



OREGON WILDLIFE

JANUARY 1979

OREGON WILDLIFE

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The Cover

Most people recognize the American kestrel as a predator, but what about robins and salamanders? See Cliff Hamilton's article in this issue for an eye opener about animals that eat animals.

Photo by William Finley

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM	
INSTRUCTORS APPROVED	
Month of November.....	17
Total Active.....	1,532
STUDENTS TRAINED	
Month of November.....	510
Total to Date.....	261,402
HUNTING CASUALTIES REPORTED IN 1978	
Fatal.....	5
Nonfatal.....	34

We Thank You

We thank you for your help in updating our mailing list. If you're receiving this issue, obviously you sent in your mailing label. We realize it was a bit of trouble to do that, but we're highly gratified with the response we received. As we write this, we're still not sure how many folks we dropped because they didn't send in the labels but it appears we will have gone from about 70,000 subscribers to perhaps 40,000.

As we said before, we didn't want to cut off anyone who was truly interested in our publication, but it doesn't seem that asking you to send in a mailing label once in ten years is a high degree of bureaucratic harassment.

We received a great number of notes, letters, and comments along with the labels. We thank you all for taking time to let us know how you feel about our publication and about the operations of the Department. We hope we managed to answer all of the questions sent in but if somehow we missed yours, just let us know and we'll try again.

Equally as important as the questions were the ideas you sent along for articles. We are delighted to know what subjects you would like to see covered. As we've stated in the past, we don't intend to become a "hunting and fishing" magazine to compete with the commercial publications. We don't intend to become just a pretty picture magazine either. What we want to do is inform you about the fish and wildlife resource of Oregon, its problems, and the activities of the Department in managing this important resource.

As you've noted in the past, we also include materials on natural resources in other parts of the U.S. and occasionally the world. We include these materials because we feel it makes it possible to get a better perspective on what is going on here in our own state.

Also, occasionally we run a fishing or hunting story on underused resources which will hopefully take the pressure off some of the more popular ones. And finally, to point out the aesthetics of the outdoor world, we'll continue to have a few picture stories that not only inform but we hope will be attractive, too.

So, as you can surmise, we plan no great editorial policy changes in the near future. You may notice changes in the appearance of the magazine, though. The printer has informed us that because of the strikes at the paper mills, we probably won't have the same grade of paper for every issue this year. Eventually we should end up with the same as we have been using which we feel is a good compromise that is not too costly but still gives a reasonable quality of pictures and overall appearance.

Again, we appreciate your cooperation in this rather involved task of mailing list updating. However, if you have ideas for stories you'd like to see, don't wait until the next culling takes place in ten years. Drop us a line. We may not be able to use all ideas but we'd certainly like to hear them. And again, your letters expressing approval of our efforts gave us all a lift. We hope future issues of OREGON WILDLIFE continue to justify this faith.□

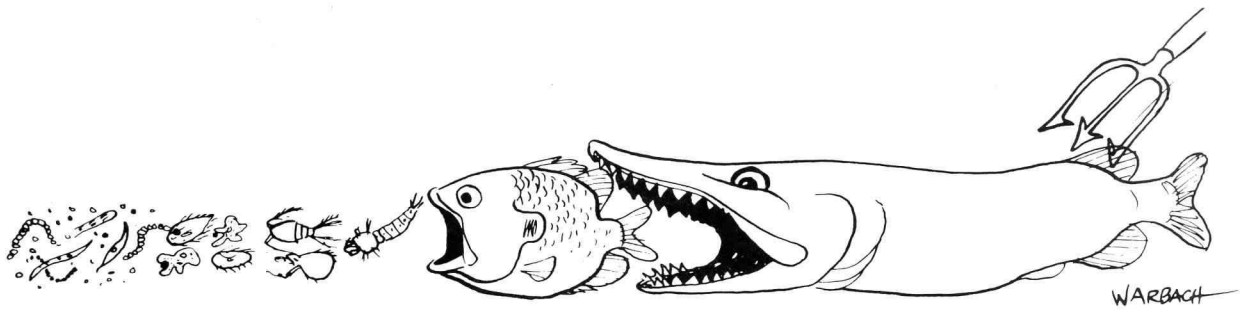
RES

Commission Meetings

The Columbia River Compact will meet Thursday, January 18, to consider general commercial fishing regulations on the Columbia River and the winter season.

On Friday, the following day, the Fish and Wildlife Commission will conduct a general business meeting and set opening dates for 1979 hunting seasons.

Both meetings will begin at 9 a.m. in Fish and Wildlife Department headquarters, 506 SW Mill Street in Portland.□



Predators – Who's Eating Whom?

*by Cliff Hamilton
Education Supervisor*

Everyone knows about predators. They are vicious animals with long teeth, sharp claws, and a mean temper. These vermin sneak up on unsuspecting prey and pounce with terrifying, deadly speed, right? That image pops into the mind of many folks when the subject of predators comes up. Well, it 'taint necessarily so!

The robin hopping across your lawn on a summer morning is a predator, yet it has no teeth or sharp claws. The sluggish salamander hunting bugs under a rotting log can hardly be considered speedy but it is every inch a predator, too. So is the "playful" otter, the frolicking seal, and even the "wise" old owl. All kill for food as surely as does the coyote, mountain lion, eagle, and shark. Even the fragile hummingbird that visits your feeder is an unrelenting predator of insects in late spring when its young require a high-protein diet. There are predators in every community of animal species and certain plant communities, too. Plants like the Venus's-flytrap and pitcher plant are predators for they capture insect prey and consume them.

A predator is simply any creature that kills and eats another. If it finishes off its meal with a mouthful of berries or a scoop of ice cream, it has

then become something else, for the moment at least. If it finds another animal already dead and takes advantage of the easy dinner, it has become a scavenger. Some folks again apply our human values and consider the business of eating carrion even more distasteful than killing for food. Thus the name "predator" may conjure up all sorts of mental images and emotions. No wonder the whole business is confusing.

We come by our confusion honestly for the most part. From earliest childhood there seems to be a perpetual conspiracy to create a prejudice against predators. Except for the accuracy of the woodcutter's ax, our child hero in the red hood would have become another victim of the big bad you-know-who. So, too, would three small pigs had it not been for the masonry skills of one of them. Although there is another moral to these fairy tales, the stereotype image of predators is an unwelcome byproduct.

The cunning coyote and crafty fox further the misconception as cartoon characters in our early school days. Even Disney movies, usually considered the "gospel" of animal lore, have done their share to foster the image of predators as villains. After years on a standard formula diet of mean-

predator-pursues-innocent-victim, we have pretty well swallowed that belief. Anything designed to eat something that may squeal, coo, or cuddle must be automatically bad.

