

Hunters Await Details of Duck-Feeding Ban

William L. Finley, D. Sc. and Ed F. Averill

Write These Wild Life Articles

Restrictions Rest Hard on Shooting Men

Local duck hunters are eagerly waiting details regarding the new migratory wildfowl regulations. The question of greatest interest is that respecting the feeding of ducks. No information has yet been received as to the distance from blinds at which feeding will be permitted.

Prohibition of baiting included in the regulations, says the biological survey, applies to waterfowl and to mourning doves and provides that these birds "are not permitted to be taken with or by aid of corn, wheat, oats or other grain or products thereof, salt or any kind of feed by whomsoever, or for whatsoever purpose, placed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise put out in any environment whatsoever, whereby such waterfowl or doves are lured, attracted or enticed to the hunter." No live decoys may be used in the taking of any species of waterfowl.

The regulation prescribing means by which migratory game birds may be taken limits the use of "a blind, boat or floating craft of any kind" to locations "not more than 100 feet from the shore line as determined by ordinary high tide or, when there is continuous natural growth or vegetation extending beyond such shore line, not more than 100 feet from such growth or vegetation protruding above the surface of the water at the time of taking such birds."

This regulation prohibits entirely the taking of migratory game birds "from or by aid of an automobile, airplane, sinkbox (battery), power boat, sailboat, any boat under sail, any floating craft or device of any kind towed by power boat or sailboat."

Limitation of weapons that may be used provides the birds may be taken "with a shotgun only, not larger than No. 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder," incorporating the provisions of President Roosevelt's proclamation last February providing a three-shell limit.

Adoption of a short hunting season with heavy restrictions was the only alternative to a completely closed season. Reports from bureau investigators on the breeding grounds indicated the needed net annual increase would be insured by a short season with heavy restrictions.

BIRD WORLD COMEDIAN

The reputation of being the comedian of the bird world is held by the Australian kookabura, or laughing jackass. The latter name comes from the merry-sounding notes resembling peals of laughter, which are invariably indulged in by these birds at break of day and again just after sunset.

Dainty, Elusive Raccoon and Beautiful Waxwing



Bird-Killing Cat Offers Problem

"I am writing you in behalf of the birds that are at the mercy of an old worthless cat in this yard," writes a woman in a neighboring town to this department. "It is not mine but a neighbor's, and is there any way to get rid of the pest? There is no use telling the owner about it, therefore it seems as though I must act in defense of the birds, regardless of neighbors. Yet I dislike to, but I can't see the birds killed as I did a moment ago. Please tell me what I can do."

Unfortunately this is one of those problems that can only be solved by the co-operation of the owner.



Silent little long-side stream hunter strictly American, no species inhabiting Old World. Easily tamed but likely to chafe at confinement. Waxwing is one of nation's nature's highest arts in color blend, friendly and cheery bird.

Former Game Bird Head Urges Study and Survey to Determine Best Way to Help Fish Populace

Matt F. Corrigan, former chairman of the Oregon game commission, in a letter to the Wild Life department of The Journal, questions the wisdom of present-day fish propagation and planting procedure. His letter follows:

"I wish to take this opportunity to commend you for your article on the Wild Life page of The Sunday Journal of July 28. It is in line with what I have contended for the past four or five years.

"We have been releasing, annually, in excess of 20 million game fish in our streams and lakes without any definite program of research and study to determine whether certain species of trout are adapted to the waters in which they are placed, or whether sufficient and proper food existed in those waters to sustain them when placed there.

"Figures assembled by the department showing take and kill of fish and game annually show that about 2½ million game fish are taken from our waters during the year, or slightly over 10 per cent. of what are planted annually from our hatcheries and not taking into consideration the natural propagation which ought to at least equal the artificial propagation.

"These figures show a wide spread between propagation and take and we are all well aware of the fact that fish are not increasing in our lakes and streams to the extent that such disparity in figures would be explained and we must assume and

with justification, that there is a heavy loss somewhere.

