

Bear and Cub Slaughter Termed Wanton Killing

William L. Finley, D. Sc. and Ed F. Averill
Write These Wild Life Articles

Gray Digger's Winter Sleep Almost Death

One winter day a neighbor was tearing down an old barn. He turned over a half-rotted beam bedded in the soil and underneath in a round, dry bed of hay, curled in a ball, lay a common ground squirrel or gray-digger. He picked him up and found him stiff, hard, frozen, dead—yet not quite dead!

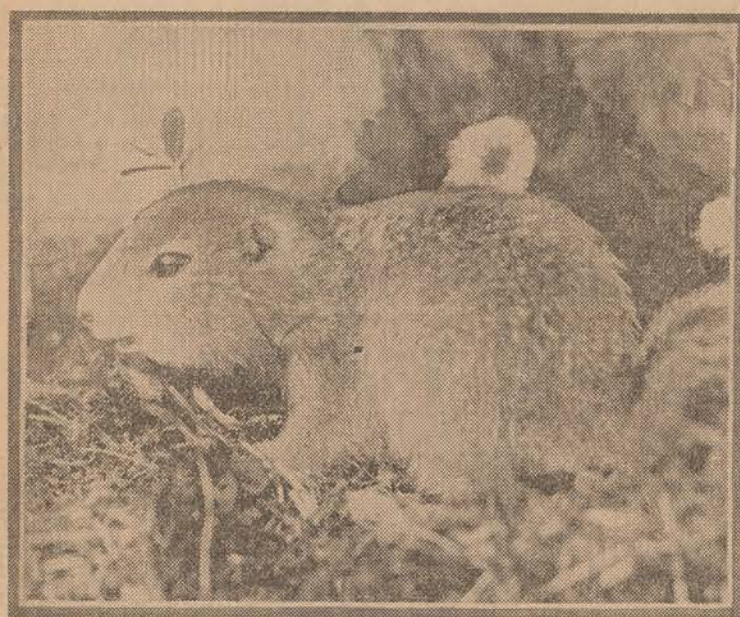
I bundled him up under my coat against the warmth of my body and then laid him in a little box near the open fire of the study. That afternoon he was moving a little but was as stiff in the joints as a rheumatic old man. He realized that something had happened. In 24 hours he was fully awake but still stiff. I put him in a cozy warm bed, covered up in the dark and, like Rip Van Winkle, he dozed off to finish up his 20 or more weeks of deep winter sleep.

The common ground squirrel or ground squirrel eats ravenously and grows fat toward the end of summer. In August or September he prepares his burrow for winter by tunneling down and then up to his winter's bed so the nest has good drainage. He then burrows a side channel up to the surface and carefully plugs this up. This gives him an easy method of getting out of his winter quarters in the spring when he may not feel much like digging.

The ground squirrel disappears when food is still abundant and long before winter comes. In some places, he retires in August or early September long before the stormy days have arrived. He rolls up in a ball and the winter lethargy takes possession of him slowly; the heartbeats become fewer until he reaches a state of coma where the heart virtually stops, and yet there can't be a complete stoppage of the blood in veins and arteries.

This state of passing almost completely from life and then returning is a remarkable phase in the lives of certain lower animals. It is as if the fire burns out in the fall, but the embers of life still slumber beneath the ashes. At the proper time the flame reappears, so to speak, and the dormant are warm and lively again.

Gray Digger Fattening Up



Thirty Years Ago Bag of 100 Ducks in Few Hours Common; John Law Stopped Slaughter

In order to compare duck hunting along the Columbia river today with conditions 30 years ago, the following records are taken from Mr. Finley's notebook:

"On January 23, 1909, I talked with H. S. Rowe of Portland. He said he had been a hunter for the last 40 years. He and Mr. Harrington are the owners of 452 acres on the lower end of Sauvie's island. This has been a wonderful place for shooting wood ducks during September. They begin feeding ducks about the middle of August.

"During 1907 these birds were very plentiful. On September 1 he and his son were out at 7 a. m., shot until 10 a. m. and bagged 65 wood ducks. They then returned to camp. His son went out a little later to shoot snipe. He heard him shooting down near the blind, joined him and in a short time they killed 35 more wood ducks, making 100. This was the legal limit. He said they got one teal by mistake, making 99 wood ducks."

"Every Sunday during September, 1907, he got a good string of wood ducks. Some days he could easily have bagged 200."

"Later in the season other species were abundant. He said he and another man killed 165 widgeon in 40 minutes. They began shooting at 6:50 a. m. By 7:15 he thought they had the limit. They had not picked up the birds, and his partner was sure they hadn't killed 100. The birds kept coming in continuously and for 15 minutes they stood outside the blind in plain sight and continued shooting. When the birds were picked up, they counted 165, which he said was 65 more than they should have killed. Although ducks were abundant, Rowe favored cutting down the bag limit and shortening the season from September 15 to January 1."

In 1913 the federal law for protection of migratory birds was passed. Because wood ducks were so scarce the season was closed on this species. Even though closed for 22 years, wood duck hunters have not increased to their former abundance.

One type of ant keeps herds of a small insect (corn root aphid), and milks them, like cows, for a white fluid.