By our teenage years we gather another bit of misinformation about predators through a misnomer called the "balance of nature". So the story goes, before man interfered with everything and eliminated all the predators, there were just enough of the latter to eat just enough prey. Thus everything maintained a nice balance. The notion of any part of nature as a balance in the terms we usually apply to our mathematically oriented world is pure fiction.

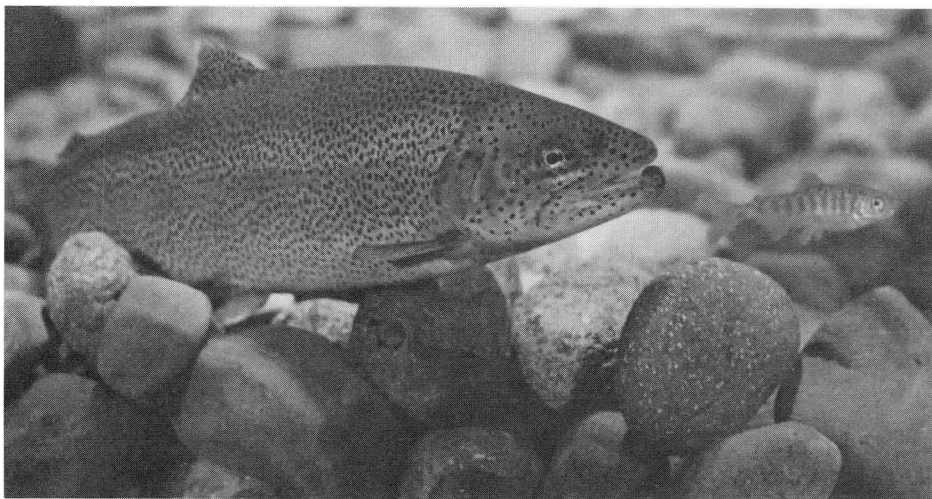
Prior to any human "interference", animal numbers rose and fell as food and other habitat conditions dictated. Predators seldom "controlled" the number of prey. Populations of large herbivores rose when conditions were good and no doubt often overshot the ability of the land to maintain them. Their ranges became overused, forage plants died, and ultimately so did the animals that depended on them. Years passed, ranges rehabilitated themselves through natural plant succession, populations rose again, and the cycle began anew. The plant-eating prey regularly had a much higher breeding rate and simply out-

ran the predator in the reproduction race. Thus it was left to the food supply or epidemics of parasites and disease to ultimately control most prey species, large and small.

So what were all the predators doing while this was going on? They were living within the means of their food supply just like the plant eaters. They were increasing their populations when prey was abundant and falling in number when food became scarce. For the most part, predators were always too far behind in the cycle to do much balancing. Their populations regularly lag those of prey in the ups and downs of the animal world. By the time a low number of slower breeding predators began to respond to an abundance of food, the supply was already on the decline. As the prey population plunged from environmental factors, the predators were often pulled down after them. So who controlled whom?

In the animal world there are few hard and fast rules. Exception and variation prevail. Generally the abundance of prey species limits predator numbers with a lag in the timing. Numerous localized situations exist where this is not the case. There is also a wide range of seasonal impacts. Owls hunting an area where rodent populations are low may take enough to delay the inevitable rise. Coyotes under the right conditions may take enough fawns in the spring to hold a deer herd in check and delay the time when conditions will favor the prey. Boom and bust with all its local and seasonal variations is the misnamed "balance of nature". In the long run it is a balance of sorts with both predator and prey having its time and some check and effect on the other. If you balanced your checkbook in this manner, however, you could expect all sorts of nasty letters from the bank.

Predator-prey relations get more complicated when we realize few predators feed on just one species. There is little long-term survival potential for any animal dependent on a single food source. The concept of food chains, that simple linkage of a small creature that is eaten by a bigger one which in turn is devoured by one still larger, is useful in understanding basic relationships. It illustrates the reality that one animal's



A dark back and light belly help fish blend into the bottom when seen from above and into the sky when viewed from below. This feature, called countershading, is found in many animal species as a means of camouflage.



Prey populations are often controlled by disease, parasites, or food shortages. The presence of a healthy number of predators may actually benefit the prey by removing sick ones, thus limiting the spread of disease.



Seals often prey heavily on salmon caught in the nets of commercial fishermen. Like predators that take domestic livestock they cause economic loss. When possible, removal of specific individuals causing damage is preferable to any widespread control measures.

predator is another's prey. It is also a gross oversimplification of the natural world. Food *web* is a better term for the complex interrelationship of who eats whom.

For just a single predator, the relative importance of each possible prey species changes with season, weather conditions, and the predator's own health. During late spring an abundance of young inexperienced animals often means that the small, easily captured species will be favored. In late winter, however, when snow has piled up and food is scarce, conditions may favor taking large adult animals hampered by the drifts. At this time the eagle, for example, whose normal rodent fare is asleep under the snow, may be forced to partake of the leftovers from the coyote's hunt.

Sorting out food habits is not easy nor are published reports of past observations necessarily accurate. Methods of learning what predators eat usually involve examining stomach contents, droppings, and debris around nests or dens. In all cases it is difficult to decide if these remains are from the animal killed by the predator or simply picked up as carrion. Another factor adding to this confusion is health of the prey. Parasites or disease may overtake an animal already weakened by hunger, making

it still more vulnerable to its enemies. Is the hawk that consumes an already dying rabbit really a predator? The presence of terminal disease in a victim may be impossible to determine by examining the bones left around an owl's nest.

One study on Wyoming bighorn sheep found half the lambs dying by midsummer. Heavy coyote predation was obvious. Concentrated efforts to remove coyotes revealed the lambs still dying — of disease. The predator in this case had been consuming dead and weak lambs before the disease factor could be observed. It is often the case that increased success of predators points to another problem that makes prey more vulnerable. The lambs were already doomed before the coyote arrived. It is a classic case of confusing the *fact* of predation with the *effect* of predation. Determining the *effect* is the challenge since the biology of most predator-prey relationships is not completely understood.

Most predators are opportunists. They will take the most available and catchable prey. Relative abundance dictates the likelihood of a predator encountering any one of the various potential meals. As abundance changes and weather, disease, or other factors affect vulnerability,

PREDATOR QUIZ

Which of these Oregon animals are predators?

hooded merganser

Pacific pond turtle

northwestern garter snake

garden spider

bullfrog

rainbow trout

bluegill

killdeer

great blue heron

raccoon

shrew

mole

little brown bat

barn swallow

sea anemone

starlings

starfish

lizard

praying mantis

ants

diving beetle

answers on page 15



As potential prey became larger or evolved weapons of their own predators were forced to make certain adaptations to successfully hunt them. Development of a social structure that allowed them to team up on large prey was one such adaptation.



