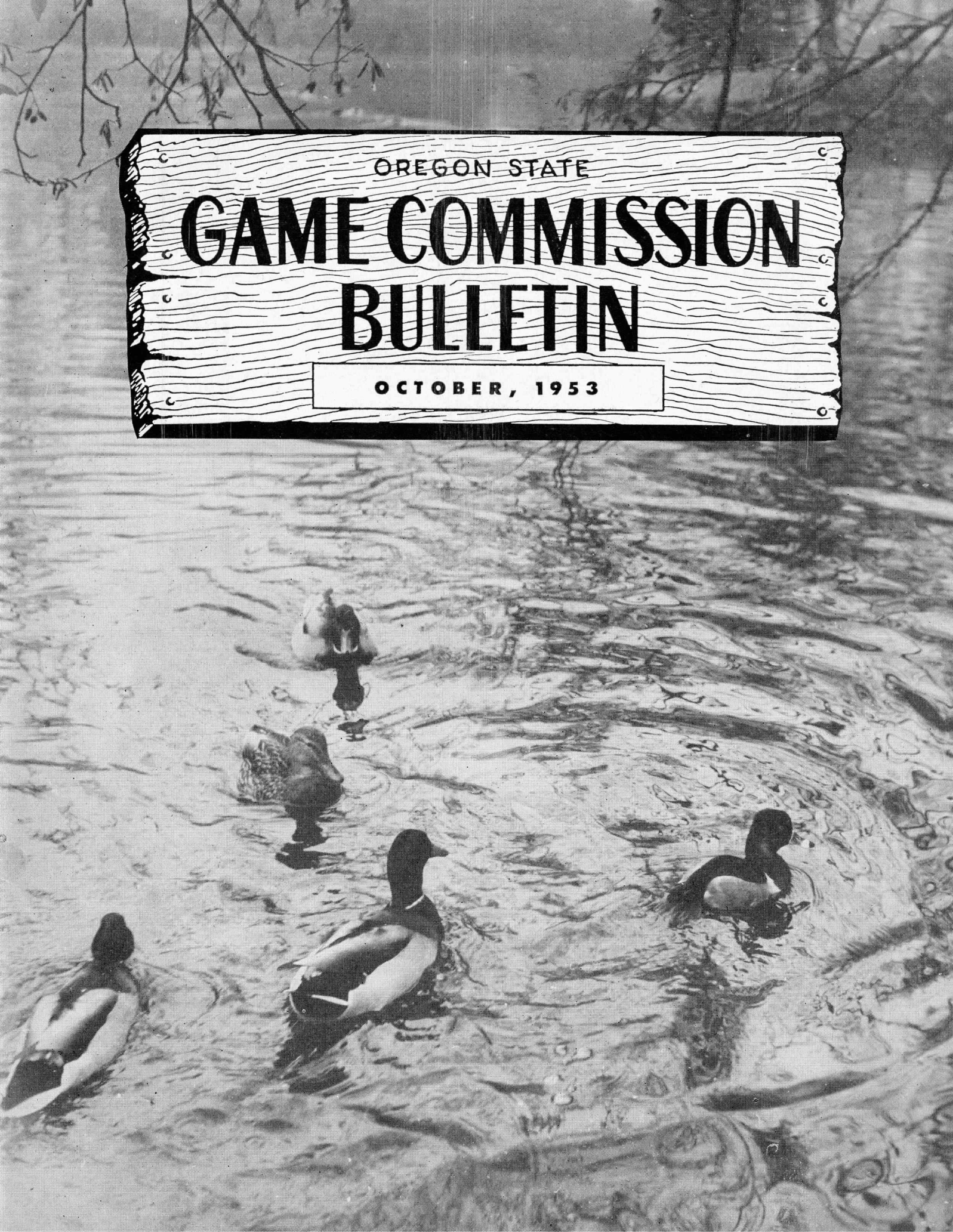
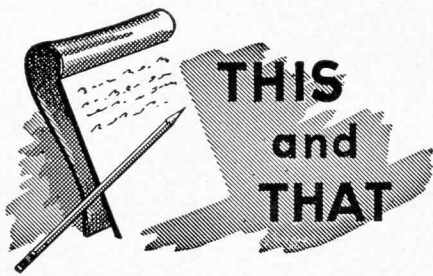