New Duck Law Plain, No Feed May Be Spread

Ducks may not be lured to their death by the use of feed in any manner whatever, according to official interpretation of the new regulations. Copies of numerous letters written by Chief Darling in reply to hundreds of questions propounded to him by sportsmen from Maine to California and from Washington to Florida have been turned over to this department by Regional Supervisor William Rush.

Excerpts from some of these clarify some questions raised by local sportsmen. To one inquirer he writes: "The question submitted in your letter is this:

"Would it be a violation of the newly-enacted federal duck law to feed wild ducks in water not a part of water used for duck hunting purposes. In other words, will it be lawful in a private club to bait ducks in a pond not a part of ponds used to shoot over?"

"The regulation promulgated by the president July 30 last relating to the shooting of migratory waterfowl by means of feed is this:

"Waterfowl are not permitted to be taken with or by aid of corn, wheat, oats, or other grain or products thereof, 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 are lured, attracted or enticed to the hunter."

"As you will see, the regulation does not confine its terms to 'shooting over' ponds or any other place where feed has been put out. Its scope is much broader than that, and embraces within its plain terms the shooting of migratory waterfowl, wherever the hunter may stand. This means that he cannot lawfully shoot them on their way to or returning from the baited pond."

"Can a man bait any part of his land and not shoot it so as to hold the ducks around?" asks another. The official reply is:

"There is nothing in the regulation that forbids a landowner to put out on his land feed for wild ducks even though it be for the purpose of holding the wild ducks around his place. But no one is permitted to shoot or otherwise take the wild ducks attracted to him by the feed that is so put out, and I may add the caution that the regulation cannot be evaded by putting out feed and stationing one self at any distance from the feed in order to shoot the ducks as they go to or return from such feed. In short, wild ducks must not be 'held around' by feed to be shot."

With the information now in hand this department will attempt to answer any question that may be raised with respect to the interpretation of the new regulations.

Further Dam Construction Held Needless

Branding dams in the rivers of the Northwest as a menace to both sport and commercial fishing, Chester McCarty, president of the state division of the Izaak Walton League of America, insists the building of additional structures should be forbidden. In a recent address delivered on the NBC Farm and Home Hour, he said in part:

"Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams are under construction. It is too late to do other than use what means are available to assist the salmon up and down the river at these points. But now we are threatened with a program of construction of low dams in streams tributary to the great Columbia, and in other streams in Oregon and Washington flowing directly into the Pacific. The Rogue, McKenzie, Willamette, Umpqua and Deschutes rivers in Oregon, and the Yakima, Lewis and Kalamia rivers in Washington are eyed as possibilities for further development of hydro-electric and reclamation projects.

"Already it has been necessary to curtail commercial fishing in order that the demand may not exceed the supply. Therefore, we cannot countenance construction of dams for the purpose of making available electric energy when we already have a surplus; nor can we agree that the reclamation of land, through irrigation by waters made available as a result of these dams, is consistent with the national policy of crop curtailment.

"We ask in the name of common sense that this industry and recreational facility affording, as it does, thousands of people of this generation and of those to come, the thrill of the tugging line and singing reel, be not put in jeopardy under the guise of projects to help us when in truth the plans at most are merely another form of destruction of that which has so long been a part of us and the backbone of our prosperity and happiness.

"We must use wisely today, if we are to enjoy tomorrow."

Skunk Steps Up

The skunk no longer is classed as "vermin" in Michigan. The legislature of that state last winter put him in the class of valuable furbearing animals and the governor signed the bill. He now has an open and closed season. Trappers can take him only between November 1 and January 31.

Gotham Fish-Minded

Stocking the Bronx river with trout this spring proved so satisfactory an experiment that additional streams in the vicinity of New York will be similarly improved, according to Lithgow Osborne, New York conservation commissioner. Through cooperation of the department of health steps have been taken to clear up pollution which destroyed the original abundant game fish life. It is costing millions of dollars to undo the damage.

Ain't Nature Grand!

The Carideer is the name of an animal produced by cross breeding the wild Barren Ground caribou with the semi-domesticated reindeer. The result is said to be a heavier animal than the reindeer without losing any of the tasty meat value.

Harnessed Water Cloud on Tranquillity



Power plant photo by May Nordstrom; duck and bear photos by W. L. and Irene Finley.

Big Census of Duck Populace Will Be Taken

With the status of America's wild ducks a subject of nationwide concern after disastrous successive droughts in their great prairie nesting areas in mid-continental Canada and the United States, the More Game Birds Foundation announces the launching of the most complete wild duck census of its kind ever attempted. The result will have an effect on future shooting regulations. The investigation is to include literally a "house to house" canvass of Mr. and Mrs. Wild Duck and their families now hatching in Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and part of Nebraska.

Airplane flights into the Canadian Northwest are planned to cover remote nesting areas. Automobiles equipped to negotiate the rugged terrain of more accessible sections have been provided a party of eight Foundation field men already starting on the work.

State and provincial sportsmen's organizations and thousands of other volunteer duck census takers are to participate in the comprehensive plan of coverage.

Data to be sought will include location of favored nesting areas, number of mother ducks with broods, number of ducklings to the brood, number of nests, old ducks without broods and total number of all ducks by species. Information also sought will be the causes of losses on breeding grounds and what can be done to eliminate them and to improve important nesting areas.

