 3,498.00	8 \$ 7.08	7 \$ 3.71	15	1 \$.60	9 \$ 23.04	32	\$ 1.42	\$ 4,700.18
Benton	2 103.25	92 1,291.52	225 2,825.11	564 6,711.00	91 87.36	7 1.53	15	7 4.20	3 7.08	31	1.42	8,435.95
Clackamas	28 433.95	106 1,453.26	827 10,110.74	529 6,295.10	41 39.36	3 3.71	15	18 10.80	3 7.08	12	1.42	8,605.10
Clatsop	70 433.95	386 5,232.06	1,768 20,110.74	889 10,573.50	118 113.28	4 2.12	1	17 10.20	35 89.60	3	107.84	18,341.36
Columbia	61 204.50	156 2,138.76	540 5,232.06	707 8,413.50	19 18.24	4 2.12	20	5 3.00	12 12.80	1	13.48	11,333.16
Coos	37 247.80	210 2,879.10	804 773.88	541 6,437.50	52 49.92	4 2.12	1	2 1.20	38 40.24	1	11.36	10,458.96
Crook	15 247.80	210 2,879.10	804 773.88	541 6,437.50	52 49.92	4 2.12	1	2 1.20	38 40.24	1	11.36	2,919.14
Curry	4 247.80	51 611.50	131 127.07	238 2,832.20	3 8.64	2 1.06	8	1 1.80	30 76.80	4	85.00	3,621.25
Deschutes	20 41.30	51 611.50	131 127.07	238 2,832.20	3 8.64	2 1.06	8	1 1.80	30 76.80	4	85.00	2,325.67
Douglas	71 309.75	286 3,921.06	421 468.57	711 8,400.90	97 93.12	2 1.06	8	3 1.80	17 43.52	4	2.84	13,252.42
Gilliam	15 41.30	78 1,069.38	108 104.76	53 630.70	22 21.12	2 1.06	8	3 1.80	17 43.52	4	2.84	630.70
Grant	15 41.30	78 1,069.38	108 104.76	53 630.70	22 21.12	2 1.06	8	3 1.80	17 43.52	4	2.84	630.70
Harney	12 41.30	30 411.30	25 24.25	403 4,795.70	11 10.56	3 1.59	15	3 1.80	71 181.76	2	7.10	5,745.86
Hood River	9 41.30	11 150.81	186 180.42	429 5,105.10	11 10.56	3 1.59	15	3 1.80	71 181.76	2	7.10	5,745.86
Jackson	27 20.65	8 109.68	1,042 1,010.74	78 928.20	23 22.08	6 3.18	6	1 1.60	69 176.64	1	108.98	1,311.63
Jefferson	3 330.40	16 219.36	46 64.02	120 1,428.00	6 5.76	3 3.18	1	1 1.60	69 176.64	1	108.98	1,850.93
Josephine	13 330.40	17 233.07	46 64.02	120 1,428.00	6 5.76	3 3.18	1	1 1.60	69 176.64	1	108.98	1,732.50
Klamath	34 82.60	79 1,083.09	7,257 7,030.29	290 3,044.00	25 24.00	3 3.18	1	1 1.60	69 176.64	1	108.98	2,305.64
Lake	5 351.05	328 4,406.88	2,237 2,169.89	136 1,618.40	200 249.60	4 2.12	32	13 7.80	11 28.16	13	2.84	11,330.66
Lane	17 351.05	328 4,406.88	2,237 2,169.89	136 1,618.40	200 249.60	4 2.12	32	13 7.80	11 28.16	13	2.84	1,987.29
Lincoln	40 144.55	191 2,618.61	199 193.03	2 23.80	141 135.36	4 2.12	32	13 7.80	11 28.16	13	2.84	27,577.36
Linn	43 351.05	131 1,796.01	1,001 970.97	519 6,176.10	57 54.72	4 2.12	13	10 6.00	15 38.40	8	2.84	3,180.58
Malheur	48 351.05	38 520.98	8,789 8,525.33	594 7,068.60	35 33.60	4 2.12	13	10 6.00	15 38.40	8	2.84	9,073.02
Marion	40 103.25	64 877.44	1,132 1,098.04	363 4,319.70	25 24.00	4 2.12	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	16,607.66
Norrow	6 20.65	15 205.65	182 176.54	41 487.90	40 47.04	2 1.06	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	6,445.73
Multnomah	22 41.30	35 479.85	1,919 1,861.43	202 2,261.00	49 47.04	2 1.06	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	874.35
Polk	15 41.30	24 329.04	138 133.86	190 2,403.80	9 8.64	2 1.06	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	4,672.93
Sherman	1 474.95	108 1,480.68	885 858.45	6 71.40	42 40.32	4 2.12	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	2,929.88
Tillamook	35 474.95	108 1,480.68	885 858.45	6 71.40	42 40.32	4 2.12	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	71.40
Umatilla	26 474.95	108 1,480.68	885 858.45	6 71.40	42 40.32	4 2.12	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	6,483.54
Union	24 474.95	108 1,480.68	885 858.45	6 71.40	42 40.32	4 2.12	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	5,652.91
Walla	21 20.65	53 726.63	1,511 1,465.67	189 2,249.10	13 12.48	4 2.12	2	6 3.60	103.84	7	4.26	3,407.06
Wasco	16 123.90	67 918.57	112 108.64	109 1,297.10	81 77.76	12 6.36	3	24 14.40	20 51.20	16	2.84	3,117.91
Washington	24 123.90	23 315.33	290 281.30	254 3,022.60	56 53.76	12 6.36	3	24 14.40	20 51.20	16	2.84	2,340.59
Wheeler	5 41.30	29 397.59	190 184.30	155 1,844.50	2 1.92	12 6.36	1	5 3.00	10.24	5	2.84	3,839.90
Yamhill	18 41.30	29 397.59	190 184.30	155 1,844.50	2 1.92	12 6.36	1	5 3.00	10.24	5	2.84	2,040.25
Total	188 \$3,882.20	2,890 \$39,621.90	36,240 \$35,152.80	11,533 \$137,242.70	1,477 \$1,417.92	57 \$30.21	125 \$83.75	103 \$97.80	458 \$1,172.48	129 \$154.74	\$439.90	\$219,206.40

