

OREGON WILDLIFE

January 1984



OREGON WILDLIFE

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Cover — A wild peregrine falcon tours its domain near Crater Lake. It hunts for itself and its young. But for centuries man has joined in a partnership with raptors to hunt for food and sport. Bruce Haak looks at modern falconry in our feature article beginning on page 3.

**HUNTER EDUCATION
PROGRAM
INSTRUCTORS APPROVED**
Month of November 8
Total Active 1,737
STUDENTS TRAINED
Month of November 396
Total to Date 310,093
HUNTING CASUALTIES
Fatal 3
Nonfatal 17

It's Still Us!

Don't panic or fret, your name hasn't been sold to a new magazine and you haven't been dropped from the OREGON WILDLIFE mailing list. We've made a few cosmetic changes that we hope will make our product a bit more attractive and more easily readable. If you don't know what I'm talking about, perhaps the changes were more subtle than we supposed. At any rate we hope they are for the better.

In starting the new year with somewhat of a new look, we thought it might again be time to let you readers know from whence we come. We are not attempting to produce a where-to-go-and-how-to-catchum publication. As was the case in our last issue, we do occasionally run articles on species that are underused with the hope they will not be wasted and that if some folks get interested in such things as whitefish or carp, they may not spend as much time pursuing trout and salmon.

We want to let you know what the department is doing and what the management programs are in Oregon and, to a degree, elsewhere. And, since the department is charged with the role of being an advocate for fish and wildlife we will on occasion do that in our editorials.

We try to produce a mix of articles because the letters we receive indicate you readers have a wide variety of interests. But again, we generally restrict ourselves when it comes to the "how to" articles. Outdoor techniques and hunting and fishing stories are well handled by a host of commercial publications.

Though we don't publish letters we do enjoy hearing from you and would be pleased to hear any ideas you might have for stories. We probably can't follow up on all of them, but we are always open for suggestions.

Above all, we hope we are providing some reading of interest while keeping you abreast of the problems of the fish and wildlife resource, its management, and the operations of your fish and wildlife department.

Also, we hope you like the new look and that it aids in the enjoyment of the magazine. □

R.E.S.

Commission and Compact Meetings

The Columbia River Compact will meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, January 19, to consider a winter commercial salmon season and other general regulations.

On Friday, January 20, the Fish and Wildlife Commission will conduct a meeting and public hearings on opening dates for 1984 hunting seasons, bear harvest and pursuit seasons, rules on the sale of wildlife, and modifications to ocean groundfish rules. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m.

Both meetings will take place at Fish and Wildlife Department headquarters, 506 SW Mill Street in Portland. □



A red-tailed hawk which has missed its prey returns to the falconer's gloved hand for food. *Photo by Rick Kline.*

A Falconer on Falconry

By
Bruce A. Haak

(Editor's note: Bruce Haak is an avid falconer from Eugene, Oregon.)

Falconry is the ancient practice of hunting wild game with trained birds of prey. In medieval times, falconry was both sport and a means to put fresh meat on the table. As cultures evolved and wealthier classes formed, falconry became part of the class structure of society. It was those falconers who did not depend on the game they caught for food, who developed the western practice of falconry to the fine art it is today.

With the advent of firearms, falconry's popular appeal plummeted. But the sport is kept alive by

the modern falconer who is more interested in the aesthetic stimulation of the hunt than in simply putting game on the table.

Through falconry, man may observe nature's most perfectly designed birds in action and be part, even if somewhat vicariously, of the contest between predator and prey. These are not spectacles that can be bought; only by taming and training wild birds of prey (known collectively as raptors) does the falconer earn the right to witness these aerobatic marvels on a regular basis. Simple observation of wild birds of prey gives this privilege only rarely.

Not surprisingly, the quarry is often the star of the show. One will never see a flock of teal wheel with such skill around the edge of a pond as when there is a prairie falcon blanketing every move. Or, picture a Hungarian partridge, flushed mere inches ahead of the pointer's stance, stall in mid-air and hurl itself against the ground, only to come boiling up in the opposite direction. Foiled are the best intentions of a falcon now rebounding from the near miss.

It is the quality of the flight and mastering worthy opponents that gives the falconer his reward. This is the essence of falconry.

The Falconry Program

In 1977, the Department of Fish and Wildlife approved Oregon's first falconry program. It was adopted in conformance with previously enacted federal falconry regulations which, among other things, set up guidelines for testing and licensing falconers, and required minimum standards for facilities in which birds of prey are held. The Department of Fish and Wildlife regulates seasons and harvests of both the birds of prey used for the sport and the game species which are hunted by man and bird.

State and federal regulations divide falconers into three classes depending upon their experience in the sport. The beginner, or "novice" falconer must be at least 14 years of age and he must be sponsored and supervised by a "general" or "master" class falconer. He must also pass a falconry examination and possess adequate facilities for care of a bird. Novice falconers are limited to just one raptor at one time and it must be either a red-tailed hawk or a kestrel.

General class falconers are a minimum of 18 years of age and must have at least two years of experience as a novice falconer. These falconers may have two birds at once and they are not limited to any species of raptors.

The mast falconer has had at least five years of experience at the general class level, and may possess up to three birds at once. Falconers are not allowed to possess bald eagles, golden eagles or the *anatum* subspecies of the peregrine falcon from the wild.

The Falconer's Training

While the sport of falconry has existed for more than 4,000 years, only within the last 20 years has falconry gained limited popularity in the U.S. Compared to hunting with firearms, falconry is a very inefficient means of gathering meat for the table. There is an ideal matching of predator and prey inherent in falconry not equaled in any other field sport. And it is this very nature of the chase that motivates falconers to

pursue their art with such dedication.

The ability of the falconer to manipulate the hunting situation in favor of the falcon or hawk is the falconer's true test of skill. Birds of prey often require many chances in which to make a kill. The burden of supplying hunting opportunities therefore lies squarely on the shoulders of the falconer and his dogs. The falconer must be skilled not only at locating game, but must be able to plan and execute the strategies that will allow the falcon its best opportunities.

