

OREGON STATE  
GAME COMMISSION

# BULLETIN

AUGUST 1961



# OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

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OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION  
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## the cover

A cinnamon teal hen shown on its nest in the Klamath Marsh area. Picture was taken in 1908 by William L. Finley.

## BULLETIN HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

### Instructors Approved

Month of June .....	81
Total to Date .....	1,701

### Students Trained

Month of June .....	917
Total to Date .....	10,870

### Firearms Accidents Reported 1961

Fatal .....	2
Nonfatal .....	8

## COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Mr. Tallant Greenough, of Coquille, was appointed by Governor Mark O. Hatfield to serve on the Game Commission for a five-year term beginning July 20, 1961. Mr. Greenough is an attorney and well-known sportsman in the coastal area. He is particularly noted for his skill with the bow and arrow.

He succeeded J. H. Van Winkle of Oregon City whose last term expired on July 19. Mr. Van Winkle had been on the Commission for twelve years.

## DOVE, PIGEON AND SNIPE REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED

Open season dates for mourning doves, band-tailed pigeons and Wilson's snipe selected by the Game Commission from the framework of regulations set by the federal government are as follows: Mourning doves, September 1 through 30.

Band-tailed pigeons, September 1 through 30.

Wilson's snipe, October 28 through November 26.

Bag limits, unchanged from last year, are: Doves, 10 a day, 20 in possession; band-tailed pigeons, 8 a day and in possession; Wilson's snipe, 8 a day and in possession.

Shooting hours for pigeons and doves are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset (standard time). Wilson's snipe may be shot only from sunrise until sunset (standard time).

## HEARING ON BEAR AND OTHER REGULATIONS

Regulations on black bear, as well as upland game, waterfowl, silver gray squirrels and furbearers will be considered by the Game Commission at its hearing on August 11.

The last legislature authorized the Commission to classify bear as a game animal in designated areas after making a determination that for such areas black bear are not damaging and will not be expected to damage growing crops, livestock, bees or trees. The Commission by regulation may permit the use of dogs in hunting black bear.

The meeting convenes at 10 a.m. in the Portland office of the Commission, 1634 S.W. Alder Street.

## MEMPHIS SITE OF FISH & GAME MEETINGS

The fifty-first annual conference of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, September 11-12. President of the Association this year is P. W. Schneider, Oregon State Game Director.



Oregon's first open season for Atlantic salmon had a successful start this spring at Mud Lake in Deschutes County. Creel records collected May 27 through 30 and June 3 and 4 show that 917 anglers caught 402 of these choice fish. More than 80 per cent were over 18 inches in length, with the largest measuring 25.5 inches and weighing 6.25 pounds. Anglers are limited to a bag of one fish in any 7 consecutive days or in possession.

The Atlantic salmon is more similar to our steelhead trout than to our races of Pacific salmon. The Oregon Game Commission started rearing Atlantic salmon back in 1951 when it received a gift of 10,000 eggs from the Quebec Department of Game and Fisheries.

\* \* \*

Sauvie Island Management Area was visited by 7,333 people between June 2 and June 20 according to traffic counters installed at two locations. Of these 4,270 were at Oak Island and 3,063 in the East-side area.