Most predators are opportunists. They will seize upon whatever food item is handy, large or small. Relative abundance of certain animals determines the probability of their entering the predator's diet.

the predator's diet also changes.

It is unlikely that a bobcat, for example, can regularly take adult deer. Neither can the coyote. Under the right circumstances, however, this does occur. Nor is it necessarily the starving animal that is driven to attack the much larger quarry. A strong, well-fed predator may pursue a larger prey it would otherwise avoid in leaner times. It is not these infrequent chance encounters that concern the biologist, researcher, or livestock owner but the mass or total effect of a predator's feeding.

Uncertainty regarding the actual effect of predation on any single species makes most predator control programs of questionable value. Attempts to reduce predators over any large area are probably in vain from the point of both cost and capability. If predation is a limiting factor to a population in a restricted area, certain control measures may be beneficial when applied to the specific predators involved. Removal of coyotes on portions of several eastern Oregon deer winter ranges in recent years produced higher fawn survival and had some effect in speeding recovery of a depressed herd. Efforts to apply these measures to anything but localized areas would likely be a futile waste, however.

In the history of wildlife management, removal of predators has been second only to restrictive regulations in the sequence of techniques applied. We know that regulations of some form go back as far as the time of Moses. When the first efforts were made to reduce competition from predators is anybody's guess.

Bounties were one of the earliest control attempts. They were seldom, if ever, effective in accomplishing anything except spending money. Predators, like most other wildlife populations, naturally padded their numbers with surplus that were eliminated each year. The bounty incentive usually resulted in little more than eliminating those animals already destined to perish as part of that surplus. Rarely did this system cut deep enough into the population to show an overall reduction in numbers throughout the year. The bounty effort further failed at exactly the time when it might have done what was intended. As populations of

a bountied predator fell for one reason or another, so did the incentive to pursue them. The prospect of finding enough to pay for the hunter's time fell with the predator numbers. This decreased interest came at exactly the time when increased effort might have cut into the breeding stock enough to hold down their numbers for some time.

The state discontinued paying bounties in 1961 although some counties in Oregon still continue the practice. In terms of today's costs and prices, bounties offer so little incentive as to be completely ineffective. Most common unprotected predators such as coyote or fox are taken by trappers, off-season "varmint" hunters, or as incidental kill by other hunters. Fur prices and recreation are now the prime motivation for most predator hunting. There is little need for bounties when coyote pelts are bringing \$50 each.

In contrast to direct forms of predator control such as trapping, bounties, or chemicals, indirect forms are now becoming much more popular. Protection or improvement of habitat for prey species often results in enough surplus to satisfy both the human and animal predators. Careful management that prevents the overcrowding which leads to food shortages or parasite and disease problems also limits the effect of predators. These indirect forms of control may not be as spectacular but offer much more promise in terms of long-range goals.

Whether you view predators as good or bad depends upon your perspective of the world. Regardless, they are necessary. Killing for food is a way of life in all animal communities, even the human one. Each community has its predator and prey components living in a complex and often poorly understood relationship. Without predators and the threat of a quick demise, many of the animals we admire for their speed, alertness, keen eyes, and sense of smell would not exist. It is this threat that made necessary the development of these qualities and that maintains them today. We cannot change predators. Hopefully in time we will come to understand them better for the human animal is also a predator, perhaps the greatest of all. □

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Department director Jack Donaldson (left) presents award to Dave Siddon.

Another Nongame Wildlife Award Presented

The Fish and Wildlife Department's fourth nongame wildlife award was presented to Dave Siddon of Grants Pass. Siddon is a wildlife photographer by profession but his love for animals has turned him into a self-taught expert on American, African, and South American wildlife. He has not only learned a great deal about the animals but has developed an uncanny ability to care for them.

Under state and federal permit, Siddon cares for injured and sick wildlife. In recent years he has received a myriad of creatures both from the Department and from other sources. His exercises in animal hospitalization have run the gamut from hummingbirds to ospreys and from baby skunks to bear cubs. Siddon and his wife Judy have always cheerfully received all these charges, setting their broken bones and, if possible, correcting their other ailments.

Most are returned to the wild as soon as possible. Some he has taught to hunt and fend for themselves. Others, unfortunately, cannot be released because of blindness, missing limbs, or just plain inability to adapt

back to the wild. These he has used in frequent appearances on television, at school assemblies, and at other functions where he can take advantage of an opportunity to educate the public, especially children, about wildlife.

Last fall he appeared during half-time at a University of Oregon football game where he took the opportunity to tell about raptors and flew a golden eagle for the fans. Siddon is a true conservationist and a champion of wildlife.

The nongame wildlife award is the Department's way of thanking those people who have made major efforts on behalf of nongame wildlife. Nominations for the award are always welcome. If you know of someone you feel deserves recognition, send name and address of individual or group, species of nongame wildlife involved, location of project (photo if possible), and a brief description of the project. Nominations should be addressed care of Bob Maben at the address which appears on page 16 of this magazine. □

This and That

compiled by Ken Durbin

Hunting Relatively Safe

Travelers Insurance Company took a survey and found that hunting ranked 16th on a list of most dangerous recreational activities, behind football (1st); winter sports (2nd); parks, picnics, and outings (9th); fishing (14th); and accidents at churches, theaters, and concerts (15th). And Dr. Lewis Nelson, extension wildlife specialist at the University of California, found that in his state in 1976 there was one chance in 10,000 that a licensed hunter would have an accident, one in 100,000 that it would be fatal — the vast majority of deaths self-inflicted and at less than 10 yards range.

Fish and Wildlife News

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New Snakebite Treatment on Horizon

Two Mississippi scientists may have found a new substance for treating snakebite victims that is much more effective than the treatments now in use.

Dr. Van Philpot of Houston, Mississippi and Rune Stjerholm, a biochemist at Tulane Medical Center, have isolated the substance in the blood of pit vipers that prevents them from dying when bitten by their own kind. The isolation is believed to be the first ever.

Snakebite victims are currently treated with an antitoxin obtained from immunized horses. One problem with the current treatment is that roughly a third of the population receiving the antitoxin has allergic reactions, which sometimes prove fatal. The antitoxin also isn't effective for water moccasin bites.