OREGON STATE

GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

OCTOBER, 1953





Big game trophy records for the state will in the future be maintained by the Oregon State Game Commission. Sportsmen are asked to register with the Commission any outstanding trophies of deer, antelope or elk that are bagged this year.

Scores are computed from various measurements of the animal's horns or antlers and scoring sheets may be obtained from Game Commission regional offices at Albany, Roseburg, Bend, La Grande and Hines, as well as the Portland headquarters office.

The scoring has been set up according to standards used by the Boone and Crockett Club of America, and any trophy animals that qualify will be included in the club's book of Records of North American Big Game.

* * *

Exceptionally good nesting success of waterfowl has been noted in Warner Valley and Summer Lake.

* * *

Anglers who hook salmon or other fish in closed areas or otherwise and wish to release the fish in the best possible manner are cautioned to gently hold the fish in a slight current with its head facing upstream for a few moments until it regains its equilibrium and is able to maintain an upright position. Gentleness in the above is necessary.

If the salmon is exhausted in its efforts to free itself from fishing tackle, it often lies on its side on the bottom and is "drowned" by the presence of large quantities of mud which are sucked into the gills, or by its inability to open and close the gill covers.

* * *

The Commission's summer camp program, completed the end of August, involved appearances in 90 youth camps by representatives of the education section. A total of 6,763 youngsters participated in wildlife talks and field trips.

COVER

Ducks resting on Eastmoreland Lake in city limits of Portland. (Photo by Tom McAllister.)

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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Letter of Appreciation

Mr. P. W. Schneider, Director
Oregon State Game Commission
Dear Mr. Schneider:

The writer wishes to express his gratitude and appreciation to department employees for the nice present that they gave him upon his retirement. Also, he wishes to express his thanks to all of the employees and the Commission for their cooperation and assistance over a period of years.

He also wishes to voice his appreciation to the sportsmen for their present and for the good wishes expressed by a great many of the organizations and individual sportsmen.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Frank B. Wire

(Ed. Mr. Wire retired as secretary of the Commission on July 1, 1953.)

September Meeting of The Game Commission

The Game Commission at a meeting in Portland on September 11, acted upon the following matters:

Consideration was given to protests received regarding winter game range acquisition projects. Commission expressed willingness to have representatives appear at any meeting or hearing to give all information possible regarding such projects.

Bid of S. Ferche, Roseburg, for \$5,695 for construction of warehouse for Southwest Regional headquarters was accepted as was the bid of Rose City Pre-Cut Building Company for \$4,594 for machine shed on Sauvies Island.

An emergency order was passed closing to angling that part of the North Umpqua river from U. S. Highway 99 bridge to head of Davis Rapids. Purpose of the order was to protect the game fish populations that will be concentrated below the Copco dam at Winchester because the fish ladder will be inoperative during the period that the Company has the forebay drawn down to make repairs to the dam. The order will be rescinded as soon as the emergency ceases to exist.

Public shooting ground dates for waterfowl hunting were set as follows: Summer Lake

Noon October 17 to December 30.
Malheur

Noon October 17 to December 6
Warner Valley

Noon October 17 to December 6
Sauvies Island

Noon October 17, 18, 21, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31; November 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29. December 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 30.

On Sauvies Island, pheasants and snipe, during their respective seasons, may be hunted on the same days as waterfowl.

Authorized taking up option on Knight tract of 1,600.98 acres in Wena-ha area and Mt. Hood Pine Company tract of 4,300 acres in White River area.

Authorized purchase of 2,000,000 eastern brook eggs to supplement supply at hatcheries.