"While the sport of falconry has existed for more than 4,000 years, only within the last 20 years has falconry gained limited popularity in the U.S."

Because it requires years of training, and lots of energy and time, to bring a falcon into hunting condition, few people attempt it. The average gunner can get a lot more action in a small amount of time, without the responsibility of caring for a finely trained raptor for 365 days a year. However, there have always been people willing to do things the hard way, and a small band of devotees continue to practice their ancient art within the confines of modern civilization.

The road to becoming a master falconer is a long one. The novice, as mentioned earlier, is required by law to be apprenticed to a more experienced falconer for the first two years of his or her career. During this tutelage the novice may possess only one of the more common raptors.

Because the equipment needed for handling birds of prey is not readily available, the novice must learn to make much of his own. This includes leatherworking for hoods, gauntlets, leashes and jesses (leg straps); and woodworking

for perches, pens and other needed construction. In addition, he must learn the language of falconry—study the natural history of birds of prey, learn about the game species he intends to hunt, and about the prominent diseases and maladies which afflict birds of prey. All this is necessary before the novice may advance through the ranks.

This is somewhat like requiring a budding fly-fisherman to build his own rod and reel from scratch, and become a competent fish biologist. It is both a formidable task and a stimulating challenge.

Birds must be exercised two to three hours daily during the hunting season. Trapping and/or raising fresh food for the bird and building the necessary facilities to house the bird safely, requires more time and money.

After one masters the rudiments of caring for and handling wild birds of prey, he can become more engrossed in the finer points of hunting with the different species of hawks and falcons at a variety of game.

Hunting with Hawks

Because large falcons are difficult to train and require open space and specialized hunting situations, most falconers prefer to use hawks for hunting. Hawks commonly used include the red-tailed hawk, goshawk, Coopers hawk and Harris hawk. These birds are effective in mixed woodlot and field situations which would be unsuitable for flying the more aerial falcons.

Opportunists by nature, hawks are carried on the falconer's gloved hand and released when game is flushed to pursue it straightaway. This is done in much the same way as a shooter would stalk game. The falconer takes opportunities when they arise as he strolls through the fields or follows the lead of a hunting dog. This form of hunting lends itself well to the pursuit of rabbits and upland game birds such as quail and pheasants.

Hunting with Falcons

Large falcons such as the prairie falcon, peregrine falcon and gyrfalcon compose a group of specialized birds which pursue their prey



The large goshawk is a favorite among falconers for hunting rabbits and upland game birds. *Photo by Rick Kline.*

in high-speed attacks. The nature of their flight style requires open country where their powers of flight can be used to greatest advantage and where the falconer can keep track of the flight.

Typically, falcons undergo sophisticated and time-consuming training for a process called "waiting on." In this process, they learn to leave the falconer's fist, and circle hundreds of feet above him while waiting for him to flush or

"serve" game. Because a falcon's patience is short, the falconer must make every effort to produce game within a few minutes or risk having the bird fly away or land in confusion. It is the falconer's ability to supply the falcon flights at game which solidifies the relationship between man and bird and prevents the raptor from leaving.

Because of the risks involved, falcons are generally flown at "marked" game which has been

located prior to release of the falcon. With upland game, the falconer tries to spot birds feeding in the open or relies on a pointing dog. Good, steady pointers are absolutely essential for this type of hawking and falconers must learn to train them to work as a team with the bird.

Waterfowl provide an interesting alternative since they can be located on small ponds and the falcon can be released to "wait on" while the falconer gets close enough to jump them. In Oregon, waterfowl are the mainstay for those who hunt with falcons.

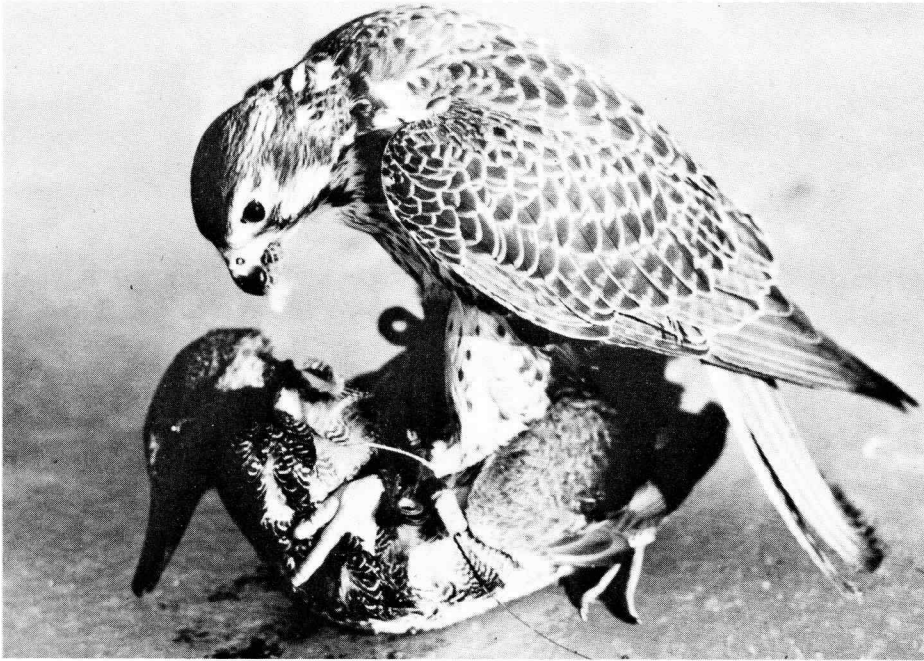
Hawks attack game by flying it down in the air or by chasing it to cover before grabbing or "binding" to it. However, the high-speed dive of the falcons often prevents them from slowing down enough to grab their prey. Instead, they strike the game with a karate chop-style blow that sends it tumbling through the air. It is the lightning fast attack and the perilous strike of a "stooping" falcon, more than anything else, that has endeared the sport to falconers throughout the centuries and kindered their respect for this most graceful of predators.

