



# **OREGON WILDLIFE**

SEPTEMBER 1981

# OREGON WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER 1981  
Volume 36, No.9

OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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Ron E. Shay, Editor  
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**Cover** — McDonald Forest has provided a controlled study of black-tailed deer for 27 years. Our lead article looks at a few of the things that have been learned.

*Photo by Jim Gladson*

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS APPROVED	
Month of July .....	36
Total Active .....	1,482
STUDENTS TRAINED	
Month of July .....	422
Total to Date .....	283,422
HUNTING CASUALTIES REPORTED IN 1981	
Fatal .....	0
Nonfatal .....	7

## A DISTURBING TREND

During the early days of Oregon, fish and wildlife management was based largely on political decisions. Until the 1940's, the angling and hunting regulations were set biennially by the legislature. Shortly after World War II a number of changes were made in the organization of the Game Commission which managed sport fishing and hunting. During this time much emphasis was put on removing management decisions from the political arena and basing such decisions on biological facts.

Throughout the United States, the Fish and Wildlife Departments with the soundest, long term programs are those which base the prime management decisions on biological information and those which have little direct political pressure exerted on them. In the past, certain agencies in other states had virtually the whole upper echelon of managers change every time the Governor changed.

Oregon has been spared this and has a reputation for continuity of program and stability of staff and management programs. It is true that in setting regulations, the Fish and Wildlife Commissioners have had to consider various sociological factors and the preferences of an increasing number of special interest groups wanting to use the fish and wildlife resource in different ways. However, the bottom line has still always been the resource. If a requested rule might threaten the future of a fish or wildlife resource, the Commission has made it plain, they will rule in favor of the resource. If there are surpluses that can be taken, the decision then becomes one of allocating between the various user and special interest groups.

In most cases, the various users, though they may not agree with the Commission decision have been satisfied to accept the decision and perhaps come back to try their idea another day. Unfortunately, as we have had more and more interest groups develop and in some cases had a decline in the resource base, greater numbers of people end up disappointed. This will probably happen more in the future as there are only so many ways the surpluses can be used.

To us, the most disturbing thing that has happened in recent years is the attempt of some individuals and groups to try to get elected officials to put pressure on the Commission to make rules to their liking. Former Commissioner Kelly in a meeting shortly prior to his retirement from the Commission emphasized that he had never had pressure put on him by any of the three Governors under whom he had served. Other Commission members totally agreed. This augurs well for long term resource management.

Disagreement on who should get what is inevitable. Even some disagreement as to the nature of management plans and strategies based on available data is natural. The job of the Commission is to arbitrate these disagreements. It is a thankless job and in many cases a no-win job. However, throwing the deliberations into the political arena would only negate what many conservationists have been fighting for many years, but would in the long run probably make for more frustrations.□

*R.E.S.*

## COMPACT AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

*The Columbia River Compact will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 14, to consider any necessary adjustments in fall gillnet seasons.*

*On Friday, September 18, the Fish and Wildlife Commission will meet at 8 a.m. in a general business meeting. The next day, Saturday, September 19, the Commission will reconvene at 8 a.m. to hear the recommendations of its fishery staff for 1982 angling regulations.*

*All meetings will take place at Fish and Wildlife Department headquarters, 506 SW Mill Street, Portland.□*





# THE MAC FOREST DEER HUNT: A SECOND LOOK

By

*Harold Sturgis and David de Calesta*

The McDonald Forest deer hunt — some hunters can't wait to come back every year, others avoid it like the plague. You will almost certainly wait in line to go hunting in Mac Forest, and you may wait in line before you leave. Hunting in Mac Forest is no wilderness experience, for this forest, owned by Oregon State University, is located at the edge of the Willamette Valley near Corvallis, and on any hunting day hundreds of hunters will share its 20 square miles.

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This 27-year experiment with black-tailed deer management has yielded much information of interest to hunters and deer managers alike. An earlier article (*Oregon Wildlife*, July, 1977) summarized the record of the first 20 years of deer harvest in Mac Forest. During those years, hunter participation and deer kill far exceeded anything ever recorded elsewhere in Oregon or an area of similar size. A major objective of this season since its beginning has been to test the response of

the deer population to a high harvest over many successive years.

Since then we've continued to collect data, and a comparison of the last 10 years' experience with that of the previous decade seems in order. We've learned some new things, had a few hunches confirmed and come up with reason to doubt some time worn and cherished beliefs.

With the exception of the hunting season of 1975, a checking station has operated at McDonald

Forest every year since 1954. Hunting has been permitted on weekends only, with three or four weekends scheduled each season. During all but three of the past 27 hunting seasons, hunter's choice hunting has been permitted on one or more weekends, with remaining weekends open to hunting for bucks only or either-sex hunting with controlled season permits. For the past three seasons, the hunt has consisted of three weekends each year, during which any deer could be taken.

During the past 10 years, the deer harvest on the 20-square mile area has ranged from 62 deer in 1976 to 608 deer in 1970. The 10-year average, excepting 1975, is 247 deer.

Records of age, sex, antler class, field-dressed weight and daily harvest of deer from the past 10 years show some revealing changes from the previous decade.

Take the supply of bucks for example. Hunters often express concern over the effects of harvests of antlerless deer on the population in general, and in particular on the supply of antlered bucks. Mac Forest has provided an opportunity to measure this effect, if any, since through the years the annual kill of antlerless deer has comprised more than half the total. During the past 10 years antlered bucks made up about 44% of the total harvest, and during the previous 10 years about 46% of the total. Not much change overall, but how about the number of older bucks? Look at Figure 1, showing the proportions of spikes, two-point, three-point and four-point bucks in the harvest of antlered deer. During the past 10 years the harvest of spike bucks has increased 28%, with much of that increase during the past three seasons, which were open throughout to taking antlerless deer. This increase in harvest of spike bucks appears to have resulted in a corresponding decrease in two-point and three-point bucks. The number of four-point bucks taken remains essentially the same, probably because

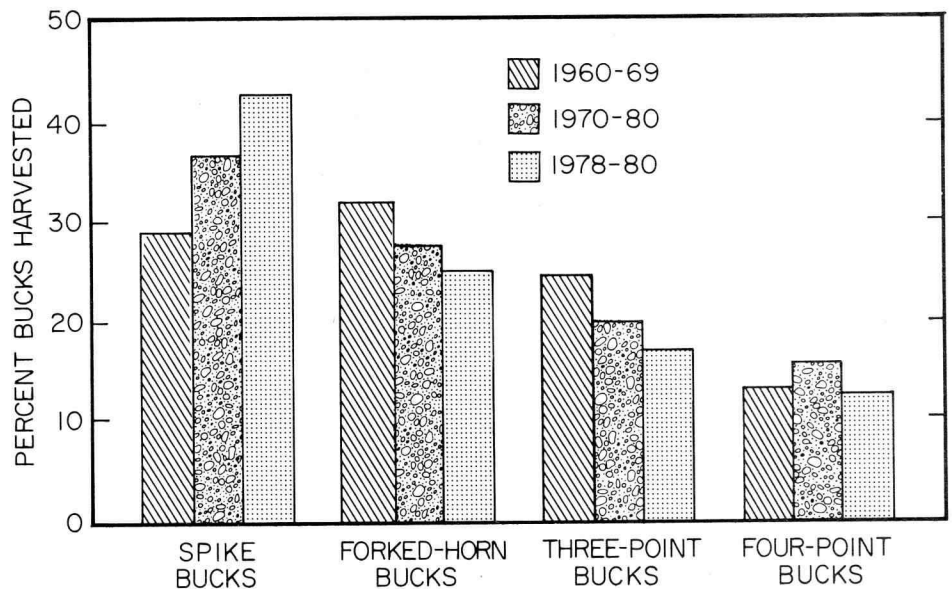


Figure 1 — Proportions of total buck harvest by antler class.