The new substance that has been isolated in the blood of the viper family would be effective for treating all viper bites, which include rattlesnakes, asps, bushmasters, copperheads, and water moccasins.

Wildlife in North Carolina

Transmitter Traps Poachers

Poachers who try to beat the odds with an illegal game kill may wish to consider the possibility that their victim is bugged and someone is listening.

Two lawbreakers in Valley County, Idaho are believers now. They failed to get away with a slain otter because the animal was carrying a surgically implanted transmitter. A University of Idaho student working for his doctorate had implanted the transmitter in the otter to trace its movements as part of his research.

He became suspicious when the signal he was monitoring indicated that the otter was moving faster than a normal pace and had veered away from its natural habitat. With binoculars he spotted two persons walking away from the river. As he approached them, he saw one individual throw an object into the brush.

One offender was fined \$200 and court costs and his hunting and fishing privileges were revoked for two years. A 30-day suspended jail sentence will be imposed if he breaks probation during the next 24 months.

*

Furbearer Data Published

A timely and useful reference on North American furbearers has been published, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. "North American Furbearers, Their Management, Research and Harvest Status" is available from the Worldwide Furbearer Conference, Inc., Gunter Hall, Frostburg State College, Frostburg, Maryland 21532 for \$14.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling.

The publication was compiled by the Fur Resources Committee of the International Association of Fish and Game Agencies. It includes photographs, range maps, management and research tables, and complete fur harvest charts.

Wild animal trapping has become the subject of heated and emotional controversy. Quite often opponents and proponents discuss trapping without the benefit of accurate information. Henceforth, there will be no excuse for that.

Don't Forget Your License

If you haven't already thought of it, don't be caught without your hunting and/or fishing license. Both expired on New Year's eve along with 1978. Salmon and steelhead anglers also need a new salmon-steelhead tag but waterfowl hunters don't need to worry about a new duck stamp until next season. They are good through the end of June. Trapping licenses are valid on a fiscal year basis and need not be renewed until after June 30, 1979.

*

Carter Orders Wildlife Act Implementation

President Carter has directed the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to develop new regulations that would fully implement the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The act requires certain water development agencies to consult with fish and wildlife agencies such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to minimize habitat losses. In Carter's memo to the agency heads he said, "In all project construction appropriation requests, agencies shall include designated funds for all environmental mitigation required for the project and shall require that mitigation funds be spent concurrently and proportionately with construction funds throughout the life of the project."

*

Habitat Losses Mount

Roughly 31 million acres of productive farmland has been lost to development and related uses over the past ten years, says EPA Administrator Doug Costle, and the trend is continuing at a disturbing rate. U.S. farmers are now cultivating 400 million acres of farmland, down from 431 million in 1967, with 17 million of those acres lost to urban growth and 7 million to ponds and other water bodies. EPA has produced an agricultural lands protection policy and Costle has ordered his employees to ensure that EPA programs do not hasten this trend.

Fish and Wildlife News
JANUARY 1979

Please Return Salmon-Steelhead Card

If you are still carrying your salmon-steelhead card from last year, you can do the Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as your future angling a good service by taking the time to turn it in. This also applies to daily angler licenses purchased any time in 1978.

You can drop the catch record off in the box provided in sporting goods stores where licenses are sold or simply drop it in an envelope and mail it directly to the Department whose address appears on the last page of this magazine.

Before you do return it, however, Rich Berry, Department staff biologist in charge of compiling the information which comes in on the cards, asks that you double check to see that the cards are filled out properly and are readable.

On this year's tags a series of code numbers is called for to designate species, stream or port where caught, and dates. Unfortunately, it is not difficult to transpose numbers or read the wrong number from the key. If you quickly check to see you entered the correct numbers, it will help improve the accuracy of the catch estimates derived from them. If you've made an error, Berry suggests you can simply cross out that entry and make a new one showing correct information.

If you didn't get to fish or fished without catching anything, the Department needs your catch record as well as those from fishermen who took fish.

Accurate catch information helps to make intelligent management decisions, Berry says. But if returns of cards are too poor to insure reasonable accuracy, the Department may be forced to use funds now used for management purposes to obtain catch data.

If you still have your card, please return it now. If you already have, you've helped the Department, and ultimately your future angling. □

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The Shrew

There is a fierce creature in the world that fears nothing, has lightning speed, a voracious appetite, and, for some members of the species, a poisonous bite. This fearsome beast weighs less than one-half ounce and is the smallest mammal in North America.

While shrews resemble mice, the likeness ends there. Shrews are actually related to the mole. Although shrews are not diggers like the mole, they will live in abandoned burrows and runs of rodents. Shrews may also dwell in rock piles, wood thickets, or beneath the leaf cover of the forest floor.

Shrews are in the order *insectivora* — the insect-eating mammals — but they will also eat meat, berries, carrion, and whatever else they can catch and kill, including other shrews.

Some observers have found that a shrew will eat many times its own body weight during its round-the-clock search for food. The shrew is an eating machine; it does not rest. It can not. One species reportedly breathes 850 times per minute and has a pulse rate of 800. An internal furnace working at such a fierce pace requires constant fuel. Six hours without food and the animal starves.

Since the shrew must eat in such volume, nature has provided it with some handy tools to increase efficiency. Two kinds of shrews are known to have a poisonous bite, fatal to creatures their own size. One member of the family, the short-tailed shrew of the eastern U.S., can deliver enough of its cobra-like venom to kill 200 mice. No poisonous shrews are found in Oregon.

The shrew has poor eyesight, but excellent hearing and acute senses of touch and smell. Some scientists also theorize that, like the bat, the shrew uses sonar to locate a meal.

A musk gland on the shrew delivers a smell and taste that renders the little animal almost inedible. The only creature that shows any real lack of culture in the taste buds is the owl. Remains of shrews are often found in owl pellets.

There are seven known species of shrews in Oregon. At least one species is found in every part of the state. —Jim Gladson □

Winter Time Is Steelhead Time!

To catch a bright fish is the goal of winter steelhead fishing. But that alone is not enough.

Winter fishing's made of events and sensations, some big and some small. The rushing music of ocean-bound

ivers, the patter of gentle rain, the smell of leaf-mold and spruce.