Dog Adopts Foxes

The Bear Lake, Mich., timber wolf mother, which is rearing four police dog pups, has its counterpart in South Carolina, where Judge W. S. Toler of Society Hill has a dog mothering four baby foxes.

The four orphaned foxes were adopted by Judge Toler's pet with little hesitancy, and are thriving as well as if their own mother were caring for them.

Skeet for Archers

Archers of Birmingham, Mich., have developed a new competitive sport called "Robin Hood skeet." It is intended to give new impetus to the sport and develop a game which will be attractive to all who enjoy bow and arrow. The principle and practice of skeet shooting is followed.

Robins Have Quints

Robins usually raise three young at a time, but these seem to be unusually prolific days. A Salamanca, N. Y. rock gardener reports a nest with five fledglings. The appetites of the five hungry birds instead of the usual three, nearly drove the parent birds frantic.

SNAKE IS SLOW GOER

Oregon has only one poisonous snake, the rattler. It is no where numerous and if you see him first there is no cause for alarm. The highest speed of the fastest snake, as measured by Dr. Walter Mosauer of the University of California at Los Angeles, is 3.6 miles an hour, a moderate walking pace for a man.

Peasants in Sweden use a certain kind of locust to bite off warts.

Hunter Gains Nothing, and Bruin's No More

According to a dispatch from Banks, Or., a few days ago, two hunters killed a mother bear and her cub. When discovered, the mother was tearing a stump apart to get ant eggs. When his mother was shot, the cub climbed a tree to escape but he too was bored through with a bullet.

A black bear is perhaps the most human of all wild animals in the Oregon woods. He is a sort of clown or a happy-go-lucky fellow, always with an attitude of having a lot of time on his hands and he can't figure out just what to do next. He eats grass as a horse or cow does, also digs for roots, grubs, mice or ant eggs.

But perhaps his greatest joy is to find a bee tree and scoop out the honey. Fish or fruit also is a part of his menu. A wild bear in the woods is so afraid of man that even a mother with a cub is never very dangerous. At times when food is scarce, a bear has been known to kill a sheep or a pig. This rarely happens and is no more a habit in the bear tribe than murder is inherent in the human race.

Many states protect the black bear. Even if permitted, few gunners would kill a doe or a fawn at this season of the year. The flesh is not good for food and it is poor sportsmanship. The same applies to a mother bear and her cub. The fur is not in prime condition, either.

This wanton killing of wild animals just to be shooting something is a thing that turns the average run of people against hunters. It is rather difficult to explain but often times when a person gets a gun in his hands and sees something alive in the woods, the spirit of killing possesses him.

Today there is a large class of people in this state who like to get out of doors for the joy of seeing the streams, the forests and the mountains. The sight of a deer or bear in the woods gives the average person a thrill he never forgets. It would be a great attraction if such a sight were occasionally available along our highways. The average person is robbed of such thrills and enjoyment because there are always killers wandering around with loaded guns.

A few years ago I went out along a woody road west of Salem with Dr. G. C. Bellinger. He had discovered a ruffed grouse that for some unknown reason would fly at him and actually strike his leg with its wings when he approached this patch of woods. It was not a mother protecting her home site but an unusually bold male. While I have known of several cases of this kind, it is rare for a ruffed grouse to attack a man.

A few days later when Dr. Bellinger took another friend out to view this unusual sight, the scattered feathers in the road revealed some gunner had murdered the strange acting grouse.

One of the important attractions to thousands of citizens in our national parks is the fact that gunners are not allowed there and that wild birds and animals can be seen by visitors. Experience in such places shows that many wild folk of the woods are more valuable alive than dead.

WHALES DIVE UNMEASURED

How deep in the sea whales can dive has not yet been discovered by science.

Cure for Bite of 'Widow' Found

Injection of a solution of magnesium sulphate, an application of iodine and large quantities of water or non-alcoholic liquids taken internally, has been found to be an almost certain cure for the poison of the black widow spider. Fifty-two cases of spider bite have been treated at Fresno General hospital in Fresno, Cal., without a fatality. An intoxicated man or a very small child has small chance of recovery, however. The child, because its small body is not strong enough to counteract the amount of poison the spider injects.

It should always be borne in mind that the spider does not go out of its way to attack persons. It bites only in self-defense.

It's the Caterpillar

Clothes moths do not eat clothes. Its caterpillar, which does the damage, never comes out of its case to eat, but drags its home along with it as it eats.

EITHER BIRD OR OX

Typically feline, a leopard can pounce on a sparrow or strike down an ox with equal agility, according to Dr. W. H. Osgood, zoologist.

Pilchard Just a Big Sardine; Tons Being Caught—

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No Threat to Sportsmen in Huge Catches

"What is a pilchard?"
Next to questions pertaining to the weather, this query regarding the source of Oregon's latest large industry has probably been propounded more often than any other the last three months. The questioner is always surprised to learn that the fish in question is a sardine.

The answer always comes as a rude shock to the man who has been reading in the daily papers that as many as a thousand tons of pilchards have been taken in a single night off the coast in the vicinity of Coos bay. Usually his conception of a sardine is that of a tiny minnow in a small flat can with a Norwegian label. It would take a score of them to weigh a pound and it is next to impossible to comprehend 1000 tons.