Pursuant to provisions of new law enacted by the legislature, enacted rules and regulations governing dog trials. A permit from the Game Commission is required to hold any organized competitive trials.

Outlined regulations governing issuance of permits for holding of wild birds and animals in captivity.



By KENNETH G. DENMAN, Chairman

In view of the constantly increasing pressure on our fish and game resources it behooves all of us to stop and consider some of the things that appear on the horizon and which will affect such resources.

If we go back, say 150 years, we would see that we had a God-given paradise of many virgin rivers, lakes and lands which produced as much fish and game as their capacity permitted. There was no pollution of waters, no dams on our streams, no fluctuating reservoirs, no drying up of rivers below dams, no power diversions, no mining or other siltation, no denuding of forests, no temperature problems in our streams or lakes, no farming or range use, no game violators, and last but not least, very few people were harvesting the fish and game which existed in large numbers. Only the Indians and a few white people lived in this country and used fish and game as they needed it for their existence.

If we move through the years to the present time, we find that there have been grave changes in this virgin condition of our land and waters and a continuing reduction in the ability of our land and water to produce fish and game, largely because of the practices indulged in by man as our country becomes more populated. At the present time many of our waters are polluted by sewage, industrial wastes, manufacturing chemicals, and other substances. We have numerous dams on our streams and many more are planned which have and will result in damage to our fish runs. There are

many fluctuating reservoirs which are not good fish habitat. Some of our streams are practically dried up below certain dams. Present water policies give little protection to fish life. Mining and other practices have produced injurious siltation of stream beds. Our forests are being cut down and in many cases this has affected stream flow and resulted in impassable log jams. Water temperatures have increased due to these practices.

We have intensive farm uses which have encroached on game areas and reduced our game habitat, field cover and waterfowl areas. Livestock use has made its inroads on game ranges. There are many fish and game violations occurring every day by selfish people. Finally, we have a vast number of people harvesting our fish and game. It is said that one out of every four people in Oregon fish. We are told that by 1960, Oregon will have another half million people as residents. Commercial fisheries are taking a large toll of our dwindling fish resources. Thus we see, all around us, that the pressure is constantly increasing on the use of our wildlife resources.

It becomes pertinent, in view of the above, to review or reflect on what are the objects or goals of the Oregon State Game Commission. Briefly, it is the duty of the Commission to protect and preserve these resources, to restore and improve them, and to supplement nature in production of fish and game by whatever method is best suited. It is one of the goals of the Commission to arrange the seasons and bag limits

so as to harvest correctly the crop and pass around among as many license holders as possible the available fish and game to the end that not only will the present generation have enjoyment thereof but so that our future generations too will have fishing and hunting for all time to come.

In the beginning, hunting and fishing by man was a matter of maintaining an existence. Fish and game were necessary to furnish food and clothing. This same attitude has continued down through the years to the present time in a larger or lesser extent, depending upon the individual. There are still people who hunt and fish largely for the purpose of obtaining fish and game for their lockers and for furnishing a part of their living. Economical use of the same is required and wastage of fish and game is prohibited by law. However, it should not be our goal to take all we can today in total disregard of the future.

We cannot do so when we consider that in 1951 we had over 270,000 anglers and over 220,000 hunters. It is quite apparent in view of these figures that if all sportsmen were successful in obtaining their full limit of fish and game every year, that our fish and game would soon be a thing of the past. The difficult problem is the fact that the numbers of fishermen and hunters are increasing constantly and nature's ability to produce fish and game is constantly being diminished. The pressures that have developed are greatly in excess of nature's ability

(Continued on Page Six)



Swamp Lake is typical of the group of alpine lakes in the Wallowa Mountain area that have been under scrutiny of the Game Commission with the view of modifying their management program.