"What is the answer. It can only be given after intelligent study and research, by agencies equipped with technical knowledge and equipment necessary to make such study.

"Our hatchery operation costs something like \$120,000 annually, and this expenditure permits of a release in excess of 20 million fish annually, and if we are only getting a return of say 20 per cent. of that annual investment, is it not time to call a halt on production and apply a portion of those funds for the purpose of making an intelligent study and survey in order to determine whether we are justified in continuing the practice now in vogue with relation to artificial propagation and release of millions of fish in our waters without definite and dependable data upon which to base any conclusion that our past policy is justifiable.

"In the meantime, I trust that you will continue the good work in which you have enlisted."

Coon's Tracks Like Those of Barefoot Babe

Sometimes the raccoon is called "Little brother of the bear." This came about partly because of his make-up and because his hind feet rest flat on the ground like those of the bear. If you find tracks along a stream that look much like the prints of a small barefoot child, you will know that a raccoon has been hunting there.

In early days coon skins were a sort of a medium of exchange at country stores. Coon skin caps with the ring-tails hanging like plumes were the favorite headgear of pioneer hunters. In this day and age when so many experienced people travel the woods with guns it would be a dangerous cap. It is safer to wear a red hat to escape the bullets of some careless deer hunter.

WHOLLY AMERICAN

The coon is an American as none is found in the Old World. He has a wide range, however, from Canada to Panama, and is most abundant in the Southeastern and Gulf states and on the Pacific Coast. Nocturnal in habit, he generally sleeps during the day and hunts at night time. A hole or cavity in an old tree is a favorite place for a home. In a den in a hollow tree, from four to six young are born.

When it comes to food, a coon has a varied menu. Some waterway is the place he loves best because of his taste for crawfish, fresh-water clams, frogs and even water snakes. Again he takes to fruit, corn and grain with a dessert of birds and eggs.

As a pet he is an amusing companion, although he is restless in captivity, intelligent and extremely curious. One day a pet raccoon wandered into a neighbor's back yard where he met a cat. At the sight of this strange looking intruder, pussy swelled into a hump as the unsuspecting little stranger approached.

CAT GETS SURPRISE

It was too bad for the little pet, all innocence and meekness. He seemed to know nothing of his danger. The cat approached slightly on the bias so as to catch the victim broadside. Suddenly there was a spit and a hiss, and a big surprise. The little coon didn't even roll up his sleeves or double up his fists. He flopped on his back in an instant to receive the cat with all four feet. Cat fur went flying. It was over in a moment. Pussy had never met such a strange-acting puppy. One bound and she was up a tree, and the little ring-tail was ambling along calmly and unconcerned. A coon has a quiet kind of swagger.

WRITES CONSERVATION PLAY

Michigan teachers interested in putting on grade school conservation programs in their classes have at their disposal a new half-hour playlet, "Talking Trees," suitable for this purpose, has been written and published by Ethlyn Sexton. Miss Sexton also is the author of "Three Boys Go Camping," a conservation booklet.

HUMMINGBIRD DARING

The courageous migratory flights of the tiny hummingbird over miles of billowing ocean are pointed to by Nature Magazine as among the most dramatic flying and accomplishments in the bird world.

Robin 'Softies' Put in Place by Indignant Mama

A pair of robins had a late brood of birds in a nest in the back yard. It was the second or third family for the season. Two of the birds of the previous brood were still following the parents about begging to be fed, although they were old enough to hunt their own worms.

Once or twice the parents were soft-hearted enough to feed the grown children. Then when one fluttered his wings and begged the next time, the father got mad and gave him a good pecking. When the mother came off the nest she flew at the youngster and literally kicked him clear out of the yard.

The three bantlings in the nest had to be fed. They were always hungry and crying. As it was late in the summer and worms were scarce, the parents had to hustle. As a rule, bird parents are keener than human parents when the children are grown. One of the first laws of nature is to be self-supporting. Among people, parental sympathy is too often misplaced. Feeding children that are grown is a common method of teaching them to be a burden on the community.