But the pilchard of our Pacific Coast, being a cousin of the herring and the shad, is a larger fish. It ranges in length from 8 1/4 to 13 inches when mature. Those being taken off the Oregon coast are the largest size. On the average five of them weight 2 pounds, according to M. T. Hoy, master fish warden for the state of Oregon, and Hugh Mitchell, superintendent of hatcheries for the fish commission.

Although this is the first year for the industry in Oregon it is 15 years old in California. With the well established reputation our Southern neighbors have for appropriating everything in sight no one will be surprised to learn that in that state the fish is known as the California sardine.

CALIFORNIANS EXPLAIN

This department was signally favored by a personal visit from N. B. Scofield and W. L. Scofield of the California fish and game commission. The former is in charge of the bureau of commercial fisheries. His brother directs laboratories and investigations. They told us that individually the pilchard is one of the least conspicuous of the fishes swimming Pacific waters. It is not a rapid swimmer and that it travels great distances is not readily apparent. It seldom takes a hook, is not fished for by sportsmen, does not prey on other fishes and consequently is not commended as an enemy of more desirable species.

But collectively the pilchard plays the leading role in the fisheries of California, according to the Messrs. Scofield. The tonnage of the sardines landed in California each year is greater than the combined catch of all other species of fishes, mollusks and crustaceans. In addition, the tuna, mackerel, barracuda and yellowtail fisheries are largely dependent on sardines for bait and many tons of sardines are used annually by sports fishermen.

SPORTSMEN CONCERNED

Commercial and sport fishermen alike have been much concerned over operation of purse seines for taking the pilchards off the Oregon coast. It just did not seem possible that the use of so many nets averaging 1200 feet in length, extending to a depth of 200 feet into the sea and bringing up everything within the circle formed by each could fall to take innumerable trout and even mature salmon. The many stories in circulation as to the wholesale destruction of the game and commercial food fishes seemed entirely plausible.

Investigations conducted by this department over a period of weeks failed to substantiate these reports. Apparently the pilchard is a believer in the adage that birds of a feather flock together. All reports from British Columbia to Southern California are to the effect that an unbelievable small percentage of other fishes is taken in the big nets.

Fishing is done almost exclusively at night during the dark of the moon. The schools of fish are located by the phosphorescent glow in the water—hence the reason for dark night work. There is one notable exception to this rule. The fleet of boats operating out of the Columbia river from their base at Elveto are catching most of their tonnage off Destruction island near the Washington coast, and most of that fishing is done in daylight.

UNDISCLOSED SECRET

Why they fish during the day and how they succeed seems to be one of the undisclosed secrets of the fish and fishers. The same men operating out of Coos bay near the mouth of the Umpqua river have been unable to make worth-while catches in the daylight hours.

One other fear voiced by Northwest salmon fishermen and packers was that the taking of so many small fish from the ocean would seriously deplete the salmon food supply and eventually result in the destruction of the industry. In discussing this phase of the subject in our office W. L. Scofield said:

"Our salmon have been depleted till they are almost gone, but sardine fishing has played no appreciable part in this tragedy. Nor can our sardine fishery be accused of destroying other fishes. The sardine net hauls are usually pure sardines with remarkably few individuals of any other species. At certain times of the year, some other fish are caught but these are usually of little value and relatively small in quantity. Sharks, jellyfish and anchovies are sometimes taken in quantity with a sprinkling of mackerel, kingfish or an occasional individual of many other species, but the amounts are relatively small.

"Examinations of the food of our ocean-caught salmon have shown that they eat sardines readily when other foods are scarce, but that they eat squid, anchovies or whatever other fishes are most available. They are not dependent on sardines for food so there is no evidence to indicate that the sardine industry has had or will have any appreciable effect on the salmon industry."

FOR DAYS AND DAYS

A queen honey bee can lay 1500 eggs a day and maintain this rate for days at a time when most productive.

Pilchards by the Net and Boat Load

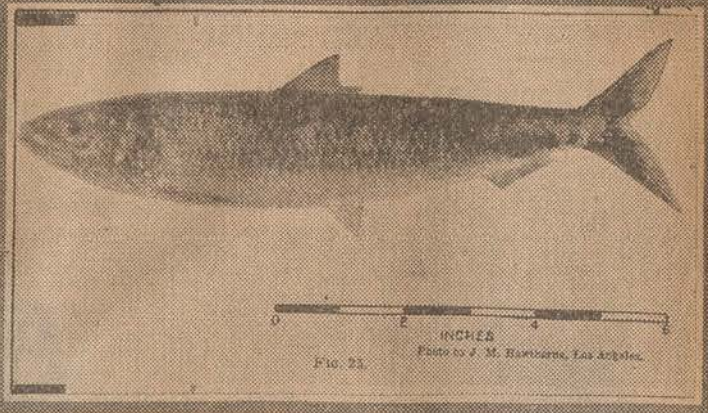


Swallow Army Soon to Begin Mystery Trek

September is the season when the white-breasted or violet green swallows gather in large flocks. A big band has been perching on the telephone wires along the roadside near Gresham. Skimming over the fields, the birds catch many flies, mosquitoes and other insects.

