

OREGON WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER, 1975

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RON E. SHAY, Editor

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The Cover

A Canada goose surveys a stubble field. Geese and cattle graze together on Ladd Marsh. See story on page 8.

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

INSTRUCTORS APPROVED

Month of July 11
Total Active 1,679

STUDENTS TRAINED

Month of July 186
Total to Date 221,470

HUNTING CASUALTIES

REPORTED IN 1975

Fatal 0
Nonfatal 15

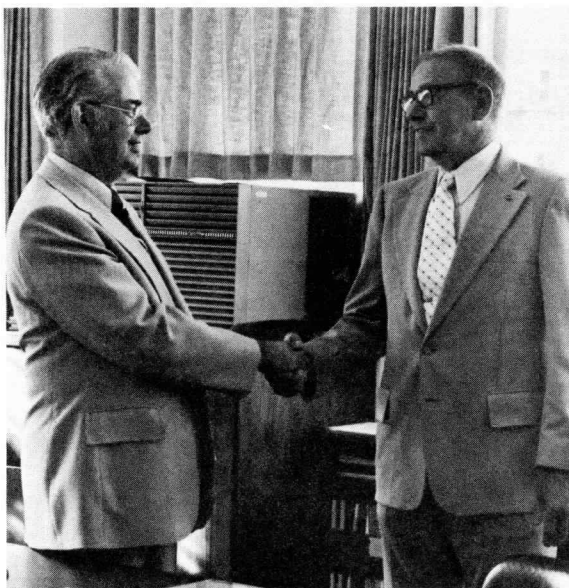
McKean Appointed Fish And Wildlife Director

John W. McKean, director of the Oregon Wildlife Commission until its present merger with the Fish Commission and since then acting director of the merged agency, was named Friday, August 15, by the Commission as the permanent director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

McKean, a veteran of 40 years in wildlife management and recognized nationally as one of the top wildlife administrators in the nation, was selected following a review of

applications for the position that were submitted nationwide.

He was a member of the first graduating class in Fish and Game Management at what was then known as Oregon State College and while in school worked for the Game Commission at the old Corvallis Game Farm. He headed up the Game Management Division of the Game Commission for many years prior to his appointment as director of that agency in 1969.



Allan Kelly, chairman of the Fish and Wildlife Commission, congratulates John McKean on his appointment as director of the Department

Following confirmation as director, McKean appointed Dr. Gene Kruse deputy director of the Department.

Kruse started with the Fish Commission in 1957 following work at the University of Michigan that led to his Ph.D. degree. In 1961 he was appointed director of research and as such visited Russia twice to participate in meetings concerning the high seas fisheries. In 1969 Kruse became assistant director of the Fish Commission and in 1972 was appointed director. □



Dr. Gene Kruse, deputy director.

Not Me!

by *Cliff Hamilton*
Education Supervisor

I remember lying there thinking, "Oh no, not me!" It didn't hurt. That would come later. There was just a huge nauseating numbness in my right side and hip. It didn't really hurt when the bullet struck me either. The shocking power of a high-powered rifle is such that pain is largely obliterated. It felt more like the combination of a sledgehammer and an electric shock smashing into me together.

You remember a lot of disjointed things at a time like that. The instant the gun went off I knew what had happened. The bullet went through so fast, it didn't knock me down. I just collapsed. It was almost like slow motion except the ground hit pretty hard when it came up to meet me. I don't remember saying anything as I fell. The total astonishment and a sickening reality of what had happened left me speechless.

There was plenty to think and say as I rolled over to grab my hip. "Where is it? How bad? Will I be able to hunt again — or even walk? Will I die?" I was worried about Meg and the kids at home. "How would they make it without me? What about the doctor bills and not being able to work?" I was more sorry for my family than myself.

For an instant I felt even worse about Dan, my hunting partner. When the gun went off in his hands, the look of pure horror on his face is indelible in my mind. I can guess how it must feel to realize you have just shot your best friend and hunting companion. My plight was one of physical survival and pain. I could recover from the physical damage. Dan's was a mental anguish. It was a private thing that no amount of inward or verbal remorse could totally heal away.

My hand came away from my side covered with blood. "Was I bleeding? Heck Yes, I was bleeding, who else?" Dan was beside me then fumbling, trying to locate the source of bleeding and get something on it. We had no



Safe hunters Dick Nelson and Dean Beard demonstrate how accidents happen. Almost two-thirds of the accidents occur at ranges of less than 10 feet. In the accompanying article a typical occurrence is described. Hunting is one of our safer sports, but could be even less dangerous.

first aid kit or bandage of any kind. Handkerchiefs, tee shirts, belts, whatever was handy would have to do for now. Shock was taking over. I wouldn't be much help to myself. Dan would have to do virtually everything from performing first aid to somehow getting help. We were several miles from the car. Dan was totally in charge of my comfort, my survival, my life. That is an awesome responsibility to give anyone, especially out here with so little means of help available.

I was conscious through most of the

whole thing. I saw the two other hunters who came to our aid in response to Dan's yells and signal shots. They weren't any better equipped for medical supplies than we were. One went for an ambulance and the police while the other stayed with us. After what seemed like hours I learned help was on the way. They tried to make it as easy and comfortable as possible for me. Talk was all reassuring about my being "all right" but their worried looks and whispered comments betrayed the seriousness of the situation.