\* \* \*

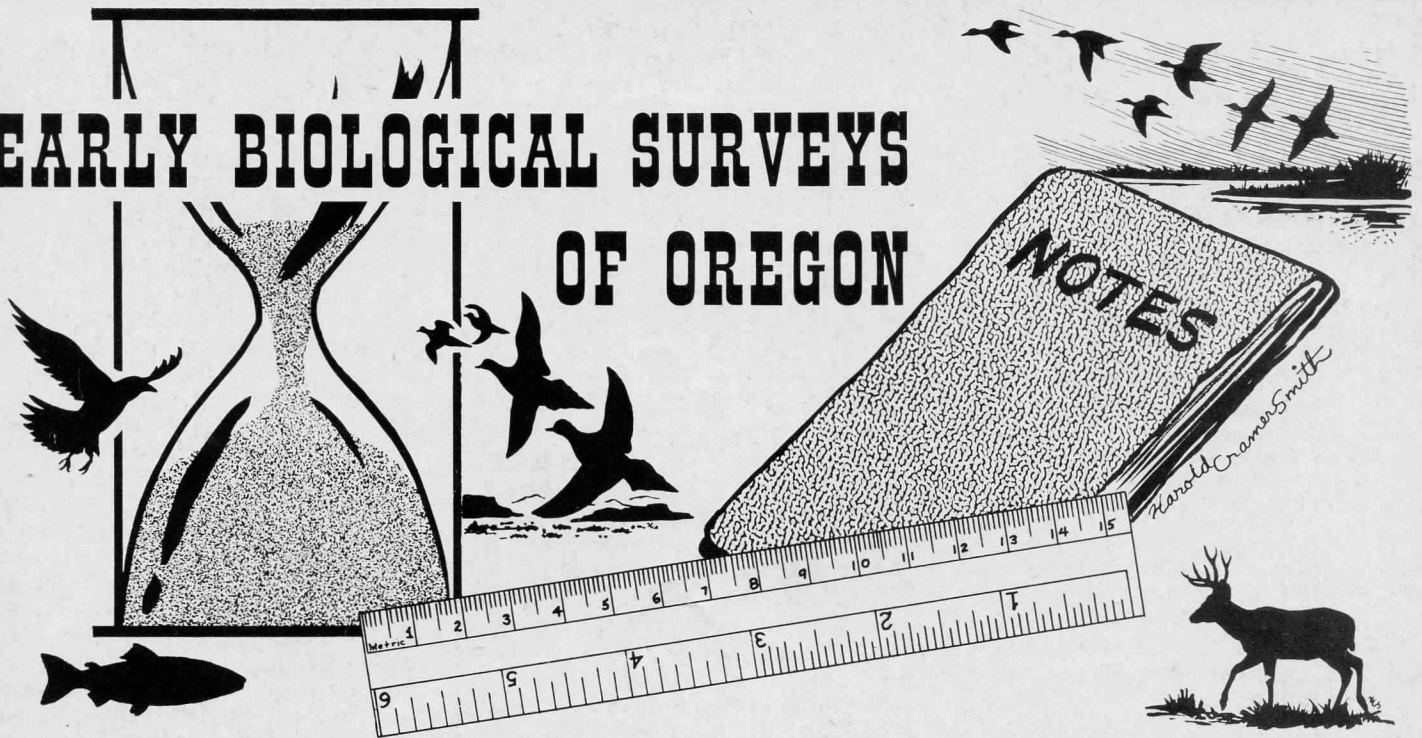
The 1961 state-wide mourning dove call count was the highest recorded since the annual survey was initiated in 1953 as a part of a nationwide survey. Results of the survey conducted between May 20 and June 10 show that 2.07 dove calls per mile were heard and 1.37 doves seen per mile. Field agents covered 18 different routes for a total of 360 miles. A decline in number of calls from 1960 showed up on five routes only.

\* \* \*

Census of goose breeding grounds during June showed an increase in both adults and young wherever suitable habitat was present. In the Klamath Basin, 2,298 adults and 1,849 young were tallied on permanent transects as compared with 1,266 adults and 1,676 young in 1960. At Summer Lake, 63 goose broods were counted compared with 55 last year. Some of the increase is attributed to displacement of birds from the drought areas.



# EARLY BIOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF OREGON



By Harold C. Smith, Wildlife Artist

IT WAS RECOGNIZED early in Oregon that a thorough knowledge of fauna and flora was of great importance as a basis of intelligent management of our game resources, wise conservation of useful birds and animals, and for the control of injurious species.

As early as 1888 a systematic survey of the state was started under C. Hart Merriam of the old U. S. Biological Survey. Various other surveys have followed since then. In 1913 a cooperative survey was undertaken by the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, University of Oregon, Reed College, Willamette University, Oregon State College, and the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners. All agencies assisted with field men and equipment. Alex Walker, present curator of the Tillamook Pioneer Museum, was a member of this survey party as well as later ones. His field work for the fish and game department in 1913, 1914, and 1915 is described here as he recently related it to me.

