

In traveling about through this State in the study of wild bird life, I have questioned men as to the abundance of wild ducks. It is almost a universal opinion that wild ducks are decreasing in number very rapidly.

For instance, while in Harney County last summer, I went to see several of the older settlers to ask about the abundance of ducks. Every one said the decrease was very marked. Although water fowl is quite plentiful yet in sections of Oregon, there is absolutely no question but the decrease is steady and rapid.

One of the main causes for this is that there has been little or no check upon the hunter. With the improvement in fire arms and the increased number of hunters, the ducks are having mighty little show.

The trouble with sportsmen duck hunters is, they say the ducks do not breed here, but live in other sections of the country. "If we do not shoot them as they pass through, some one else will." So the ducks have no rights.

There is no reason why ducks should not have the same protection as upland game birds. Oregon is one of the greatest breeding places in the United States for ducks, and certain sections are still splendid breeding grounds to-day. The ducks have been driven from breeding in Oregon by hunters, disturbing them and hunting them and driving them out.

Our present law allows these hunters to kill ducks five months of the year throughout part of our State, and in other sections seven months and a half. This season is entirely too long.

I am glad the sentiment of the Oregonian and the sentiment of our best class of people is against a so-called class of hunters who are not sportsmen at all, who are mere killers of wild birds. Regardless of all the facts before them concerning the decrease of ducks, they still want to kill. Not only that, they have the unadulterated nerve to now come up before the Legislature of this State and ask to give them a longer time to shoot ducks. "We do not kill enough. We are going to fight for a longer season," they say. Of course they

do not kill enough. In former years they slaughtered and slaughtered and killed when it was not right to kill. Now when they have killed off and driven away our ducks so that they have few left, instead of giving the ducks a show these infernal pot-hunters are trying to drive in the last spike so they can complete the extermination. They are demanding that the Legislators let them shoot longer in the spring so they can get the ducks when they begin to nest.

In the name of game protection, I want to ask the Oregonian to raise its voice against this despicable set of pot-hunters. (I can furnish the names of some of them if they are wanted.) I want to ask the people throughout the State who are interested in the preservation of our wild fowl to take a hand in this matter and see that our wild birds are not exterminated.

I have argued with these men and tried ~~not~~ to get them not to lengthen the duck season in the new game bill which has been proposed. This bill was introduced in the Senate January 21st, as Senate Bill 99.. It was introduced into the House January 20th, as House Bill 108. <sup>part</sup>