National Hunting & Fishing Day

SEPTEMBER 27, 1975

Strangely, I wasn't mad at Dan for what happened. We had both grown pretty careless about hunting. The old saying "familiarity breeds contempt" seemed to apply. We had become just too casual about handling guns. Both of us had been hunting since before we were in high school. At first we went with our parents. Later when we were old enough to drive, we began going out on our own. We took the required hunter safety course and studied just hard enough to pass. We *knew* the proper way to handle firearms. Like most others involved in accidents, though, we didn't bother taking time to *do* it the right way.

We hunted together a lot during high school. That was eleven years ago. After graduation, college and the service had curtailed our trips for about five years. We made up for lost time the last six years, however.

This trip had started out like many others. We had left home about 5 a.m. and reached our favorite hunting area just at daybreak. Fortunately we were ahead of most of the weekend crowd. There was only one other car on the road the last mile in. That meant less competition and fewer other hunters to watch out for. I had never worried too much about being mistaken for game by another hunter. From the statistics I had seen over the years, that is the cause of only a very few "accidents" each year in Oregon. In fact, these usually make up less than 10 per cent of the casualties. I always wore my orange vest anyway.

The one who wasn't driving always loaded his rifle as we drove the last ways into the hunting area. We had seen game near the road once before and we wanted to be ready. I knew that wasn't the safe thing to do but we both considered ourselves to be very experienced with guns. We had never really needed our gun too fast to get it loaded when game was spotted but we wanted to be ready just in case.

A loaded gun in the car had caused a problem several years ago. We had

parked at daylight and begun getting ready. The gun had been leaned against the car. In moving around getting things out of the trunk, the rifle fell and discharged. The only casualty was my right rear tire. That should have been enough to teach us.

There was one other incident in a group I was hunting with. That was years ago. This fellow was unloading his gun in camp when it went off. Luckily, the bullet went into the ground with no damage. I guess many hunters can remember a few accidental firings or things like being watched through somebody's scope sight. Most of these do not result in injury but the danger is certainly there. A lot of these stories are revealed only around the hunting camp fire.

I was glad to reach the hunting area early although it had been tough getting out of bed after such a short night. Dan and I had been out late at our monthly rifle club meeting the night before. Since hunting season was open, the club program centered around that subject. The fellow in charge of the club's hunter education program had made his usual pitch about the huge percentage of hunting accidents being self-inflicted or occurring between hunting partners. We paid only polite attention. I knew I could handle a gun and so could Dan. We'd been through that stuff before.

Dan and I had talked about safety a time or two in the past. This was mostly in response to reading about someone else being injured. We never really considered it to be pertinent to ourselves. I was loading my gun and wondering just where to hunt as we started up the old logging road. I scarcely realized my muzzle was pointed right at Dan's boot as I loaded. I remember thinking then that we were getting just too sloppy with our rifles. We had been handling guns so long, it had become a habit rather than a responsibility. We were soon to come to a different and tragic realization!

Dan elected to beat the brush on

the timbered slope to the north. I chose to prowl the edges of two logging units on a ridge to the south. We agreed to meet about midmorning at the head of the canyon above. If neither of us was successful, we would circle back along a third route.

I arrived at the meeting point first and sat down on a rotting stump to munch a candy bar. Dan could be heard coming through the brush long before being seen. From the blood on his pants and the cheshire grin, I knew he had something. I remember thinking it was funny I hadn't heard a shot. Experience had taught me long ago, however, that in the mountains sounds can play tricks by echoing off hills or being distorted by wind currents. Shots can be fired fairly close and never be heard while distant shooting may sound very near.

Dan was walking straight toward me with his rifle draped over one arm. I rose to greet him. He started to shift the gun from one arm to the other. What happened next neither of us will ever forget.

The siren was wailing on the ambulance all the way to town. I remember thinking between waves of unconsciousness, "This guy is running Code 3 which means life in danger. Mine!" I also recalled driving the opposite direction out the same road earlier that morning. We had the radio on to help keep us awake. After one of those cheery songs that seem to be common fare on early morning radio programs was a short "hunt safely" reminder like we hear every year. This one was something about last year's accidents being mostly caused by carelessness. I was thinking, "That's for the city hunters. Those things never happen to us around here. Especially not me!"

Editor's note: The above story by Cliff Hamilton is fiction. It is, however, based on excerpts from records of actual hunting casualties. Statistics mentioned in the story are true for the state of Oregon. Cliff is in charge of the Department's educational activities. □

Comment

Hunter Access—Landowner Relations

by Jack Melland
Wildlife Biologist, Heppner

For many outdoors people, gaining access to private land for hunting, fishing, or camping has become a major problem. Many people comment that they have hunted a given area for years and don't understand why access is now barred. To understand this problem, one must realize that human population increases and occupations that permit more free time have increased recreational use many times. As more people take to the field, the potential for conflict between landowner and recreationist increases.

To put the blame entirely on either the landowner or recreationist would not be fair to either side. Most land access restrictions are the result of a few people who are insensitive to the rights of others. Failure to gain permission before hunting, littering, inconsiderate use of motor vehicles, shooting near cattle or houses, and leaving gates open or damaging fences are some common causes of access restrictions or cancellations. Another problem not recognized by many is that large ranches with good hunting may host 300 to 400 hunters per year. If all stop to ask permission opening day, the landowner may feel quite harassed. Let's look at these problems and speculate as to what the landowner and sportsman can do to establish better relationships.