A high density of deer and a large number of hunters have mixed over the years at McDonald Forest. But heavy brush and the elusive nature of the black-tailed deer have combined to insure continuing healthy herds.



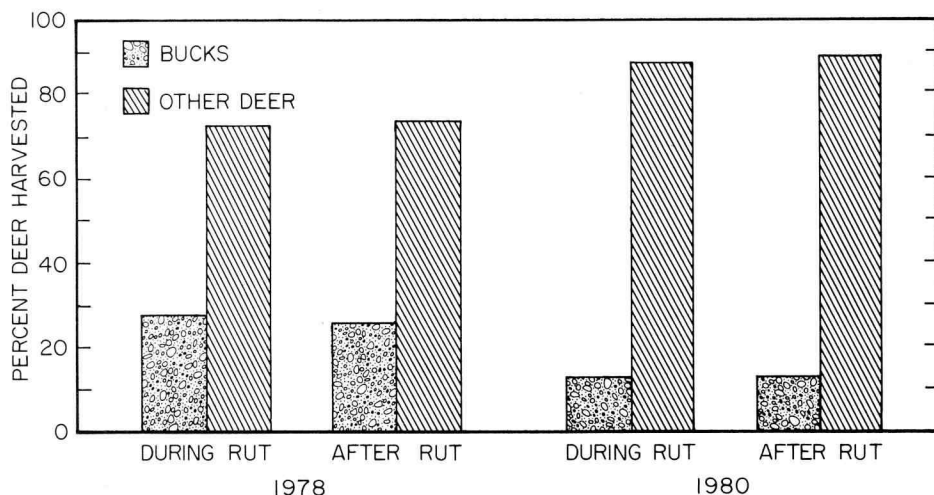


Figure 2 — Proportions of bucks and other deer before the rut in November, and after the rut in December.

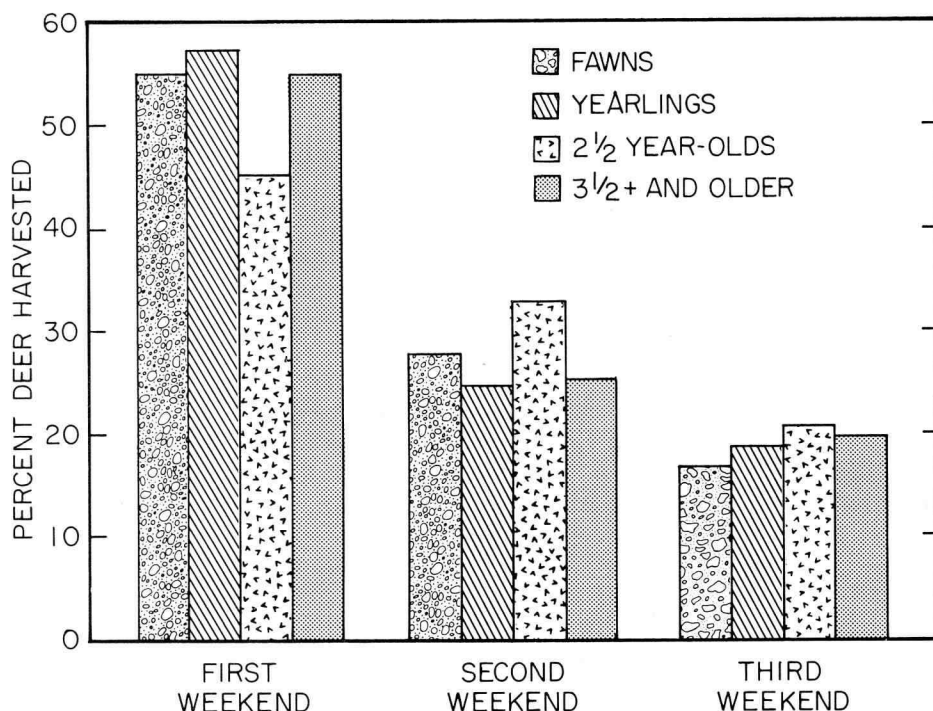


Figure 3 — Percent of deer harvested by age class on first, second and third weekends of the hunt.

these are older deer whose numbers are unlikely to have been influenced by higher spike harvest of the past three years.

The chances of bagging any deer in Mac Forest have declined slightly. During the 1960's Mac Forest was open to deer hunting a total of 78 days; during 1970-80, a total of 60 days, representing a 23% reduction in hunting opportunity. A comparison of the average number of deer taken per day of hunting gives a good indication

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of the relative numbers of deer available to the hunter, and compensates for the difference in total hunting opportunity between the two periods. During the past 10 years, an average of 499 hunters took slightly more than 41 deer per day, and during the previous 10 years an average of 424 hunters bagged somewhat less than 45 deer per day. Hunter success averaged 8.2% per day in recent years, and 10.6% per day during the earlier decade.

The average field-dressed weight of deer increased, with the exception of adult bucks: fawns, up 3%; yearling males, up 4%; adult does, up 7%; and adult bucks, down 2%.

How about all those hunters confined on that small area — isn't hunting there dangerous? No question about it, lots of hunters hunt Mac Forest. During the decade of the 70's, the daily average hunter density was almost 23 per square mile. But let's look at some facts.

In Oregon in recent years gun accidents have numbered from 200 to 250 annually, with 50 or fewer each year related to hunting. In Oregon in 1978 the hunting-related gun accident rate for all hunting (upland game, waterfowl, big game, etc.) was 7.5 per 60,000 hunters. In McDonald Forest one known hunting accident, a fatality, is known to have occurred during the past 20 years, equivalent to an accident rate of .95 per 60,000 hunters.

Lots of hunters continue to bag lots of deer in Mac Forest with no apparent damage to the herd, and in relative safety. So what else is new?

It is generally assumed that buck deer are most vulnerable to the hunter during the rut, or breeding season. We evaluated harvest information from two seasons to test this assumption in McDonald Forest. Figure 2 shows the proportions of bucks 2 1/2 years of age and older (those most active in the rut) taken during and after the rut. Although the percentage of bucks in the harvest differs between years, the proportions taken each year are almost identical during and after the rut, indicating the Mac Forest bucks are no more vulnerable during the rut than afterwards.