The Oregon Falconers Association

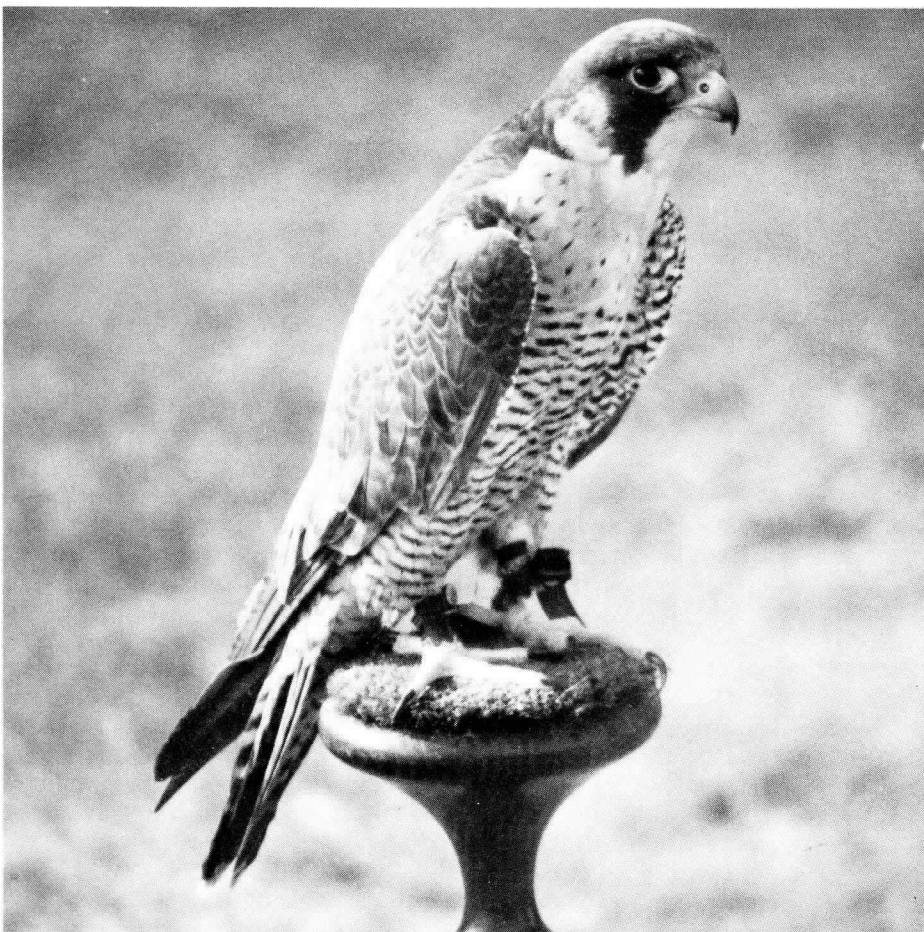
Many active falconers in the state organized in the Oregon Falconers Association (OFA). The group has since worked closely with the Department of Fish and Wildlife during development of Oregon's falconry program. Legalized falconry has not led to a huge increase in participation in the sport, partly because of the standards imposed by strict regulations. The OFA has supported restrictions which discourage those falconers who lack the commitment the sport requires. On the other hand, the association also accepts the responsibility of educating and training the novice truly committed to the sport.

Falconry Seasons

The OFA strives for seasons that maximize the time a falconer may legally spend hunting with his bird. Wild birds of prey hunt



A prairie falcon feeds on a gadwall it has successfully downed on a partially frozen pond. Ducks provide the bulk of game for large falcons in Oregon. *Photo by Bruce Haak.*



Peregrine falcons, the symbol of falconry for centuries, are endangered species. Peregrines, and exotics such as gyrfalcons, are now being produced in captivity by falconers for use in their sport. *Photo by Rick Kline.*

daily and falconers are obliged to keep their birds in equally fine physical condition. We are not running zoos. Our primary reason for maintaining raptors in captivity is for hunting. It is extremely difficult to train young hawks and falcons on old, experienced game. By allowing seasons for falconry to begin early in the year, the young hawks and falcons can practice the skills of a hunter on young, inexperienced game as they would in the wild. The chances of them being successful on the wise old game birds are slim.

Despite long hours in the field, falconers can seldom lay claim to more than modest scores. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service analysis of the impact of falconers on game concluded that the effect was negligible due to the difficult nature of the sport. Because falconers are not likely to put undue pressures on game populations, extended seasons on upland game and waterfowl have been permitted. The seasons that were authorized for 1983 are shown in the accompanying box.

The falconer cannot effectively compete with the shooting public. Falconers seldom attempt to fly a trained falcon in a public hunting area during the shooting season for fear their bird may be accidentally killed. The unfortunate fact is that trained birds of prey, and many more wild ones, continue to be shot maliciously or by those ignorant of the important role raptors play in nature. All birds of prey are strictly protected by law.

So the falconer seeks safe places to fly birds out of harm's way. Extended seasons allow the falconer some peace of mind in which to spend time looking for game instead of looking out for trouble. In many areas game birds receive relatively little hunting pressure from shotgunners after the opening week of the season. In addition, quail and partridge are always hunted lightly in any given year and they provide falconers great hunting possibilities.

Two Sides to the Coin

Because falconers are constantly queried by the public and because of their interest in birds of

Statewide 1983 Falconry Seasons

Upland Birds

Season: September 1 through January 15, 1984
Bag Limit: One pheasant (either sex) two valley quail, two Hungarian partridge, two chukar partridge per day.
Possession: Twice the daily bag limit.

Waterfowl

Season: October 1 through January 15, 1984
Bag Limit: Three ducks, coot or snipe, singly or in the aggregate.
Possession: Twice the daily bag limit.