Failure to gain permission before hunting, fishing, or camping is an inexcusable sin. It is easy to blame the "Portland hunter" for this sin. However, after contacting many people who were hunting without permission, I found that trespassers come from all parts of the state and their occupations cover the full scope, including farming! If one lives in western Oregon, a letter or phone call to an east side landowner could gain access but arriving early and personally contacting individual landowners is best. Do not stop late at night or early in the morning. After gaining permission, common courtesy demands a thank you. An invitation

to hunt or fish on your property, if you have open land, is an additional positive gesture.

Littering quite possibly has caused more land to be posted than any other thing. Although most farmers don't claim to be environmentalists, they do resent trash being scattered on their property and lands and waters being polluted with all sorts of wastes. It has been encouraging to see the response the general public has made to pleas for cleaning our outdoor world. In many cases recreationists have picked up litter left by others in previous years. Continued consciousness by everyone can keep our countryside beautiful and help keep private lands open for outdoor recreation.

Motor vehicles and their off-road use have caused many ranchers to lock gates and post their property. Soils, with high erosive potential, can be severely damaged by motorcycles and four-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicles. Hill climbing, cross country travel, or going where no one else has gone seems to be the challenge. When tires slip, they destroy ground cover leaving soil exposed to wind and water. Tracks on steep hills can become deep gullies in minutes during a heavy rain or tracks on desert areas can start wind erosion that leads to unwanted sand dunes. Some landowners concerned about soil erosion are prohibiting vehicle use, but allowing hunting. Some lands previously posted are now open to hunting but access is only by foot or horseback. This gives protection to the soil and keeps gates closed. Also, these lands now produce better hunting for people willing to work for it.

Shooting near livestock concentrations or near human dwellings usually produces a quick and sometimes violent response. Hunter safety students should be well aware of the hazards caused by shooting near human habitation. Shooting near livestock can cause the critters to run through fences or continuous

harassment can cause weight losses which may prove costly if the cattle are to be sold soon.

Leaving gates open and damaging of fences have received much attention. Cows loose on a highway can be dangerous but, more likely, one rancher's cows will be mixed with another's cattle and it may require several days' work to separate the two herds. To carelessly create this extra work for someone else is inconsiderate and unnecessary.

By allowing hunting but restricting vehicle access, a landowner many times will gain the cooperation and respect of hunters. The hunter likely will help control those people who show little consideration for the property and rights of others.

A list of other things that might make a better relationship could include:

If you have property with good bird hunting but hunt for big game someplace else, offer the man with good big game hunting a hunting trip for birds on your property.

Be sure to thank the landowner who has granted permission to hunt. A Christmas card with a note can serve very well. This can also serve as a means of communication for next year.

Offer part of your deer or birds to the landowner. Always dress the critters first and in the case of deer or elk, have the meat cut and wrapped.

Offer to help repair fences, herd cattle, or other farm chores.

If you like horseback riding, a day rounding up cattle can be fun.

Many ideas exist for better landowner-hunter relationships but most relate back to courtesy and respect for your fellow man. Next time you go hunting or the next time someone asks for permission to hunt, remember the person you face could become a good friend. □

Umpqua River Striped Bass

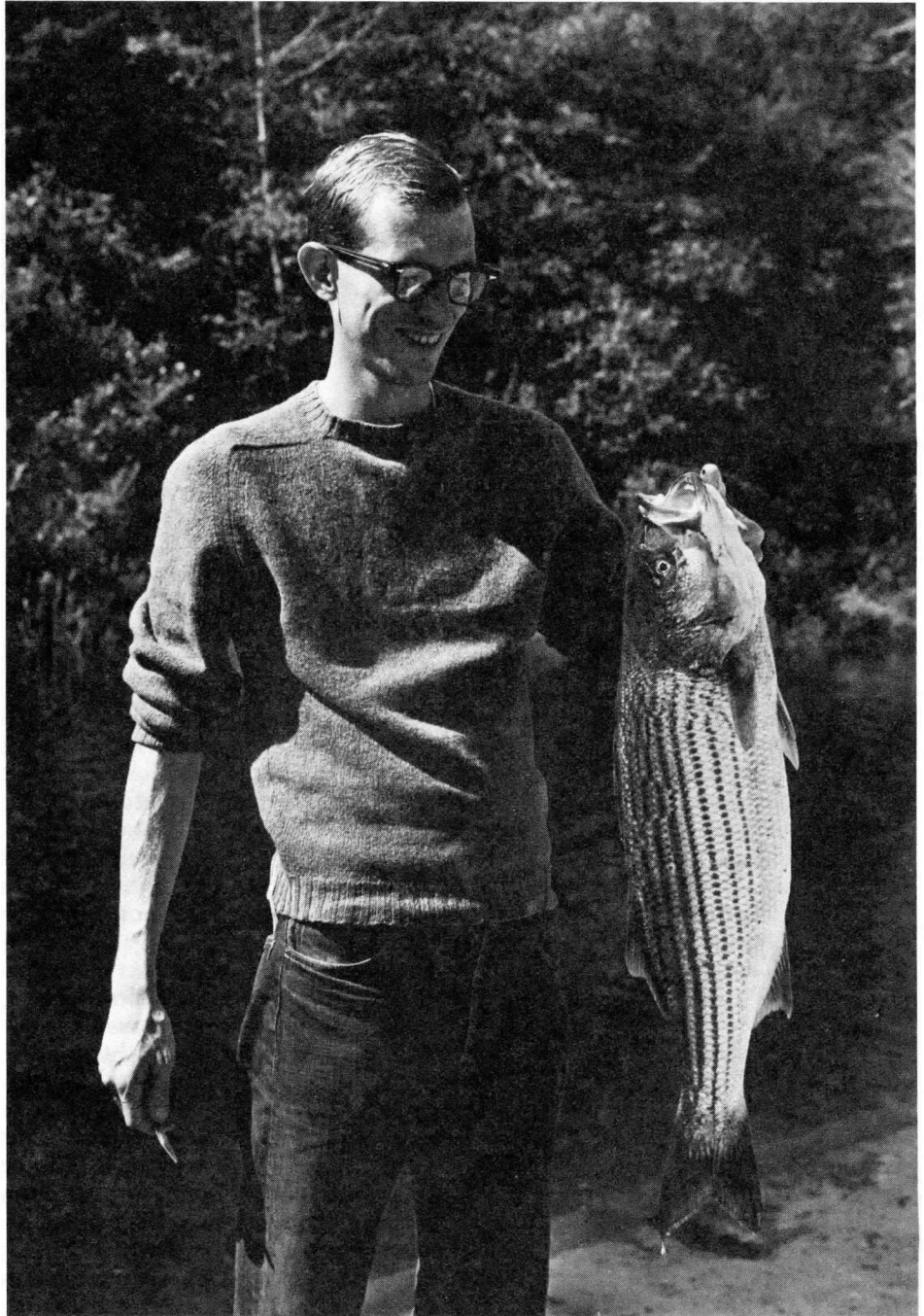
by Dave Anderson
Fishery Biologist, Reedsport