Do older deer, owing to past experience with hunting seasons, "wise-up" as the season advances? Figure 3 shows the proportions of four age groups in the harvest on each of three weekends. Although the total number of deer taken decreases as the season goes on, the proportions of the four age groups taken remains about the same, indicating



Are buck deer more vulnerable during the rut than other deer? Do older deer learn more quickly or get smarter than young deer as the season advances? Indications from the study are that the answer to both questions is no.

that no one age group learns any faster than the others during the season.

Keep in mind that these results were obtained in an area where the number of hunters per square mile of area is much higher than in western Oregon generally. Differences in the age and sex of deer taken by hunters will be less pronounced where high hunter numbers reduce the odds for escape.

All deer in the population seem to learn at about the same rate during the season. How long does this wariness persist? Do the deer "forget" during the season? Apparently they do. Deer harvests for three seasons of the past 10 are summarized in Figure 4. These seasons were of the same kind, hunter's choice, and the weekends were consecutive, providing five days of "rest" between weekends, when there were no hunters in the woods. Most obvious at first glance is the substan-

tial drop in number of deer taken on the second day of each weekend. Fewer hunters show up on Sundays, explaining in part the decline, but these hunters are much less successful than Saturday hunters, indicating that the activity of the first day does, indeed, make the deer more wary and less vulnerable.

The deer kill and the success rate rise between the first Sunday, and Saturday of the second weekend, and then the Saturday to Sunday drop is repeated. This pattern is repeated on the third weekend. Obviously, during that five-day "rest" period between weekends, the wariness evident on Sunday of the weekend is lost.

Does a longer interval between hunting periods have any effect on hunter success? When a comparison was made between two weekends separated by five days of no hunting, and two weekends separated by 19 days of no hunt-

ing it was found that the success rate for all hunters was almost identical on each of the second weekends (5.9 and 6.0%), indicating that much of what was learned by the deer was forgotten during that first five days.

An analysis of the sex and age composition of the harvest for the past two decades (Figure 5) reveals interesting changes.

The percent of antlerless animals (fawns and does) in the harvest has increased from 54% in the 60's to 62% in the 70's, and was 69% during the past three years. This change reflects changing regulations. Fewer than 50% of the days open to hunting were hunter's choice during the 1960's. This increased to 62% during the 70's, and during 1978-80, hunter's choice hunting was permitted throughout each season. The percentage of bucks taken declined, of course, with increased opportunity to take antlerless



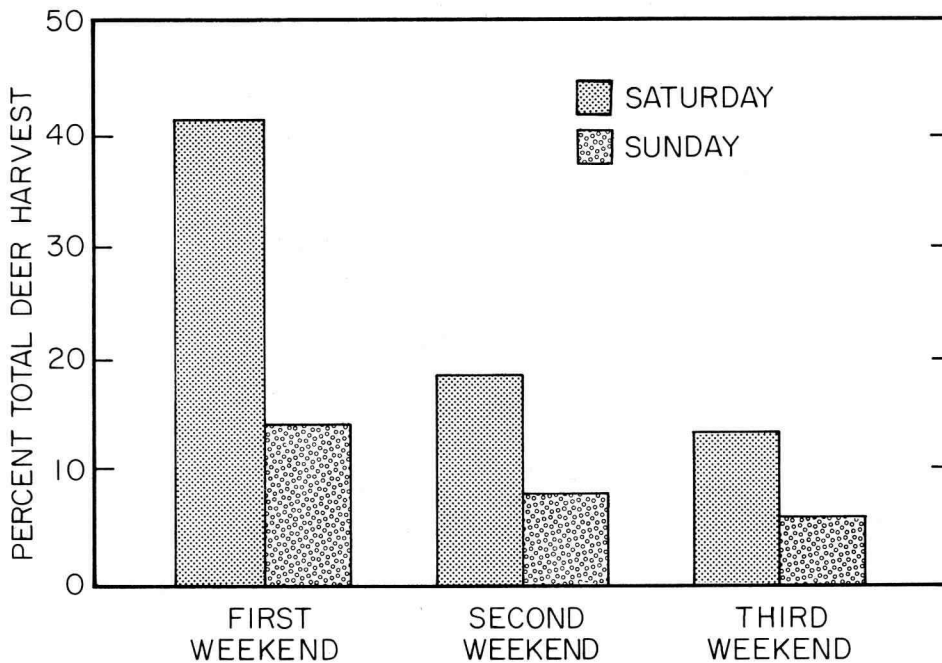


Figure 4 — Percent of deer harvested by weekend.

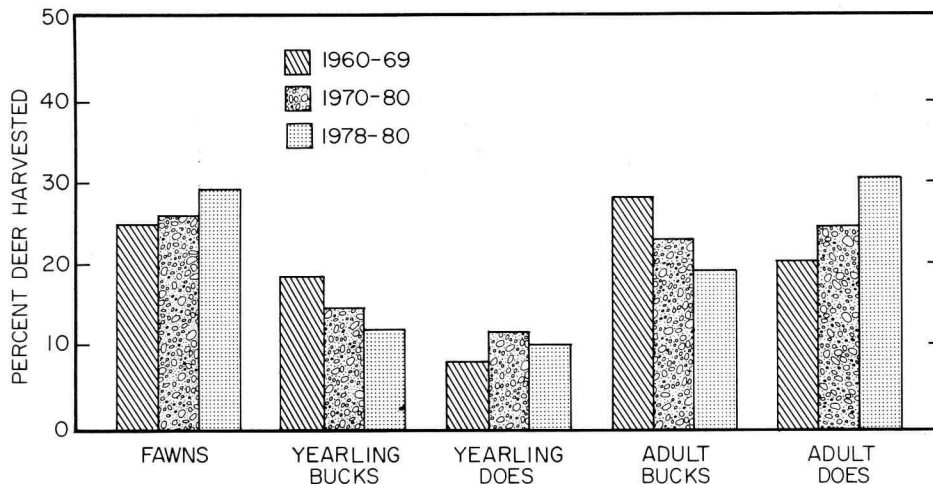


Figure 5 — Percent of deer by sex and age class harvested in three time periods.

deer, from 46% in the 60's to 33% during 1978-80.

What could we expect if we decided to dramatically reverse the direction of recent management and limit the taking of deer to four-point bucks only, in an attempt to provide more "trophy" deer? Age and antler-point data for 748 bucks taken in Mac Forest

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during several of the most recent hunting seasons was assembled to make Figure 6, with the assumption that the relationships between age and antler class in the harvest accurately reflect the makeup of the entire buck population.

Age 3½ was arbitrarily chosen as the earliest age at which a buck could reasonably be expect-

ed to grow four-point antlers, as this is the earliest age at which an appreciable number of four-points appeared in the total kill of bucks. Figure 6 shows that of all the bucks assumed to be old enough to be four-points, only 29% were. In fact, four-points are not in the majority until age 6½ years and older.