Forest Men Loath To Supervise Game

The much-discussed, and in some quarters condemned, regulation G-20-A, promulgated last summer by the secretary of agriculture, authorizing the federal government to take over management of game and fish resources on national forests where deemed necessary, has not yet been applied on any national forest. However, we understand plans are under way to apply this regulation in a number of specific areas this coming fall. Whether the right to do so will be questioned before the courts is uncertain at this time.

In Oregon the question has not yet become an issue. Local forest service officials have expressed a reluctance to take over regulation of game within the forests as long as there seems to be proper effort by state game authorities. Although the kaleidoscopic changes in game commission personnel have been disconcerting, the forest service is pleased with the splendid spirit of co-operation which prevails.

Duck Visitors to Be Fed

Walton League to Care for Airline Stopovers at Eastmoreland Lake—Early Start Booked

Eastmoreland lake will teem with wild ducks the coming fall and winter months. Members of the Portland chapter of the Isak Walton League of America, acting on suggestion of Arthur Moulton, will immediately start placing wheat in the lake so as to attract the birds. There are some on the lake now but the Southern flight has not yet started.

In the past more or less sporadic feeding has occurred. For the most part, this was done during periods of extreme cold weather or deep snow. This year the feeding will be started early and kept up regularly until the

River Valley Once Teemed With Pigeons

Fifty years ago band-tailed pigeons were abundant in the Willamette valley. Men made a business of netting them for the market. The birds were accustomed to gather around a mineral spring or at a watering place during the summer.

Some records at that time were given by O. G. Delaba of Corvallis. He said he caught a great many pigeons in the coast hills in the early '90s. He got 25 dozen birds at one spring of a net at Eddyville. At that time they were shipped to Portland and San Francisco by way of steamers from Yaquina bay. He shipped out as many as eight dozen at a time.

Another record was furnished by W. B. Jennings, whose parents had a donation land claim on the east bank of the Willamette at the present side of Jennings Lodge. Near the river were some Royal Ann cherry trees into which the pigeons flocked

Nesting records of wild pigeons in and around Portland are sought by W. L. Finley and Ed Averill, conductors of The Journal's outdoor life section. Records may be mailed to The Journal.

in great numbers. The boys put up a high pole in the top of one of the trees with three cross-pieces. When the pigeons lighted on these, a shot from the muzzle-loading gun gave the family plenty of meat. When the trees were heavily loaded with fruit the long branches reached almost to the ground. One morning Bill Jennings said he crept through the grass under one of the trees, reached up quickly and caught a live pigeon.

Times have changed. The pigeons disappeared, but in the last few years a few pairs have returned. Indications are that at least one pair is nesting in the high firs along the Willamette. The cooing of the wild pigeon is a woody sound beloved by many. The birds breed late in the season. Last year a pair nested in a maple tree on Portland Heights adjoining B. F. Holman's home. The mother was sitting on the nest in September and the young did not leave till October.

Grounded Pelican Grotesque, Superb on Wing

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Trout, Salmon Too Speedy for Him to Catch

The white pelican is grotesque in appearance when viewed at close quarters. At rest, he sits with his chin on his chest like a broken-down business man. In flight, he is one of the showiest of North American birds. He rises from the water with heavy wing beats, kicking backward with his legs at each flap of the wings to get a start. Under way, he flies with great ease, the wings moving slowly and then sailing. The black tips of the wing feathers make a sharp contrast to the snow-white body.

Formerly the pelicans ranged in the East as well as on the Pacific coast. Today the most easterly nesting site is on an island in Yellowstone lake. The largest colonies in the United States formerly were on the tule islands in Lower Klamath and Malheur lakes. When these lakes dried up, the pelicans disappeared. A large colony still exists on a peninsula in Clear lake, Northern California. The nests are on the ground, and the birds prefer a rocky or sandy island out in the lake. But today such places are limited.