Population information on raptors, such as the prairie falcon, has been provided by Oregon falconers. The baseline information supplements data gathered by department personnel and other interested parties and helps with development of harvest and management goals. *Photo by Rick Kline.*

prey, it is natural that many have become involved in public education programs. Falconers here and elsewhere have also been involved in biological research on the status and behavior of raptors. Winter raptor counts submitted annually by Oregon falconers have helped provide needed baseline information on raptor movements into the state. Many falconers have also committed time and energy to rehabilitating injured raptors.

In addition, falconers have been active in captive breeding programs aimed at reintroduction of endangered birds of prey, notably the peregrine falcon.

Peregrines donated to breeding projects by falconers in the late 1960's and early 1970's provided the initial breeding stocks for reintroduction programs, and the knowledge of the falconry community has enabled the science of captive propagation to blossom. A small number of captive-bred peregrines are now being released at protected nest sites in an effort to restore a breeding population of these rare birds in Oregon. The release of captive-bred birds of prey into the wild is not a new product of modern technology, but a modification of ancient falconry techniques.

Falconry is truly one of the outdoor sports where the premium is placed on the quality of the recreational experience and not on a bag limit at the end of an outing. The emphasis is on skill and challenge rather than on numbers of game bagged. Seasons and restrictions that have been adopted for the sport allow the continuation of this ancient practice under conditions that control the take of raptors from the wild, insure the proper care of these magnificent birds, and limit any significant impact on populations of game.

We wouldn't have it any other way!□

Access Doesn't Just Happen!

By
Ray Michimoto
Lands Section

It is easy to take access to Oregon's fishing waters for granted. But those access sites don't just happen. They take planning, coordination, dollars and sometimes hard work to insure public access to public waters.

For years the Department of Fish and Wildlife has carried on a program to provide access on major streams, lakes and ponds. These areas allow the public to launch boats and angle from the banks of their favorite fishing waters.

Over the years, the department has acquired 338 fishing access sites, of which 190 have boat ramps. And the program continues in attempts to fill in with access sites where inadequate ones or none exist now.

Access development begins at the field level. A district fishery biologist evaluates each water area in his district and decides where additional public access is needed. He considers the number and location of existing boat ramps and popular fishing spots. When the biologist learns a landowner is willing to sell a chosen site, he submits a proposal to initiate the project. If the proposed acquisition is approved, the department's Lands Section gets the green light to proceed with the project.

An agent from the lands section meets with the landowner to negotiate purchase of the land, an easement (purchased right to trespass), an agreement (permission to trespass), or a lease arrangement. Then, if needed, the land agent coordinates the construction of a parking area and/or boat ramp.

In the last year, 15 access sites



A new department access area and boat ramp on the Nestucca River near Cloverdale provided a needed put-in and take-out site for boaters and shoreline access for bank fishermen. Photo by Ken Durbin.

were acquired and developed. We list them and their locations below for general information. A guide to public and private boat ramps is available from the Oregon State Marine Board. Plans are being made by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Marine Board to develop a more complete guide listing *all* state, county, city and privately-owned access sites.

Fishing and Boating Access — New in 1983

1. *Clackamas River* — Carver Access is located on the south bank just east of the bridge in Carver. This popular boat access and bank angling site has always been crowded because of lack of parking. Land was purchased and additional parking developed.
2. *Nestucca River* — Cloverdale Access is located in Cloverdale behind the Tillamook County Shop. Land was leased from Cloverdale Sanitary District. The site has a developed boat ramp, parking area and 640 feet of frontage for bank angling.
3. *North Fork Nehalem River* — Aldervale Access is located on the east bank 200 feet south of the bridge in Aldervale. Land was bought several years ago but was recently developed with a parking area and unimproved boat ramp.
4. *Tillamook River* — Burto Bridge Access is located on the south bank just west of the bridge and south of Tillamook. This access is under a coopera-

tive agreement with Tillamook County. It has parking, a boat ramp and one-quarter mile of river frontage.

5. *Tillamook Bay* — Garibaldi Pier located in Garibaldi is an abandoned Coast Guard facility. The leased pier will provide access into the bay for crabbing and angling for saltwater species.
6. *North Santiam River* — Greens Bridge Access is located on the east bank just south of the bridge which is two miles east of Jefferson. Land was bought to provide boat access and parking. The site has 130 feet of river frontage.
7. *Airport Pond* — is located two miles northeast of Eugene on the south side of Airport Road. The pond and adjacent property was bought from Lane County and the State Highway Division.
8. *McKenzie River* — Hayden Bridge Access is located on the west bank just downstream from Hayden Bridge and north of Springfield. A cooperative agreement with Eugene Water and Electric Board enabled the site to be developed with a parking area and a boat ramp.
9. *Siuslaw River* — Tiernan Access is located on the north bank in Tiernan which is four miles downstream from Mapleton. Land was bought to provide boat access between Mapleton Landing and Midway Dock.
10. *Smith River* — Schoolhouse Access is located on the north bank nine miles upstream from the mouth. A cooperative agreement was signed with Douglas County. The site has 500 feet of river frontage and will have a parking area and a boat ramp.
11. *North Fork Smith River* — Dunn Access is located on the west bank five miles upstream from the mouth. The site was bought as an easement for drift boat access and will have a pole slide.
12. *Rogue River* — Kudlac Access is located on the north bank on the west edge of Grants Pass.

This site has 165 feet of river frontage and was bought for angler access.

13. *Santosh Slough Access* — is located north of Scappoose at the end of the slough which is a tributary to Multnomah Channel. A cooperative agreement with Scappoose Drainage District and Cascade Aggregate gives the public use of the area. The site will have parking and will provide 3/4-mile of frontage for warmwater fish angling.
14. *Hood River* — Hood River Access is located along the east bank just downstream of a new bridge in the city. Land was bought for 175 feet of river frontage for angling from the bank.
15. *Lower Deschutes River* — The Lands Section participated in

this \$1.6 million acquisition on the lower 14 miles of the Deschutes River by providing nearly one half of the purchase price, appraising the land and providing maps for the area.