Because such a high proportion of all bucks assumed to be old enough did not have four-point antlers, and nearly 40% of the very oldest bucks (6½ years and older) had not achieved that status, it seems reasonable to expect that, no matter how much protection they are given, a large percentage of all black-tailed bucks will never develop those trophy antlers.

It is equally interesting to note that during the years when those 748 bucks were taken, an additional 1,249 other deer were harvested, for a total of 1,997 deer. Less than 6% of that total were four-point bucks. Obviously, stockpiling all those deer in an attempt to provide a relatively small number of trophy animals translates into a mountain of venison steaks and a lot of hunting recreation that no one will ever enjoy. Carrying all those additional deer also means vastly increased competition for food, higher loads of internal parasites, and a population in poorer general physical condition. It hardly needs saying that bucks in this circumstance are even *less* likely to grow larger antlers.

How does all this relate to black-tailed deer hunting and black-tailed deer populations generally in western Oregon? First let's focus on the differences. For many years hunter numbers in McDonald Forest have been much, much higher on the average than elsewhere. The 1980 season will serve for comparison: on the first day 1,154 hunters checked in to hunt, an average of 58 per square mile. On the slowest day of the season, 490 hunters checked in, an average of 25 per square mile. In the popular Alsea Unit, last season, the average density of all hunters reporting that they hunted at some time

NUMBER OF DEER BY AGE IN EACH  
ANTLER-POINT CLASS

AGE IN YEARS	1	2	3	4
1 1/2	223	31		
2 1/2	14	86	27	2
3 1/2	6	71	51	18
4 1/2	1	21	39	23
5 1/2		13	26	25
6 1/2		4	5	16
7 1/2		2	5	14
8 1/2			5	2
9 1/2			2	4
TOTAL BUCKS	256	228	160	104
	34%	30%	21%	14%

353  
BUCKS  
29% 4 pt.  
71% 3 pt.  
& smaller

Figure 6 — Age and antler class of 748 bucks taken in McDonald Forest.



Hunters are often concerned with the effects of harvest of antlerless animals. The Mac Forest study has provided an opportunity to measure this effect, if any, since through the years the annual kill of antlerless deer has comprised more than half the total.

during the season not on any one day was 10 per square mile. Average daily hunter participation throughout the unit would be much lower.

A number of phenomena reported here appear to be by-products of that high hunter density, and they are unlikely to be duplicated elsewhere in western Oregon. The increasing harvest of bucks at an earlier age (Figure 1) and the increase in the proportion of antlerless deer in the harvest during the past decade are indicators of a population that has been more heavily exploited than during the 1960's. Slight declines in harvest per day of hunting and the rate of hunter success bear this out.

The fact that there seems to be little difference in the harvest of bucks during or after the rut, and the fact that all age groups are about equally represented in the kill throughout the season is largely a result of high hunter densities. Large numbers of hunters present in the woods at any one time obviously increase the odds that any deer may be taken by a hunter.

Some of the findings in Mac Forest seem to apply to black-tailed deer in general. The reaction of deer to periods of rest between hunting days is unlikely to differ regardless of hunting area. Deer seem to forget any amount of disturbance within just a few days. And stockpiling a herd of black-tails in hope of producing more trophies is not likely to succeed regardless of where it might be tried in typical Coast Range habitat.

So much for Mac Forest to now, a continuing experiment in deer management that has shown the remarkable resiliency of a deer herd under heavy hunting pressure for many years. If you've never been there, drop down one weekend this fall and get in line.

Editor's note: Harold Sturgis is a district wildlife biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Department and David de Calesta is with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University. □



# THIS AND THAT

Compiled by Ken Durbin

## Colorado Check-off Raises \$740,700

Colorado taxpayers this year contributed a record \$740,700 to nongame wildlife management through a check-off box on their state income tax forms. (Colorado was the first state to adopt the nongame tax check-off; Oregon was the second).

Figures from the Colorado Department of Revenue show that 139,850 taxpayers donated an average of \$5.30 from their state tax refunds to programs administered by Division of Wildlife to manage the 783 Colorado wildlife species not hunted, trapped, or fished for, including the state's threatened and endangered species.

*Colorado Outdoors*

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## Blue Pictures

Incredible as it may sound, a French "artist", Jean Verame, is currently spray-painting the mountains in the previously untouched valley of Bir Nafach, an area close to the historically sacred Mount Sinai, with 13 tons of black and blue paint. Boulders, peaks and rock walls are now literally black and blue in polka-dots, triangles and squares. The artist calls it "adding a human dimension to nature"; conservationists call it simply "vandalism." The natural desert sandstone hues of the mountains of southern Sinai will have to bear this desecration for many years.

*African Wildlife*

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## Game Care Brochure

The National Rifle Association has produced a leaflet with instructions on how to field dress small game, birds and big game, and information on transporting and processing game. It includes a number of good recipes for cooking game. For a free copy, write the N.R.A. Hunter Services Division, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

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## Deer Can Be Dangerous

You think that cuddly fawn you picked up and raised by hand would never harm a soul? Think again.

Kim Heller, a photographer with Ohio Department of Natural Resources, died from wounds suffered when he was gored by a deer. Heller was on assignment for the department at a private wildlife preserve when a semi-domesticated white-tailed deer charged and gored him in the chest and abdomen.

Cut and bruised, Heller managed to crawl into a nearby pond and escape the deer. Later, he was able to make his way to his vehicle and drive to the home of the preserve manager for help. But he died five days later in a Columbus hospital.

Unfortunately, the attack on Heller is not a rare incident. There are many reports of "tame" deer kicking, goring or otherwise inflicting injury on their "owners" or other bystanders. Best to leave deer and other wildlife in the wild.

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## The Worm Turns . . . and Turns . . . and Turns

How long does an earthworm live? Guesses range from three to 10 years — a short life, but one of great usefulness. In the course of years, wormcasts will build up a surface layer of soil of almost unbelievable depth, amounting in weight to several tons per acre per year. With their mineral-rich castings, the worms make available to plants the nutrients in the soil.

The diligent earthworm may well be the world's oldest labor saver, at least so far as man is concerned. Charles Darwin reminds us that long before man was around to invent the plow, "the land was, in fact, regularly plowed, and still continues to be thus plowed, by earthworms. It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world."

*Energy Savers' Digest*

## Tough Laws

Last year the West German parliament made it a criminal act to pollute the environment, with punishment of up to five years in jail. Proposing what is possibly the strictest environmental legislation in the world, Minister of Justice Dr. Hans-Jochen Vogel said: "The environment in the future is to have the same status of a protected interest as do capital, property and one's bodily health. The declared purpose of this parliament is that the conviction shall take root in the public consciousness so that the polluter is considered no worse, but not a hair better, than the arsonist, the swindler or the thief."