Alex, his father, and a friend started out from Portland April 1, 1913 on board the stern-wheeler, the **Bailey Gatzert**, taking along a light covered wagon with a team of horses. Unloading at The Dalles, they camped the first night three miles up the Columbia.

Travelling up the river, Alex collected birds and small mammals. At Biggs they turned south and followed the old road through Wasco, Moro, Grass Valley, Shaniko (at this time a real freight center), Antelope, Gateway, to the ranch of W. S.

Bennett, his uncle, a few miles east of Madras.

Mr. Bennett's father-in-law, John Y. Todd, who lived with the Bennetts at the time Walker was there, was an old-timer in central Oregon. In 1860 he built the first bridge on the Deschutes River some miles north of Maupin at what was later known as Sherars Bridge. (See McArthur, **OREGON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**, third edition, page 545).

The group proceeded through Bend, around Lava Butte to Lapine, then to Fremont, Fort Rock, and on to Silver Lake. Here at Paulina marsh, Alex collected nests, eggs, and bird specimens of all kinds. He said this was the first large marsh he'd ever worked in as the ones back in South Dakota were much smaller. He still remembered vividly how cold it was every night, as each morning the ice had to be broken in the water bucket (this was the first week of June). While here his party was visited by the game warden, M. S. Barnes.

From this area Alex worked his way north to Fort Rock again and, skirting the edge of the Paulinas, camped at Sand Springs. Near here he found and collected a Gray flycatcher's nest and eggs (the first authentic nest of the species ever recorded). Working north he and his companions passed through Millican and on to Prineville. Travelling through Terrebonne, they crossed the Crooked River at Trail Crossing, proceeding on to Madras to stay again at the Bennett ranch. From Madras they worked their

way to Sisters. Here they found snow on top of Black Butte. (Mr. Todd had told Alex if Black Butte had snow on it, the McKenzie Pass would still be closed.)

It was decided to return north to the Columbia River. They started back along the west side of the Deschutes River to Warm Springs Agency, where they camped for some time collecting specimens, writing notes, taking photographs, etc. Then they travelled north to Warm Springs River where they were ferried across by an Indian girl, camped at Hot Springs, moved on through Simnasho, Wapinitia, Tygh Valley, Dufur, and to The Dalles. Arriving at The Dalles they found the Columbia River in its spring freshet. A week went by before the river dropped enough to be navigable by the next stern-wheeler to Portland. It was

(Continued on Page 4)

Alex Walker with his collecting gear. Picture was taken in 1914 near McKenzie Bridge.



# Biological Surveys

(Continued from Page 3)

the last of June when the group finally reached Portland. Alex said the trip was really a dandy as he collected specimens, photos, and notes on a variety of new wildlife, new to him at least. The game department later bought all his specimens and notes to add to its collection.

In 1914 Alex lived in Mulino, Oregon, his business being photography and taxidermy. At this time Stanley Jewett, Sr., was loaned to the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners by the U. S. Biological Survey (U.S.D.A.). Alex was hired as a deputy game warden by Wm. L. Finley, State Game Warden. Needless to say, his main duties were biological studies of wildlife and photography.

He collected specimens and notes in the Mulino area from March through May. In June he joined a biological survey party at McKenzie Bridge, travelling by train to Eugene and stage to Vida and McKenzie Bridge.

This party was headed by Vernon Bailey, chief field naturalist for the U. S. Biological Survey. Other party members were Stanley Jewett and Luther Goldman, both of the Biological Survey; Alfred C. Shelton, University of Oregon; Dr. Morton E. Peck, Willamette University botanist whose "Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon" is still the standard work in this field; Don Lancefield, Reed College; Jack Frye, cook; R. Bruce Horsfall, artist; and Alex Walker.

They travelled by foot up the McKenzie to the Three Sisters Mountain area, taking their gear by pack horse and light wagon. Their base was at Frog Camp in the McKenzie Pass.