16. *Enterprise Pond* — is located in the southeast portion of the City of Enterprise. The pond was bought to provide angling recreation for local residents.

Another method of acquiring property that we do not pursue but which occurs occasionally is through donation.

17. *Sandy River* — Mrs. Olivia Davis donated 1.3 acres along the east bank about 600 feet upstream from Dodge Park. The land has 300 feet of river frontage. A plaque was put on the site acknowledging her gift in memory of her parents. □



This new access on Tillamook River near Burton Bridge provides both boat access and bank fishing in a tidal portion of the lower river. It is a cooperative project with Tillamook County. Photo by Ken Durbin.

Tip Of The Hat

Justice Court Judge Lloyd Olds of Brookings recently made two violators think again about taking deer illegally. Senior Trooper Kreiger apprehended the two men when they took two deer in western Oregon by the use of a spotlight. Both men had previously filled their deer tags east of the Cascades.

Judge Olds fined each individual \$1,275, suspending \$245 each, gave each a 180 day jail sentence and suspended their hunting privileges for two years.

A doff of the fedora to Justice Court Judge Olds of Brookings. □



Eagles feed on the frozen surface of Klamath Lake. Abundant waterfowl populations draw Oregon's largest wintering population of bald eagles to the Klamath Basin each year. *Photos provided by Brian Sharp.*

An Exaltation of Eagles

By
Brian Sharp, Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Every year, for as long as anyone remembers, the Klamath Basin on the Oregon-California border has been invaded by bald eagles in the winter. They are attracted by the great concentrations of ducks and geese for which the area is renowned, and on legions of voles which the eagles, implausibly, run down on foot. Five to six hundred of our national birds congregate in the area each year.

At night the eagles roost together

in sheltered areas of old growth timber in the foothills that surround the basin. Three of these traditional roosts are on federal land and are preserved by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Bear Valley roost, the largest, is on mostly private and state-owned commercial forest land.

The Fish and Wildlife Service became actively involved in this

eagle pageant in 1978, stimulated by the proposed logging of a tract of private land in Bear Valley which could have displaced some of the three hundred eagles roosting at the site.

Under the acquisition authority of the Service, and with the specific approval of Congress, the Service invoked the power of eminent domain, and, the day before the logging was due to begin, took ownership of the property in ques-

tion. Thus began the acquisition of the Bear Valley National Wildlife Refuge by the Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy. The effort is still continuing.

Financing has come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, derived from the sale of federal offshore oil drilling leases. The Nature Conservancy acquired some available lands within the refuge while funding was being secured by the Service. An exchange of federal for state-owned commercial forest land is also proceeding with the help of the Bureau of Land Management and State Forestry Department.

Because of the eagle concentration, a new winter tradition has become established in the area and has become an unexpected economic boost for the community. Every February for the past four years, about three hundred eagle watchers and wildlife enthusiasts, timing their visit to coincide with the eagle population buildup, have held an eagle-raptor ecology conference in Klamath Falls.

The Chamber of Commerce has been delighted with the event, and has enthusiastically cooperated with a newly-formed chapter of the Audubon Society in making the arrangements for the conferences. Local business has discovered that eagles translate into revenue at a time of year when other tourist income is scarce.

A community that is preserving its aesthetic and wildlife resources thus finds itself benefitting from the increasing demands of a wildlife viewing public.□



Eagles use stands of old growth timber surrounding Bear Valley for roosting at night and resting during the day. One of the largest roost areas was threatened with logging and was acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the power of eminent domain the day before logging was due to begin.



This panoramic composite of Bear Valley shows the area where 500 to 600 bald eagles congregate each winter. The daily flights from roost areas to feeding sites has attracted increasing numbers of people who come simply to watch.

This and That

Compiled by Ken Durbin

The Bird That Thinks it's a Phone

The small hand telephones with buttons in the handle have become popular in England, where they are known as "trimphones." Not only are they popular with people, but certain wild thrushes have learned to imitate the warbling sound of the ringing telephone, and have adopted it as their song.

Britons sunning themselves in their gardens are being annoyed by having to answer the telephone, only to find that a neighboring bird is to blame. An English ornithologist measured the frequency modulation rate and timing of the birds' song and found it to be almost identical with that of the trimphones.

At first the phenomenon occurred only where birds were nesting near houses equipped with the new instruments, but the song is now starting to spread by imitation from one bird to another.

Wildlife Review



Land Use Symposium Scheduled

A symposium on Oregon's land use planning process will be held February 17-18 on the campus of Lewis and Clark Law School. The program is sponsored by *Environmental Law*, the school's law journal.

The symposium — entitled "Oregon Land Use: Promoting Growth and Preservation in the Next Decade" — will take a backwards and forwards look at Oregon's statewide land use planning process, which has been criticized as an obstacle to economic growth and applauded as a model of environmental prudence.

For further information, contact: Renee Fitzgerald, Editor-in-Chief, (503) 244-1181, ext. 701; or Laurie Bennett, Program Chairperson, (503) 244-1181, ext. 702.

Rare Bird Alert

The Portland Audubon Society recently called a "rare bird alert," that being essentially a notice to members that something out of the ordinary has strayed into the state. Those who wish to add the oddity to their "life list" can then make the effort to see it.

This alert was called for a brown thrasher, a robin-sized bird common east of the Rockies but seldom seen in Oregon. It was spotted near Colton. Not only was the bird an uncommon species, but the set-up for viewing it was also out of the ordinary. Visitors had to enter the home of a stranger, walk into his bedroom, lean across the bed and peer out the window.

Does that make them peeping Toms in reverse?



Draft Hatchery Rules Available

First draft copies of proposed administrative rules governing operation of private and public hatcheries in Oregon are now available for public review and comments.

These rules are being established as required by the 1983 Oregon Legislature. Copies of the initial draft can be obtained by writing the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 3503, Portland, Oregon 97208. Comments on this draft should be received at this same address by January 15, 1984.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will review the revised draft at a public hearing to be scheduled in the spring of 1984.



