

# OREGON WILDLIFE

May - June 1987





# OREGON WILDLIFE

May - June 1987  
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## The Cover

**Peregrine falcons are back in Oregon thanks to a recovery program at Crater Lake. See the "Update" page for more information on this reintroduction effort.**

**Photo by S. Bruce Craven**

## HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Months of February and March 1987  
Instructors Approved ..... 23  
Total Active ..... 1,044  
Students Trained ..... 443  
Total to Date ..... 327,132  
Hunting Casualties Reported in 1987  
Nonfatal ..... 3  
Fatal ..... 1

# Fish and Wildlife Management - Many Work for the Resource

**T**his past winter, volunteers from outdoor clubs in northeast Oregon helped trap and transplant 106 pronghorn antelope. A hunting organization bought a turkey trapping net for the department that allowed continued expansion of Rio Grande turkey flocks in the state.

Grants from other organizations funded the trapping and transplanting of Roosevelt elk to southwest Oregon, and the rearing and release of a new upland gamebird species — the red-legged partridge.

In 1986, proposals for elk hunting seasons and the core of an elk management plan were based on workshops that involved more than 5,000 people. A statewide steelhead management plan was also developed using the same workshop technique.

Oregon's fish and wildlife resources are not just the concern of professional biologists anymore. Other concerned citizens want to be involved, and they are — through the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), hunter education, Project Wild and other efforts that don't necessarily have a name, but have a valuable place in department operations.

They are involved through various working groups helping to develop management plans or

set season regulations. They tell us when we are doing something right. They command our attention when they think we are wrong.

In this issue of *Oregon Wildlife*, Cliff Hamilton talks about the 3 "M's" of volunteerism — Money, Manpower and Materials. He outlines what the department is doing to let people in on the action, and how we hope to do more.

Another article deals with a complex and highly emotional issue — wildlife damage. The story summarizes a report by a damage taskforce appointed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in 1985. Again, people on all sides of this question are going to be involved in deciding how this problem can be resolved.

The people of this state, regardless of diverse views on individual issues, share a common concern for Oregon's natural resources. The Department of Fish and Wildlife does not own the deer, the eagles or the salmon; the people do. We manage and protect these resources as a public trust for you and future generations.

Some people may have felt shut out of the process in the past. To them, and everyone else, I say 'Come on out, get your hands dirty and your feet wet. Share the knowledge and ideas you have. Let's get the job done together!'



Randy Fisher  
Director



# UPDATE

## Peregrines Back at Crater Lake

A Department of Fish and Wildlife program to keep peregrine falcons alive and well in Oregon is apparently working. Since 1981, department biologists have been trying to counteract the ill effects of pesticides that all but destroyed the ability of these birds to reproduce. The pesticides caused the female falcon to lay thin-shelled eggs that either did not develop, or were crushed by the weight of the parent sitting on the nest.

Annually since 1981, the department, the National Park Service and a California-based peregrine recovery organization have worked together at Crater Lake to either place live chicks in nests that contained ill-formed eggs or raise chicks there without adult birds through a method called "hacking."

This spring, two adult birds did nest at Crater Lake. One was wearing a leg band that could identify it as a bird reared previously at the park. The pair produced four eggs, which biologists replaced with two live chicks. The eggs were taken to a special incubation lab in California where they will be hatched under controlled conditions. It appears all four eggs will produce chicks, and the thin-shell problem may also be greatly reduced or gone. If egg condition has improved enough, biologists may allow an adult pair to complete the full nesting cycle next year. That could mark the first successful nesting in the wild in more than a decade. Part of the funds for this effort come from donations through the Oregon Nongame Wildlife Tax Checkoff.

## Big Game Seasons Set

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted season dates and regulations for fall deer, elk and silver grey squirrel hunting during a two-day hearing May 15-16. Biologists report that eastern Oregon mule deer herds are in good condition after a mild winter and spring. Hunting prospects are excellent. Hunters planning to apply for a controlled or limited-entry hunt this fall should note that all applications must be in by the July 1 deadline.

## Disease Reduces Trout Stocking

Legal-sized hatchery trout will still be stocked in waters of northeastern Oregon, despite the recent destruction of about 176,000 trout at the Department of Fish and Wildlife Wallowa Hatchery. The fish were destroyed to prevent the spread of a fish disease known as whirling disease. This loss has caused a shortage of ten-inch trout for stocking this summer.

Fishery managers have decided to transfer some fish from other public hatcheries to northeastern waters to make up part of this shortage. However, this will mean a cutback in legal-size stocking in streams throughout eastern Oregon. Stocking levels in eastside lakes and reservoirs will probably not be changed, but planting schedules will be delayed because of additional demand on liberation trucks needed to haul fish to northeast Oregon.



# Game Damage:

## *In Search of Solutions*

**E**very year more than 4,000 callers with something in common dial Department of Fish and Wildlife offices around the state. These people are all having a problem with one or more wildlife species damaging property, crops or just being a nuisance.

The complaints range from opossum under porches and deer in gardens to big game eating alfalfa and geese feeding on ryegrass. Department responses may range from simple advice to costly intervention to prevent or alleviate damage.

In all, the department spends about \$1 million a year, or 14 percent of the wildlife division budget, to deal with these problems. This work is not only expensive and time consuming, but frequently controversial as well.

Biologists estimate that 60 percent of the elk and deer winter ranges, especially in eastern Oregon, are on private lands. Thus, these lands are a critical component in the habitat mix needed to maintain herds.

Landowners generally accept this, and are willing to tolerate wildlife use to a point. The key question is how much wildlife use of rangelands, forests and croplands is acceptable.

The primary use of these developed lands is to produce income for the owners. Big game or waterfowl pressure on a given parcel of land can cut into profits. Somewhere along the line, the property owner gets on the phone to say enough is enough.

It is department policy to respond to all such problems, and use the best method possible to correct the situations. However,

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**Some landowners may feel there are too many elk using their lands . . . and support reducing the herd size.**

**Hunters, on the other hand, want herds to be larger, or at least at current levels. The department stands in the middle with two very different points of view calling for opposite actions. What to do?**

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this too can become controversial. Some landowners may feel there are too many elk using their lands, for example, and support reducing the herd size.

Hunters, on the other hand, want herds to be larger, or at least at current levels. The department stands in the middle with two very different points of view calling for opposite actions. What to do?

Beginning in 1983, successive hard winters in portions of eastern Oregon moved big game animals to the lowest elevations and increased big game damage incidents. At the same time, declining numbers of dusky Canada geese forced restricted goose hunting seasons in the Willamette Valley. This allowed geese to move onto private ryegrass fields and other croplands unmolested.