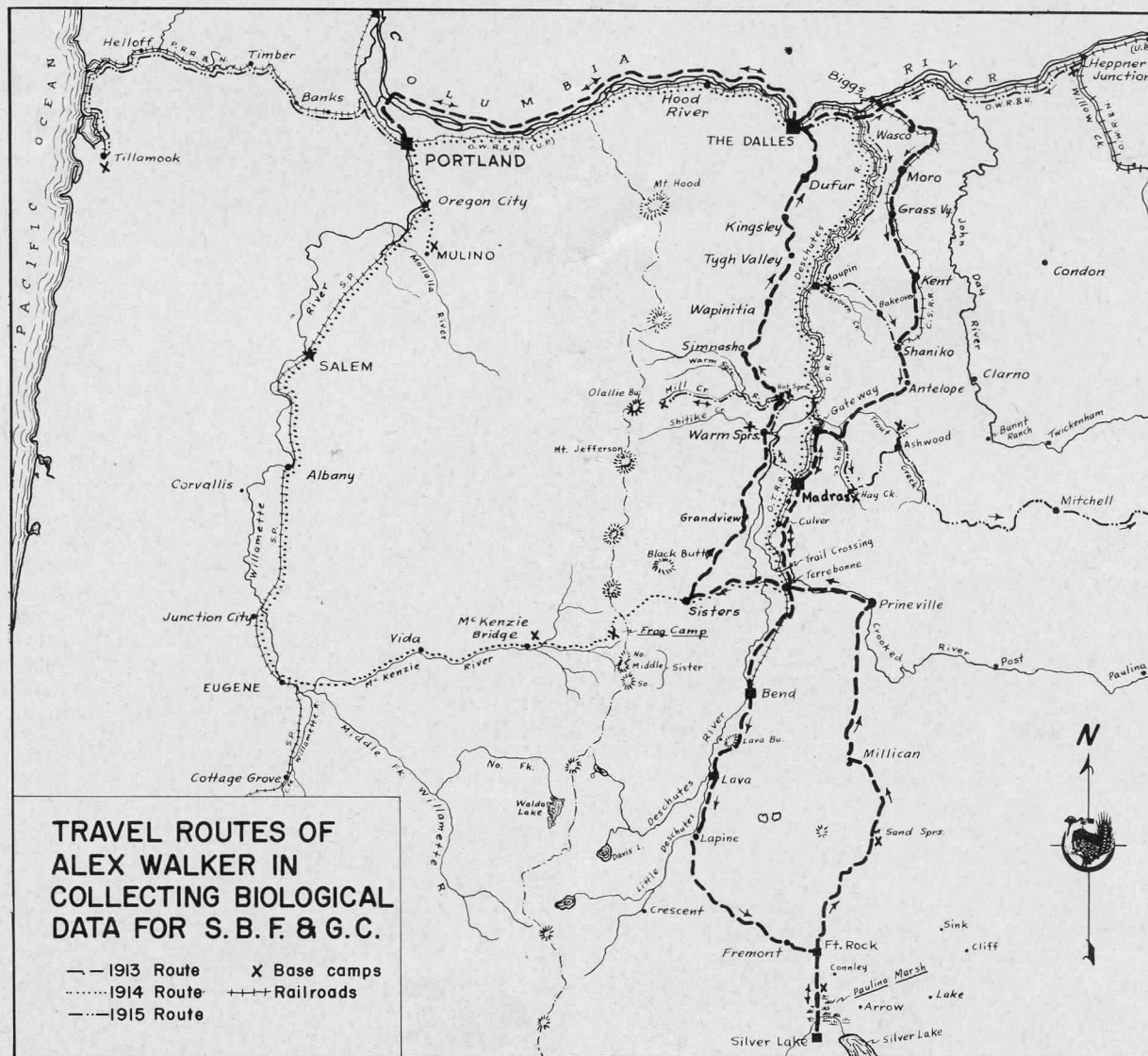
Alex said they used shotguns with dust to No. 4 shot for collecting birds. As this was before the days of the 410 gauge, he used a 12 gauge gun and an old single-barrel 28 gauge, loading brass shells for the latter in the field. Vernon Bailey had a three-barrel gun of English make, a double-barrel 16 gauge with a

32-20 rifle barrel below, which was fine for marmots. Mouse and rat traps were used for small rodents and mammals, and light steel traps for the large mammals. Bailey developed a humane type of trap called the Verball trap which was used in later surveys for taking small mammals.