A large skinny bag hangs from the lower part of the pelican's bill. This, when distended, holds several quarts of water. When not in use, this sack is contracted so it occupies little space. In catching fish, a bird swimming along makes a quick thrust of the bill downward, and the pouch serves as a dipnet. Anglers sometimes complain about this fish-eating bird, but as a rule it catches slow-moving fish and not trout or salmon. It formerly was thought the pouch was used to convey live fish to the little pelicans at home, but the pelican could not fly with his burden so out of trim.

The first time one sees a motley crowd of half grown pelicans, he will think that nature has surely done her best to make something ugly and ridiculous. On warm days the young birds stand around with mouths open, panting like a lot of dogs after a chase, their pouches shaken at every breath. If you approach, the youngsters go tottering off on their webbed feet with their wings dragging like poorly handled crutches.

One might wonder how such a huge-billed bird as a pelican could feed a helpless chick just out of the egg. It is done with apparent ease. The old bird regurgitates a fishy soup into the front end of her pouch, and the baby pelican pitches right in and helps himself out of this family dish. As the young bird grows older and larger, at each meal he keeps reaching farther into the big pouch of his parent until finally, when he is half grown, it is a most remarkable sight. The mother opens her mouth, and the whole head and neck of her nestling disappears down her capacious maw, while he hunts for his dinner in the internal regions.

Won All But Two

The Penn-Princeton football game at Princeton October 5 itself will be the 32d renewal of a series that started with football at Pennsylvania in 1876. Of the 31 games already played, Princeton has won all save two, Pennsylvania scoring in 1892 and again in 1894 under the tutelage of the late Dr. George W. Woodruff.

This Time Cameraman Watches the Birdie



Photos by Bohlman & Finley.

Steady now, hold that pose, says William L. Finley as he snaps three young pelicans on the shore of Klamath lake when the water was there. The picture in lower left is not a fountain figure, just a big white bird yawning and, gosh, how he stretches. The other photo shows a mamma bird with her young. The two lower pictures were taken on Malheur lake.

'Articles of Faith'

Following are the "Articles of Faith" of the Wisconsin Fish and Game Protective league.

"We agree to associate ourselves together for the purpose of advancing the cause of good sportsmanship.

"We will co-operate with the conservation commission and their agents in every way possible to prevent the threatened extinction of game birds and animals. We will use our influence to prevent violation of the law, and will exercise our legal privileges in moderation, and discourage the game and fish hog spirit.

"Recognizing the rights of property owners, we condemn all acts of discourtesy and vandalism. We will discourage the careless use of cigarettes and cigars in our forests and report all fires to the proper authorities."

HOPES TO SAVE GAME

The Junior Chamber of Commerce of Marshal, Mich., has organized a conservation league for sportsmen of that part of the state. An advisory board of 13 seasoned anglers and hunters will guide its initial activities.

Squirrels Do It, Too

Cats are not the only animals that like bird meat, according to W. H. Crowell of 2454 S. W. Sherwood drive. He reports he and Mrs. Crowell had been watching the development of a nest of robins near their porch. One day they were alarmed to see a Pine squirrel carrying off one of the young birds. They watched and tried to frighten the miscreant away but when they were not on guard he returned and emptied the nest.

RARE BIRDS SEEN

Two rare tropical birds, a Glossy Ibis and a Yellow Crowned Night Heron, are reported seen near Montclair, N. J., during the recent spring migration season.

Water Birds Returning to E. O. Refuges

Ducks and other water birds are returning to their former homes in the restored lakes of Eastern Oregon, according to Stanley G. Jewett, recently appointed supervisor of the Malheur migratory wild fowl reservation, the nation's super-game refuge. They already have returned by the thousands and remained to nest just as though nothing had happened to interrupt the existence they abandoned when sloughs and lakes were dried up by the drouth years or robbed of their water by irrigation. Jewett believes the same conditions will prevail in other states. He cites one striking example. That is the case of the Garrison lakes in the eastern part of Catlow valley near the western slopes of the Steens mountains.

