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Number 12, Volume 24 December 1969

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The Cover

Waterfowl at Sauvie Island in the Northwest Region. See feature article. Photo by Al Miller

HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Instructors Approved

Month of October	34
Total to Date	3,794
Students Trained	
Month of October	2,047
Total to Date	148,603
Firearms Casualties Reported i	n 1969
Fatal	4
Nonfatal	35



OSPREY SANCTUARY ESTABLISHED

One of the most magnificent birds in Oregon was provided added protection in October when the Oregon Game Commission and the U. S. Forest Service signed an agreement which will give this great bird a sanctuary in which to live, nest, and bring forth its young.

The bird is the osprey, considered a potentially endangered species. The sanctuary is Crane Prairie Reservoir and surrounding land area located in the Deschutes National Forest about 25 miles south and west of Bend. Crane Prairie will be the first osprey management area in the nation. Here, too, we have the largest nesting colony of osprey in the Northwest and possibly in the nation.

The osprey is a spectacular hawk which, unlike most others, feeds exclusively on fish. Although smaller in size, it resembles the eagle. It has a wing span of four to six feet. A thrilling experience one which many anglers at Crane Prairie have witnessed—is to observe one of these great birds soar out over the water, then with partially folded wings suddenly dive into the water, perhaps from a hundred feet or more, to capture its prey. Although the osprey will take fish of all kinds, its primary diet at Crane Prairie is the chub, found in abundance.

Hunters and fishermen will not be barred from Crane Prairie. The impoundment is a prime trout-producing area, the marshes provide some fine waterfowl shooting and the adjacent land areas provide many man-days of hunting for deer and elk. Multiple use management will be the goal, including hunting, fishing, grazing, timber, recreation, and associated activities. However, the sanctuary will be closed to all hunting from April 1 through September 30 to provide absolute protection during the nesting and rearing period.

The entire refuge will cover about

10,600 acres, with 4,400-acre Crane Prairie Reservoir the focal point. In addition to the many snags in the impoundment itself, the perimeter lands will also provide snags and trees as nesting habitat for the birds.

The osprey is nearly a cosmopolitan species, being found scattered near waterways over much of the North American continent. At one time the largest concentrations were found along the eastern seaboard and the Great Lakes states.

Studies and general observations show that many local populations have declined sharply in recent years. Evidence of this decline is shown in New York state where on Gardiner's Island in 1945 about 300 pairs were tallied. In 1968 only 35 pairs were found in the same area. Similar declines are noted over much of the east. Although loss of habitat is a contributing factor, there is mounting evidence that the greatest loss is through nesting failures tied directly to the chlorinated hydrocarbons used in insect control.

In contrast to the East, the osprey population at Crane Prairie has been slowly building. This was not always the case but was probably triggered by several events. A major factor was the retention of trees when the reservoir site was flooded in the early 1920s. Most of these trees. now dead, remain standing throughout the impoundment as naked, grey snags, providing ideal nesting and perching platforms for the great birds. A second factor was the creation by the dam of a large shallow, productive body of water with a resulting large increase in fish populations. The osprey feeds mostly on the easily caught chubs and whitefish, but trout and kokanee are also included in the diet.

No formal records were kept on os-(Continued Page 8)

DECEMBER 1969



In contrast to the southeast portion of our state, which is characterized by wide open spaces and few people, northwestern Oregon features a compact geography and a rapidly expanding human population. More people mean more problems for all resource management workers.

Region 1 or the Northwest Region, as it is referred to by Game Commission personnel, is one of five administrative areas of the department. It is bordered on the north by the Columbia River, follows the crest of the Cascade Mountains south to the Umpqua drainage, with its western boundary being formed by the Pacific Ocean.

The Northwest Region encompasses 17,000 square miles or 17 per cent of the state's land area. Within its boundaries live 1,500,000 people or 73 per cent of the state's total human population. Not only does this region harbor the bulk of the state's people, but it is also blessed with a wide variety of fish and game animals.