By late summer the work was pretty well finished around the Sisters area so Alex returned to the Portland office and spent some time writing up his field notes and doing darkroom work for the department. The rest of the party under Bailey and Goldman continued on through the mountains to the Bend country. In late summer and fall, Walker joined with Jewett and Shelton in collecting specimens and notes in the area at the mouth of the Deschutes River.

April of 1915 found Alex, in company with Stanley Jewett and Francis Garlough, camped at the mouth of Willow Creek near Heppner Junction. They

(Continued on Page 5)







**This survey group was photographed at Frog Camp in McKenzie Pass during August, 1914. Standing from left to right are Stanley Jewett, Alex Walker, Vernon Bailey, Luther Goldman, Alfred C. Shelton, Dr. Peck, Don Lancefield: In front are R. Bruce Horsefall and Jack Frye and his dog.**

**Camping by Bake Oven Creek in 1915. Party consisted of Alex Walker, F. Garlough and Stanley Jewett. The latter two are shown preparing lunch.**



**Alex Walker and Harry Telford make camp at noon in the Lava Beds area during one of the early day surveys trips.**



## Biological Surveys

*(Continued from Page 4)*

worked down the Columbia River to the mouth of the Deschutes, then up the Deschutes to Maupin. On this jaunt, any great distance between collecting points was travelled by train.

They camped in Bake Oven Creek area above Maupin, then worked their way to Gateway. At Gateway they hired a man with team and light wagon to take their gear to Warm Springs. After calling at Warm Springs, they went up Mill Creek and established a camp at the base of Mt. Jefferson. Here they spent some time collecting.

Returning to Gateway they went by team and wagon to the Hay Creek area east of Madras. They bunked and boarded at the Hay Creek ranch owned at that time by Baldwin Sheep and Land Company. Alex said this was a really big operation in 1915, with a large number of ranch hands. The Hay Creek Post Office was at the ranch headquarters. After working this area they travelled again by team and wagon to the timbered Trout Creek area. While here Alex said a saddle bum joined their camp for two or three days throwing in his grub with theirs (but mostly theirs). In the mornings he would make the flapjacks by putting water, baking powder, etc., in a nest of flour in the top of his sack of flour. Alex had heard of this lazy man's way of cooking but this was the first time he had ever seen the operation.

It was decided that when the work was finished in this area, Alex would go to Tillamook County and continue scientific collecting there. He returned to Portland and Tillamook by train. Jewett and Garlough continued on to Mitchell area, John Day, Strawberry Mountain country and ended up at Baker.

In 1914 and 1915, while these surveys were going on, Harry Telford, Fish and Game Commission employee, was also gathering specimens and data in the Klamath Falls-Lakeview area.

By 1916 the plans to build habitat groups of the wildlife that had been gathered apparently ran into a snag as no money was assigned to the project.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

**Typical specimens prepared in the field for use as study skins. With reasonable care such skins may be used for years.**