*African Wildlife*

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## Carp Bait

Before you sneer, it might be worth remembering that the U.S. is one of the few countries in the world that turns up its nose at the lowly carp. The carp is a valued and much used sport and food fish in many other countries. If you want to give the carp a whirl, here's a quick inexpensive doughball recipe for carp fishing from NEBRASKAland Magazine.

Mix one cup of cornmeal, one-half cup of flour, two tablespoons of sugar and one-half package of strawberry jello thoroughly in a bowl. Bring to boil one cup of water, one teaspoon vanilla and a dash of garlic salt. Add the dry ingredients, stir and cook for a few minutes until thick. Pour the thickened mixture onto waxed paper, flatten, and cut into squares. Let it cool until you can handle it and then roll the bait into balls. Keep refrigerated for best results. If you want to make a large batch, freeze the ball-sized chunks in small packages and use what you need for a day's fishing.

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## A Better Idea

Nothing changes the line of a man's thought quicker than spading up a fishing worm while digging in the garden.

*Missouri Conservationist*

# TROPICAL MARLIN CAUGHT IN THE UMPQUA RIVER

By David R. Haight

Winchester Bay, OR — "Holiday too", a charterboat belonging to Holiday Charters Inc., was returning to port after a morning of salmon fishing on Thursday, August 13. Ken Kent, the skipper, and deck hand Mark Gibbons, noticed a large fish swimming near the entrance to the small boat basin about two miles up the Umpqua River from its mouth.

Figuring that it was a shark, they took their passengers over for a closer look. When they did, however, they realized that it wasn't a shark at all — it was a marlin! Ken Kent quickly maneuvered his boat alongside the marlin as Mark Gibbons rigged his salmon rod with a bottom fishing jig. He cast the jig in front of the marlin several times before he hooked the fish near its mouth.

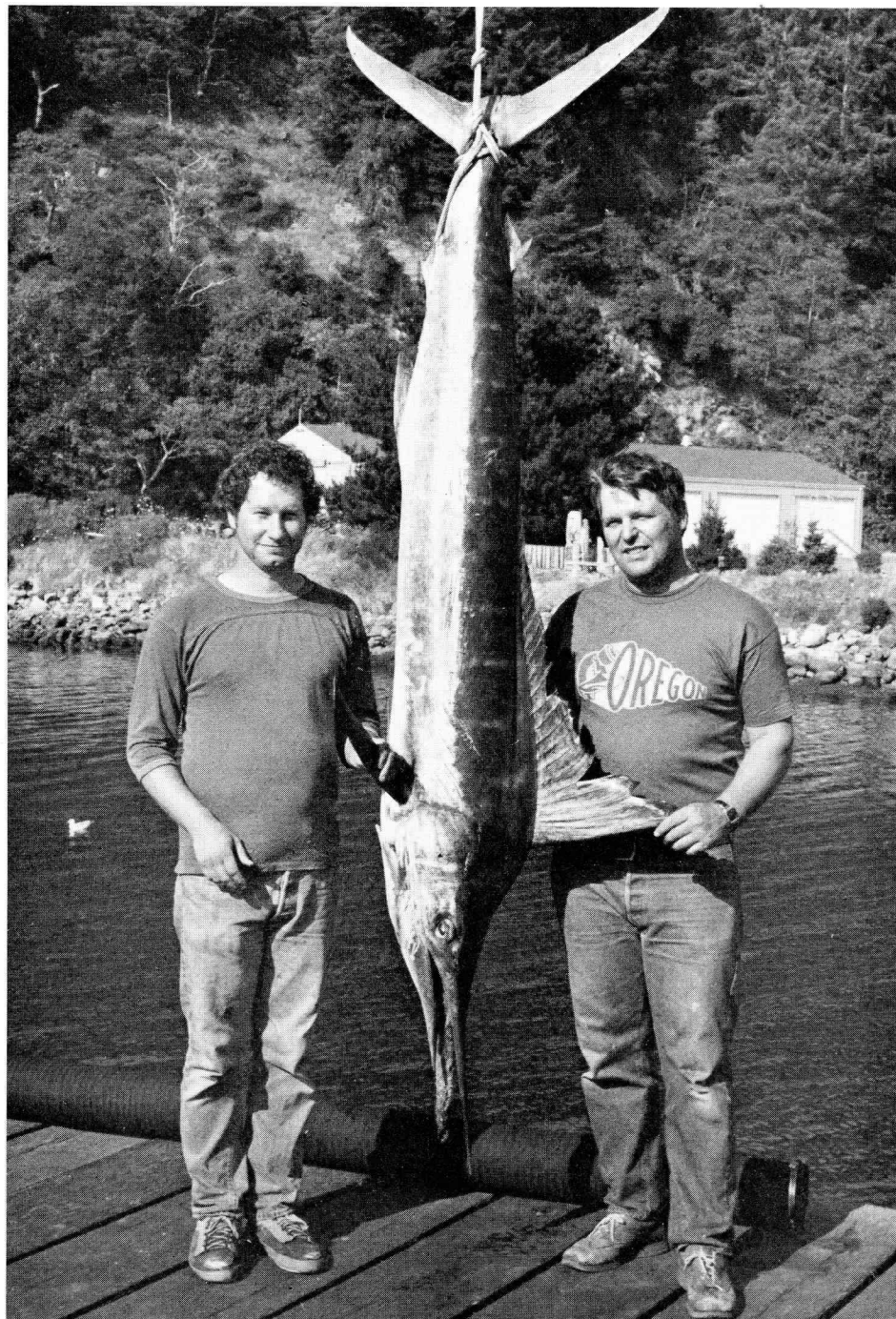
Once hooked, the marlin took off running. While Kent followed it with the boat, Gibbons, using 40-pound test line, played the fish very carefully to keep from losing it. At about 12:15 p.m., after an hour-long battle which took them a mile and a half farther up the river, the fish was finally landed.

Once the fish was brought to shore, it was identified as a striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*). It was 92-inches long, from the tip of its bill to the fork of its tail, and weighed 123½ pounds.

The whole story seems pretty amazing. But the most remarkable thing is that this was the first marlin ever recorded north of Pt. Conception, California. This catch, therefore, extends the range of the species roughly 650 miles up the Pacific Coast of North America.

Striped marlin occur throughout the tropical waters of the Pacific. Along the American Coast, they are found from Chile to southern California, where they support a rather extensive sport fishery during the late summer and early fall. In California these fish reach a size of 12 feet and weights up to 350 pounds.

Because it is a warm-water fish, the marlin probably followed the



Mark Gibbons (left) and Ken Kent display the 123½-pound striped marlin caught last month in Winchester Bay. This was the first recorded catch of this species this far north. Photo by David R. Haight.

warm offshore currents north. Fishing vessels returning from the albacore grounds have reported temperatures as high as 68 degrees Fahrenheit which is warm enough for striped marlin. Several other warm-water fish were also report-

ed off the Oregon coast this year although none of these were unprecedented.