Wallowa Look-see Trip



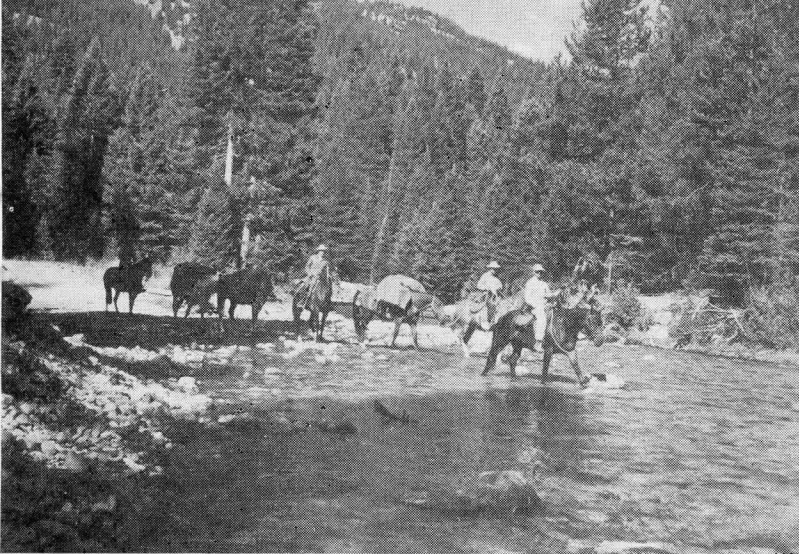
The Wallowa Mountains, from the Game Commission's standpoint, are a unique, spectacular and important area for the production and utilization of both fish and game. They are unlike a greater part of the state because of altitude, terrain, land use and greater affinity to the intermountains west of the Rockies than to the Cascades.

An on the ground inspection of the various problems confronting the Commission in future planning and programming for this important fish and game area was made recently by three members of the Commission, Kenneth G. Denman, chairman, Don Mitchell and Delbert Gildersleeve, as well as P. W. Schneider, state game director. The trip was made under the guidance of Bill Brown, Northeast Region game supervisor in charge of fish and game activities for the Commission in that area.

Five days were spent on horseback covering the Lostine River drainage and a substantial part of the main Minam River above Elk Creek, where a number of high lakes were viewed, some of which are under consideration for special management projects. The commission fishery personnel have engaged in a careful survey of this entire area since the war and have developed a program directed at a diversification and improvement of the fishery resources, not only of the lowland streams but of the high lake country as well. An important segment of the upper summer ranges for elk and deer also was covered.

A striking and important factor was the large number of people travelling in the Wallows seeking recreation. Inevitably, there will be greater demands upon the fishery and game resources of this area, too, which will require a carefully planned long range program.

Looking up the Upper Minam River toward Big Minam Meadows. Elk and mule deer summer here.



Fording the Upper Minam River, a beautiful, clear water stream.

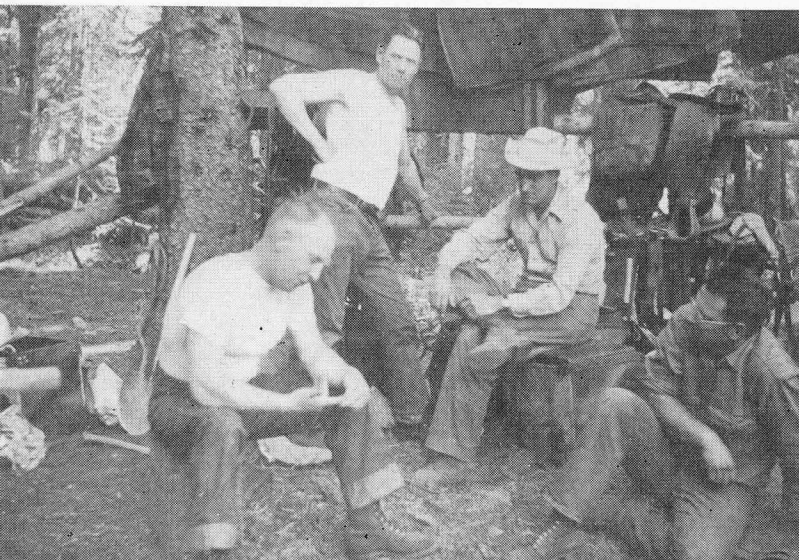


New Deal Lake, another back country lake of the high Wallawas.