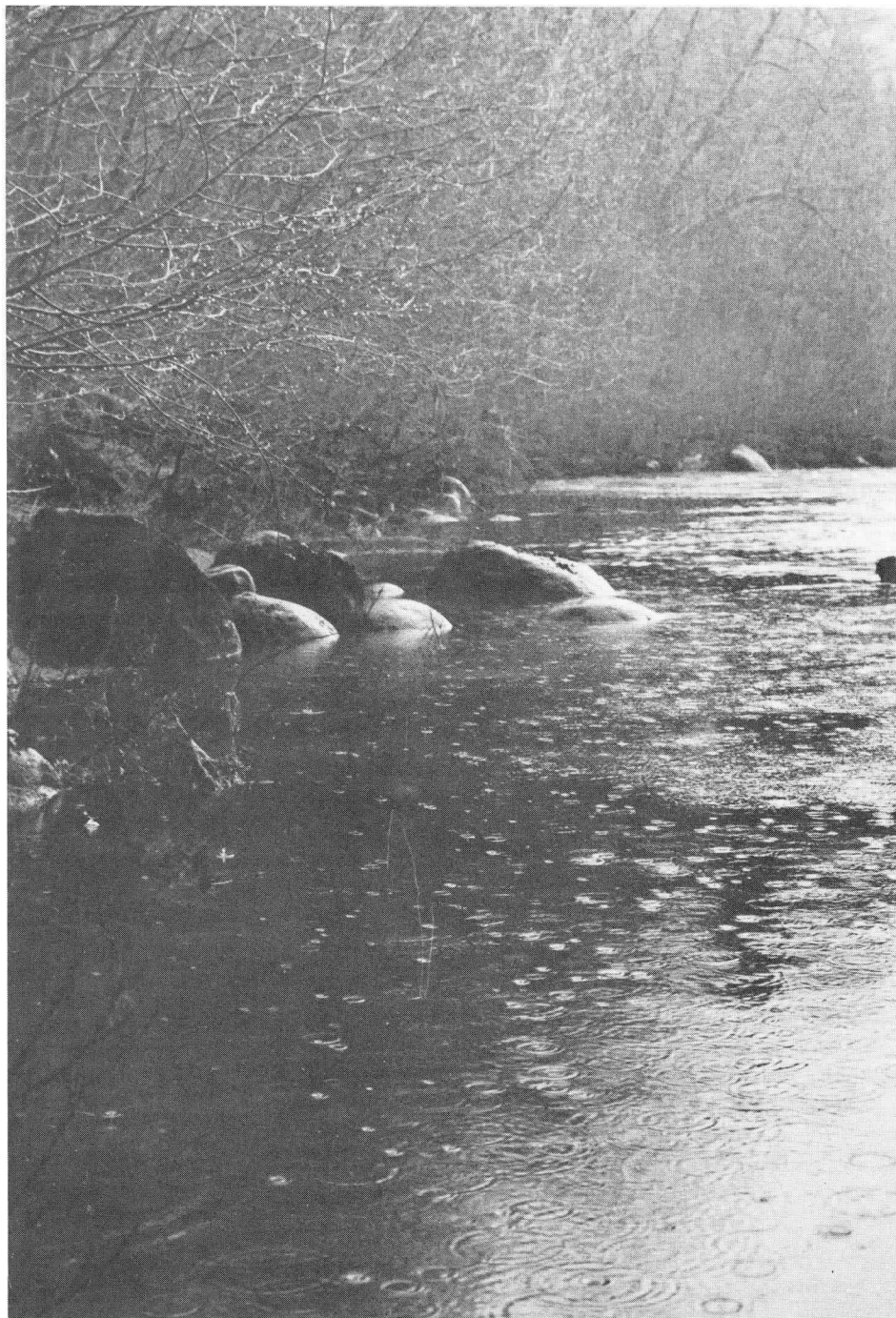
The lively dipper brings a smile with his cheerful antics and the merganser nearly takes your hat off with his swift down-river flight. The wintry white bark of streamside alders contrast with dark hillsides, and many days the fog whips low and everything appears in black and white.

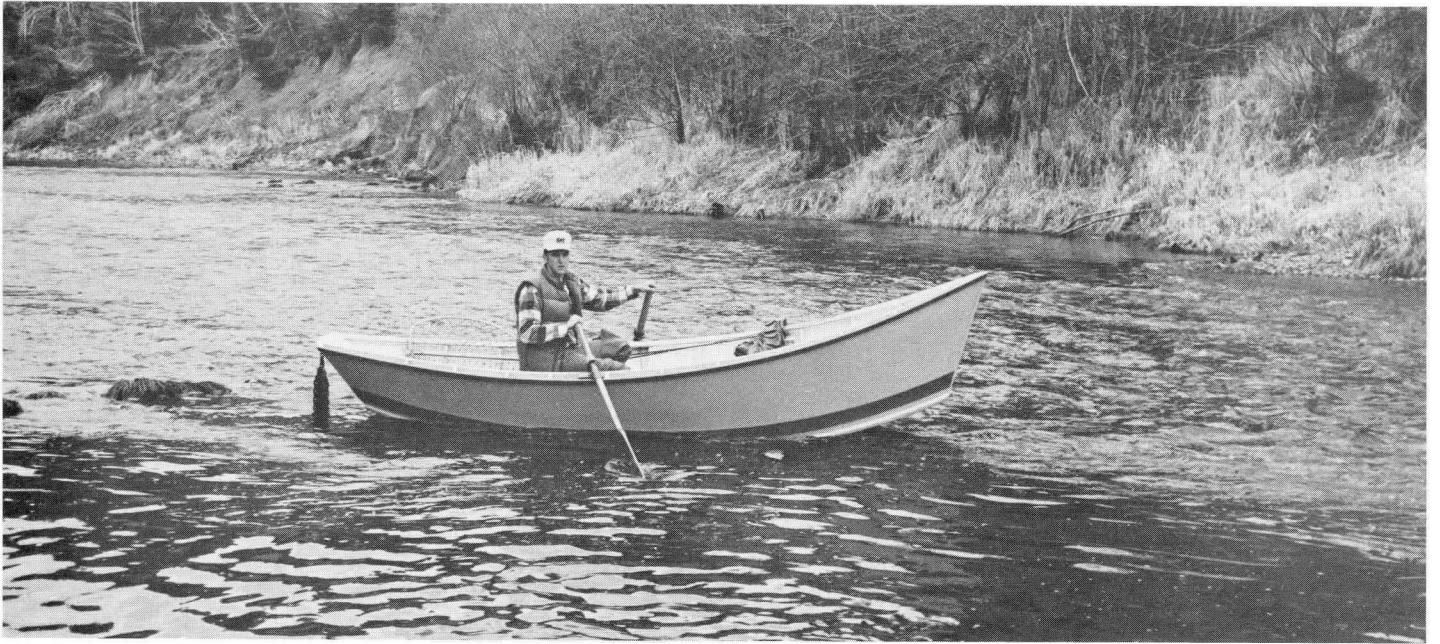
Companionship, solitude, the rush of strong water against rubber-clad legs, the satisfaction that comes of well-drawn oars, the smell of hot coffee, the pain of numbed hands.