# FUR CATCH REPORT

1960-61 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY AND NUMBER OF TRAPPERS' REPORTS	OTTER		MINK		MUSKRAT		RACCOON		SKUNK		CIVET CAT		WEASEL		WILDCAT		*FOX		*BEAVER		*MISCELLANEOUS	TOTAL AMOUNT	
	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.			
		\$20.47		\$7.39		\$0.60		\$1.45		\$0.71		\$0.48		\$0.30		\$4.93				\$11.02			
Baker	32		113	\$ 835.07	416	\$ 249.60	34	\$ 49.30	3	\$ 2.13	7	\$ 3.36	4	\$ 1.20	170	\$ 838.10		\$ 6.25	81	\$ 892.62	\$ 46.42	\$ 2,917.80	
Benton	28	1	31	229.09	99	59.40	77	111.65	12	8.52	4	1.92	2	.60	1	4.93	9	6.25	532	5,882.64	24.97	6,330.44	
Clackamas	28	23	39	288.21	1,247	748.20	45	65.25	1	.71	3	1.44	7	.90	3	14.79	11	4.40	672	7,405.44	8.76	9,008.91	
Clatsop	64	24	491.28	2,217.00	1,717	1,030.20	122	178.90	1	.71	3	1.44	7	2.10	12	59.16		4.40	952	10,491.04	18.98	14,487.37	
Columbia	47	21	429.87	70	517.30	940	564.00	34	49.30	6	4.26		1	.30	5	24.65	2	1.33	625	6,887.50	40.46	8,518.97	
Coos	35	19	388.93	86	635.54	624	374.40	22	31.90	6	4.26		1	.30	3	14.79			698	7,691.98		9,142.37	
Crook	7	4	81.88	23	169.97	214	128.40	10	14.50				1	.30	1	4.93			79	870.58		1,270.56	
Curry	13	10	204.70	6	44.34	127	76.20	7	10.15				4	1.20	87	428.91			178	1,961.56	190.13	2,492.01	
Deschutes	13	10	204.70	6	44.34	127	76.20	7	10.15				4	1.20	87	428.91			178	1,961.56	190.13	2,492.01	
Douglas	24	11	225.17	31	225.17	351	210.60	14	20.30	5	3.55	21	10.08	4	1.20	22	108.46	7	3.33	1,387	15,284.74	52.54	16,643.28
Gilliam	80	33	675.51	604	362.40	240	348.00	240	348.00						27	108.46			1,387	15,284.74	72.41	16,643.28	
Grant	2		3	22.17	218	130.80	18	26.10							1	4.93			64	705.28	26.76	1,382.08	
Harney	17		66	487.74	16	9.60	21	30.45			2	.96	1	.30	12	59.16			39	650.18	26.76	1,382.08	
Hood River	10		25	140.41	88	52.80	16	23.20	3	2.13	1	.48	1	.30	165	813.45			109	1,201.18	233.99	2,396.56	
Jackson	8	2	40.94	15	184.75	756	453.60	104	150.80	33	23.43	12	5.76		96	473.28	13	5.20	55	606.10	306.72	3,976.30	
Jefferson	30	12	245.64	31	59.12			5	7.25						1	4.93			284	2,044.48		1,776.66	
Josephine	2	15	307.05	8	229.09	347	208.20	78	113.10			5	2.40		8	39.44	1	.40	92	1,013.84	40	1,743.95	
Klamath	14	13	450.34	176	1,300.64	17,162	10,297.20	42	60.90			5	2.40	1	8	39.44			356	3,923.12	96.74	16,213.45	
Lake	9	22		6	44.34	15	9.00	4	5.80					1	17	83.81			356	3,923.12	96.74	16,213.45	
Lane	126	31	634.57	690	414.00	900	414.00	316	458.20	21	14.91	70	33.60	23	6.90	140	690.20	10	2,002	1,796.26	30.89	27,233.67	
Lincoln	44	15	307.05	123	908.97	261	156.60	203	294.35	1	.71	9	4.32	2	.60	44	216.92	3	379	4,176.58	23.56	6,089.66	
Linn	46	8	163.76	46	307.05	282	169.20	98	142.10	11	7.81	6	2.88		136	670.48	3	2.26	587	6,468.74	47.50	7,349.12	
Malheur	28	8	163.76	8	59.12	5,009	3,005.40	38	55.10	1	.71	1	.48		136	670.48			206	2,270.12	45.89	6,271.06	
Marion	47	3	61.41	30	221.70	630	378.00	75	108.75	8	5.68	2	.96	1	3	14.79	25	10.53	382	4,209.64	58.37	5,070.13	
Morrow	5		13	96.07	60	60	3	4.35											81	892.62		993.64	
Multnomah	27	23	470.81	28	206.92	895	537.00	66	95.70	5	3.55	2	.96	3	.90	17	83.81		227	2,501.54	23.83	3,925.02	
Polk	16	11	225.17	15	110.85	46	27.60	16	23.20						11	54.23	1	.93	364	4,011.28	21.00	4,474.26	
Sherman	1																		33	363.66		363.66	
Tillamook	46	40	818.80	847	508.20	134	194.30	134	194.30			16	7.68		80	394.40		1,095	12,066.90	389.19	15,643.16		
Umatilla	34		120	886.80	844	506.40	34	49.30	2	1.42					213	2,347.26		213	2,347.26	42.62	3,833.80		
Union	26		99	731.61	1,303	781.80	30	43.50					5	1.50	27	19.72		79	870.58	7.37	2,456.08		
Wallowa	23		85	628.15	1,273	763.80	48	69.60					4	1.20	4	133.11		100	1,102.00	2.23	2,700.09		
Wasco	7	4	81.88	79	583.81	86	51.60	22	31.90						162	1,785.24		162	1,785.24		2,534.43		
Washington	24	5	102.35	271	162.60	52	75.40	52	75.40	5	3.55	3	1.44		2	9.86	9	4.13	341	3,757.82	21.44	4,301.17	
Wheeler	3			2	1.20													32	352.64		353.84		
Yamhill	25	5	102.35	17	125.63	111	66.60	138	200.10			1	.48	1	.30	1	4.93		314	3,460.28	32.24	3,992.91	
TOTALS	1,015	350	\$7,164.50	2,576	\$19,036.64	37,492	\$22,495.20	2,166	\$3,140.70	120	\$85.20	178	\$85.44	69	\$20.70	1,143	\$5,634.99	91	\$43.29	12,987	\$143,116.74	1,991.49	\$202,814.89