Typical terrain and forage in the upper reaches of the elk and mule deer summer range in the Minam River drainage.

Rest is welcome after a long day on horseback. This is overnight camp stop on the Minam River.



A characteristic view of the Wallowa alpine areas as to terrain, vegetative cover, and size of lakes.





The number of cars in parking areas at East Lake on a busy week end bear witness to fishing stress on the lake.



Pheasant hunters line up at the checking station for permits to hunt in the Sauvies Island game management area.

Future Fish and Game

(Continued from Page Three)

to produce and also in excess of the Commission's ability to produce unless we have carefully planned seasons, bag limits and programs designed for the perpetuation of our fish and game resources.

This brings us to the place where we can well consider as to what should be the sportsmen's obligations relative to our fish and game resources. We can no longer expect our fish and game to furnish us our living or any substantial portion thereof. This does not necessarily apply to the commercial end of the same. It is suggested that the sportsmen should fish and hunt for pleasure, for relaxation, for recreation and for the purpose of getting away from the cares of this troubled world. Thousands of people ski, golf, play tennis, ride horseback and indulge in many recreational activities for which there is no direct material return. Those people do not indulge in such activities for the purpose of bringing home material returns which can be placed in their lockers and used in the furnishing of a living. Sportsmen should fish and hunt for the recreation they get out of it, for the purpose of getting acquainted with their children and for the other goals set forth above. This does not mean that sportsmen should not expect to be successful in their pursuit of fish and game because the records show otherwise. However, it does mean that we should not mea-

sure the success of a hunting or fishing trip solely from the material results obtained. The intangible benefits are also very important. Sportsmen should be willing to take drastic steps, if necessary, to preserve our fish and game resources. Sportsmen should be willing to abide by our rules and regulations as laid down by duly constituted authorities. We all know that there are too many violators and too many potential violators. This will always be the case until sportsmen feel that our fish and game resources are the individual property of each and every one of us and that anyone who violates the law and those who take fish and game they are not entitled to are actually stealing from each of us something which is ours.

In closing, let me say that the Game Commission is doing everything in its power and within the limits of its means to manage wisely our fish and game resources but in order to be successful, we need the cooperation of all sportsmen and we need the participation by all sportsmen in this regard along the lines that are suggested in this article. With a well-planned and forward-looking program, we have every reason to believe that we will have fishing and hunting for our future generations as outlined herein. However, it will be necessary for all of us, the Commission, the staff and the entire public to at all times do what is best for the greatest number rather

than what is best for each of us individually.

About the Author



Kenneth G. Denman, Chairman of the Game Commission, has served on the Commission at two different times. From June, 1944 to January, 1946 he held an interim appointment while a regular member was absent on mili-

tary leave. He received his present appointment in January, 1951 when an opening occurred for a representative from the western half of the state.

Born and educated in Oregon, Mr. Denman practices law in Medford. He is an ardent hunter and angler; whether it be ducks, pheasants, deer, salmon, steelhead or trout, he is interested in them all. Retriever dogs also are a hobby and he is an officer in the local retriever trial association. He has always been active in local and state conservation activities and contributed much time and effort in the fight to save the Rogue River when a series of dams was proposed for the lower river.

Know Your Waterfowl

With the opening of this year's waterfowl season in Oregon at noon on October 17, it is more important than ever that hunters know the species of ducks and geese they are shooting or about to shoot.

The bag limit on ducks, as set by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is seven a day or in possession plus a bonus of four baldpates or pintails or any combination of these. A hunter could, therefore, take a legal daily bag of eleven ducks if four or more are of the above species.