To manage and administer this region and its multiple resources, a regional headquarters is maintained eight miles north of Corvallis on Highway 99W with a staff of 81 full time employees stationed throughout the area.

Region 1 operates seven fish hatcheries that produce over six million fish annually. Included in this total are over two million fish of legal size.

Five game management areas provide hunting opportunities for thousands of licensed hunters. The state's only game bird farm is located within a short distance of the regional office, and it is here that over 20,000 ring-necked pheasants, 1,000 chukar partridge, and several thousand other exotic game birds are reared annually for distribution to all areas of the state.

In addition to game bird production, the E. E. Wilson Game Management Area, as it is called officially, serves as a dog training area for both individuals and organized clubs, provides a place for special training of juvenile hunters, and serves as an outdoor laboratory for students of all ages.

Adjacent to, but operating independently of, the Wilson area is a large fixed facility commonly referred to as the Screen Plant. It is a manufacturing plant for rotary fish screens and many other items used state wide by the Game Commission. Its crew also travels state wide installing and repairing fish screens, constructing fish ladders, traps, and weirs, and in general assisting in various construction projects throughout the state.

Many people, when discussing big game numbers, naturally think in terms of the popular areas in eastern Oregon as

> A portion of the fish stocking equipment and personnel utilized in the Northwest Region. Well over seven million fish were stocked in the region in 1968.

being the producers of the lion's share of our deer and elk. Yet a look at the record reveals that only the Northeast Region surpassed the Northwest Region in deer harvest during the last ten years. From 1959 through the 1968 hunting season, 355,000 deer were killed in Region 1 for an average of 35,000 deer per year. This kill was exceeded only by the Northeast's average of 38,000 for the same ten-year period.

The most important deer producing areas within the region have been the Tillamook Burn counties and Lane County in the southeast portion. Fire and logging or both have teamed up to produce excellent forage conditions for blacktails.

Roosevelt elk are scattered throughout the region but here, again, the bulk of these fine animals is found in Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, Washington, and Lane Counties. During the past ten years the annual kill of elk has been over 1,700 animals.

The Northwest Region has a wide variety of game birds for the interested sportsman. The ring-necked pheasant, a long-time favorite, is still present in moderate numbers. However, changing agricultural practices and urban sprawl are greatly reducing the chances for high densities of these versatile game birds. Valley quail are suffering the same fate. All of the forested areas in both the Coastal and Cascade Mountain ranges have populations of mountain quail and blue and ruffed grouse. These birds seem to be cyclic in their abundance with hunting having little or no direct effect on their numbers.

Migratory species of birds, such as ducks, geese, mourning doves, and bandtailed pigeons, provide thousands of man-(Continued Next Page)



The N.W. Region

(Continued from Page 3)

days of recreation for Oregon hunters. Pigeons and doves are plentiful in much of the Northwest Region and are highly prized by shotgunners.

The Dusky Canada goose nests in the Copper River Delta of Alaska, but its wintering grounds are centered in the four Willamette Valley counties of Polk, Benton, Linn, and Lane. Upwards of 15,-000 of these great birds utilize this area from November through April of each year. The federal government and the Game Commission have developed, or are in the process of developing, wintering areas for these birds as well as other forms of waterfowl.

Three such areas under Region 1 administration are Camas Swale and Fern Ridge in the vicinity of Eugene-Creswell and Sauvie Island, just down the Columbia from Portland. These units all offer feeding and resting grounds for waterfowl plus hunting opportunities for the public.

The fifth game management area is

A band-tailed pigeon. This migratory species is hunted heavily throughout the Northwest Region.

still so new it is not really named. It is referred to as the Jewell Valley Wildlife Meadows, and thus far 183 acres have been acquired. The plan is for purchase of approximately 600 acres of meadow land for the benefit of Roosevelt elk. It is located on the west side of the Coast Range about two miles northwest of Jewell, just off State Highway 202. In addition to improving the area for elk, provisions will be made for sightseers, photographers, and other types of recreationists.

While the deer and elk harvests are impressive, it is in the field of fisheries that the Northwest Region is so richly endowed. Opportunities are available for the angler at any time of the year to take a wide variety of fishes.