It is unlikely that a marlin would be in the warm currents off our coast. So it is even more unusual that one would be found here in



# HELP NEEDED ON SILVER GRAY SQUIRREL STUDY

The silver gray squirrel is the focus of a research study which began this spring and will continue the next three or four years. Susan Foster, doctoral candidate in the Environmental Sciences Program at Portland State University is asking the cooperation of Oregon squirrel hunters.

Cooperating hunters are asked to provide certain nonedible parts of the squirrels they shoot as well as brief information on each kill. Ms. Foster hopes to learn more about silver gray squirrel population size, age structure, habitat requirements, size of home range, migration habits and other factors.

Relatively little is known about this unique animal which is found only in the Pacific Northwest. Its range extends from San Luis Obispo, California on the south, Ms.

Foster says, to mid-Washington on the north. The species, *Sciurus griseus*, is found in a much more restricted range than its eastern cousins, the eastern gray squirrel and the fox squirrel.

In Oregon it is most abundant in the pine-oak habitat of Hood River and Wasco counties, and in the southeastern corner of the state. Some are found throughout the Willamette Valley.

Ms. Foster's study centers primarily on the White River Wildlife Area bordering the east edge of the Mt. Hood National Forest. She says seven drop boxes have been set up in the study area. The drop stations have plastic bags for parts collections, and tags for recording information about each squirrel. Also at each station is information on the study and instruc-

tions to hunters about the specific data and parts needed.

The drop stations are located at Rock Creek Reservoir, Pine Hollow and Jordan Creek campgrounds, Bonney Crossing, Little Badger campground, Barlow Ranger District office in Dufur and at the ODFW district office in The Dalles.

Hunters interested in cooperating in the study can learn more by writing: Susan Foster, Box 335, Gresham, Oregon 97030, or by contacting the Department's district office in The Dalles, telephone: 296-4628.

The study is part of Ms. Foster's doctoral work, but information from it will be valuable to the Department's management program. □

the mouth of a river. A fisherman recorded the water temperature in the bay at 56 degrees F. the day after the marlin was caught. This is much colder water than marlin would normally occupy.

A possible explanation for its appearance in the river is that it was injured. The marlin had a deep cut, about four inches long, in the upper left side of its head. This may have caused it to become disoriented, and therefore, it may have just wandered into the river by chance. This could also explain why the marlin was approached so easily.

Kent is planning to have the marlin mounted so that it can be displayed in the office of Holiday Charters and arrangements have been made for Oregon State University scientists to get the skeleton.

Since the news of the catch came out, there have been a couple of other reported marlin sightings. However, these have been neither confirmed nor disproven.

While it is possible there are a few other striped marlin off the Oregon coast, Mark Gibbons probably does not need to worry that his state record 123½-pound striped marlin will be broken in the near future. □

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## 1981 GAME BIRD SEASONS

	OPEN SEASON (all dates inclusive)	OPEN AREA	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSES- SION LIMIT
Blue and Ruffed Grouse	Aug. 29-Sept. 27 Aug. 29-Nov. 3 Dec. 19-31	Eastern Oregon Western Oregon (Hood River & Wasco counties)	3	9
Sage Grouse	NO OPEN SEASON			
Chukar and Hungarian Partridge	Oct. 3-Jan. 31, 1982 Oct. 17-Nov. 29	Eastern Oregon Western Oregon and Klamath County	8 4	24 8
Cock Pheasant	Oct. 17-Nov. 29	Eastern Oregon Western Oregon and Klamath County	3 (1) 2	9 (1) 6
Valley Quail	Oct. 17-Dec. 31 Oct. 17-Nov. 29	Eastern Oregon Western Oregon	10 5	20 10
Mountain Quail	Oct. 17-Dec. 31 Aug. 29-Nov. 3	Eastern Oregon Western Oregon	2 5	2 10
Turkey	No Fall Season.	Controlled Spring Gobbler Season in April 1981.		
Mourning Doves	Sept. 1-Sept. 30	Entire State	10	20
Band-Tailed Pigeon	Sept. 12-Oct. 11	Entire State	5	5
Duck (includes mergansers)	Oct. 17-Jan. 17, 1982	Entire State	7 (a)	14
Coot	Oct. 17-Jan. 17, 1982	Entire State	25	25
Goose	Oct. 17-Jan. 17, 1982 Oct. 17-Jan. 17, 1982 (see following exceptions)	Western Oregon Eastern Oregon	2 3 (b)	2 6
	Oct. 17-Dec. 31 Oct. 17-Oct. 30 Oct. 31-Jan. 17, 1982	Baker & Malheur counties Klamath & Lake counties Klamath & Lake counties	2 1 (c) 3 (b)	2 2 6
Black Brant	Dec. 12-Feb. 1, 1982	Entire State	4	8
Common Snipe	Oct. 17-Jan. 17, 1982	Entire State	8	16

(a) Bag limit may include not more than 2 redheads or 2 canvasbacks or 1 of each daily, not more than 4 redheads or canvasbacks in the aggregate in possession.

(b) Daily bag limit is increased to 6 provided 3 are dark geese and 3 are white geese. White geese are snow geese and Ross' geese. All other geese are dark geese (Canada, cackling, white-fronted).

(c) Daily bag limit is increased to 3 provided 1 is a dark goose and 2 are white geese. The possession limit is increased to 6 provided 2 are dark geese and 4 are white geese.

(1) One hen may be included in the daily bag or possession limit in Malheur County from November 21 through November 29.

# FISH AND WILDLIFE LEGISLATION

*By Rollie Rousseau  
Special Assistant to the Director*

In a seven month legislative session which saw more than 70 bills introduced dealing with this Department's management responsibilities or fish and wildlife habitat, a number of major resource conservation issues were addressed.

Probably the most controversial bills dealt with private salmon hatcheries, trapping of furbearers and predators, sale of exotic wildlife and guide requirements.

None of these measures received legislative approval, however most of the bills that were approved will assist the Department in its management of Oregon's fish and wildlife resources.

Of the two measures introduced by the Department of Fish and Wildlife this session, **HB 2213** was enacted and provides for increases in the sport fishing and hunting license fees beginning January 1.

The other bill, **HB 3179**, would have required all trappers to complete a six-hour trapper education course prior to obtaining a trapping license. This bill was defeated in the Senate after easily passing the House.

Although the Legislature addressed two bills relating to guides and outfitters, neither passed. Because of action taken by the 1979 Legislature (and the 1981 session failed to implement any new guide laws) all current requirements for guides and outfitters, including licensing by the Depart-

ment, will be automatically repealed July 1, 1982.

Here is a short summary of legislation relating to fish and wildlife. Most of the bills will become part of Oregon law about November 1. Some measures have emergency clauses which make them effective immediately upon the Governor's signature.

## ADMINISTRATION

**HB 2213**, signed July 23, establishes new license and tag fees beginning January 1. The resident combination will now cost \$18 with a salmon-steelhead tag at \$5. Hunting licenses will now cost \$8, most tags will remain the same except for the antelope tag which goes to \$10. Resident anglers will now pay \$12 per year, nonresidents, \$30. All of the other sport fishing fees will rise and license agents will be charging 50 cents per document beginning next year.