Both the baldpates and pintails have increased rapidly in numbers the past few years and are not as heavily hunted as other common ducks. With this increase in numbers, a corresponding increase in damage complaints has resulted, especially in the rice fields of California, the major wintering area of these birds.

The accompanying sketches are designed to show the most conspicuous markings of these two ducks to aid in identification. The pintail, or sprig, as the name implies, has a long pointed tail and a grayish or bluish bill. A long slim neck is characteristic and quite different from other ducks. The male is a white-breasted bird with this white extending up the sides of the neck to form a white line. The female is often confused with a female mallard but is more slender, has a different colored bill, and is without a wing speculum.

The name given the baldpate or widgeon also indicates a distinguishing mark. The top of the head is white on the male and gray on the female. Both sexes have a white belly and a blue bill tipped with black. A large white patch on the fore part of the wing is an identifying feature of the bird in flight. In addition, the male has a patch of glossy green on the side of the head.

One other duck, the wood duck, needs identification since only one is allowed in the daily bag. Few hunters shoot wood ducks since they are not generally found in the large marsh areas, preferring small brushy marshes and streams flowing through oak thickets. They are also an early migrant from northwestern Oregon. The male is the most highly colored of all our waterfowl and, once seen, would not be mistaken for any other bird. The female is dark brown with white belly and light brown flanks. The white eye-ring and crested head are distinguishing features.

For several years, a total of 6 geese

could be taken a day or be in one's possession, providing four or more of these were snow geese. This season the bag limit remains at six with three or more of the bag consisting of snow geese, or cackling geese, or any combination of these. Not more than three of the six can be any combination of common, lesser, or western Canada geese, or white-fronted geese. No open season is provided for the scarce Ross's goose.

The cackling goose has rapidly increased in numbers the past few years and are quite a problem species in destroying agricultural crops on their wintering grounds in California. This species is lightly hunted. It is marked similar to the three other subspecies of Canada geese, darker than the honker and lesser Canada goose, but similar in coloration to the western Canada goose which is found wintering in the Willamette Valley. The chief distinguishing marks are its small size, weighing 2½ to 4 pounds and only slightly larger than a mallard, rapid wing beat, and distinctive high pitched voice. In many sections of the state the cackler is often erroneously called brant. It is a rare instance indeed when brant in

Oregon are found anywhere except in coastal bays and in the ocean.

The snow goose is completely white except for black wing tips. These features, along with its much smaller size, distinguishes the bird from the swan. The Ross's goose is identical with the snow goose, but even smaller in size.

This winter, the brant season, December 1 through February 10, is entirely separate from the duck and goose season. These birds are dark with white underparts and a white ring around the neck—the Canada geese and cackling geese have white cheek patches but no neck ring. Remember brant are only found in coastal bays. Rarely are any found away from the coast.

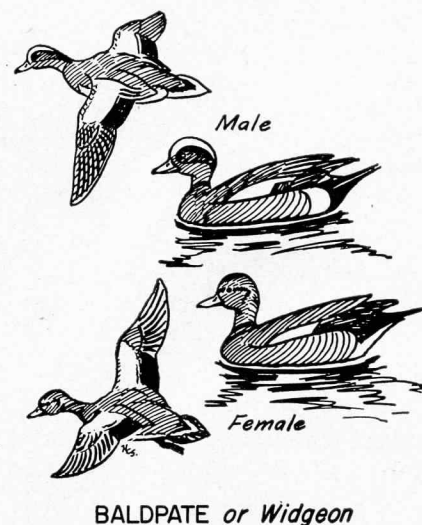
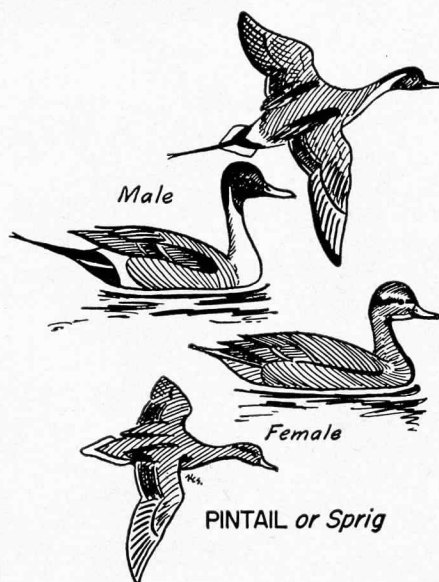
These thumbnail sketches are provided to help you in identifying waterfowl for which different seasons or bag limits will prevail this fall and winter.