"There has not been a drop of water in any of those lakes for at least 10 or 12 years to my personal knowledge," Jewett said. "When I visited that locality this spring with an official from the Washington office of the biological survey, I was surprised to see the eared Grebe in great numbers. Surprised because this is a bird that requires deep water and was driven out of Malheur lake last year by lack of water there. In addition to the Grebes, there were Avocets, Mallards, Pintails and Ruddy ducks.

"Of course, there are no tules—nothing but sand banks, and although I did not have time to look for nests, I am satisfied the Mallards there will do the same as they have done elsewhere and nest in the sagebrush surrounding the lake. I am not just sure what the Grebes did because they nest only over water, but if they did find any sagebrush standing in the water, they undoubtedly took wing and struck out for the Blitzen river, 25 or 30 miles to the north."

An item of interest to naturalists in Jewett's report is the statement that approximately 40 pairs of Egrets nested in the willows of the new Diamond swamp. This swamp is in the Blitzen valley in the new part of the big refuge, and is formed by overflow water at the junction of Tiger creek and Blitzen river.

One observer counted 125 goose nests in a two-mile stretch of territory along the channel below the Springer ranch on Malheur lake, while ducks and all kinds of shore birds were nesting there by the thousands. The most common of the ducks are Pintails, Gadwalls, Mallards, Shovelers, Teals and Redheads. Jewett is especially interested in the number of Redheads he saw because this is one of the birds concerning which the biological survey officials have become most concerned the last few years. It was feared they were headed for extermination.

Rare Chess Display

A wonderful collection of chessmen and boards was on display at the recent Margate, England, congress, held in the ballroom of the Grand hotel, Cliftonville. It comprised sets made of china, porcelain, basalt, ivory and ebony, agate and carnelian, horn, cast iron, wood, cartridge cases and bones carved by French prisoners during the Napoleonic wars. Howard Staunton's own table and pieces, and sets formerly belonging to Franz Joseph, emperor of Austria, and other royalties were in evidence, with many other collected from abroad.

Records Show Baited Areas Slaughterhouse for Ducks

673,083 Birds Shot Last Fall in California and Illinois —New Regulations Outlaw Feeding

An interesting record on duck shooting last fall has just been published by the biological survey of the department of agriculture. New regulations by the federal government have outlawed baiting of ducks. Last year baiting was permitted, providing holders of permits kept daily records and made reports at the close of the season.

The total number of gunners last year shooting over baited areas was 44,349. The bag was 673,083 birds. The records show that in two states more hunters were shooting ducks over baited waters and more waterfowl killed than in all the other states combined. These two states are Illinois and California.

In California there were 10,476 gunners who killed 210,258 birds. Illinois came second with a bag of 166,014 birds by 12,958 hunters. Other states where permit holders reported total kills of more than 20,000 ducks were: Washington, where 2477 hunters killed 74,528 ducks; Oregon, with 2421 hunters and 62,183 ducks; Maryland, 4371 hunters, 34,146 ducks, and Missouri, 1804 hunters and 20,538 ducks.

The concentration of waterfowl in Illinois and California is easily explained. The Mississippi valley is the great fly-way of the Middle West and the waterways through that state are a natural attraction. It is the same in California, where the main duck areas are centered in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys and the Bay region.

Although practiced in only a few areas at the close of the World war, baiting, once started, soon became wide-spread. Gunners who baited had a tremendous advantage over those who did not, and when one hunter started baiting, others shooting in the same area felt more or less compelled to follow.

Opposition to baiting grew until in 1933 an investigation was requested by the advisory board of the migratory bird treaty act. The investigation showed there was as much natural food today per bird as there ever was, but baiting attracted the birds away from a good supply of natural food and held them in areas not adapted for wintering waterfowl.

The great quantities of corn and wheat scattered as an attraction to ducks, together with the use of a large number of live decoys, quickly tamed the wild birds so that they would light within a few feet of the blinds.