This act also grants the Commission authority to issue special permits to landowners who wish to hunt on their own lands during authorized seasons where permits for deer and elk are limited by quota.

**HB 2003**, signed August 5, changes Fish and Wildlife Commission appointments by adding a fifth Congressional District position and removes the "State at Large" position. The present seven-member Commission is retained with appointments made after January 1 subject to the

new Congressional boundaries.

**HB 2119**, signed May 13, strengthens the Commission's existing authority to seek civil damages from anyone convicted of unlawful taking or killing of wildlife after January 1. The burden of proof has always been on us to prove the defendant "knowingly" killed wildlife unlawfully before civil damages could be sought. No longer. Also, the courts shall award costs and attorney fees to the prevailing party.

The damage schedule for wildlife dollar values is substantially increased; from \$10 for game birds to \$3,500 for mountain sheep or goats.

## WILDLIFE

**SB 209**, signed June 22, requires our Commission to specifically consider four criteria before setting hunting regulations from 1982 on. Considerations are: the supply and condition of deer and elk; availability of forage for deer, elk and livestock; recreational demands; and the effects of deer and elk herds on the public and private lands.

The wildlife staff report will now need to include all available data on the four specific provisions so that the Commission is clearly on record as having given consideration to these points prior to establishing any deer or elk hunting regulations prescribing the numbers of animals to be taken.



**HB 3233**, signed July 21, establishes a tax check-off for the Oregon Arts Development Fund beginning with 1982 filings. However, also included in this legislation is an amendment to the Non-game Wildlife Fund which changes the dollar amount next to the check-off boxes on the tax form to \$1, \$5 and a blank. This will allow the person giving the money to donate more than the \$5 maximum which was established at the time of the fund, two years ago.

#### ENFORCEMENT

**SB 763**, signed May 1, provides an additional violation to a person who hunts or fishes during the period which his license, tag or privileges have been removed by court order. Bail will probably be established at around \$200.

#### FISHERIES

**HB 2520**, signed July 18, extends until 1984 the existing moratorium on commercial troll salmon and pink shrimp fisheries and provides the Department more discretion in issuing permits under the "hardship" provision.

The Columbia River gill net fishery moratorium is extended permanently rather than for just two years. No new licenses can be issued through a lottery system like the other fishing moratoriums. These changes were necessary so that gill net boats can qualify under a Federal Act providing money to the Department for purchase of boats and permits. This legislation also authorizes the Commission to establish rules for the vessel "buy back" program in the Columbia River fishery.

An immediate provision of this act establishes a moratorium and \$1 permit for the commercial scallop fishery and prohibits any landings without permit. To qualify for a permit, a vessel must have landed at least 10 pounds of food fish in Oregon prior to July 18.

New length limits for commercially caught sturgeon must be adopted by the Commission before this law takes effect as a

**OREGON WILDLIFE**

provision of **HB 2520** repealed a statute which had set the limits.

**HB 3009** became effective March 30 and removed filing date deadlines for renewal of commercial troll, shrimp and Columbia River gill net permits. Commercial fishermen can now obtain their permits at any time during the year so long as they meet landing requirements for the previous year. The act also modified the landing requirement for salmon fishermen, allowing them to qualify by landing at least one salmon in any Pacific coast state, rather than just Oregon.

**HB 3195**, signed August 5 and effective immediately, requires the Department to provide annually up to 200 total pounds of surplus salmon to the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians for their historical, traditional and cultural salmon ceremony. A Department recommendation was added to the bill to assure that nothing in the language of the bill was intended to recognize or extend any legal or political recognition to the tribes, other than the 200 pounds of fish provided.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

**SB 397** sets up a program of property tax exemption and tax credits for land designated as "riparian land." The Department will have primary responsibility for administering the program and would develop standards and criteria for designation of riparian lands, which must be zoned forest or agricultural and be outside of urban growth boundaries and cannot extend beyond 100 feet landward from the waterway.

The Department staff will review the applicant's riparian lands and/or enhancement projects for certification to either the county assessor or state revenue department.

#### FISHERIES

**HB 2718** transfers regulatory authority over commercial oyster cultivation to the Department of Agriculture, beginning January 1. Our agency will still retain juris-

diction over native oysters and commercial harvest regulations concerning oysters. Fish and Wildlife will also still have authority over application of any pesticide used to control ghost shrimp in commercial beds.

**HB 2871** governs bass fishing tournaments, requiring sponsors to establish rules concerning bait, number of participating boats, use of live wells, maximum dollar amounts for prizes and contest period restrictions. Sponsor rules must be submitted to the Commission, which can close any waters to bass fishing in order to protect the resource.

**HB 2992** is the STEP bill. A Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program within the Department will be created as soon as the Governor signs. An advisory committee is created with size and geographic representation to be determined by the Commission, however the Governor will make the appointments.

The controversial Section 7 of this bill authorizes the Department to take eggs from native stocks for private hatcheries if sufficient smolts return to the donor stream to fully compensate for native fish which might have resulted from the eggs removed from the stream.

**HB 3073** takes care of several fish-related items. The Department can no longer use electric shock devices to capture adult salmon to provide eggs to private hatcheries. The Department is required to make monthly reports on the disposition of eggs at each state hatchery.

The Salmon Advisory Committee, which had been established for only two years, will be re-established for a nonspecified period. Under this legislation, the Department can now waive or extend payment of poundage fees when they amount to less than \$10. The Department can now issue permits for the taking of non-salmonid food fish within 600 feet of any fishway to allow the taking of carp near certain dams where concentrations are common.□

## Senate Approves Lacey Act Amendments

The Senate has approved a bill which would increase penalties for the illegal trading and transport of fish, wildlife and plants.

Introduced by Senator John Chafee (R.I.), the bill amends the Lacey Act and Black Bass Act to provide tools needed to help control illicit trade of fish, wildlife and plants, and increases the civil and criminal penalties for such trade.

Chafee's bill consolidates the two existing acts which make it a federal offense to trade or transport fish and wildlife taken in violation of state or foreign law. It extends the protection to plants, increases the civil penalty from \$5,000 in the Lacey Act and \$200 in the Black Bass Act to \$10,000, increases the criminal penalty from \$10,000 in the Lacey Act and \$200 in the Black Bass Act to \$20,000 and makes it easier for violators to be convicted.

The House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee has approved a similar bill which is expected to be approved by the House this month.