The angler's rod tells him stories. It paints a tactile picture of the river's bottom. The current's too swift; he must add weight. The tip-tip-tapping as his bait drifts straight with the flow, barely off the bottom. The sudden stop that means a snag. A strangely different tap that may be a stick, or may be a fish. Another cast and the tap IS a fish which has magically turned despair to elation. The strong runs, dogged resistance, and if the angler has both skill and luck, inevitable exhaustion. The fish slides shoreward on its side and each feeble effort helps move it farther up the sandy slope. A streamside rock brings swift death, or perhaps the fish will be released to fight again or reproduce his kind.

A pleasant weariness that comes from short nights, long hours, total concentration and a return to warmth from cold. A winter trip is this and more — much more.□

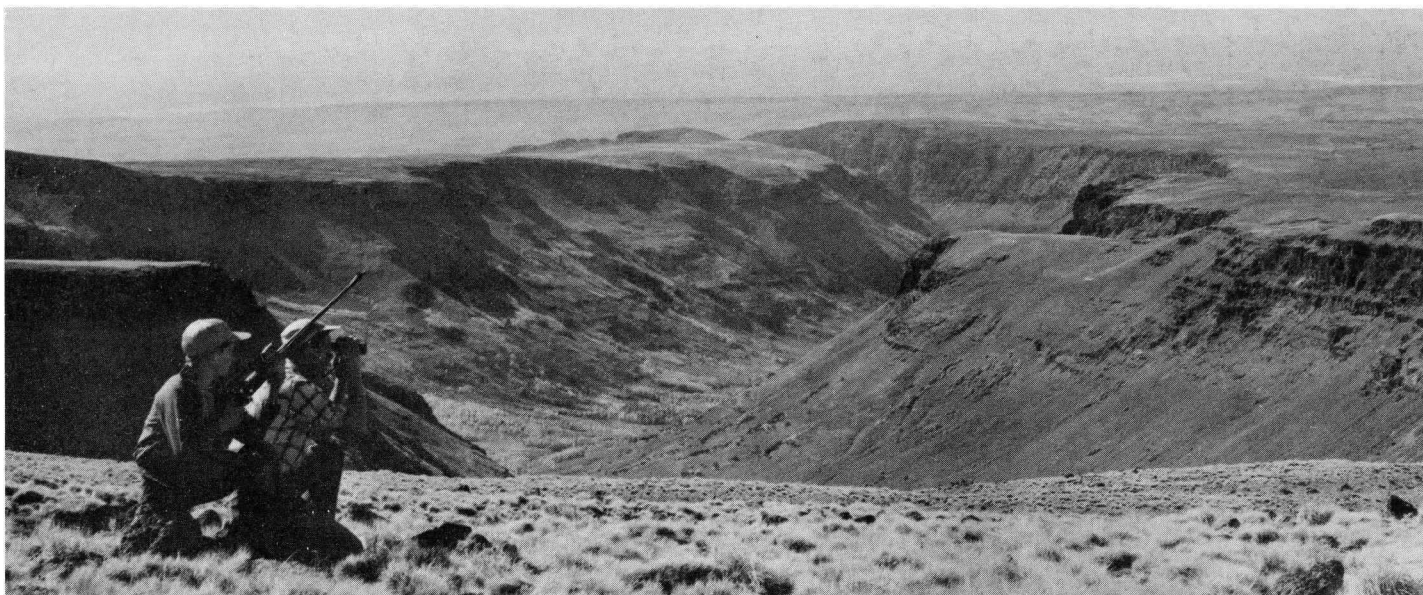
Ken Durbin





*Photos by Jim Gladson
and Ken Durbin*





HUNTING for the Answer

By Chris Wille

HUNTERS AND ANTI-HUNTERS sometimes get so involved in the argument over sport hunting that they forget about anybody except "us" and "them." There is a large group of citizens who have no interest whatsoever in the argument. We call them "nonhunters," but they could just as well be dubbed "nonantihunters."

Sportsmen calculate their own ranks as slightly more than 20 million, if none of them oversleep. Someone once estimated, rather arbitrarily, that there are an equal number of professed antihunters. Regardless of the accuracy of these figures, a huge majority, maybe 160 million people, are not involved in the controversy at all. Such a sizeable majority, then, surely holds the future of sport hunting in its uncommitted hands.

Hunters fear this group, because they know that actual field experi-

ence is required to give the uninitiated person a positive feeling about hunting, while a single ghastly anecdote or biased television program can turn him unalterably against the sport.

Although speculation had long become dogma, no one really knew just what the nonhunting public's attitudes were towards the game and gun fraternity until the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) completed a revealing study.

A professional research team, contracted by the NSSF, studied a group of men and women who, in lengthy interviews, showed no bias for or against hunting and had no interest in shooting sports (trap, skeet or target). The search was conducted in Minneapolis, Rochester, Denver and Dallas/Fort Worth. Every possible general complaint about hunters and hunting was ferreted out and, through a statistically complicated

procedure, ranked the respondents as to how legitimate they thought the complaint was. The list totaled 115.

The results were quite unexpected and contained a rude shock for hunters. Most hunters who had been following the various media and personal attacks on their sport had come to assume that, since their critics, the antihunters, considered hunting a sick and useless activity performed by lower class rednecks, every nonhunter would feel the same way. Not so. The 20 least bothersome problems in the view of unbiased nonhunters were:

RANK PROBLEM

- 115 Hunters are lower class people.
- 114 Hunters are loners.
- 113 Hunters are slobs.
- 112 Hunters are insincere people.
- 111 Hunters are rednecks.
- 110 Hunters hunt to overcome their insecurity.

- 109 Hunting as an activity is just "sick."
- 108 Hunting serves no useful purpose.
- 107 Hunters have no integrity.
- 106 There is no need for hunting in today's society.
- 105 Hunting has a bad effect on public health.
- 104 People who hunt also commit crimes of violence.
- 103 Hunting makes a person feel important.
- 102 Hunters shoot fruit off trees.
- 101 Hunters hunt just to prove their masculinity.
- 100 Hunters need the challenge of hunting to make them feel manly.
- 99 Hunters are responsible for land erosion.
- 98 Hunting is a cold-blooded thing to do.
- 97 Hunting with a rifle is not fair to the animal.
- 96 Hunters are bloodthirsty.