Beginning at the southwest corner of the region and continuing north to the mouth of the Columbia, angling for large fish is available at almost any time of the year. The Siuslaw, Alsea, Siletz, Salmon, Trask, Nestucca, Lewis and Clark, and Youngs Rivers all possess runs of salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat. Two of these streams—the Siletz and the Nestucca—have excellent runs of summer steelhead in addition to the winter runs present.

Five major ports are available from which anglers pursue an offshore salmon fishery that in 1968 yielded 154,000 salmon. These bays from which the sport fleets operate are the mouth of the Columbia, Garibaldi, Depoe Bay, Yaquina Bay, and Siuslaw Bay.

The most unique offshore fishery occurs at Cape Kiwanda where a fleet of dory fishermen launch their boats directly through the surf under the protection of the Cape. This is the only location on the Oregon coast where this spectacular type of fishing is possible, and in 1968 in excess of 10,000 salmon were landed.

Inland, such streams as the McKenzie, Calapooya, North and South Santiam, Molalla, Clackamas, and the Sandy offer a wide variety of trout fishing as well as some superlative winter steelhead fishing. These steelhead, unlike their coastal relatives, make their appearance in late winter instead of fall. Attempts are being made to provide additional opportunities for the steelhead angler by stocking summer steelhead in the McKenzie and the Little North Fork of the Santiam.

(Continued Next Page)



The N.W. Region

(Continued from Page 4)

Lake fishing in the region offers a wide variety for any trout angler. From the highest points in the Cascades to sea level, there are literally hundreds of lakes for the angler to choose from, ranging in size from 6000-acre Waldo to tiny lakes of less than an acre.

The pack-in lakes are located high in the Cascade Mountains and contain rainbow, brook, golden, and brown trout. Many of these lakes are underfished and develop stunted populations of trout because of limited food and short growing seasons.

Some of the coastal lakes, notably Tahkenitch, Siltcoos, and Devils Lakes, offer the angler excellent trout fishing in addition to some of the finest warmwater fishing in the nation.

This region is either blessed or cursed with a large number of multipurpose reservoirs. These reservoirs, while offering additional fishing opportunities for thousands of anglers, also present many problems. To be of any value they must be chemically treated to remove objectionable fish species. Fluctuating water levels caused by power production, flood control, or irrigation often create insurmountable fish production problems.

Two waters in the region are of utmost importance to not only Game Commission workers but to all citizens of the state. These waters are the largest rivers in the region—the Willamette and the Columbia.

Green Peter Dam under construction. Completed in the fall of 1966 on the Middle Fork of the Santiam River, the reservoir is a multipurpose project generating power, holding flood waters, and furnishing irrigation waters. The reservoir has produced a fair trout fishery and has presented a minimum of fish passage problems. The Willamette River, with its origin high in the Cascades at Waldo Lake, comes down from the mountains at Oakridge and courses its way seaward through the fertile Willamette Valley to join the Columbia at Portland.

The river offers to the angler the spring chinook, winter steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout, and a wide variety of warm-water game fish, including sturgeon. Unfortunately, it is also infested with large numbers of coarse fish, the worst of which are suckers and squawfish. To date no sure-fire method is available by which these undesirable species can be eliminated without also killing the game fish present.

To the hunter and trapper, the Willamette provides waterfowl hunting during fall and winter months and such furbearers as beaver, otter, muskrat, and mink.

Many other people use the Willamette, and some of these uses are detrimental to fish and wildlife production. Industries and cities use its waters for production and drinking water and, unfortunately, these same people use it to dispose of industrial and municipal wastes that are destructive to water quality.

But perhaps one of the greatest values of this great water course is its value to the person known simply as a recreationist. He enjoys camping, boating, photography, and just looking at and enjoying nature's wonders. He may also enjoy hunting and fishing. A float trip from Armitage Park on the McKenzie downstream into the Willamette and then as far as Salem, if desired, offers a chance to get away from the busy pace of modern living. Something is always happening on this river. A deer wades out into a riffle and a kingfisher dives for a minnow. A brood of mallards swims by, and at dusk a surprised beaver sprays the boat's occupant with water as he dives. A campfire after dark on an exposed gravel bar takes you back a hundred years. The next morning, as your float trip resumes, only a high flying jet reminds you that you are in the center of a valley crowded with people and activity. This is what the Willamette has to offer.