Striped bass, which have become so popular in south coast rivers, especially the Umpqua, are a relatively new addition to Oregon fauna. They were introduced to the Pacific Coast in 1879 when 132 small fish were brought by rail to San Francisco Bay from the Navesink River in New Jersey. In 1883, 300 more bass were stocked in San Francisco Bay from the east coast. By 1889, striped bass were being sold in San Francisco markets. Ten years later the California commercial catch was averaging over one million pounds per year.

Since the introduction into San Francisco Bay, striped bass have spread their range along the Pacific Coast until presently it extends from San Diego to the Columbia River. In Oregon the bass are most abundant in the Umpqua and Coos Rivers with smaller runs occurring in the Coquille and Siuslaw Rivers.

First recorded landings of striped bass in the Umpqua River occurred in 1934 when 62 pounds were caught commercially. In 1946 the total recreational fishery on the Umpqua was estimated at not over 25 anglers with a catch of about 50 fish. By 1972, 31,507 anglers caught 6,036 fish. The Umpqua commercial fishery peaked at 53,736 pounds landed in 1971. The striped bass is now classed as a game fish and may no longer be taken commercially in Oregon.

Umpqua River striped bass angling received nationwide publicity in 1973 when two world record catches were made in two months. In May of that year Dick Wadsworth, a Montana resident, landed a 50 pound 8 ounce bass on a 10-pound test tippet. This beat his old record set on the Umpqua several years earlier. In June 1973, Beryl Bliss from Nevada beat



Wadsworth's record with a bass that weighed 64 pounds 8 ounces, also caught on a 10-pound test tippet. Mr. Bliss's record also established a west coast unlimited record.

The spread of striped bass from San Francisco Bay to Oregon and the Umpqua River was facilitated by a niche in the available habitat coupled with a remarkable spawning potential. A 5-pound female may spawn as many as 250,000 eggs in one season and a 12-pound female is capable of producing over one million eggs a year. A small fraction of 1 percent is normally all that can be expected to reach adult size, especially now that the populations have established themselves and the niche is occupied.

Striped bass spawning occurs during May through June depending on water temperatures. At the peak of the spawning season the bass can be observed in mating behavior throughout the day. A few to several hundred fish appear on the surface milling around in a circle. A few seconds after the fish appear, they begin to splash water with their tails. The splashing, which sometimes flies 4 to 5 feet in the air, may suddenly stop and the fish submerge. It is possible to approach the bass with a boat and even collide with them during the spawning activity. When not spawning, it is almost impossible to approach a striped bass without causing the fish to submerge.

Striped bass must spawn in an area with a moderate current. Their eggs are slightly heavier than water and without current they will sink to the bottom and die. It takes approximately two days for the eggs to hatch, depending on water temperatures. The warmer the water, the faster is the development. The larval bass subsist on their yolk sac while being carried by the current. At about one week of age they are on their own in the hostile environment of the river. In three years the fish will reach the legal size of 16 inches. It takes about 20 years for a striped bass to reach record size.

One other spawning requirement of striped bass is the necessity for fresh water while the eggs are developing. Two California scientists, Jerry L. Turner and Timothy C. Farley, have found that eggs can survive in higher salinities than where adult bass spawn. However, the results of their

experiments show that egg survival in slightly saline water is greatly reduced if the eggs are not first water-hardened in fresh water. These two California scientists also observed that even moderate reductions in dissolved oxygen adversely affect hatching and larval survival.