### **The Damage Taskforce**

The 1985 State Legislature addressed these landowner con-

cerns in a bill that would have the department reimburse landowners with cash for damages caused by wildlife. The department had not done this in the past.

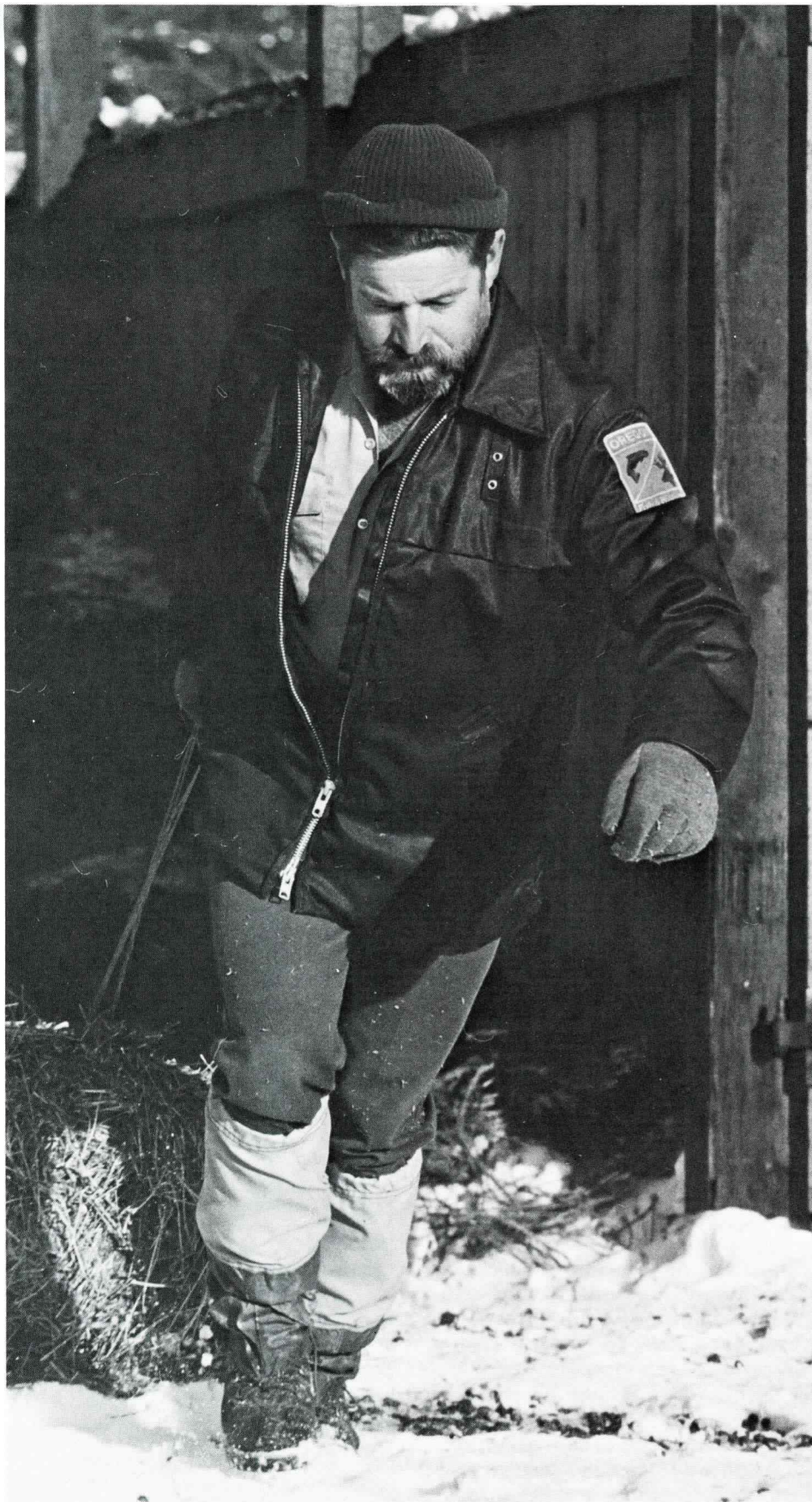
After several hearings and much testimony pro and con, the bill failed to pass out of committee. However, the Fish and Wildlife Commission received a legislative request to appoint a taskforce representing landowners and sportsmen. Their job would be to look at the damage issue, and review department policies and programs for handling the problems.

The commission appointed a nine-member panel in August 1985, with representatives from the livestock, agriculture and timber industries and from sportsmen and environmental organizations. The taskforce chairman was State Representative Bill Bellamy, from the Madras area. He was vice-chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources during the 1985 legislative session.

The group met several times and took field trips to damage areas in northeastern and northwestern Oregon. Representative Bellamy presented the final taskforce report to the Fish and Wildlife Commission on January 22, 1987.

The report proposed a rewrite of the existing department damage policy, and a set of operating guidelines for dealing with damage incidents. While many of the report proposals are similar to what the department does now, the report did clarify current operation methods and put some unwritten procedures into black and white. The report also proposed some changes in how the damage program functions.





The department operates several wildlife areas established to feed big game herds and prevent damage to agricultural lands.

The commission commended Bellamy and the taskforce members for their work, then instructed the department staff to set up a series of public meetings to review the report.

These sessions, held in mid-May through mid-June, will be followed by a final commission hearing in August or September.

### Report Summary

The taskforce report draws two basic conclusions. First: The current program intent and methods are generally adequate to alleviate the damage problems encountered. However, these efforts are not adequately funded. Second: The current department damage policy is not clear, and does not give effective direction to department field personnel on how to handle damage complaints.

A proposed policy statement recognizes the value of private lands to maintain wildlife species, and the importance of cooperation between the department and landowners in preventing or correcting damage problems.

The policy notes that wildlife personnel "... shall promptly respond to all complaints ... anticipate wildlife damage problems ... and utilize the total array of existing, or other innovative corrective methods to alleviate unforeseen damage."

Another section of the policy called for active pursuit of cooperative and coordinated solutions to damage problems by working with landowners and other government agencies.

The report then lists guidelines for using various methods and techniques for prevention and control of damage. These methods include advice, repellents, hazing, barriers, feeding, forage development and animal control.

**Advice**—Many complaints involve small mammals creating a nuisance. Providing information on animal habits and suggestions on removing attractants is usually sufficient. The report concurred, reemphasizing that response to complaints should be prompt.