Since the waterfowl regulations were established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service after the 1953 Hunting Synopsis was printed, they are to be found in a separate synopsis, prepared and distributed by the Game Commission through its license agencies.

Send in band numbers as well as location and date of kill of all banded birds taken. You will be notified as to where and when the bird was banded.

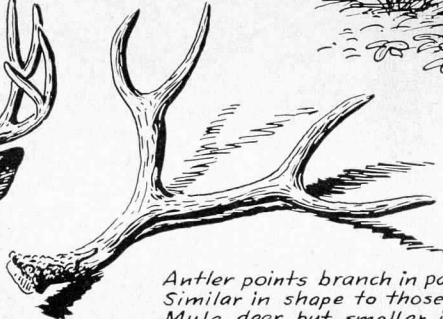
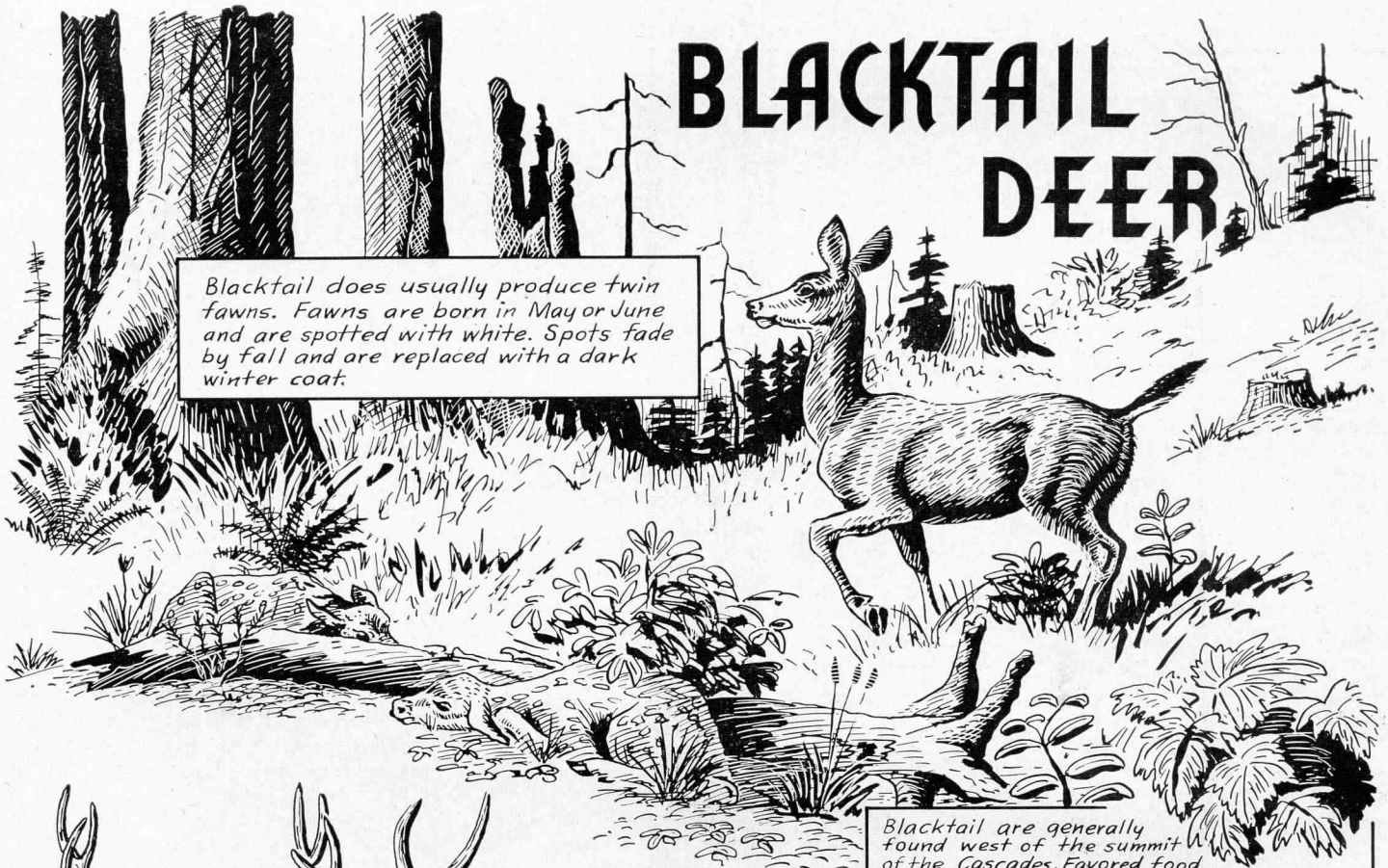
Only the main identifying features of the birds are outlined in this article. We trust these will help you to "Know your Waterfowl."