Striped bass are voracious feeders and eat anything that is available. The most predominant food items are those most readily available. In 1972 during a nine-month study on the Umpqua, shrimp was the predominant animal eaten by striped bass, making up 63 percent of the diet. Smelt accounted for 17 percent of the diet. Herring, perch, anchovies, crabs, sculpins, lamprey, salmonids, and shad composed the remainder. It was interesting that anchovies which had been cut by anglers to use as bait made up almost 2 percent of the total stomach contents. A crab just under the legal limit was found in a 50-pound bass. Barks and sticks have frequently been found in stomachs of bass in almost every study made and the Umpqua study was no exception. A large bass examined in Coos Bay a number of years ago contained what appeared to be the top of a tin can. Striped bass are reported to feed on their own young although none were found in the stomachs of bass during the Umpqua study.

There has been a great debate over whether striped bass severely curtail salmon and trout populations by eating smolts that are on their downstream migration to sea. The debate will probably continue as long as striped bass inhabit our waters. Striped bass do eat young salmon and steelhead when these fish are available. Salmonids comprised 0.3 percent of the stomachs' contents taken from the Umpqua. They totaled 7 percent of the spring diet of striped bass in Coos Bay a number of years ago. At times bass take larger numbers of salmon and steelhead. To date, however, there is no indication that striped bass are a limiting factor on our south coast salmon and steelhead populations.

Striped bass are cyclic creatures. Biologists and fishermen alike have wondered why there are peak years with many low years between. Large or major year classes occur at irregular intervals and these generally supply the bulk of the harvest for

several years. Occasionally large year classes overlap or come at shorter intervals, resulting in excellent fishing on two or more size groups. A major year class from the reproductive year of 1966 made up a large share of the Umpqua striped bass catch from 1969 to the present, with the peak in 1971 and 1972. While we still have a good population of striped bass in the Umpqua, we are eagerly awaiting another major year class. □

Audubon Film Series

The AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES of 5 programs is coming to Portland again this fall and winter, sponsored by the Portland Audubon Society. All films are full-color and are narrated personally by the naturalist-photographer who made them.

The first film of the 1975-76 season, "Papua New Guinea: Twilight of Eden" will be presented by John Earl Taft at Benson High Auditorium at 8 P.M. on Monday, October 13, 1975. The film will show greatly varied forms and lives of the tropical jungle wildlife.

Season tickets provide strip tickets of 5 admissions, \$6 for adults, \$3 for students, a 30% savings over the individual ticket price. Season tickets will go on sale September 20 at Portland Audubon Society, 5151 Northwest Cornell Rd., or by mail orders accompanied by check payable to Portland Audubon Society, c/o John T. King, 3320 S.W. 100th Ave., Portland 97225.

Information on the following programs of the series is obtainable from Portland Audubon Society:

November 7, 1975 "Land of the Rio Grande" by Charles Hotchkiss.

December 4, 1975 "Malheur: Marsh, Meadow, and Mountain" by Jim Hammond.

February 10, 1976 "Wild Scandinavia" by John Bulger.

April 1, 1976 "Migration Mysteries". □

Grazing And Waterfowl

by Mike Kemp
Wildlife Biologist, La Grande



Interstate 80N (in foreground) passes through the heart of Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area 5 miles south of La Grande. Meadows and the tule marsh are grazed extensively by livestock in late fall to improve waterfowl habitat.

When we think of domestic livestock grazing and wildlife, we generally relate to the detrimental effects that past grazing practices have had on western ranges occupied by deer, elk, and antelope. We scarcely ever can agree that domestic grazing can be beneficial and, yes, even enhance wildlife use of the land. Read on, and I will attempt to demonstrate where livestock grazing, in one area, when put to good use, greatly benefited the management of ducks and geese.

Before getting too far into the sub-

ject, it might be a good idea to familiarize you with the area in question although what applies here also has application in other parts of Oregon and throughout the west.

Ladd Marsh Wildlife Management Area is located 5 miles south of La Grande adjacent to Interstate 80N. The area came to the attention of the Wildlife Commission in the late 1940s as an important waterfowl nesting site that might be drained and farmed if not protected. An initial purchase of a small segment of the marsh was made in 1949. After

several years the area was proposed for purchase and gained approval under the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act. Purchase, development, and maintenance of an approved project is made possible by the Pittman-Robertson Act on a 75-25 cost sharing basis. The 75 percent federal share is provided by an 11 percent tax on all sporting arms and ammunition purchased in the country and the 25 percent share is supplied by the state through the sales of hunting licenses and tags.

The Commission currently owns 2,-



With a short grazing season from mid-November to late December, three-headed cows would be of great benefit. Such cows could graze three times as fast with only one-third of the trampling damage.

419 acres of the nearly 3,000 acres proposed for purchase. Four hundred acres are in native inland marsh. This is one of only two such marsh areas remaining in northeastern Oregon. Remaining lands are composed of native meadow types and farm land. Eleven species of ducks, Canadian geese, and numerous shorebirds and marsh bird species nest on the area. In 1961 the first brood of young geese was produced on Ladd Marsh after an absence of the species for many years. Since that time, numbers have steadily increased to a pre-nesting season population in excess of 200.

We ordinarily think of geese as being water-dwelling creatures but the contrary is true. Although some time is spent in the water, by far the bulk of their time is spent afield foraging for succulent green vegetation which makes up nearly 100 percent of the spring and summer diet. One might even think of geese as cattle with wings.