It's not just deer and elk that can damage crops. Waterfowl can also cause problems.

**Repellents**—Both liquid and powder repellents are available for use to repel deer damaging gardens or yard shrubbery. The report found no fault with current procedures, but advised that the local Extension Service offices be involved for advice in applying repellents.

**Hazing**—Shotgun shells, cracker shells or firecrackers can sometimes be effective at chasing away animals or birds that are causing damage. The department can issue a permit to a landowner for this activity.

The report placed more emphasis on department personnel doing the hazing work. However, budget constraints were recognized as a limiting factor to this approach. In discussing hazing of waterfowl, the report proposes that the department provide hazing equipment to landowners if the federal government — the agency responsible for migratory birds — does not take corrective action.

**Barriers**—The department provides panels and fencing to protect haystacks or other sites where damage is occurring, such as orchards. The report suggested a more restrictive procedure for dispensing and getting back panels. Changes in the way the department provides fencing, and covers the costs were also proposed.

The department has provided a limited number of tree cages to protect individual trees from damage. The report went further, calling for additional protectors such as budcaps, tubes and netting for forest seedlings.

Extensive fencing is also used to act as a "drift fence" that

blocks big game migration routes and either stops or diverts animals from areas where they could cause damage. The department's White River Wildlife Area in Wasco County is one area where such fencing is used.

**Feeding**—While programs to feed starving deer gained publicity the past few years, most department feeding efforts are aimed at preventing damage to crops. The taskforce endorsed the large-scale feeding programs now used at department-owned wildlife areas around the state. The report also recognized the value of localized feeding efforts to reduce damage problems at specific sites.

**Forage**—The department's Green Forage Program is popular with biologists and landowners. The department sponsors seeding and fertilizing of forage crops to attract wildlife away from agricultural lands. Sometimes, fertilizer is provided to alfalfa farmers, for example, to increase crop yield and offset losses to hungry big game animals that enter the field.

The report favored continuing the program, but with some tighter controls. Specifically, the taskforce called for written policies and guidelines; said the department should only provide services, not cash, to landowners implementing a forage program; recommended periodic review and evaluation of individual Green Forage projects.

**Animal Removal**—When all other measures fail to reduce damage problems, then removal of at least some damage is necessary. Two basic methods are either to trap the animals and move them elsewhere, or kill them.

Trapping and transplanting is expensive, and is most effective under winter conditions when the animals are hungry. The latter approach can be handled by issuing a kill permit to a landowner, scheduling a special controlled hunt, or calling for a short-notice emergency hunt to reduce damage in progress. ■

### Damage Task Force Public Meetings

#### BEND

May 22 7:30 p.m.  
Bend HS, Rm C-10

#### HINES

May 23 1:00 p.m.  
Harney Co. Museum Club

#### NEHALEM

May 26 7:00 p.m.  
Nehalem GS

#### MEDFORD

May 27 7:30 p.m.  
Ext. Serv. Auditorium

#### ROSEBURG

May 28 7:00 p.m.  
Douglas Co. Courthouse  
(church annex)

#### EUGENE

May 28 7:00 p.m.  
Lane CC (Forum)

#### PENDLETON

June 1 7-10 p.m.  
Blue Mtn. CC

#### BAKER

June 2 7-10 p.m.  
Baker School Dis.  
(2040 4th St.)

#### PORTLAND

June 3 7:30 p.m.  
ODFW Headquarters

#### SALEM

June 5 7:00 p.m.  
Chemeketa CC

#### KLAMATH FALLS

June 9 7:00 p.m.  
Klamath HS Cafeteria

#### THE DALLES

June 9 7:30 p.m.  
Wasco Co. Courthouse



# Warmwater Game Fish - What's Ahead?

Oregon's anglers are only interested in salmon, steelhead and trout. At least, that's the conventional wisdom.

But times do change, and this so-called "salmonid bias" is fading as more anglers discover the fun of fishing for warmwater game fish species such as bass, crappie and perch.

The last statewide angler preference survey, done in 1977, found that about 10 percent of angling effort was for warmwater species. That level is nearly the same as the effort for steelhead fishing. Both biologists and anglers agree that participation and effort have certainly increased over the past decade.

In fact, a new angler preference survey to get updated information is one of many proposals contained in a draft plan for management and use of Oregon's warmwater game fish.

The plan has been in development for more than a year. A draft is now headed for a round of public review prior to a final Fish and Wildlife Commission hearing scheduled for August. Interested anglers should clip the form included in this article and send it in for a copy of the plan summary.

The overall plan goal is very general, calling for providing "optimum recreational benefits to the people of Oregon by managing warmwater fishes and their habitats." Beneath that broad statement, however, are major objectives and strategies that could change the face of future warmwater management programs.

Major objectives include plans to:

- Provide diverse angling opportunities by intentional management procedures. Among the methods would be classification of waters into management categories ranging from "Basic Yield", which would carry few restrictions on angling; to "Trophy", which would encourage production of large fish.
- Expand distribution by stocking warmwater species where habitat is suitable, and expansion is consistent with other fish management programs.
- Increase angling opportunities and utilization of warmwater species where desirable. This would include encouraging angling for species such as crappie and bluegill, as well as providing better angling access, especially in urban areas.
- Maintain, restore and enhance populations of warmwater game fishes in individual waters.

Once adopted, the plan is intended to serve as a framework for management work within individual basins and specific water bodies. The public will, again, have a chance to be involved when the localized plans are being developed. ■

## Do you want a summary of the plan?

Send this card in to Ray Temple,  
Oregon Department of Fish and  
Wildlife, PO Box 59, Portland,  
OR 97207.

Name .....  
Address .....  
City .....  
State ..... Zip Code .....

# Tip of the Hat

Some people never learn, but Judge Berkeley A. Smith of Columbia County District Court has made a serious effort to improve one man's long-term memory.

The man was arrested at Sauvie Island for angling while his angling license was suspended. A prior conviction in Clackamas County had cost him a two-year license suspension.

After conviction in a jury trial, Judge Smith gave the man a stern lecture, seven days in jail, a \$380 fine and three years probation. He also suspended his license for three more years.

A tip of the Oregon Wildlife hat goes to Judge Smith for his concern for the resource and his intolerance of those people who feel they are above the law.

# Trooper Honored

Oregon State Police Game Trooper Wain Vaughan of Grants Pass has received the Oregon State Police Officers Association Medal of Valor for his quick action during a routine traffic stop in the Briggs Valley area of southwestern Oregon.