*Catch of beaver compiled from beaver report cards.
 #Includes 114 gray fox @ \$1.16 and 15 red fox @ \$1.50.
 #Includes 245 coyote @ \$1.42; 10 opossum @ 70c; and 17 marten @ \$5.00.

1955-56 TRAPPING SEASON

DURING the 1955-56 trapping season, Oregon trappers reported catching 53,532 fur animals which sold for \$219,296.40. A breakdown of animals taken by county and revenue received is shown in the accompanying table. It has been compiled from the reports of only 63 per cent of the 1,598 licensed trappers. The other 37 per cent (596 trappers) failed to file a return.

As in previous years more muskrats were trapped than all other fur animals combined. This year's catch, however, is less than half the reported take of 1947 when prices were considerably higher.

Beaver led the list as a revenue producer for the fifth consecutive year. Over 11,500 of these furbearers were taken. They brought a monetary return of over \$137,000 to the trappers of the state.

Long-haired fur animals were again lightly trapped as their pelts had little value on the fur market. The "Davy Crockett" fad was of too short duration to materially reduce the large stocks which had accumulated in warehouses from previous trapping seasons. The supply was much greater than the demand and as a result prices paid to trappers for these furs did not advance.

WESTERN ASSN. MEETS

(Continued from Page 6)

plete the waterfowl wetland acquisition program.

Recommended to all public agencies concerned that radioactive wastes be disposed of in appropriate underground depositories since ocean disposal causes public reaction that can result in irreparable damage to the fishing industry and radioactive materials once disposed of into marine waters cannot be retrieved.

Endorsed proposed withdrawal of the Kiskokwin waterfowl area for management and protection of nesting waterfowl.

Endorsed request of Fish and Wildlife Service for withdrawal of some 33,000 acres of public land along the Salmon River headwaters in Idaho from all forms of entry, to be set aside for the preservation of salmon spawning grounds in their natural state and to continue to provide angling on this stream.

Showing up frequently in anglers' creels are marked brown trout fingerlings stocked in Wickiup Reservoir in 1953. The fish show an amazing growth rate, ranging in size from 18 to 22 inches. Fish released a year later run in size from 13 to 15 inches.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

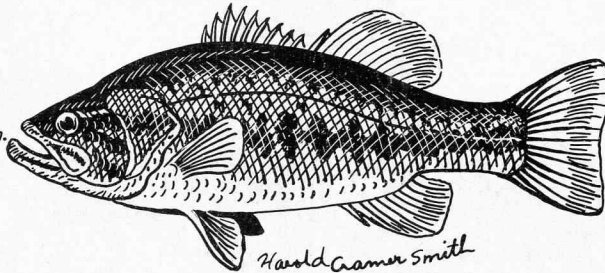
Not a native of Oregon it was introduced into the Willamette River about 1888. Although fairly widely distributed it is most abundant in backwaters of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers; Owyhee Reservoir and numerous coastal lakes.

Spawn in May and June when water temperature reaches 60°-68°. Nest is built by the male usually near some cover. Eggs are deposited on submerged rootlets, logs, rocks or vegetation.

Like weedy, mud-bottomed lakes, sloughs or other sluggish waters. Eat crayfish, frogs, other small fishes, insects and other animal items.

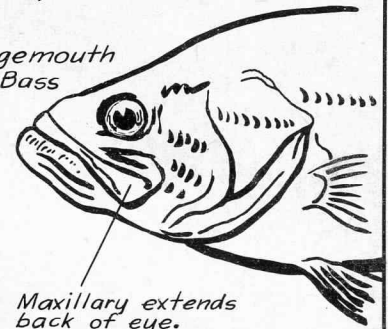
Eggs hatch in 3-6 days. Nest & young are savagely protected by male for 3 to 4 weeks after hatching. Mature during 2nd. or 3rd. year.

General color is dark green above, sides and below greenish silver; dark band on side of body, white belly. Head is large with wide mouth.



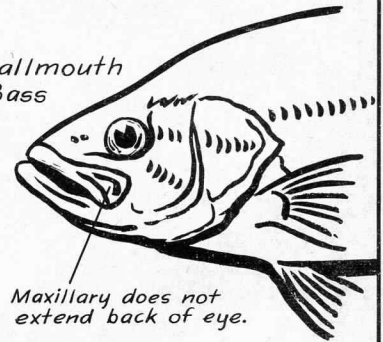
Harold Gomer Smith

Largemouth Bass



Maxillary extends back of eye.

Smallmouth Bass



Maxillary does not extend back of eye.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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