Hunters would not have guessed what the uninvolved perceived as the most troublesome things about hunting, for the biggest areas of concern were not with the hunting tradition but with the modern day hunter's performance. The top 20 problems, in the minds of the nonhunters, zeroed in on the inept, unsafe, untrained, unethical and illegal hunter — in short that loathsome character whom sportsmen have long called "the slob hunter." The top 20 problems, in descending order, were:

RANK PROBLEM

- 1 Hunters kill other hunters accidentally.
- 2 Wounded animals die a slow death.
- 3 Wounded animals die a painful death.
- 4 Hunters don't have to know anything to buy a rifle.
- 5 Leaving a wounded animal to die is sadistic.
- 6 Wounded animals die a horrible death.
- 7 Hunters cripple animals that are wounded but not tracked down.
- 8 Hunters hunt in areas that are off-limits.
- 9 People get hurt in hunting.

OREGON WILDLIFE

- 10 Hunters shoot animals they're not allowed to shoot.
- 11 Hunters ignore safety regulations.
- 12 Hunters are not properly trained.
- 13 Hunters violate "No Trespassing" signs.
- 14 Hunters ignore "No Trespassing" signs.
- 15 Hunting is dangerous when the season opens because everyone wants to be first.
- 16 Hunters shoot too close to highways.
- 17 Hunters ignore hunting laws meant to protect people and wildlife.
- 18.5 Hunting rules are ignored.
- 18.5 Hunters don't ask landowners permission to hunt.
- 20 Hunters don't know what they're shooting at.

If this survey is an accurate reflection of the attitudes of nonhunters across the country, then the hunter's choice is clear; he must remove the slob element from his ranks or lose his sporting future.

One of the attractive features of hunting is that it has been, traditionally, an exercise in freedom. In recent years, it has become less so with the increased licensing requirements, posted and off-limits lands and other restrictions. It is now apparent that mandatory hunter training has become a necessity if the sport is to survive. Hunters are simply too visible to be inept. There is no margin for error in the public's critical eye. Hunters must demonstrate highly developed skills and ethics the first and every time they go afield.

The problem is evident on both a cultural and individual level. The hunting tradition is so complex a society can't acquire it, nuances and traditions intact, in a short time. Hunting requires special technologies, skills, codes, social gestures, attitudes, traditions and philosophies.

A young hunter or a young hunting society is rarely equipped with any of the requirements; especially the philosophy. Failure, all too often the result of the chase, requires a philosophy that dispels defeat and encour-

ages hope and determination. The lack of this philosophical attitude is a frequent contribution to hunting improprieties, as frustrated people with guns tend to shoot too quickly, indiscriminately and at such non-game targets as road signs.

It cannot be denied that hunting in its pure form is a rarity today. Men with only hand weapons did not need to invent stern codes to insure that hunting was a challenge rather than a simple amusement. For the true hunter, success must always be problematical. The real hunter's confrontation of the enigmas of death and animal life inspire attitudes of honor and awe most often expressed in ceremonial address.

But after centuries of mass societies and dull toiling in the soil, men now know little of the empirical wisdom of sportsmanship. We hunt as we live. As Paul Shepard writes in *The Tender Carnivore and the Sacred Game*:

"When the uninitiated are allowed unexpectedly to hunt they trample its subtle rites, ignore its awe and uneasiness about inflicting death, and disregard the necessary relinquishment of the supremacy of the overarmed as necessary homage to what is divine and unpredictable in nature."

Hunters in the past, and most of today's nimrods, did not begin the sport with a ready-made set of ethical guidelines. They simply aren't handed down as are the cherished shotgun and leaky, oversized waders. Good manners afield and ethical attitudes towards wildlife gradually develop over the years. This is a good and natural way to develop an ethical code of behavior. The green and brash wood of youth slowly seasons until it has the mellow clarity of an aged guitar.

There no longer is room or time for novice hunters to slowly and naturally season, so we must do the next best thing — try to teach them. Half the states already have mandatory hunter safety training. A certificate proving the newcomer has passed the course is required before the young hunter is issued his first license. This training has had a measurable impact and hunting accidents continue to be a rarity. But the hunter safety schools are usually only six hours

long and, although ethics and conservation are introduced, these classes can only mention what is required to become a true hunter.

A possible answer to those who criticize the hunter's actions would be a mandatory qualifying exam. Although this would not sit well with those who consider hunting a birth-right, it may be the only sensible route. An examination which covers game laws, natural history, ecology, woodsmanship, courtesy, history, wildlife conservation and hunter-public relations, as well as firearm proficiency and safety would have several immediate benefits. It would eliminate those without the interest or knowledge to pass it, giving the newly licensed hunter a deserved image of knowledge, skill, discipline and respectability. Also, it would serve to rehabilitate some old-timers who would have to do a little homework in order to pass.

In Germany, where hunters are highly respected, the sport hunting tradition has had centuries to mature. The Germans preserve the integrity of their sport by making a hunting license one of the most difficult documents to obtain. The would-be hunter must serve several years of apprenticeship during which he must become thoroughly familiar with the biology of all game species, hunting firearms and ballistics, hunting optics, tradition, terminology, map reading, laws, hunting leases, woodsmanship and game cooking. At the end of his apprenticeship, the applicant must pass a demanding, two-hour written exam, a comprehensive practical test and then demonstrate good shooting skills. Our qualifying system need not be that elaborate, but it should be more exacting than just plunking five dollars down on the counter in exchange for an annual hunting license.

In order to gain the nonhunter's respect, the hunter must be respectable. By eliminating the unskilled and undisciplined from their ranks, hunters could swing public opinion in their direction. Both they, and the nation's wildlife resources, would benefit.□

Reprinted courtesy of OUTDOOR OKLAHOMA. Author Chris Wille is a former Oregon newspaperman.

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Helen Moore accepts award from Frank Hart

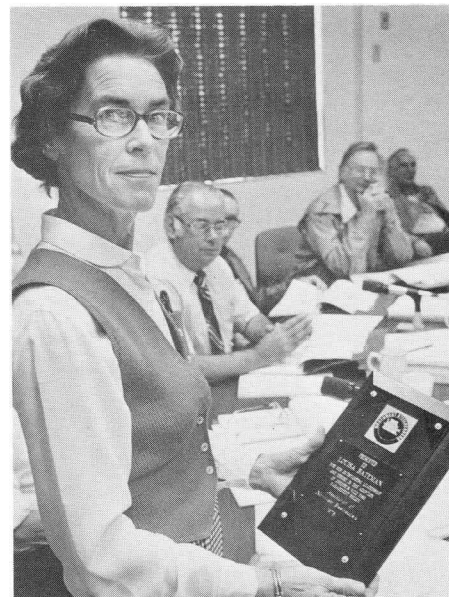
Vel Moore Honored by Shikar-Safari

The Shikar-Safari Award was presented this year posthumously to Vel Moore, who until his death last year worked as a wildlife technician in the Department's Northeast Region. The award was accepted by Vel's wife, Helen.