Don't Forget Your License

In case it passed you by, don't forget that 1983 hunting and fishing licenses expired on December 31 and you'll need new ones before heading afield or astream this season. Salmon-steelhead tags also need to be renewed. The federal "duck stamp" is good through June 30.

Licenses are available at most outlets where sporting goods are sold throughout Oregon and prices remain unchanged from 1983.

Some Elk Workshop Dates Change

Dates of the final three elk workshops, published in an earlier issue of OREGON WILDLIFE, have been changed due to scheduling conflicts. The following meeting dates are exactly seven days later than previously announced:

Ontario — Treasure Valley Community College — March 5

Burns — Catholic Parish Hall — March 6

Lakeview — Lakeview Community Center — March 7

These and all other elk workshops begin at 7:30 p.m.



A Slick Idea

Plastic eye drop bottles are excellent containers for gun and reel oil. Simply clean the bottle and dropper with soap and water and fill it with your favorite gun or reel lubricant. A few of these stashed in your vest pocket or hunting pack and you'll have lubricant on hand when you need it in the field.

Illinois Outdoor Highlights



Quite a Reach

To reach under bark and into wood, the European green woodpecker, says National Wildlife's *Ranger Rick* magazine, can stick its tongue out 25 inches beyond its beak.



Wildlife Calendar Available

Need a calendar for 1984? The Oregon Wildlife Federation may have just what you're looking for.

The four-color "Oregon Wildlife Federation 1984 Calendar" may be ordered by writing the Federation at 2753 North 32nd, Springfield, Oregon 97477. Enclose your check for \$5 which covers both the cost of the calendar and postage.

Money from the sale of the calendars will be used to pay for distribution of Wildlife Week materials to Oregon schools and other interested groups. Last year the Federation distributed more than 12,000 education kits and 24,000 posters, free of charge, to all elementary school teachers and most other schools within the state.

Checkoff States Total 31

Thirty-one states now have non-me checkoff programs, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. California, Illinois and Michigan are the most recent to enact checkoff legislation.

The programs provide state income taxpayers a checkoff box on their tax forms to donate a portion or all of their refunds to the state wildlife agencies for nongame and other wildlife management. Twenty states had their programs in effect early enough to cover the 1982 tax year. They have collected almost \$6 million in refunds to support nongame efforts.

The states with nongame checkoffs include: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Several other states, including Maryland, are trying to enact such a program.

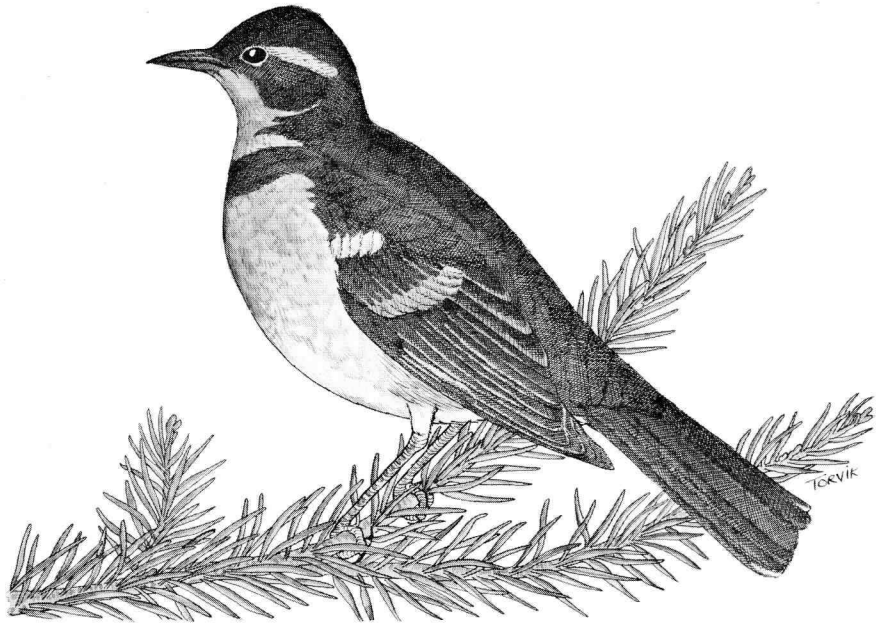
Film Loan Library Moved

Beginning the first of this month, the department's Portland film loan library will be handled by the Division of Continuing Education at Portland State University.

All future scheduling and shipping of films will be handled by DCE and reservations should be made through them. To reserve any of the films on the department film list call toll free: 1-800-452-1368. To order films by mail, address correspondence to: PSU, Continuing Education Library, P.O. Box 1383, Portland, Oregon 97207.

The department's regional offices will continue to supply some of the films listed, but they do not have all of the titles available.

For a copy of the department's film loan list, write us at the address on the back cover of this magazine.□



Varied Thrush

At first glance it looks like any of the robins that have been poking around in the yard for the past several months. But a closer look reveals an entirely different bird. The varied thrush has come down from its forested home in the hills to winter in the backyards, orchards and fields of man.

The varied thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, resembles a robin in size and feeding style — picking about in the grass for worms and bugs or nipping berries or fruit from bushes and trees. But the distribution of the familiar slate-grey and orange-rust colors is quite different. The orange coloring of the male thrush extends from the breast to just above the eye, and is bisected by lateral bands of black across the chest and from the eye back toward the neck. The wings also have orange bars that are absent on the robin.

The varied thrush spends most of the year out of man's sight in conifer forests of the Coast Range and the Cascades. It comes out of hiding during the winter. While thrushes are year-round residents of Oregon, many also migrate down from Canada and Alaska. It is strictly a western coastal bird found only from Alaska through California. They can be attracted to backyard feeders by spreading fruit on the ground. Plantings of fall berry-producing shrubs or fruit trees will serve as an even better attractant.

For the traveller in the woods during the warmer months, the presence of the thrush is more often heard than seen. Its distinctive one-note call from a hidden perch in the tree tops tends to stand out in the relative quiet of the western Oregon rain forests.