That portion of the Columbia from the mouth to Bonneville Dam forms the northern boundary of Region 1. It is a controversial piece of water, for both the angler and the commercial netter pursue the coho, chinook, steëlhead, sturgeon, and shad. Nevertheless, it is extremely important because it serves as the highway to the sea for the downstream migrant salmonids that are so aggressively sought by both sport and commercial fishermen when they return from the ocean as adults.

Unfortunately, the Columbia may be fighting a losing battle against the combination of dams, irrigation, pollution, and fishermen. Nuclear power plants, looming on the near horizon, could very well sound the death knell of the anadromous fish runs of the Columbia.

This, then, is the Northwest Region —becoming crowded with people and the many resultant people problems, yet offering outstanding opportunities for the angler, hunter, and recreationist.

The impoundment area above Green Peter Reservoir before flooding. This area above the dam was the main wintering range for black-tailed deer. It was destroyed by the dam impoundment.









Setting decoys

Checking in

Shooting at Sauvie

The retrieve

The Sauvie Island Game Management Area provides waterfowl and upland game shooting for over ten thousand hunters per year and a recreation area for 210,000 other individuals.

A good shoot

"Mark"





A STATUS REPORT

Willamette River Channel Catfish

By Ralph A. Grenfell

In his warm and delightful book The Coming of the Pond Fishes, Ben Hur Lampman mentions a single attempt to establish channel catfish in the Willamette River. The effort took place near Salem in 1893 and was "only a few fish." Evidently they didn't make it, for they were never seen again.

If Ben's information is correct, then the second attempt was made in 1962 and in the spring of 1963. It is of these fish that I would like to report.

The first small group came from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery at Miles City, Montana. They numbered ten thousand, were three-quarters of an inch long and came by air in a gallon of water in an oxygen inflated plastic bag. About a quarter of them survived and were released July 25, 1962 at Independence.

Number two consignment arrived in the dark of night September 20, 1962, a swap with the state of California. In return for rainbow trout eggs, California sent 50,000 fingerling channel catfish from their Central Valley hatchery.

Mike Gainey drove the truck and we portioned the channel catfish out by dipnet at Harrisburg, Peoria, Corvallis, and Albany, then hosed out at the Buena Vista ferry landing. It was a soft, warm night and in the flashlight beam the eyes of the fish shone like rubies. They were in excellent shape and didn't have a single casualty during their long ride.

The last immigrants came during April and May 1963. Their home had been in the Snake River's Brownlee pool. Once again we benefited from the activities of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Brownlee Dam was completed and causing some troubles to downstream migrant salmon and steelhead. In an attempt to document the problem, the F&WS had a large crew fishing some big trap-nets in the pool. The nets caught all kinds and sizes of fish and held them alive. In this catch were many channel catfish that were offered for wherever they could be used.

Lloyd Patapoff and Frank LeMay got the wearying duty of the long drive and between them hauled some sixteen thousand channel catfish west. The fish were of great difference in size, varying from three to twenty inches. In the course of the move they took an awful beating.

GAME BULLETIN

Consider what the poor fish had to suffer, caught in a net and held overnight, manhandled into a holding box and kept there for several days, dip-netted into a container in the boat and hauled across the river, then into the truck for an 8hour haul, hosed out into strange water during a flood. The excessive but necessary handling wiped away protective slime and many of the fish were spotted with fungus. It is a tribute to the catfish will to live that any survived. But they did and all were released, despite their illnesses, in the hope that significant numbers would recover.

On April 24 the fish—4,170 of them were released in the Long Tom River a mile downstream from Monroe. The next load, April 30, went into the Pudding River straight west of Silverton. There were 4,200 in that lot.