Through the early years of the project it was noted that geese seldom frequented meadows left ungrazed by livestock. Instead they were found in adjoining meadows heavily grazed by cattle. It was obvious the reason they were there was because they didn't have to pick through an accumulation of dead grass and forbs looking for new, tender growing shoots and sprouts. However, there remained somewhat of a conflict since the area was dedicated to wildlife. How could

we graze all the meadow and marsh lands and still retain cover for nesting, protection from the elements, maintain hunter recreation in the fall, and not abuse the meadows for hay and forage production? The problem seemed to be one of timing rather than one of year-long concern. If we picked the right time of year to conduct grazing, both cattle and waterfowl could benefit but not to the detriment of other concerns.

In 1971 a coordinated resource plan was initiated in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service. The intent of the plan was to maximize the land potential for wildlife and other land uses. Immediately following the mid-November closing of pheasant season, cattle are now turned onto the area's meadows and marsh land where they remain until late December. Three livestock operators graze cattle on Ladd Marsh to get the job done as soon as possible. The objective of the short grazing season is to get the forage off before the weather either gets too bad for the cattle or before the meadows soften as a result of moisture which could damage the vegetation and make the meadows difficult to hay the following year. Another advantage to grazing the dense cattail and tule marsh is that the cattle create trails in all directions which become open water avenues of travel for ducks and geese the following spring when water levels have risen.



Where heavy livestock grazing is conducted, every mouthful of new growth is lush green vegetation for the geese. This contrasts with ungrazed areas where coarse, dead materials are most common.

In areas where the operation of hay harvest equipment is impossible and rank growth of vegetation is not desirable from the standpoint of bird cover or hunter safety, a moderate amount of grazing is permitted. Here it is important to make periodic checks as grazing progresses to insure cattle are removed when the proper grazing level is attained. The amount of grazing in this system is never constant since the forage produced is a factor of summer temperatures and rain.

Fertilization of meadows further increases benefits several ways. It increases production of hay, provides more and better cover in uncut areas, stimulates regrowth for late grazing, and, most important of all, accounts for early growth in the spring. Some shallow water standing in meadows is desirable since it provides an area for ducks and geese to get the most succulent and tender new shoots available.

Without grazing, the area would undoubtedly produce some early goose and duck forage, but not to the degree it now does. It is likely we would find our feathered friends frequenting adjoining meadow lands where grazing was being done. If you are traveling in the vicinity of La Grande between March and June, look for the grazing geese along I-80N. A planned livestock grazing program has helped make it possible. □

Check The Dorsal

by John Fortune
District Fishery Biologist,
Newport

Over the years steelhead anglers have learned to recognize hatchery-reared fish by finding one or more missing fins. In the past several years all steelhead released from Department hatcheries were fin-clipped. These missing fins allowed for accurate evaluation of hatchery programs in contributing to angler catches and made the fish easily recognizable to the angler.

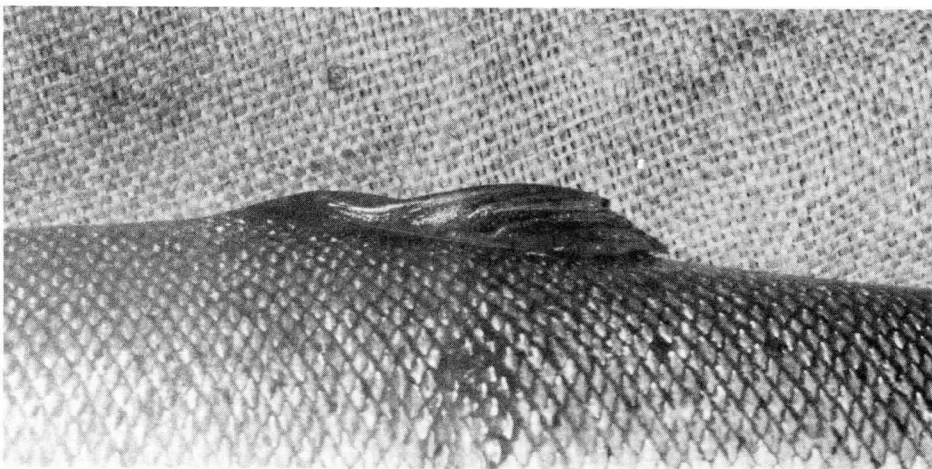
For the past couple of years, however, not all of our hatchery steelhead have been marked before release. In some streams only half of the fish were marked. In others, such as the Siletz, none of the steelhead released in 1975 were marked. Where there is no specific study under way, there are basically two reasons for discontinuing marking: 1) It costs money to mark fish; 2) fin clips can cause

some degree of mortality among the marked fish. So by reducing or eliminating fin-clipping among routinely stocked steelhead, we can save money for other purposes and perhaps increase survival of the fish so released.

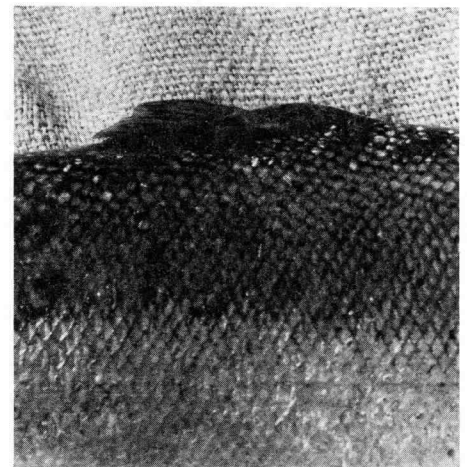
Anglers catching unmarked hatchery fish may tend to call them wild because they have no missing fins. Closer examination of the dorsal fin may tell another story. It's not foolproof, but in most cases steelhead reared in a hatchery will have a deformed dorsal fin. While in the hatchery ponds, under artificially crowded conditions, the fingerlings sometimes nip at each other's fins. Even after one or more years at sea, the returning fish still carry evidence of this habit.