As reported in the November-December issue of *Oregon Wildlife*, Trooper Vaughan stopped a pickup traveling without tail lights on Galice Creek Road; and went on to free a 17-year-old woman who had been kidnapped at knife-point by the truck driver.

Vaughan arrested the man who later pled guilty to first degree kidnapping. The kidnapper was sentenced to a 30-year jail term.





Volunteerism is nothing new for Oregonians. These men helped stock fish in 1925. In those days, the fish were put in milk cans that were then carried by truck, train or horseback to release sites.

# HELP WANTED

by Cliff Hamilton  
ODFW Public Affairs Office

**T**here is an old saying about history repeating itself. In more and more ways, practices from earlier days of fish and wildlife management are finding their way back into the modern agency. These emerging programs may have today's look and a high-tech twist, but fundamentally they are vintage reruns from the first half of this century.

In earlier years, agencies simply lacked the resources to do the job alone. Staffing and funding were inadequate for all the work that needed doing. Citizens were often enlisted to help out with activities from stocking fish and transplanting elk to assisting at hunter check stations.

Following the end of World

War II, fishing and hunting in Oregon and many other states enjoyed a major boom that lasted nearly thirty years. During that time, the rising tide of users meant a constantly expanding budget base.

During that period too, the ranks of those employed in fish and wildlife work largely completed the transformation from skilled laymen to college-trained professionals. The need for citizen assistance diminished. With increased funding and technical complexity, fish and wildlife work generally became the realm of professional biologists and managers.

Now history is repeating itself. The boom of users and expanding budgets is over or end-

ing. Budgets may remain high, but inflation has gobbled up much of the purchasing power of those dollars. Staffs are buried in a complex of regulations, impact statements, management plans and an exploding array of demands on wild creatures and their habitat.

Agencies are once again finding they simply lack the resources to do the job alone. Citizens are again being asked to help out in all sorts of ways.

Volunteers who help accomplish specific parts of department programs are an increasingly visible form of citizen assistance.

Three statewide programs currently rely heavily on volunteer staff for their operation. The oldest of these is the hunter edu-



cation program. Since the late 1950's, volunteer instructors have been the foundation of that highly successful program.

More recently, the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) was developed to use citizens in many aspects of fisheries work. STEP activities range from raising young fish in streamside incubators and habitat improvement work to monitoring water quality. This variety of outdoor involvement has proven very attractive to volunteers since the program began in 1980.

In the third program, experienced educators, resource management professionals and citizen conservationists have joined together to provide Project WILD workshops for several thousand Oregon teachers in less than three years.

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**In earlier years, agencies simply lacked the resources to do the job alone . . .**

**Now history is repeating itself . . .**

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Project WILD is a new, activity-based, interdisciplinary environmental and conservation education program based on wildlife. It is offered to kindergarten through high school teachers across the state.

Citizen groups have been assisting local department personnel on specific local projects too. Seeding burned or logged areas; assisting with fish liberations; constructing watering areas; building boat ramps; and winter feeding are just a few.

Fund shortages and increasing workloads have the department exploring ways to coordinate and expand these efforts into a statewide volunteer network. In the future, such a network may assist with many parts of fish and wildlife management activities.

Fish and wildlife work in-



Bob Cook of Eugene is one of more than 40 fish stocking volunteers helping the department stock fish this summer in the Willamette Valley. This extra help frees department workers for other management jobs, and lets the public get more involved with day-to-day operations.



volves a variety of activities and job situations. Because of this diversity, skills ranging from real estate appraising to civil engineering, and from farming to building construction, can be valuable volunteer contributions. There is room on projects for just plain labor too.

Opportunity abounds. Making the most effective use of it is the current challenge. Ways to organize, define tasks and supervise citizen volunteers remain major challenges in developing a larger, coordinated, statewide volunteer program.

Besides volunteer help or "manpower", money and materials are also part of the "3-M" triangle of citizen assistance. Significant outpourings of citizen donations for fish and wildlife activities have occurred in the past several years.

Contributions for purchase of the lower twelve miles of Deschutes River frontage and the winter feeding of deer and elk in eastern Oregon are two examples. Well over \$1 million dollars was raised in the combination of these two efforts alone.

Smaller donations of money or money-producing items have provided or helped develop projects ranging from wildlife viewing areas to introduction of a new upland bird species. About half of

the annual budget for management, research and habitat work with nongame wildlife now comes from citizen donations through the Oregon Income Tax Checkoff.

The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation has played a major role in obtaining and disbursing donations for fish and wildlife projects since it was formed in 1981. The Foundation was the coordinator for collecting money for the Deschutes purchase and part of the winter deer feeding program as well as a number of smaller projects.

These included purchase of bank access along the Sandy River; introduction of the French red-legged partridge; and construction or improvements of fish and wildlife viewing sites around the state. Funds for Foundation work come from simple \$.25 contributions from school children to large six-figure grants.

No refined, statewide network exists yet for coordinating the "3-M's" of citizen assistance for fish and wildlife work. Such a network is only in the exploration stages. Its eventual design is still unclear.

What is clear, however, is that citizen assistance will become increasingly important if demands on resources and habitats are to be adequately met. Through the department and the Oregon

Wildlife Heritage Foundation, there are a number of opportunities to help with a variety of individual programs or projects.

**F**or information on specific programs and how you can help Oregon's fish and wildlife, contact:

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
506 SW Mill St.  
PO Box 59  
Portland, OR 97207

*Hunter Education*  
**Bill Hastie**  
229-5427

*Nongame Management*  
**Bill Haight**  
229-5452

*Project WILD*  
**Steve Andrews**  
229-5155

*STEP*  
**Rich Berry**  
229-5144

*Watchable Wildlife*  
**Cliff Hamilton**  
229-5426

*Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation*  
**Allan Kelly,**  
Executive Director  
PO Box 8301  
Portland, OR 97207  
255-6059



## Cover Photo Identified

**T**he March-April issue of *Oregon Wildlife* was well-received by our readers. One Portland reader, retired Greyhound Bus driver Bruce Petersen, who is now 71, was most surprised upon seeing the photo on our cover.

"That's my older brother with that big fish, Petersen said when he first saw the magazine. "Our family owned several businesses in Altoona, across the river from Astoria. Somebody had brought that king salmon into the cannery dock that morning. My father called up my mother and told her to get Bert dressed up and bring him down for the picture."