Feed the Cat, Save the Birds

"I have decided on a plan to handle the 'worthless cat' situation," writes the woman from a near-by town who last week complained of a neighbor's pet that killed her birds. "I'm going to feed him; feed him so much he will not have any ambition to stir out of his tracks. I shall buy dog and cat feed and proceed to stuff him."

"There seems no other way out. I am willing to make some sacrifice in order to save these birds I have taught to be unafraid. The little song sparrows that travel all over my yard and sing when I ask them to, have been so frightened by the cat, that this morning only one sat on a limb near me and chirped."

Mick and Min



Mickey and Minnie

"Mickey and Minnie" are busy educating their 200 CCC admirers of Company 963 in the ways of Oregon wild life. Mickey and Minnie are five-month-old bear cubs that were born in the salal tangles of the Siuslaw national forest and adopted last April by the "tree troopers" of the Cape Perpetua CCC camp, south of Yachats. Their mother ventured too close to a timber faller and was dispatched with a faller's ax.

As tiny, round eared cubs they took readily to the bottle and have been progressing rapidly in civilized methods and mischief. In fact, their proud foster-fathers say the cubs show a surprising intellectual curiosity, which would extend to clocks, typewriters and other interesting phenomena, if the bears were not held in check.

The boys of the Cape Perpetua camp now have moved to Enterprise in the Wallowa mountain district of northeastern Oregon, where the cubs continue to add spice to a sometimes monotonous routine.

REAR YOUNG IN ISOLATION

The number of birds that rear their young annually on the isolated refuge of Pribiloff islands in the Bering sea is estimated at 9,000,000.

Silver Horde Destiny Dark As Dams Rise

"What is to become of the Silver Horde," asks Mrs. May Nordstrom, president of the Women's Game Protective association, in a letter to this department. She continues:

"Salmon of the Oregon streams will be extinct in a few years if not given the proper protection now."

"Diversions of water without adequate protection for migration of fingerlings has taken a tremendous toll of fish life."

"When these schools of young fish start migrating down stream and encounter the hazards of man-made obstructions at power plants where the velocity of water is terrific, they are doomed. Their strength is not great enough to fight these currents, so they pass on down and through machinery that reduces them to 'fish hamburger.' These mangled baby fish—which pass out at the tail-races—provide a permanent feeding station for fish chisellers, such as carp, suckers and chub that are fast replacing our game fish. Wounded fingerlings never escape these gangsters."

DEPLORABLE CONDITION

"A recent investigation conducted by a group of Portland women found these existing, deplorable conditions on the Bull Run river."

"The Oregon state council of the Izaak Walton League of America at its recent convention in Tillamook adopted a resolution pledging co-operation with other protection game organizations in securing the proper and continuous operation of the Oregon City fishways and installation and continuous operation of the efficient by-passes in order that trout and salmon of the Willamette river and its tributaries be saved from extinction. But when is something going to be done about it?"

"Heed should be given to the sad mistake which our Eastern states have made. Their laxity in preservation of fish life has caused a permanent loss. Industry should co-operate in every way for the correct balancing of nature."

"This is a serious situation, and every effort should be made at this time to correct the monopoly of natural resources if Oregon is to retain one of her greatest assets—salmon."

MILLIONS ON THEIR WAY

The above communication is timely. At this season of the year millions of young salmon from the upper reaches of the McKenzie and other tributaries of the Willamette are on their way to the ocean. In their seaward trek they are guided by the current of the river, and when the greater part of the water is passing through the turbine wheels at Oregon City the young fish, following the current, are naturally drawn through these wheels.

Some of the fingerlings pass through unharmed; otherwise the run of salmon would long since have been destroyed. Only those baby salmon that start for the ocean comparatively early in the season ever reach there safely, for later in the year the pollution of the Willamette river as it passes through Portland is so great that there is not sufficient oxygen left to provide life for the young fish. As pollution in the streams continually increases from year to year it is only a matter of time until it will be so bad that fish cannot live in it at any time of the year. Then the salmon will cease to come.