The nest structure and location are similar to those of the robin. The nest is a cup made of sticks and moss placed in the branches of a bush or low tree. The thrush lays between three and five blue spotted eggs each year.□

Jim Gladson

JEWELL MEADOWS — A PLACE FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

Tucked away in the shoestring valleys of northwestern Oregon is a beautiful area that provides a winter home for Roosevelt elk and a place where people can go to see them.

From now through late spring, at any time of day, visitors to the Fish and Wildlife Department's Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area can expect to see up to 200 elk feeding and loafing in the open meadows which dot the 1,200 acre area. They can be easily viewed from established parking areas, and restrooms are available nearby making Jewell Meadows an excellent destination for a family weekend drive.

Railroad logging during the early part of the century set the stage for steadily improving elk habitat as the clearcut areas began to grow back to brush and new trees. During the mid-part of this decade, the north coast range became famous for one of the largest concentrations of elk in western Oregon. It is still known for its abundant elk, even though a return to maturing timber has reduced potential for elk in parts of the range.

Herds on the Jewell area will include bulls of various ages, some of them impressive branch-antlered animals. The bulls will carry their antlers until sometime in March or early April when they shed to clear the way for new ones. Remarkably fast growth of new antlers occurs each year beginning only a week or two after the old antlers are dropped.

Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area consists of three parcels of land in the Fishhawk, Beneke and Humbug Creek valleys near the town of Jewell. From Portland, the area is reached by traveling west on Highway 26 (Sunset Highway) to the Jewell Junction just west of Elderberry Inn. You continue north on a state highway which parallels the Nehalem River for nine miles to Jewell. From Jewell, travel west about 1.5 miles on Highway 202 to the refuge area on Fishhawk Creek. From Astoria, travel east on Highway 202. The Fishhawk tract provides the best potential for viewing elk. But the Beneke tract, located just north of Jewell along Beneke Creek is another good area, and animals can often be seen from the black-

topped road which winds through it.

The area was purchased by the department over a period of several years to provide food for wintering Roosevelt elk and habitat for elk and other native wildlife. To provide a place for the public to view and study wildlife in natural surroundings was another intent in acquiring the area.

In addition to the elk, black-tailed deer, coyotes, band-tailed pigeons, an occasional bald eagle and a wide variety of songbirds and other wildlife can often be seen.

Although the elk are most reliably seen during the winter months when largest concentrations are present, some elk can be seen at anytime during the year. In the warmer summer months visitors may want to plan their trip around early morning or late evening when the animals are most likely to leave the cool forest shade and graze in the open meadow areas.

Elk calves first become visible in the meadows about mid-June. The elk breeding season begins in mid-September and continues through mid-October. You are most likely to hear the spine-tingling "bugle" of the rutting bulls during this period, and occasionally a sparring match between rival bulls for a harem of cows takes place on the meadows in full view of visitors. Winter feeding of elk on the refuge begins about the first week in December and continues into about the first week of April.

In order to give the animals opportunity to feed and loaf unmolested, some areas are closed to entry.

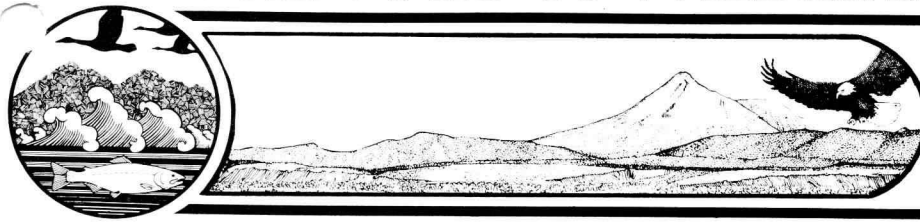
If you have an itch to see elk or photograph them, Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area offers probably the best opportunity in western Oregon.

A brochure entitled "Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area," which gives additional information and maps, is available free by writing the department at PO Box 3503, Portland, Oregon 97208. □

Ken Durbin



THE WAYS OF WILDLIFE



Learning By Experiencing

A WHALE OF A WHALE

On most any January day, you can stand on a rocky headland along the Oregon coast and see several clouds of spray from California gray whales as they surface to "blow." These whales are on their annual migration from the Bering and Chukchi seas to calving lagoons off Mexico.

But it is difficult to know how whales look by watching them in the ocean. A cloud of spray, a portion of the back and an occasional tail is often all you can see. To really get an idea of how they look, you can build a paper model of a whale. Here's how:

Get a book or chart on whales and select a whale you would like to "build." Note that there are two groups of whales, *toothed* and *baleen*. With some large pieces of paper, lots of newspaper, paint, masking tape, and a stapler, you can turn a rainy Oregon Saturday into a study of whales!

1. Start with four pieces of paper, two 3 × 6 feet and two 3 × 3 feet. Make a full drawing of the whale's head and body on one of the long sheets and the flukes (tail) and flippers on one short sheet (see figure a). Since the tail attaches horizontally and not vertically like a fish, the sheets must be drawn separately. Maintain a two-inch margin around the drawing for stapling.

2. Cut out both body sheets and both tail sheets together. Remember the two-inch margin.

3. Paint the OUTSIDE of the whale. Add barnacles, scars, etc. if you wish.

4. Open mouths are harder to construct, but they make dramatic sculptures.

a. After studying the shape of the whale's mouth from a picture, measure the length of the mouth on your drawing and draw the upper and lower jaw on one sheet of paper to fit (see figure b). Paint it and cut it out. Better to make the jaws too large than too small, because they can be trimmed to fit. The upper and lower jaw will be stapled into the head later.

b. If your whale is a *baleen* whale, use yarn, paper, an old mop, etc. for the baleen. If your whale is a *toothed* whale, conical teeth may be made from paper, stuck through the lower jaw and taped on as shown in figure c.