The first May load, on the fifth, was put in the South Yamhill River at the highway bridge just north of Ballstom. They numbered 4,800 fish. The last two loads, May 7 and 10, went in the mainstream Willamette at Harrisburg—(3,000 fish) and Corvallis—(800 fish). The operation was finished when water at Brownlee got so warm the channel catfish could not be kept alive in the holding boxes.

Despite their rough journey, some fish lived and reports of angler-caught channel catfish began to circulate. The first I heard was of a pair taken in 1964 from the Long Tom, not far from the release site. There were more, and in following summers the tempo increased till there were stories from all the areas where channel catfish were turned loose. Some of the stories pointed to considerable straying. All the verified tales told

The author with a channel catfish friend. Note the deeply forked tail of the fish, unlike that of the bullhead catfish.



of large fish, 16 to 25 inches and weights up to 10 pounds. These, of course, had to be fish of the original stocks, could not be their offspring.

A happy incident of these early catches concerned a Salem couple, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Galliday. They fish often at a station where water is pumped from the Labish Bottom and into the Pudding River. He called and said they had the biggest bullhead in the world and would I come look at it. In the bathtub was a live and lively 10-pound channel catfish. I explained where they came from, when, and that we hoped they would reproduce and furnish much fishing fun. Next day Mr. Galliday called again. They had hauled the big catfish back and let it go so it could raise a family.

Channel catfish were released at points that appeared to be near the upstream habitat boundary for the species, the assumption being that they would move downstream faster than upstream in search of ideal living conditions. I believe this happened and is what I mentioned earlier as "considerable straying."

Highest upstream catch reported from the Yamhill was near Lafayette at the old locks site. This is 34.9 miles below the release site at Ballstom bridge. The catfish Mr. Galliday released had moved 11.6 miles down from the stocking site, then gone 2.9 miles up the Little Pudding. Some of the Long Tom fish moved 4.7 miles down to the Willamette but some liked their area and stayed put.

Most remarkable phenomenon of all is the concentration of channel catfish in the forebay between Willamette Falls and Rock Island. This area is 76.9 miles below the lowest release site—at Buena Vista—on the main stem Willamette. I believe these fish came mostly from the Pudding-Molalla and the Yamhill system. The Pudding enters the Molalla immediately above its joining the Willamette 6.2 miles above Rock Island. The mouth of the Yamhill is 25.4 miles above Rock Island.

The Rock Island area is favored by bullhead cat-fishermen from the metropolitan area and many reports of channel catfish have come from there. There has, of course, been some upstream movement. In 1968 two channel catfish were taken at Fern Ridge Dam on the Long Tom River, 21 miles above the nearest point of liberation. On the main Willamette, the farthest upstream catch was a 19-inch fish taken in April 1966 at Springfield. It had traveled 24.1 miles from the upstream release point at Harrisburg.

Adult channel catfish have been taken by gill net in the Rock Island area, the mouth of the Yamhill, the Yamhill (Continued Next Page)

Status Report

(Continued from Page 7)

between Dayton and Lafayette and at the mouth of Lambert Slough. The latter site is the farthest upstream that any channel catfish have been taken by net. It is 19.1 miles downstream from Salem.

Jay Massey, Oregon State Game Commission fishery biologist, found the first evidence of reproduction by the channel catfish. In the fall of 1966, late September and early October, he took four little ones in a downstream trap at Willamette Falls. The fish were not very old, hadn't been hatched for long; they were only 1.5 to 2.0 inches long.

Mr. Jim Brannon of the Oregon Bass and Panfish Club is a dedicated cat-fisherman and he found them next. At a club meeting late in 1968 he told me of hooking many bait-stealer catfish at Rock Island the past summer. He was sure they were channel catfish. In 1969 he saw more of them and wrote me a letter.

In September 1969 I took gill nets and fished between Rock Island and the mouth of the Molalla. In the course of nine overnight sets the catch included eighteen small channel catfish. Their length range was from 6.3 to 7.9 inches, the same size fish Jim had seen. A check on their age showed them to be $1\frac{1}{2}$ years old, near the end of their second growing season — truly reproduction from the 1962-63 release of fish.