Table compiled from reports of 1,015 of 1,084 (94%) licensed trappers.

\*Includes 8 gray foxes @ 40c and 13 red foxes @ 93c.

†Catch of beaver compiled from beaver report cards.

‡Includes 530 coyotes @ \$2.25; 110 opossums @ 40c; 3 ringtail cats @ \$1.13; 49 badgers @ \$1.90; 90 martens @ \$3.57; and 547 nutrias @ 52c.

## Fur Harvest Exceeds \$200,000

OREGON TRAPPERS reported catching 58,501 animals during the 1960-61 trapping season and receiving \$202,814.89 from the sale of their pelts. This represents approximately 94 per cent of the fur harvest. Only 69 of the 1,084 licensed trappers failed to file a report of their catch.

The accompanying table shows the catch of 17 species of fur animals by county and the amount of revenue derived from the sale of pelts. Beaver trapped proved to be the most profitable, accounting for 70 per cent of the trappers' income, while the fur of the otter brought the highest price. All species of fur, however, sold for slightly lower prices than they did last year.

Continued drought conditions in southeastern Oregon have caused many of the marshes and ponds to dry up, seriously curtailing muskrat production. Despite loss of these productive areas the take of muskrats was still greater than for all other fur species combined. The catch of 37,181 muskrats is approximately half the harvest of normal winters.

Opossums are continuing to increase and spread from the illegal introductions which took place prior to World War I. They were reported taken in Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook Counties from a release at Warrenton, and in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties from a liberation at Troutdale. Due to their low fur value, few trappers attempted to trap them or bothered to skin those taken accidentally.

Trappers also reported taking large numbers of nutrias, mostly from counties in western Oregon. The reported catch of 547 is estimated to be less than one-half the total take as the pelts were of little value and few trappers even saved the animals accidentally taken in sets made for more valuable species. Trappers generally reported taking only the animals they skinned. From the reports it is apparent thriving colonies of this South American import now exist in Lane, Linn, Marion, Yamhill, Washington, and Columbia Counties. All of these introductions are the direct result of escape-ment or illegal releases from nutria farms.

Three band recovery reports have been received from Russia this summer on two pintails banded on Sauvie Island in September, 1959 and January, 1960, and one pintail banded at Summer Lake in August, 1954.