*Wildlife Management Institute*

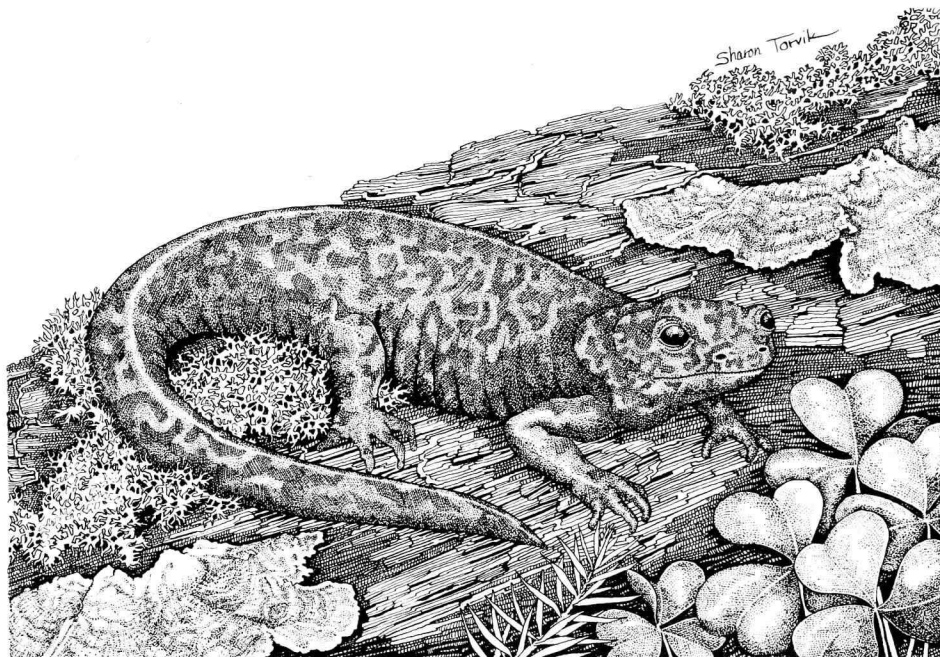
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## A Major School

According to the National Science Foundation, scientists studying marine life in the cold waters near Antarctica have discovered what could be the largest school of sea animals ever measured — 10 million metric tons of shrimp-like krill. The swarm of krill measured several square miles and ranged in depth from about 60 to 600 feet.

The mass of krill found by the scientists is about one-seventh of the total annual catch of fish and shellfish in all the world's fresh and salt waters — collectively, about 70 million metric tons. Based on a population for the U.S. of 226 million, there were enough krill in this single school to give each person in the country about 98 pounds of the crustacean.

*Colorado Outdoors*



## THE PACIFIC GIANT SALAMANDER

On the cool, moist slopes of the Pacific northwestern mountains lives the largest of all the terrestrial salamanders. Close to the cold water creeks and springs of the forests, from British Columbia south into northern California, is where the Pacific giant salamander may grow to nearly 13 inches in length while attaining a heavy, smooth-skinned body.

Being an amphibian, the giant salamander begins life in the water as one of several pigmented eggs, usually laid in a cluster. In about a month the salamander hatches into a free-swimming larva.

Metamorphosis, the process that changes amphibians from the water-dependent larval stage into land-roaming, air-breathing adults, usually occurs at about four months. At this time the Pacific salamanders begin attaining their giant proportions.

Sometimes, however, a particular body of water may be deficient in iodine, needed to produce the growth hormone which starts metamorphosis. Larvae then begin to develop sexual characteristics and grow to as large as 12 inches before transformation occurs, if it occurs at all.

Once adulthood is reached the Pacific giant salamander changes to a mottled black/brown combination, although the apparent color of a specific animal seems to depend on what it is resting upon. Adults usually live on land and can be found under rocks or logs, but sometimes they climb trees to find food or escape from predators.

Being the biggest salamander around tends to give the Pacific salamander some courage not found elsewhere in the family. Besides dining on snails, insects and the usual aquatic diet, the giant salamander will also add snakes and an occasional mouse or other small rodent to the menu.

Also, it is not a good idea to try to catch a Pacific giant for your salamander collection as they will bark loudly if provoked, and are also known to bite.□

Bob Kuhn

SEPTEMBER 1981





*Oregon's*

# WILDLIFE WINDOW

Many kinds of wildlife have a bad reputation in the eyes of a lot of people. Little of this is really deserved. Much is simply the result of misinformation about a species or misinterpretation of some observed act. Appearance has much to do with a creature's public acceptance, also. Fortunately we are unable to see just how grotesque many of the small insects and other little beasts appear if seen in close-up.

Childhood stories start us out on the road of labeling certain animals as good or bad. The big bad wolf, crafty coyote and slithering snake all set images in our minds at an early age. Deserved or not, there is often little contact with wildlife later in life to correct the misimpression. A lot of our feelings about the nature of certain wildlife is developed from learned role models. Little girls are somehow trained to find frogs and snails "icky" despite no real reason or contact with such creatures. More than one person who has never handled or even touched a snake automatically figures they are "slimy." In reality, snakes have dry, scaly skin with no slime at all.

Old wives tales about hoop snakes, porcupines shooting quills, and bats sucking blood add to the public perception that some forms of wildlife are not only bad but dangerous. Other wild forms are allegedly omens of coming things. Besides being somewhat unattractive, buzzards are

often considered the omen of death. Their preference of eating carrion does nothing to aid their public image either. As occasional carriers of certain diseases, animals like mosquitos, fleas, rats and foxes also get "bad press" at times. Of course, any animal that would kill or eat another that is warm or fuzzy must be automatically bad.

Given the human tendency to organize our lives, to put all things in their proper place, it is only natural to "label" an animal one way or another. Lacking any

other knowledge, first impressions or first bits of information may be what we assume to be the animal's entire role in the world. Usually we are wrong! Wolves are not necessarily big and seldom "bad." Buzzards are not bad either, just because they are ugly and eat smelly dead things. These and other animals that get the "bad" label for one reason or another are simply living out the role nature designed them for or that they have adapted to. Each fills a niche and lives in a set of interrelationships with other life forms.□

## THIS MONTH'S WINDOW

### Public Relations

Develop a list of animals people usually consider to be bad or worthless.

Create a public relations campaign for these misrepresented animals. This may include mock TV advertisements, radio spots and other media like posters or new articles.

Try the material out on other groups or classes like your own. What was the success of your PR effort in building a new image?

VICTOR ATIYEH  
GOVERNOR



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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH

Oregon's outdoors and wildlife are among the state's most precious resources and Oregonians are justifiably proud of maintaining sound use of their environment.

Hunters and fishermen founded the conservation movement and became the first environmentalists. They have traditionally maintained strong views about clear water, clean air, and a livable habitat for Oregon's wildlife.

Through taxes on hunting and fishing equipment and the purchase of licenses for participation, sportsmen have channeled billions of dollars into improvement and maintenance of wildlife habitat in Oregon. Relatively few individuals appreciate how much wildlife populations have benefited from scientific management supported by the hunter and angler.

In recognition of the historic and continuing contributions made to conservation by Oregon's sportsmen, I hereby recognize Saturday, September 26, 1981, as Hunting and Fishing Day in Oregon.

On this 10th anniversary of Hunting and Fishing Day I welcome the opportunity to commend these dedicated outdoorsmen and the organizations they represent and urge all Oregonians to join them to ensure the continued wise use of our natural and wildlife resources.

Vic Atiyeh  
Governor



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