c. (sperm whales have teeth in

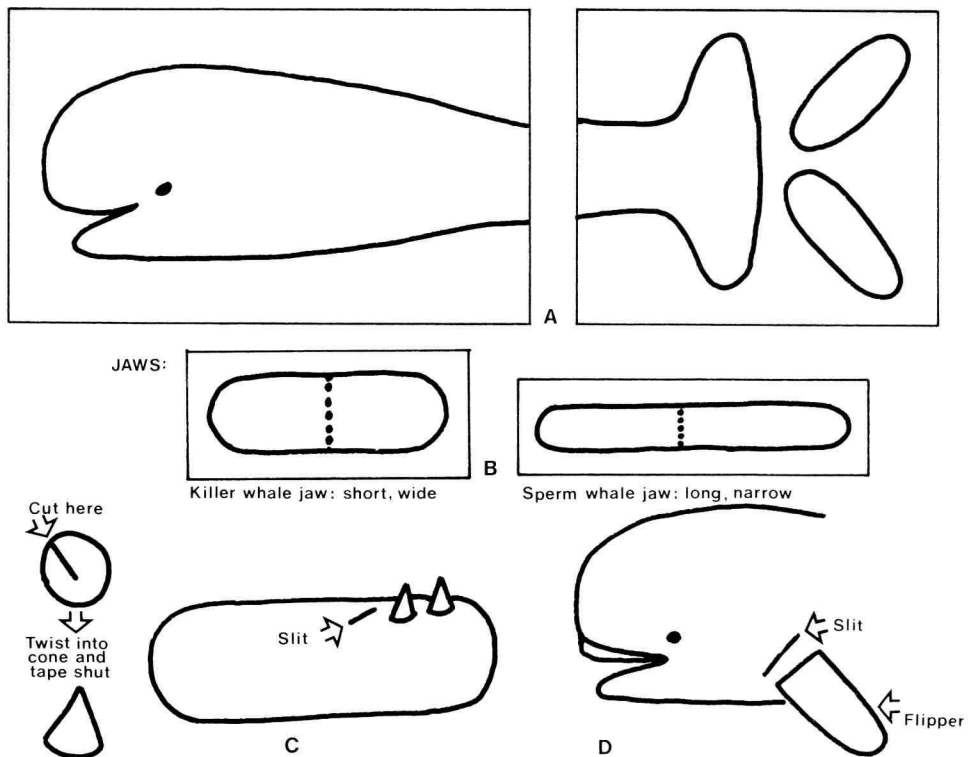
their lower jaw only and killer whales have teeth in both jaws).

5. Now you are ready to stuff your whale with crumpled newspaper. Start by stapling and stuffing the flippers (DON'T OVER-STUFF!). Cut a slit (see figure d) in the whale body where your flippers go and tape them on the inside. Your whale is now becoming fragile, so be careful when you handle it.

6. Staple the bottom of the whale body and stuff with newspaper. When the lower jaw is filled, staple the jaws into the head. Continue to stuff and staple, but don't overstuff or it will burst. When most of your whale is stuffed, attach the tail (before stuffing it). Remember, the tail attaches horizontally. Staple and tape the lower part of the tail onto the body, then repeat for the upper part (this takes lots of patience). Carefully continue stuffing the tail and stapling. The tip of the tail will be the last to close.

7. Suspend your whale from the ceiling. For lighter whales, reinforce areas in the body with masking tape, punch holes and suspend with heavy string; for heavier whales, make a sling with colored yarn. □

Bill Hastie



Department Vacancies Filled

Vacancies in three top-level positions with the Fish and Wildlife Department have been filled. James A. Harper is the new chief of the Wildlife Division; Michael P. Golden will take over as the supervisor of the department's central region headquartered in Bend, and Michael C. Weland has been named chief of the department's Environmental Management Section.

The men they are succeeding, Robert Stein in Wildlife, Len Mathiesen in the Central Region and Jim Haas in the Environmental Management Section, all retired at the end of December.

Jim Harper has a long career in wildlife management, much of it in Oregon. He began seasonal work for the department in 1957, leaving in 1961 to serve as pheasant project leader for the Illinois Department of Conservation. He returned in 1963 to take a permanent job with the department as a research biologist on the south coast, working for several years with elk. In 1968, Harper left the department to become chief of research for the Alaska Fish and Game Department, and later the chief of their Game Division.

He again returned to the department as a game biologist in 1970 and switched jobs to work in the Environmental Management Section in 1972. In 1976 he became the assistant chief of the department's Wildlife Division and has worked in that job since.

Harper holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Oregon State University, a master's degree in big game management from Humboldt State College, and has worked toward a PhD at the University of Southern Illinois, first with pheasant research, and later elk studies.

Mike Golden began working seasonally with the department in

1960 and later took permanent employment as an assistant district fishery biologist in Klamath Falls. He later transferred to Pendleton and in 1969 became the district fishery biologist there. He transferred again in 1973, serving as district fishery biologist at Bend, managing some of Oregon's most popular fishing waters. In 1976 he was appointed assistant supervisor of the Central Region and has served in that capacity since then.

Golden holds a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Oregon State University.

Mike Weland's degree is in law, preceded by training in carpentry. He is a graduate of the Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. But prior to that he attended Maricopa Technical School in Phoenix, Arizona, in the carpentry program, and earned his bachelor's degree in sociology at Arizona State University in Tempe.

Prior to joining the Fish and Wildlife Department, Weland worked as a law clerk for the Department of Interior, and later for

the Oregon Department of Justice. His legal training included emphasis on contracts, real property and property transactions, natural resources, administrative and water law.

He began work with the Fish and Wildlife Department in 1980 as a program coordinator in the Lands Section. In 1982 he switched to the Business Section and moved through several positions of increasing responsibility, ending as supervisor of the department's word processing, personnel, mailroom and licensing operations.

The Environmental Management Section is the habitat protection arm of the department. Its members become involved in land and water use planning; dam and reservoir planning, development and operation; forest and range planning; waterway alteration; pollution problems including oil and chemical spills; review and comment on environmental impact statements; and administration department environmental statutes. □

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