## Biological Surveys

(Continued from Page 5)

All of the specimens were sent to the Reed College Zoology Department. Later the study skins were sent to Oregon State College where they reside today in the Museum of Natural History, forming the backbone of the teaching and research collection in the Departments of Fish and Game Management and Zoology.

After World War I upon return to civilian life, Alex was employed by the Cleveland Museum to gather specimens for museum exhibits. He did extensive work in the Warner Valley country of Oregon, then moved on to Arizona and New Mexico and into Old Mexico. After several years of field work he and his family again returned to the Tillamook area. He has been the curator of the Pioneer Museum in Tillamook since its establishment several years ago.

These early biological surveys, of which the above is an example, provided needed information about our wildlife populations and helped to build a sound foundation for our present game management programs. Another result has been the publication of two excellent works of reference: "The Mammals and Life Zones of Oregon" by Vernon Bailey, and "Birds of Oregon" by Gabrielson and Jewett.

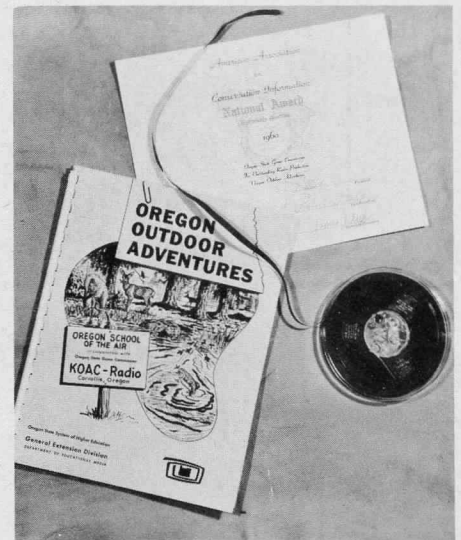
### About the Author

Harold Cramer Smith came to work as an artist for the Oregon Game Commission ten years ago this summer. Besides the art work in the Bulletin with which our readers are familiar, he does the art and layout for miscellaneous publications of the department, works on state fair and other exhibits, and helps as the occasion requires with other assignments in the information-education division.

A native of Miles City, Montana, Harold was raised on a ranch on Powder River. After attending high school at Miles City and Billings, he went to work with the U. S. Forest Service. This was followed by five years of army service mapping parts of the globe, particularly in the C.B.I. theatre.

After the war he attended the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles and then worked awhile for the advertising section of the telephone company before coming to the game department.

### GAME BULLETIN



## Publications and Radio Series Win Recognition

The 1959-60 biennial report of the Oregon Game Commission was awarded first place honors among conservation report entries considered by the American Association for Conservation Information at this year's convention in South Dakota. The Association, representing state and federal conservation agencies, gave a similar award to the Oregon report in 1956. Prepared for the Governor and the legislature at the end of each biennium, the report summarizes Commission operations and activities. A limited number of copies is available for general distribution.

The Commission's "Wildlife Series Leaflets" and its radio production, "Oregon Outdoor Adventures" received honorable mention. The radio series is broadcast during the winter months over station KOAC in Corvallis and station KBPS, the Portland public school station. The wildlife leaflets are nontechnical bulletins also prepared primarily for elementary school children. Copies are available from the Game Commission.



# Mourning Dove

High windstorms are worst enemy as the nest & young are both destroyed. Ground nests subject to much predation.

Ranges throughout Oregon. Absent only in high mountains & heavily timbered areas. Migrates north in March & April, & south in September. In Western Oregon small numbers remain during winter.

Body grayish-blue above, reddish-fawn below. Length 11"-13." Wing 5"-6."

Tail longer than wings, 14 graduated tapering feathers bordered with white

Seeds & grain are main foods. Gravel for grit is picked up along roads. Water is a daily requirement. Doves drink with heads down like animals.

Head & breast of male a pinkish-iridescence, with bluish top. Black spot on each side of head in both sexes.

Noted for flimsy nests placed in trees or on the ground. Made of twigs, grass & weeds. 2 eggs are laid hatch in 14 days. Young fed on crop secretion or "Pigeon milk" for a time then change to seeds & grain.

Harold Cramer Smith

## Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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