The dorsal fin of a wild fish will most always be tall, straight, and "clean". Some hatchery fish may appear the same way but most will have some defect. These telltale dorsals may range from ones that appear to have been completely clipped to ones that are nearly "wild looking" but have a couple of bent fin rays. Many of these hatchery fish will have dorsals that are somewhat crushed looking or disproportionately small.

Look closely at the next "wild" steelhead you catch; it may have spent its youth in a hatchery. Whether it's really wild or an unmarked hatchery fish may matter little to the successful angler but the routine inspection for the "hatchery dorsal fin" can add an element of interest to an outing.



The dorsal fins of two Siletz River steelhead showing the typical deformed shape. A ventral fin was removed from the fish at the right prior to its release as a smolt.



This and that

compiled by Ken Durbin

Nongame Symposium Proceedings Available:

Proceedings of the "Symposium on Management of Forest and Range Habitats for Nongame Birds" have been published by the U.S. Forest Service, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The 343 page publication is the most complete compilation of scientific information on nongame bird management available. It contains contributions from 49 of the country's nongame bird habitat experts.

A limited number of the proceedings are available free from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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Down To Earth

"The man with the hoe who grows his own food is still the world's most efficient producer of energy. The man with the tractor who produces crops for market is less efficient. Of course he produces far more food and helps create a much different standard of living, but, pound-for-pound, our modern food-producing system consumes far more total energy per unit of food made available.

"The primitive farmer had only to obtain a crooked stick, a short pointed hand-tool, and a piece of land to become a self-sustaining energy-producing unit for self and family.

"The modern farmer needs his tractor, diesel fuel or gasoline, plows, spare parts, harrows, fertilizers, pesticides, harvest equipment, grain elevators, grain-drying equipment, transportation to distant markets, wholesalers, retailers, advertisers, and all the fuel and human energy along that entire long chain before a box of Crispy Toasties can appear on the breakfast table."

Dr. Jay Artis, *Massachusetts
Institute of Technology*

*

Turkey Symposium

The Third National Wild Turkey Symposium was held February 11-13, 1975 at San Antonio, Texas. The symposium and subsequent field trip to the Edward's Plateau were sponsored by The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Thirty-three papers included information on the status of wild turkeys, parasites and disease, turkey production and survival, food and feeding habits of poults, effects of land use practices on wild turkey habitat, roosting behavior, turkey harvest management, and economics and esthetics. Results of recently completed research were emphasized.

Proceedings of the symposium are now available and can be obtained by writing to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Attention Wild Turkey Program Leader, John H. Reagan Building, Austin, Texas 78701. The price is \$6.00.

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Future Habitat for Wildlife Assured

The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest has moved to ensure protection of wildlife habitat for at least 43 species of birds and 11 mammal species.

Regional Forester Theodore A. Schlapfer has signed a snag management policy, adopting a new protection plan for selected snags in certain forest areas.

Snags, sometimes called widow makers, are those dead trees that stand alone or prominently in the midst of a forest. The snag can be about as ugly as anything to some people, yet a thing of beauty and often photographed by others.

Snags are being preserved for birds and animals for a variety of purposes including nesting, denning, feeding, cover, or just plain perching. The new policy provides for their retention on a continuing basis on all 19 National Forests in Oregon and Washington.

Schlapfer said certain situations would receive special consideration, such as where snags constitute a definite fire or safety hazard.

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Duck Stamp Contest

The annual "Duck Stamp" contest for wildlife art to adorn next year's Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp opened officially on July 1, 1975. Artists interested in submitting an entry should write to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Audio Visual Office, Washington, DC 20240, for copies of the contest rules and an entry form. Entries must be received or postmarked no later than midnight, October 15, 1975. Only one entry per person.

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Criminals Asked About Handgun Ban

It seems in the never-ending battle between pro and anti-gunners over what effect banning handguns will have on criminals and the crime rate, no one ever asks the criminals for their opinion.

Well, someone finally did.

Bill Richardson, a senator in the California legislature recently wrote an article for the July issue of True Magazine in which he solicited the opinions of some of the toughest cons in Folsom Prison. And it seems the anti-gunners are in for a shock.

Senator Richardson asked 13 prisoners, whose records included every conceivable crime of violence from five counts of bank robbery to two counts of first-degree murder, to fill out a questionnaire on how gun control would affect the criminal.

Of the 13 criminals, nine felt handgun registration laws would *not* stop them from using a gun while committing a felony; ten felt that suspected gun ownership in a residence *would* stop them from burglarizing that house, and nine knew of specific cases where robberies were not performed because the subject was known to be armed.

On planning a robbery, ten of these experienced outlaws said they *would definitely* take into consideration the presence of weapons in the house or business; seven said businesses *do* develop reputations for using handguns in self-defense, and six felt this *does* deter burglaries of that particular business.