A little later, as insects grow scarce, the call of the Southland takes possession of the white-breasted army. Then some clear night when the frost is in the air you will hear the twittering of swallows in the sky. Other flocks join the traveling myriads. Darkness hides their numbers from the dangers of hunting hawks and the twittering keeps the multitude together.

Who leads the way and what guide posts are followed on the long journey, no one knows. At times if a bad storm arises, it takes a heavy toll of death among the weaker birds. When the route of travel is along the sea coast, there is danger of the whole flock being lost if it is swept seaward.



—Photos courtesy Division of Fish and Game of California.

Here's the way California commercial fishermen reap the seas of Pilchards, which are nothing more than overgrown sardines. Upper left—Brailing a seineful of Pilchards off the Golden State coast. Upper right—Tons ready for the factory. Center left—Laying thousands of feet of seine. Center right—Type of boat used in fishing. Below—Pilchard which is really *Sardina Caerulea*.

FOR POUND OF HONEY

The honey bee travels 43,776 miles for one pound of honey. It is the only domestic insect that dies after stinging.

MAKES SNAIL BAIT

"Make your artificial bait resemble as nearly as possible the real thing

if you wish to catch fish," says Charles A. Kellman of Detroit. With this in mind, Kellman, who makes all his own lures, has created an artificial snail.

The musk beetle can be smelled 20 to 30 yards away.

O. S. Courses Boon to State Game Life

Courses of study in game management that open at the Oregon State college with the fall term are the most practical step yet taken to develop Oregon's wildlife resources. This co-operative plan has been financed by the state college, state game commission and the biological survey of the department of agriculture. It has recently been authorized by the state board of higher curricula.

Other institutions in the West have been seeking these federal funds for a direct and practical application to wildlife conservation. Oregon is the only state selected so far in the West. More than 20 students already have enrolled and others are expected to take advantage of this training from different Pacific Coast states.

Instructional work is designed to train persons for federal and state service in wildlife conservation, game managers of estates, land-using industries and fur and game farming as private undertakings.

Game farms, fish hatcheries and game refuges near Corvallis will be used in teaching the practical aspects of developing wildlife resources.

A wildlife conservation summer camp will be maintained for a few weeks each year in strategic locations such as Willows mountains, Malheur Wildlife refuge, Eastern Oregon range experiment station, etc.

There's a Reason For Bird Dearth

During August there seems to have been a great lack of birds. After the nesting season our feathered residents are quiet and songless. Their coats are rather ragged as if they were moth-eaten. The birds are moulting. The worn feathers are dropping out and new ones are growing in. This change to new coats is necessary to keep out the dampness and cold.

As the moulting season passes, the birds are more active again. After the first rains, they sing more and begin flocking. This is both for companionship and the feeling that there is better protection in numbers. With many eyes alert, the approach of an enemy is quickly passed from one to another.

Quail Has Brood Long After Season

As a rule, birds are through nesting by August, however sometimes a second or third brood is raised. This is perhaps the case of a bobwhite quail nest which was found at Jennings Lodge August 8. There were 12 fresh eggs. The young birds were out of the nest August 30.

The bobwhite quail is one of the most valuable birds about the farm because it lives largely on weed seeds and insects. In Ohio this bird is in the class of song birds. There is no open season for hunting.

Misses Lunge of Hurrying Salmon at Umpqua Dam

Roseburg Man Urges Commercial Fishing Ban to Preserve Thrills for Coming Tourists

W. C. Harding, secretary of the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce, has written the following letter about the fish resources in Coast streams:

"I should like to call the attention of your readers to the fact that salmon and steelhead fishing in our coastal streams will soon be a thing of the past unless commercial fishing is stopped. The decrease in the number of fish has been steadily going on. A few years ago it was common to see six or eight salmon in the air at one time leaping over the dam in the South Umpqua within the city limits of Roseburg. The day for such an experience is passed never to return unless the people of Oregon give more protection to these ocean-going fish.

"The steelhead, native of our coastal streams, is a game fish widely known from one end of our country to the other. It is not a salmon and should never be classed as a salmon and permitted to be canned. With the equipment used by commercial fishermen today, most steelheads and salmon cannot escape the fishnets in these coastal streams that are narrow in many places.

"I hold no brief for various sportsmen's clubs or visiting tourists, although all are entitled to their day in court in connection with saving the fish resources of our state. My primary urge looks to the people of future generations.

"There are comparatively few commercial fishermen at the mouths of these rivers. Every time this question comes before the legislature or the people of

Oregon for settlement, 99 per cent. of our population are ignored because of the tears of a few who claim the right to live at the expense of these disappearing species.

"A large amount of money is now being spent to complete the coast highway bridges. We all realize that this highway will be a tremendous attraction to tourists. A good part of this attraction is from travelers who are seeking the recreational value of our coastal streams. Through tourist patronage, these commercial fishermen will reap a bigger harvest in spreading their fish-nets. We can no longer drift with the tide, because our fish resource must be conserved; otherwise, both salmon and steelheads will soon be things of the past."