Probably the deepest diving duck is the Old Squaw. They have been accidentally caught in the fish nets 180 feet below the surface.



BLACKTAIL DEER

Blacktail does usually produce twin fawns. Fawns are born in May or June and are spotted with white. Spots fade by fall and are replaced with a dark winter coat.

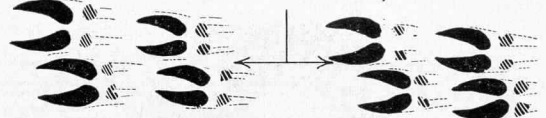


Antler points branch in pairs. Similar in shape to those of Mule deer but smaller in size.

Only bucks grow antlers; shedding them in January and February. New growth starts in April.

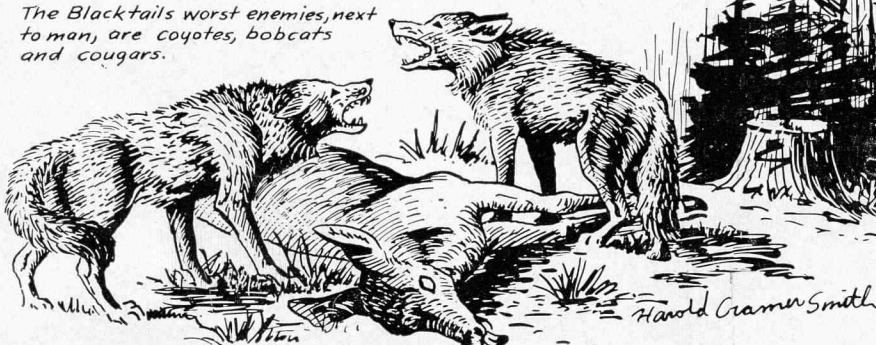
Blacktail are generally found west of the summit of the Cascades. Favored food plants include salal, huckleberry, vine maple, blackberry, grasses and weeds. Largest deer and greatest numbers exist in open burns and logged off sections.

Tracks often 15' to 20' apart



The Blacktail when speeding hits the high spots with a peculiar bounding stiff-legged gait, rising by an effort of the toes, leaping from all four feet and landing on all fours.

The Blacktails worst enemies, next to man, are coyotes, bobcats and cougars.



Harold Cramer Smith



TAIL - upper surface dark; under surface white. Held high or drooped while running.



METATARSAL glands on the outside of the hind legs are approx. 3" in length. Identified as a patch of coarse hair forming a distinct line.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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