So at last they are on their way, at least in the lower end of the river, and perhaps they will show next summer in other areas. Meantime there is Fred Locke's opinion, "One of these mornings we'll wake up and the bottom of the river will be covered with them." Maybe in 1970?



INFORMATION LEAFLET AVAILABLE

Information Leaflet number 19 on Oregon's Long-Legged Wading Birds is now available free of charge from the Game Commission. The four-page publication with black and white illustrations describes and tells briefly about the life history of the various herons, egrets, and cranes found in the state.



(Continued from Page 2)

prey numbers in Oregon prior to 1966. Early ornithologists, however, considered the osprey to be one of the rarer birds in the state. Although provided protection by state law for many years, the first step to manage osprey was taken by the Game Commission in 1966 when records were obtained on bird abundance and nesting sites of the Crane Prairie colony. This survey was repeated in 1967 and showed 38 adults (19 pairs) rearing 18 juveniles. The Forest Service made a preliminary survey in 1968 which showed 21 nests being occupied.

In 1969 a more complete survey showed a total of 70 osprey nests at or adjacent to the impoundment, with 48 of these in use. The 48 pairs of birds produced 35 youngsters, less than one nestling per active nest. Canada geese at Crane Prairie often pre-empt osprey nests to rear their own young, but this seems to be no deterrent since the adult hawks readily build another. In fact, the increasing number of osprey nests has also benefited Canada goose production at the reservoir.

The key to good osprey habitat seems to be adequate nesting sites plus an abundant food source nearby. These we have at Crane Prairie. Most of the nests are found in snags either surrounded by water or within a short distance from the impoundment. Nests are built on large lodgepole and ponderosa pine snags, some 100 feet or more above the water. The nests are built of crisscross sticks, generally up to two inches in diameter

and two to five feet in length. Nests are huge affairs, sometimes five or more feet across, with a small depression in the center. The depression may or may not be lined with tree moss. Some nests are used year after year.

With the many snags in and around Crane Prairie, the birds have ample perches from which they can observe the water for any sign of prey. Fishing is relatively easy except in the more dense snag concentrations.

Osprey arrive at Crane Prairie around the last week in March or early April. The female lays two to four eggs, usually three, which require 28 to 35 days to incubate. The young remain in the nest for eight to ten weeks and take to wing in early August.

Most birds leave on their southward migration in October, although some may leave as early as September. No records are available as to where Crane Prairie osprey winter. However, birds banded along the east coast have been recovered in the West Indies, Central America, and as far south as Colombia, Peru, and Brazil.

Band returns indicate yearling osprey do not return to the north to breed but remain in southern latitudes during their first year. Some two-year-olds return to their place of birth but are not thought to nest. Osprey three years of age and older attempt to nest if they can find suitable habitat in which to do so.

And that's the objective of the Crane Prairie Osprey Sanctuary — to manage, enhance, and protect osprey habitat; to protect the birds themselves; and to provide an opportunity for public enjoyment. Milt Guymon

FIRST NATIONAL HIGHWAY LITTER SURVEY COMPLETED

Each month American motorists drop an average of 1,304 pieces of litter on every mile of the nation's vast network of primary highways—nearly 16,000 pieces per mile per year.

These startling figures were uncovered by the first national survey of roadside litter, a project sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the national litter-prevention organization.

The survey was conducted by the Highway Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the highway departments of 29 participating states. The purpose of the survey was to establish "as a first step toward more intelligent and effective highway litter control" the composition and volume of highway litter which the study reveals accumulates at an average monthly rate of about one cubic yard per mile.

Paper items accounted for 59 percent of total roadside litter. The rest was tabulated at 16 percent cans, 6 percent plastic items, 6 percent bottles and jars, and 13 percent miscellaneous.

The large miscellaneous grouping was divided between tires, lumber, and a variety of unclassified items ranging from hair curlers, underwear, and false teeth to ice chests and washing machines.

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REGON STATE