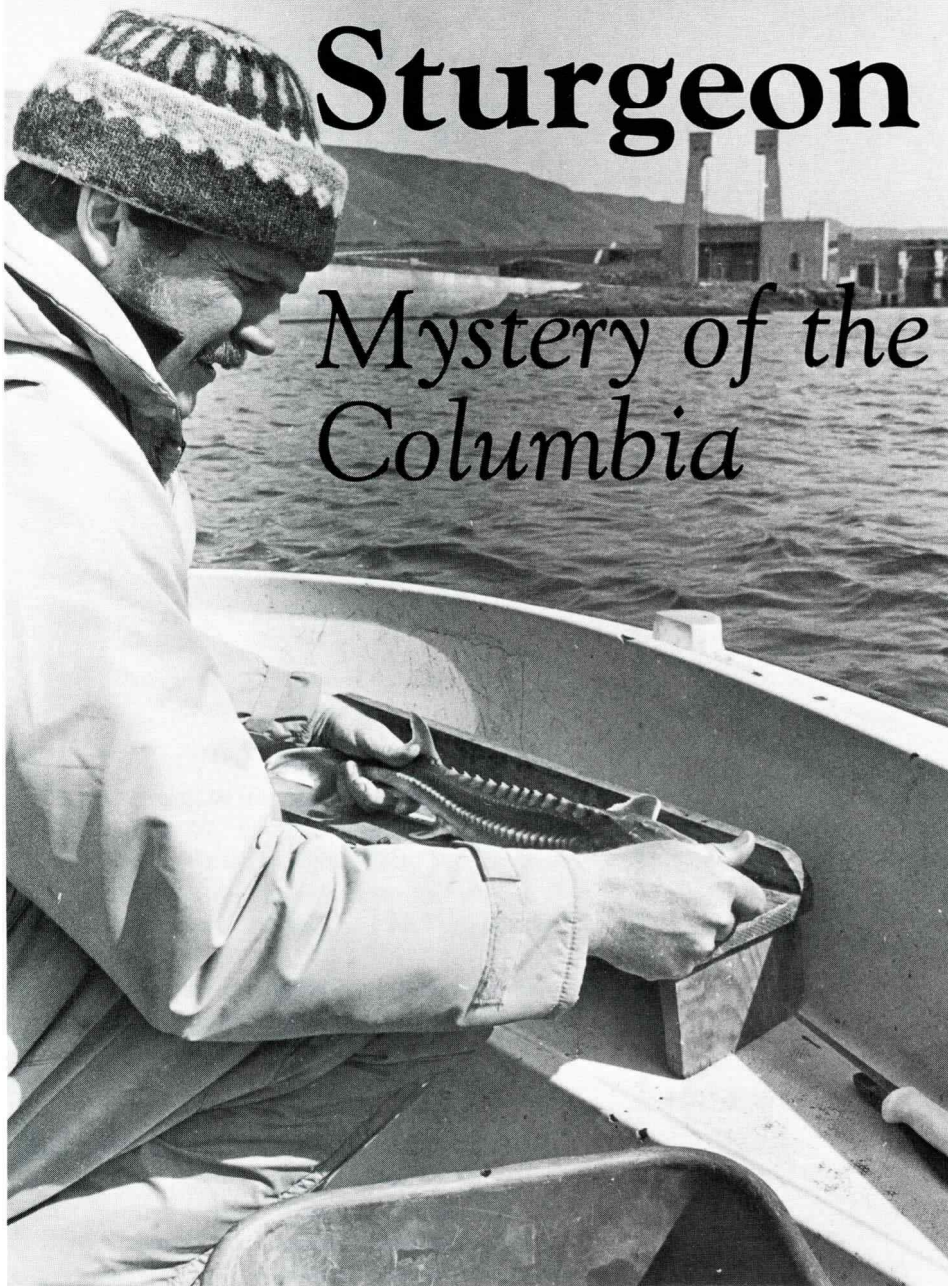
Petersen's mother, Nellie Estelle Petersen, captured the moment on a glass plate negative. The subject was Albert Henry Petersen, who later lived in Seattle for many years. "We took that photo across the river to Astoria and gave them the rights to print it. It turned-up on shirts, handkerchiefs . . . all kinds of things."

The original glass plate, along with other family memorabilia, was later destroyed in a large fire that consumed the family-owned auto dealership in Florence. The Oregon Fish Commission first printed the photo on the cover of its 1919 report.



# The Sturgeon

## Mystery of the Columbia



A potential giant.

**I**t's a thought-provoking experience to study a fish that may be bigger, and older than you are. White sturgeon in the Columbia River can live to be more than 100-years-old, and weigh more than 1,000 pounds.

Biologists know these fish can get big. They know that sturgeon often exceed the human lifespan. That sturgeon are indiscriminating bottom-feeders is also fact. Beyond these basic statistics, however, lies uncharted territory. For as big as these fish can be, and as important as they are, surprisingly little is known

about them.

One research program, now underway in the reservoir behind The Dalles Dam, is seeking to learn more about sturgeon populations there, and the effects of dams on these fish.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is cooperating with federal fisheries agencies and Washington state in this study funded by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Work started in March with experimental use of both setlines and large-mesh gillnets to capture the fish. Once caught, researchers are placing spaghetti tags on the dorsal fin and tattoos on the underside of each sturgeon, then returning the fish to the water alive.

Tagging operations will continue through September, according to department research project leader Bruce Rieman.

"The success of this project depends on getting reports from fishermen about tagged fish," says Rieman. "This tag information will allow us to estimate sturgeon abundance, and population growth, death and reproduction."

He emphasized that both setlines and gillnets will be tended regularly to minimize injury to the sturgeon.

Anglers and Indian commercial fishermen can help by reporting all tag information. Researchers need the tag number, date and location of capture and what was done with the fish.

Sport fishermen may keep sturgeon measuring between three and six feet. Commercially-caught fish must measure between four and six feet. Rieman says biologists need tag information for under or oversized fish that are released, as well as legalized fish retained.

Tag and tattoo information may be turned in at any state or federal fisheries management office. There will also be drop locations identified around the reservoir. Posters with details about needed tag information, and agency addresses, will also be placed at river access points and tackle shops, according to Rieman.



# OREGON 1987 Ocean Recreational Salmon Seasons

## Quotas/Regulations

### *Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon*

Open Sunday-Thursday only

Coho-100,500

Chinook-14,100

All Salmon-2 fish per day\*

Minimum Sizes-Coho 16"-Chinook 24"

Barbless hooks required

\*May change to 2 fish, of which  
only 1 can be a chinook.