Spots on Back Reveal Trout, Real or Bogus

The question has been asked: "How can one distinguish between an Eastern Brook, a German Brown and a Loch Leven trout?" It is easy to tell the difference between the Eastern Brook and the other two, but it is not so easy to distinguish between the so-called Locklevin (Salmo Levenensis) and Brown trout (Salmo Fario) because they are closely related, if not the same fish.

The former is the Brown trout of Scotland and was introduced into this country in 1885, the plant coming from Loch Leven, hence the name given it in America. There is said to be still much confusion on the other side the Atlantic as to whether the fish is a separate species or merely a land locked sea trout. The so-called Brown trout which is more often referred to as German Brown trout because the fish was first introduced into America from Germany, like the Loch Leven is a true trout, while our Eastern Brook trout is not a trout but a char.

SPOTTED ALONG BACK

All true trouts are spotted along the back, like the rainbow. The char, on the other hand, do not have spots on the back but the back is "vermiculated"—worm track—little curls and twists of color darker than the ground. This is the family to which the Dolly Varden, Oregon nature, belongs. Eastern Brook trout were introduced into Oregon waters about 1912 and are found in many of the mountain lakes throughout the state. With a few notable exceptions plantings of these fish in the streams have not proved profitable because they have disappeared. However, the lake plantings seem to have been successful.

The same seems to have been true of the Loch Leven. Wherever given an opportunity, these fish seem to have gone to the sea and have been unable to find the way back.

The beginner among trout fishermen will have little difficulty in distinguishing between Loch Leven, Eastern Brook and Rainbow if he will remember the scales of the Brook are not visible to the naked eye and that it has orange or red spots along the sides. The scales of the Loch Leven are visible, giving it the appearance of being a coarser fish. The Rainbow has horizontal red spots along its sides, forming a broad red band and gives the impression of being a coarser fish than the other two.

THING OF BEAUTY

Dr. David Starr Jordan, who named the Rainbow in describing it, said: "This trout is a thing of beauty, a joy forever. Its back is well sprinkled with ocelot-like spots. Its color is a deep green, the lower surface silver. All over seems drawn a filmy gauze of old rose fabric of inexpressible delicacy and beauty, intensified along the median line in a band of pink and rose, with other tints that produce all the colors of the rainbow and give this creature rank among the birds of brilliant plumage."

Fly Caster's Creel



Here's proof that a fly caster can catch fish. Picture shows L. V. Smart, member of the Portland Casting club, with six rainbow trout, the largest of which dressed from 5 1/4 to 6 1/4 pounds. They were caught in Waldo lake on a bucktail fly.

Upland Game Bird Preservation Is Serious Issue—

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Road and Dam Held Liability To Wild Rogue

A few years ago it was might hard for people living on the edge of a wild and undeveloped region in this state to have any other thought than that their future depended on good roads, increase of traffic and commercial development. Today many are thinking that more wealth and happiness may come from the natural attraction of forests, streams and mountains and from the recreational viewpoint which has grown rapidly in Oregon.

More and more interest centers in a river like the Rogue as one of the most valuable streams in Oregon. For many years it was known far and wide as one of the best trout and salmon streams in the country. It is also known that commercial fishing, the two dams in the Rogue river valley and pollution of its waters have greatly reduced its crop of fish.

Proposals for more dams in the Rogue for power purposes and for building a highway along its course from Gold Beach to Grants Pass have been talked of. The course that this river has cut from the Rogue river valley through the Coast range to the sea is still one of the primitive areas in the state. The question naturally arises as to whether these proposed commercial developments will be more valuable than detrimental in future to the people of Oregon.

Where there is only a limited number of rivers with fish resources that exist in no other place in the world, which when once destroyed cannot be replaced, should there not be thoughtful and careful planning? In developing one natural resource, why destroy another resource of equal or greater value?

It is well known that dams in a river frequented by migratory fish create ponds and give the water a higher temperature and eventually destroy fish runs. Power can be produced in many places. Roads are often built more economically in following the ridges rather than the winding stream course.

A great deal of money has been spent by the state in building hatcheries and propagating fish, and many people think streams can be kept stocked in this way. Up to the present time, the state has not been able to keep fish in a stream when its course is measured by a modern paved highway.

Never in the history of this nation has there been so much money available for roads as through the gasoline tax, and never has there been such a wide-spread campaign of road building. The wilderness or primitive areas in the United States have been shrinking rapidly. The question arises logically as to whether some of these regions should not be preserved in the wild state before it is too late.

There are many ways to put an end to primitive areas, but no one has yet discovered how to restore them. More and more people, tied down with business cares and city life, do not want to see everything commercialized. They are eager for a few peaceful sanctuaries where they may go and refresh themselves.

Crossbills Reappear

Crossbills appeared at DePoe bay last week for the first time in two or three years, according to J. C. Braley, who is building a permanent residence on a slightly spot almost within reach of the ocean's spray. The Braley collection of eggs and nests will be on display for friends in their new home.

Lure Many Sportsmen to Field and Stream



Two Billion Once; Pigeons Entirely Gone

The most striking example of the disappearance of a species in American natural history is that of the Passenger pigeon. This bird was never a resident of the western part of the United States. Alexander Wilson in 1808 estimated there were over two billion wild pigeons in a great flock near Frankfurt, Ky. Up to 1870 the Passenger pigeons were so abundant east of the Mississippi that there could be no thought of any material decrease, let alone their entire disappearance. However, from that date on their numbers grew less.