When asked if guns were totally banned, would they still be able to get one, ten answered yes, and two merely said no opinion. □

Upland Bird and Waterfowl Seasons Set For 1975

Hunting seasons and bag limits for upland birds and waterfowl were set by the Fish and Wildlife Commission following a public hearing on Friday, August 15, in Portland.

Season length and bag limits for upland birds are generally similar to last year except for a shorter quail season in eastern Oregon. Brood census surveys conducted throughout the state during the last several weeks indicate upland bird populations roughly similar to last year.

The season for chukars and Hungarian partridge in most of eastern Oregon was set to run from October 4 through December 31 with the combined bag limit again set at 6, 12 in possession. In Klamath County and in western Oregon a shorter season will prevail for chukars and Huns, extending from October 18 through November 23. The combined bag limit will be 4, with 8 in possession.

A cock pheasant season of the same length as last year will extend from October 18 through November 23. The bag limit is 2 per day statewide, but with a possession limit of 8 in most of eastern Oregon and 4 in Klamath County and western Oregon.

The season for both mountain quail and valley quail will run concurrent with the pheasant season statewide, October 18 through November 23, with a daily bag limit of 5, 10 in possession.

A controlled spring hunt for turkey gobblers was set for April 24 through May 2. The northeastern area which has been open the past several years for turkey hunting has been divided for 1975 into two units.

Waterfowl hunters will again have a 93-day season extending from October 11 through January 11, with a statewide daily bag limit of seven ducks. Last year the daily bag was five with the stipulation that it could be increased to seven if at least two were pintails. Two good nesting years

in Canada with bountiful water supply have greatly improved waterfowl production in the Pacific Flyway. Canvasbacks and redhead ducks particularly have shown an increase this year and hunters may include two canvasbacks, two redheads, or one of each in the daily bag, statewide.

Goose populations are expected to be about the same as last year, except that snow geese have had another bad nesting season because of late snow cover on Wrangell Island in Siberia and Banks Island off northern Canada where most Pacific Flyway snow goose nesting takes place. The daily bag limit has been cut from six last year to three in 1975. In western Oregon the limit on geese is 2 per day, 2 in possession.

Columbia Basin counties will again have an additional week to hunt waterfowl.

The black brant season will open on November 22 and extend through

February 22 with a daily bag limit of 4 birds, 8 in possession. Snipe may be hunted throughout the general waterfowl seasons with a daily bag limit of 8, and 16 in possession.

Steel shot will again be required for use on the Fish and Wildlife Department's Sauvie Island shooting area but the ammunition *will not* be sold this year by the Department. A reservations system like that in use last year will again be used for all hunting on east-side units. The Racetrack blind area which in past years has been available through reservation directly from the Portland office of the Department of Fish and Wildlife will this year be included under the east-side reservations system.

The table lists the upland bird and waterfowl seasons, bag limits, and general open areas. The complete regulations booklet should be available for public distribution by mid-September. □

1975 UPLAND GAME AND WATERFOWL SEASONS

| | Open Season (all dates inclusive) | Open Area | Limit Daily Bag | Possession Limit |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Blue & Ruffed Grouse | Aug. 30-Sept. 28 | Eastern Oregon | 3 | 6 |
| | Sept. 13-Nov. 2 | Western Oregon | 3 | 6 |
| Sage Grouse | Sept. 6-7 | Malheur & Harney Counties | 2 | 2 |
| Chukar & Hungarian Partridge | Oct. 4-Dec. 31 | Eastern Oregon | 6 | 12 |
| Cock Pheasant | 8:00 a.m. Oct. 18-Nov. 23 | Western Oregon & Klamath County | 4 | 8 |
| | 8:00 a.m. Oct. 18-Nov. 23 | Eastern Oregon except Klamath County | 2 | 8 |
| Valley & Mountain Quail | 8:00 a.m. Oct. 18-Nov. 23 | Western Oregon & Klamath County | 2 | 4 |
| | | Statewide | 5 | 10 |
| Turkey | No open fall season | | | |
| Mourning Dove | Sept. 1-30 | Entire State | 10 | 20 |
| Band-tailed Pigeon | Sept. 1-30 | Entire State | 5 | 5 |
| Duck | Oct. 11-Jan. 11 | State (see exceptions below) | 7 | 14 |
| | Oct. 11-Jan. 18 | Columbia Basin counties | 7 | 14 |
| Coot | Oct. 11-Jan. 11 | Entire State | 25 | 25 |
| Merganser | Oct. 11-Jan. 11 | Entire State | 5 | 10 |
| Goose | Oct. 11-Jan. 11 | Western Oregon | 2 | 2 |
| | Oct. 11-Jan. 11 | Eastern Oregon (see following exceptions) | 3* | 6 |
| | Oct. 11-Dec. 28 | Baker & Malheur Counties | 2 | 2 |
| | Oct. 11-Jan. 18 | Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla Counties | 3* | 6 |
| Black Brant | Nov. 22-Feb. 22 | Entire State | 4 | 8 |
| Common Snipe | Oct. 11-Jan. 11 | Entire State | 8 | 16 |

* Daily bag limit may be increased to 6 providing not more than 3 are dark geese nor more than 3 are white geese including 1 Ross' goose daily and in possession.

The above table gives general dates, seasons, and bag limits only. For complete details be sure to consult the official synopsis available about September 15.



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