### *Cape Falcon to Cape Blanco*

Open-7 days a week

Quotas: Coho-269,200

Chinook-no quota

Minimum Size-none-first 2 fish

Possession Limit—6 fish in 7 consecutive days

Number of fishing days per week could be  
reduced mid-season to stretch fishing time.

Barbed hooks allowed.

### *Cape Blanco to Point Delgada, CA.*

Open-7 days a week

Coho quota-shared with

area between Falcon and Blanco but  
season remains open when quota reached.

Chinook quota-200,000 shared with troll

2 fish all species

Possession Limit—6 in 7 days

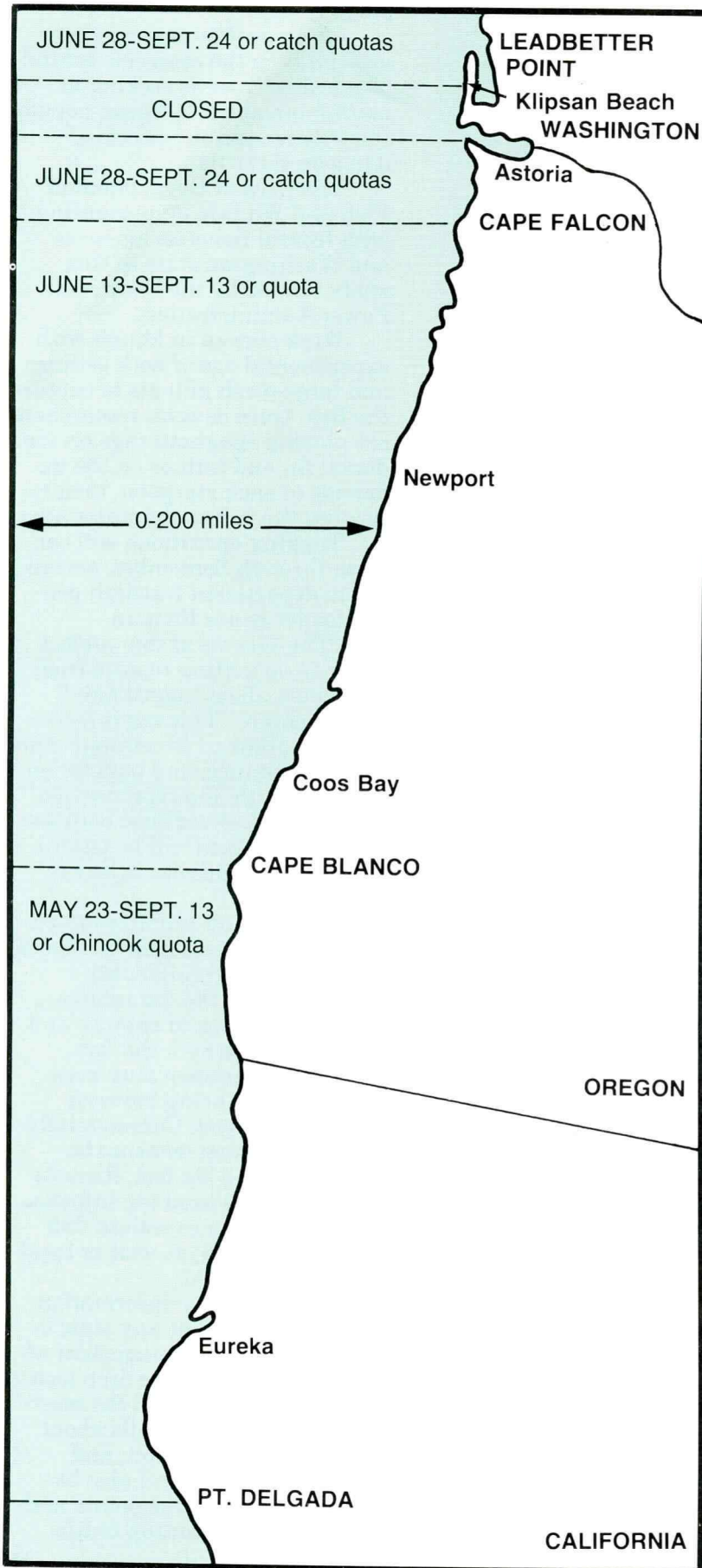
Minimum Size-20" both species

Barbless hook required

## POSSIBLE IN-SEASON CHANGES

### SOUTH OF BLANCO

Review on July 15 could lead to potential  
surplus of chinook being rolled back to  
troll quota





# Ocean Seasons Improve

**E**xpanded catch quotas for many Oregon sport and commercial fisheries, and good prospects for longer recreational seasons, highlighted ocean salmon fishing regulations adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) April 9 in Seattle.

The PFMC season recommendations, which cover ocean waters from three to 200 miles, were forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for final approval. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted seasons for state-regulated ocean waters inside three miles during a meeting April 24.

The biggest bright spots in the proposed regulations are the recreational seasons in the ocean south of Cape Falcon.

Fishing for all salmon species will begin June 13 between Cape Falcon, near Manzanita, and Cape Blanco, north of Port Orford on the south coast. The coho catch quota for that area will be 269,000 — an increase of more than 80,000 fish over the 1986 catch limit.

That quota increase offers an excellent chance for the season there to extend through Labor Day. Sport fishing between the two capes closed in early August last year after the coho quota was reached.

If the coho catch rate does appear high enough to force an early closure, fishery managers will consider reducing the number of fishing days per week to prolong the season. Biologists will make that call after assessing the catch to date in mid-July.

Economists estimate that increased recreational fishing time in this area will more than double the 1986 personal income contribution of this fishery to coastal communities. Personal income generated by this season could reach nearly \$13 million in 1987.

The south coast ports of Brookings and Gold Beach will

enjoy a Memorial Day through Labor Day season. The opener there will be May 23, with the close set for September 13. Biologists estimate that enough chinook will be available to prevent any need for earlier closure.

## **The biggest bright spots in the proposed regulations are the recreational seasons in the ocean south of Cape Falcon.**

Even if the south of Falcon coho quota is reached, anglers on the south coast will continue to fish for coho as well as chinook through the September closing date. This is possible because few coho are taken there late in the season.

Anglers fishing from Columbia River ports will once again face restrictive quotas and a Sunday through Thursday open fishing period. The season between Cape Falcon and Leadbetter Point in southwest Washington will open June 28. Fishing will be closed throughout the season between the red buoy line off the Columbia River south jetty and Klipsan Beach in Washington.