Presentation of the certificate and pewter award was made by Frank Hart, manager of Wildlife Safari near Winston, and the only member of the Shikar-Safari Club in Oregon. Members of the club have hunted or worked in conservation on three or more continents. Each year the club honors one career employe of each of the 50 states' conservation agencies.

Moore was known by those who worked with him as a dedicated, tireless jack-of-all-trades, the kind of man who could build anything from cabinets to elk traps, and who was ready and willing to help in any emergency.

He was well known and liked by hunters and ranchers alike in north-eastern Oregon and active in community affairs. He was a member of Odd Fellows, Wallowa County Sportsman's Association, Wallowa Auxiliary Police, and served as a deputy sheriff. □



Louisa Bateman

Commissioner Honored

Louisa Bateman was presented with a plaque by Bill Luch, president, Northwest Steelheaders Association, in recognition of her outstanding efforts in seeing the Wild Fish Policy adopted by the Commission. The award was presented at a recent Commission session.

JANUARY 1979



Oregon's WILDLIFE WINDOW

As a new and regular feature of OREGON WILDLIFE this page is designed for teachers, group leaders, parents, and others who want ideas on how to bring an understanding of wildlife to those around them. From our "window" each month we will look at the many interesting behaviors, adaptations, and values of wildlife.

Since we learn best by doing, the "window" will provide suggestions for learning activities, projects, and other involvement things that will further understanding of the wild creatures around us. We will select timely items related to the season of the year or wildlife information found elsewhere in this magazine. Suggestions for obtaining additional information on the subject presented each month will also be included when appropriate.

"This Month's Window" will be a regular activity oriented feature. It is intended to provide suggestions adaptable to a wide range of age groups. It will not be "outdoor education" alone. A variety of inside activities will be offered along with ones tied to subjects like writing, music, and art. The "window" is sized to fit a 3x5 card file and may be cut out for future reference.

The left side of this page has also been marked for cutting and points indicated for punching in case you wish to save the entire page for your notebook. In a number of issues the back cover of this magazine will be OREGON WILDLIFE

devoted to information and drawings on a specific animal. The "Wildlife Window" will always be next to the back allowing you to keep both valuable items.

You may have ideas you would like information on, a need for activities to help teach a particular wildlife subject, or wish help in locating certain wildlife materials. The "window" can help. Just write to us, care of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. We will attempt to either answer your needs directly or through this monthly feature. □

Answers to quiz on page 5

All of the species listed are predators. While some like the raccoon and pond turtle also eat plant material, they still kill for food as the opportunity arises. Most birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and many mammals are predators at some time in their life. Some predators are almost totally meat eaters or *carnivorous*. Others are *omnivorous* or eat both plants and animals.

THIS MONTH'S WINDOW

A BETTER MOUSE TRAP

Make or design a device a predator might use to capture prey.

Discuss what would happen if all predators used the same means to catch food.

As a group decide what device, tactic, or adaptation a prey species might use for avoiding the predator.

List the ways you decided on above. How do these compare to ones used by various prey animals we know today?

Angling Synopsis Delayed

Due to the extended paper mill worker's strike, the 1979 angling regulations booklet was delayed and did not become available to fishermen before January 1 when the new regulations took effect.

Printing some 650,000 copies of the 56-page booklet requires 55 tons of paper. As originally scheduled, the printed booklets were to be received by the Department of Fish and Wildlife on December 11 and then mailed to license agents throughout the state.

Many anglers renew their licenses before they expire on the last day of December in order to continue the winter fishery for steelhead and other species. The delay has inconvenienced them since they'll have to make another trip later to pick up a copy of the new regulations. It is expected the booklets will be delivered to license agents before the end of January.

There are relatively few new regulations or changes that would affect January anglers and of those many are more liberal than rules effective in 1978. Following are the new or changed rules, listed by zone, which early season anglers should be aware of.

Zone 1

Tioga Creek (South Fork Coos River tributary) opens to steelhead angling up to concrete bridge below Burnt Creek. The closure at the mouth of Sixes River is removed.

Zone 2

North Fork and River Mill Reservoirs on Clackamas River close to all angling in the winter season. Silver Creek opens to steelhead angling up to Silverton Dam. The following waters are opened to year around angling: Benson Lake, Canby Pond, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Fern Ridge Pond, Mt. Hood College Pond, Timber Lake, and Trail Bridge Reservoir.

Zone 3

No major changes.

Zone 4

Lost Creek Reservoir opens to year around angling.

Zone 5

The lower 100 miles of the Deschutes remains closed to angling until April 1 downstream from Sherars Falls and April 21 above the falls. Fifteenmile Creek closes to winter steelhead angling.

Zone 6

Ana Reservoir, which has previously been open for year around fishing, closes January 1 until April 21.

Zone 7

No major changes.

Zone 8

Fishing in Mann Lake restricted to flies and artificial lures only with catch and release fishing for Lahontan cutthroat. Parsnip Reservoir and Threemile Creek closed to all angling.

Zone 9

In the Snake River main stem below Hells Canyon Dam, rainbow trout over 20 inches are considered steelhead and must be released since steelhead season remains closed.

Zone 10

Rainbow trout 20 inches and over are considered steelhead and must be entered on the salmon-steelhead catch record.

This is not a complete listing of regulations or of changes that will take effect in 1979 but does represent the changes or new regulations anglers need to be aware of in the early part of the season. Other rules will take effect later in the year with the opening of various angling seasons. Anglers are urged to pick up a copy of the new booklets when they do become available sometime in January. □

Game Seasons and Ocean Perch Subject of Commission Hearings

On January 19 at 9 a.m. the Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold public hearings in its Portland office on several aspects of the hunting seasons and on control of commercial landings of Pacific ocean perch and other closely related rockfish species.

The Commission will take public comments on methods of controlling distribution or numbers of elk hunters in 1979 that might include establishing split seasons (hunters would participate in only one), quotas on bull elk hunters by period or area, and

methods of hunter selection for the various seasons.

The Commission will also be considering opening dates for 1979 antelope, deer, pheasant, bowhunting, elk, and bear seasons.

In addition, the Commission will be taking public comments on proposed regulations to limit commercial landings of Pacific ocean perch and closely related species in 1979 to insure the sustainable annual yield will not be exceeded. □



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