The most likely cause of the decrease in numbers of these birds was that they nested in big colonies. During the breeding season they were systematically slaughtered for market purposes. In 1869 from the town of Hartford, Mich., three carloads of pigeons were shipped to market each day for 40 days. This makes a total of approximately 11,880,000 birds. This also occurred in another town in Michigan which marketed 15,840,000 birds in two years. Large numbers were netted in traps.

It was an old custom to use live Passenger pigeons as targets in shooting tournaments. In places through the Middle West where birds were breeding, men shook the squabs out of the trees in great numbers and used them to fatten hogs.

The passing of this remarkable bird has been a strong lesson for better conservation of wild life in the United States. Its disappearance may be attributed to carelessness by the American people. Realization of a tragedy of this kind in our outdoor life has not only already saved the band-tailed pigeon of the West, but is bringing it back to its former haunts.

Hunting and fishing draw many men away from the city during a course of a twelve-month. Here are four objects of trips to streams and mountains. Above on the left—Blue grouse and (on the right) George Putnam and E. E. Kelly of Medford angling for steelheads in the Rogue, one of the best known fishing streams in the country. Right center—Wester Sandpiper, a wading bird of the coast, and (below) California valley quail, one of the native game birds of Oregon.

Pilchard Oil Prized

Oil from pilchards is used in the manufacture of linoleum floor coverings. Few protein foods even approach pilchards in their various canned forms, from the standpoint of food value per dollar, say dietetic experts. The oil is said to exceed medicinal cod-liver oil in the vitamin D potency, while approaching the value of cod-liver oil in the more rare vitamin A.

ONE IN 40 TONS

One salmon to every 40 tons of pilchards is taken in purse seine nets in waters near Coos Bay according to Master Fish Warden M. T. Hoy. Salmon taken in this manner are, in the main, only fair-sized fish. The commission allows fishermen to use them as food, but forbids selling or wasting them.

Nut and Seed Eaters Aid to Oregon Woods

During September when the hazelnuts are ripe, I often see the jays gathering the crop. A few days ago I saw one fly down the hillside with a nut in his beak and tuck it under a tussock of grass. Back he came four times and buried as many more nuts. One might wonder whether he could ever locate the nuts again. If not, the nuts will sprout and grow in the spring, producing more bushes and a larger crop.

Certain species of birds and mammals are an important factor in spreading plant life. The dogwoods now are covered with red berries. The robins and flickers are gathering in the harvest. The seeds are excreted here and there, and this is the real reason why dogwood trees grow abundantly in our wooded sections.

Red squirrels and chipmunks are a real reason why dogwood trees grow in the distribution of our forest trees. The red squirrels gather and bury many cones of the Douglas fir.

One day when a red or pine squirrel was very busy, I sneaked through the trees to the bottom of the hill. He was making regular trips about 50 yards up to some hazel bushes. I marked the spot where he was storing nuts in a hole in the ground. When I thought he had finished I sneaked over, cleared away the covering of dry leaves and dug out 23 nuts.

Before I could replace these and get away, I was discovered and the squirrel was as mad as an old hen when her chicks are bothered. He sputtered and chattered. When I retreated a few yards, he ran down, uncovered the store and got the nuts out in a hurry. He was so excited that he grabbed one, ran off a short distance, shoved it under the leaves and grass and went back for another. Soon he had nuts scattered in a dozen different places. I was satisfied he would never find them all again, yet he stood to win in either case. Those he found later he could eat when he needed them, and those he failed to find would produce more bushes for a future harvest.

New Road High Up And One of Beauty

The McKinley-Roseburg forest road, which goes via the Tioga country, shortening the present Myrtle Point route to the inland town by approximately one third, will open a recreational possibility heretofore undeveloped in Coos county—that of winter sports, according to the Coos Bay Times.

Climbing to an elevation of 2700 feet a few miles west of Williams river, the road penetrates an area covered with several feet of snow at least two months of nearly every year. Last year the snow was nearly three feet deep and remained for several months. This is the highest public highway in the county.

Hummer Tops in Feathered Racers

Speed championship in the bird world must be accorded the hummingbird with runner-up honors going to the bat.

The human eye cannot follow the hummer, when desiring to leave a bed of flowers for another more favorable spot, he shoots away in a flash, says American Nature association of Washington.

By the speed of a car, woodpeckers, thrushes and finches have been found to have a 30-mile-an-hour record, barnswallows 40.

Big Turtle Hunt On

Michigan fishermen, augmented by hundreds of visiting Ohio sportsmen, are now engaged in their annual mid-summer turtle catch. Snappers, the predatory species which feeds on fish and young ducklings, are valued commercially for their meat, from which delicious soup is made. They are larger than the painted turtle, which feeds on larvae of mosquitoes. Lakes, ponds and large streams are infested with snappers, which are easily caught as they bask in the sun on logs and stumps at the water's edge, or sleep in a hole dug in the stream bank, their protruding tails furnishing an easy target.