Chinook and coho catch quotas are similar to last year. The Friday-Saturday ocean salmon fishing closures are designed to slow down the catch and prolong the season. Many charter and small-boat anglers have diversified into sturgeon and bottomfish angling on Fridays and Saturdays to make full use of the fishing week.

The tight regulations on sport and commercial fisheries north of Cape Falcon are intended to protect troubled coho runs that return to streams on the north Washington coast and Puget Sound.

U.S. fishery officials had hoped to negotiate a reduced coho catch by Canadian trollers fishing

off west Vancouver Island. Less pressure in that area would have reduced interception of the north coast and Puget Sound stocks and allowed a greater coho catch off Washington and northwest Oregon.

That effort failed, however. Canadian fishermen are expected to catch about 1.8 million coho rather than the 1.4 million limit sought by the U.S.

There is one bright spot in the Columbia River area scenario — Buoy 10. This marker buoy on the Columbia bar serves as the dividing point between ocean and river waters. For the past three years, this area has supported the most intense and successful inland fishery in Oregon.

August closures in the ocean recreational seasons have been followed by an effort shift into the lower river. Many times, coho and chinook catch rates equal ocean successes.

Last year anglers caught 10,000 chinook and about 70,000 coho during the mid-August through early September fishing period in the Buoy 10 area. This year that harvest is expected to go as high as 30,000 chinook and 90,000 coho.

Even if ocean waters do close before Labor Day, biologists expect the lower river fishery to be in full swing during that three-day holiday weekend.

Commercial fisheries for all salmon species except coho will begin May 1 coastwide. All species troll seasons begin June 1 south of Cape Blanco; July 1 between Blanco and Cape Perpetua; July 15 between Perpetua and Cape Falcon; and July 25 north of Cape Falcon.

Commercial allocations were increased over 1986 levels in waters south of Cape Blanco and north of Cape Falcon. The commercial coho quota for the central coast is slightly lower than in 1986. This reduction is due, in part, to a shift of coho to the recreational quota. ■



# The Adventure of Pharley Pheasant -

## The Valley

**T**he Rogue, the Umpqua, the Grande Ronde, the Willamette — all are major Oregon rivers. But they are also something else — major river valleys.

From the earliest days of human life on earth, fertile river valleys have been the favored places to live and seek or grow food. Oregon is no exception. Each of the valleys mentioned above has become a human population center.

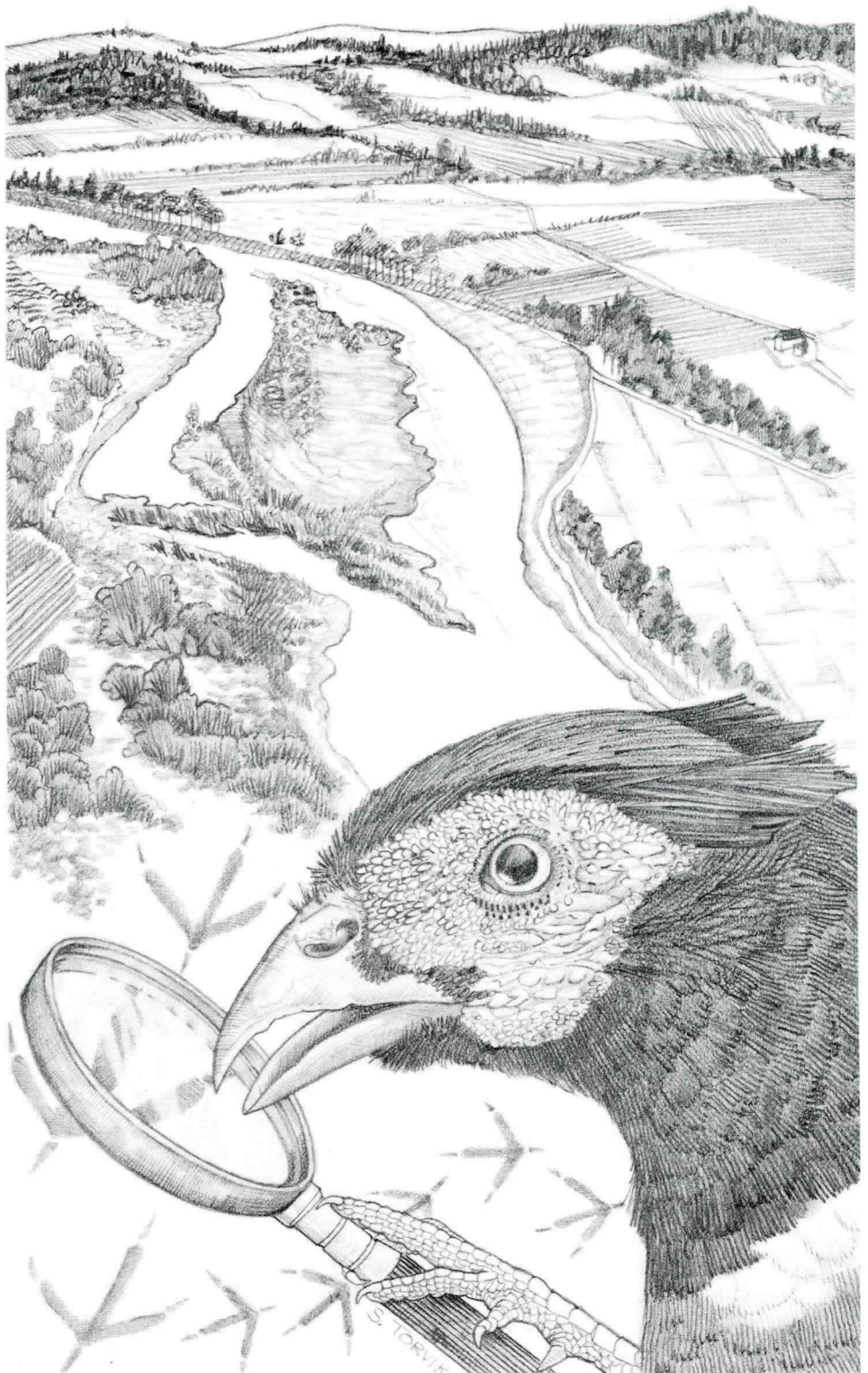
Here we built our houses, planted fields and, later, sited industries. As the valleys changed beneath the plow and pavement, the wildlife dependent on existing habitats also faced changes.

The Columbia white-tailed deer was once abundant in the western Oregon river bottomlands. Today this species hangs on the edge of extinction — listed as an endangered species because it failed to adapt.

The Willamette Valley of the 1880's was already heavily settled, but the mix of habitats was just right for introduction of the ringneck pheasant from China.

Stubbed corn and wheat fields provided food, while brush-filled draws and weeded fence-rows offered cover and nesting areas. The fanciful tale of Pharley the Pheasant illustrates that change, however, worthy or necessary, nearly always carries a price.

**A** stake-out at the corner of a local farmer's hop field was long and cold. As I crawled under my usual willow thicket early that morning to sleep, the same question kept haunting me. The faces of all the pheasants I'd known over the years kept playing over





# Willamette Valley Private Eye

and over again in my mind. But where were they now?

Since the first successful planting in the Willamette Valley in 1882, pheasant populations had grown. The birds took advantage of the plentiful farm and wild grains, brushy areas, and river bottoms in the valley. Then it happened. Every year, fewer of my friends around. Why? What was happening to all those pheasants? I needed a clue. I'd narrowed the suspects down to just a few.

- Was it *starvation*? Were birds finding enough to eat?
- Was it *predators*? Were pheasants being eaten by other animals?
- Was it a *lack of cover*? Were pheasants having trouble finding a place to nest and a place to get out of the rain and cold?
- Or was it *accidents*? Were birds wandering into some dangers out there?

I dropped by the office to get my messages. My secretary, as usual, was powdering her beak. She smiled as she handed me a stack of messages, and waited for frustration to appear on my face. She was like that. But I couldn't operate without her.

As I read through the messages, frustration passed. They were here — the clues I needed from my stoolies! Now I could solve the mystery! I'd soon know what happened to all those pheasants.

I smiled back at my secretary. She knew I had something. She knew those sleepless nights and haunting nightmares were over . . . or were they?

Pharley needs your help. The clues he received are below. Can you solve the mystery? Please, someone, . . . help him.

Consider all the clues. Decide what you think is happening to pheasants in the Willamette Valley. Jot it down on a piece of paper, and the next time you see Pharley, CLUE him in.

## CLUES

### From: Anonymous

*Pheasants prefer thick covers of weeds near the farm crops they eat, and dense cattails or willows to protect them from the cold and rain.*

### From: Old McDonald

*Farming practices and land use patterns have changed over the last 30 years. Cover in draws and along fencerows is now removed and housing development has increased dramatically.*

### From: Birdwatcher Club

*Pheasants have enough fat reserves to survive the long periods without food, and they can gain weight fast when food is available.*

### From: Tom Cat

*Pheasants nest on the ground, so they are exposed to many predators. About half of a brood is often lost to predators by seven weeks of age; common predators include house cats, dogs, crows, owls, and occasionally foxes, coyotes, weasels, and skunks.*

### From: Stool Pigeon

*Fields are often tilled in the fall, leaving little cover to protect pheasants from winter.*

### From: Wildlife Biologist

*Between 1980-83, 56 pheasant nests were studied each year on valley refuges. We found that: 37 percent of the nests were successful; 18 percent were abandoned by the hen; 25 percent were destroyed by predators; 13 percent were destroyed by farming practices (tilling, cutting, mowing); and 7 percent of the hens died.*

### From: Haley Hunter

*Pheasant hunting takes some of the males each year, but one male will mate with up to 10 hens.*

### From: A. Cute Observer

*Pheasants prefer to stay on the ground when moving between nests or cover and food.*

### From: Highway Patrol

*Along a Michigan highway, a family of seven birds was killed by autos over a week's time.*

## CONCLUSIONS

Here's what Pharley found out about the suspects:

### Starvation

Pheasants seldom starve unless a rare snow or ice storm makes it impossible for them to find food. However, the cereal grains that pheasants eat make up much less of the Willamette Valley agricultural production than they did when pheasants were more abundant.

### Predators

We know predators kill pheasants. But is this because there are too many predators or because the habitat no longer provides pheasants with a secure place to hide? Some of our highest pheasant populations now exist inside city limits where predators (dogs, cats, owls, kids) are very high, but where habitat is also abundant.

### Lack of Cover

Probably most sinister suspect at this point. Shortage of cover means birds chased from one small patch are very vulnerable until they find another one which may be some distance away. Where little cover exists, not only are pheasants concentrated but so are predators. So, predators have less area to search, and pheasants have less area in which to escape.

### Accidents

Pheasants produce large broods each year. Accidents will take some birds but do not normally cause a population to decline. Lots of accidental deaths (i.e. car-pheasant collisions) probably only mean the population is high and there is a large surplus of birds.

Pharley's investigation did not reveal a single cause of pheasant decline. It did uncover many factors, all working together, that keep the pheasant population down. But one thing is clear: the factor that probably would result in the most improvement in pheasant populations is the amount and quality of the habitat.



# Oregon Fish and Wildlife Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MAY</b>					1 Big Game Proposals Heard	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Minus Tide Series	13	14	15 Fish & Wildlife Commission Big Game Hearing (Portland)	16 Final Big Game Seasons Hearing
17	18	19	20	21	22 Game Damage Meeting at Bend H.S., Rm.C-10, 7:30 p.m.	23 Late Trout Opening Sport Ocean Salmon Season begins So. of Cape Blanco Game Damage Meeting in Hines, Harney City Museum, 1 p.m.
24 Minus Tide Series	25	26 Game Damage Meeting at Nehalem GS Aud. 7 p.m.	27 Game Damage Meeting at Medford Ext. Service Aud. 7:30 p.m.	28 Game Damage Meetings: Eugene-Lane CC Forum, 7 p.m. Roseburg-Courthouse (Church Annex) 7 p.m.	29	30
31						
<b>JUNE</b>	1 Game Damage Meeting: Pendleton- Blue Mtn. CC Pioneer Theatre, 7 p.m. Big Game Regs Available	2 Game Damage Meeting at Baker Sch. Dist. Office 7 p.m.	3 Game Damage Meeting at Portland- ODFW Headquarters 7:30 p.m.	4	5 Game Damage Meeting: Salem- Chemeketa CC, 7 p.m.	6
7	8	9 Game Damage Meetings: K-Falls- Klamath HS Caf. 7 p.m. The Dalles-Court House, 7:30 p.m. Minus Tide Series	10	11	12	13 Sport Ocean Salmon Season begins between Cape Blanco and Cape Falcon
14	15	16	17	18	19 Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting- Portland	20
21	22	23 Minus Tide Series	24	25	26	27
28 Sport Ocean Salmon Season begins North of Cape Falcon	29 Deer and Elk Controlled Hunt Application Deadline July 1	30				



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