Metal Tags Boon To Grey Squirrel

John G. Kuenzel of The Central States forest experiment station finds metal tags, which foresters have been using to identify young trees, gnawed to the point of elimination. The tags are made of aluminum. The copper nails with which the tags were fastened to the trees are scorned by the gnawers. The tooth marks were positively identified as those of the grey squirrel.

A merchandise shoot will be staged Sunday morning at the Everding Park traps of the Portland Gun club, it was announced Friday by Jim Morris, secretary of the club. A 50-bird event and a 25-bird handicap will be staged.

Blind Shooting Rule in Duck Law Modified

Hunters in blinds or legal floating craft may shoot within 100 feet of natural vegetation that may be some distance from shore, according to an amendment to the federal regulations approved in a proclamation by President Roosevelt. The original provision limited hunting to areas within 100 feet of vegetation continuous with the shore, a degree of restriction not essential to the regulation's purpose of preventing open-water shooting of the diving ducks, which have been found to be more seriously depleted in numbers than other species.

The proclamation also included amendments to clarify regulations that inadvertently made restrictions not intended. The new amendment provides that in those states having open season on such birds, rails (other than coots), woodcock, mourning doves, and band-tailed pigeons may be shot from 7 a. m. to sunset. The original regulation would have stopped such shooting at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the hour at which shooting ducks and geese must stop.

In Oregon shooting of band-tailed pigeons is prohibited by state law. The apparent opening of the season by federal regulation, therefore, does not affect this state.

Rare Pigeons Seen on Trip To Champoege

Following a closed season of several years Oregon hunters will this season be permitted to shoot band-tailed pigeons. However, the birds are yet so scarce throughout the Willamette valley it is not believed many sportsmen will take advantage of the opportunity. Those who hunt with guns as well as those who hunt only with cameras and field glasses have been rejoicing at the return of these beautiful game birds.

George L. Rauch, local attorney, former president of the Advertising club and prominent in Legionnaire circles is first to respond to this department's requesting for nesting data regarding these birds. In his letter which follows he also pays his respect to the polluted condition of the Willamette river.

"In connection with a clean river, I took occasion to go with the Chamber and the Ad club on their trip to Champoege. I have made this trip several times by canoe as a part of the journey between here and Eugene, but never was I more impressed with our utter disregard of the beautiful Willamette as an asset than I was on that trip.

"One thing brightened the occasion, and that was that when we went opposite Jennings Lodge a fine pair of band-tailed pigeons came toward us along the river. They are so unique that it was easy to spot them nearly a mile upstream from them and I showed them to Bill Knight and several of our other friends as we went by, but I found that to them they were just another bird and might as well have been one of our city dock and loft domestic mongrels.

"Ever since we have lived on West-over we have watched a little colony that lives in the trees just at the north edge of that addition. They have grown from a pair to some dozen or more. We often see six or eight at a time, and they have a daily flight which seems to bring them from the Willamette up toward Jennings Lodge. After reading your article in The Journal I am more of the opinion that the pair which we

Populace Gain Grave Threat; 2 Alternatives

Can our native upland game birds survive with the growth of development and the increased population in Oregon? This is one of the most difficult problems facing the state game commission. Five different species of grouse and three kinds of quail place Oregon in a distinctive position as compared with every other state of the Union. If these native birds cannot survive under the changing conditions, the only alternative may be to put them in the song bird class with no open shooting season.

Oregon game authorities are entrusted with the protection, preservation and propagation of these resources. Three state game farms have been maintained. According to the printed reports the last six years, \$284,920 has been spent on propagation of foreign game birds.

During this period, 1005 upland game birds have been raised and released while the number of introduced species propagated and released reaches a total of 128,901. These are largely Chinese or ring-necked pheasants and European partridges.

Various species of native quail have been raised in captivity at the state game farm and successful experiments in raising grouse have been carried on. It is reported the game commission is abandoning the effort to propagate these native species.

The last few years a young man by the name of Wesley Batterson of Nehalem has been employed by the commission to carry on the experiment of raising blue or sooty grouse and ruffed grouse. With a love for the birds and with the patience of a real naturalist, he has accomplished what no one else has done in the United States.

At present he has 117 blue grouse. Some of these are of the fourth generation. It is reported that at the next meeting the game commissioners will abandon this project.

Two plans are open to the commission. In the first place, the large investment in game farms can be used in raising a quantity of Chinese pheasants to liberate before the hunting season so gunners will get the impression the commission is furnishing something for their license money. The second and more difficult plan is an effort to save our disappearing species of native game birds. This requires scientific study by experts. It means collection of basic facts so lacking at present and which are needed to conserve those natural game resources that make Oregon distinctive from every other state.

Interest in the out-of-doors develops the imagination and establishes theories about all game problems. Every man that casts a fly or shoots a gun has his own ideas. Real game conservation is an involved problem, but it is also a practical problem. The spending of several hundred thousand dollars a year without the facts to prove that adequate results are achieved is not good business. Fundamental facts of game problems can be gained only through young students trained in scientific thinking and who are endowed with patience and a love for work. They are available in our state institutions at an ordinary living wage.

met on the river were coming from feeding grounds to their nesting place in the tall firs just below our house, so I am accepting your suggestion and reporting what may be a well known colony of these big, fine natives of Oregon."