

Malheur Lake Refuge Crusade Marching Ahead

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

Speeding Auto Hits Eagle and Stops in Ditch

Misjudging the speed at which an eagle can rise from the ground, a Basque sheepman named Echnas narrowly escaped having a fatal accident on the road from Crane to Burns. He was speeding along at the rate of 60 miles an hour when he saw the big bird in the road ahead eating a rabbit. Thinking the eagle would take quick flight, Echnas didn't slow up.

A heavy bird has to rise with the wind like an airplane. As he flapped to lift above the machine, bang! went the eagle, crashing through the windshield, he landed in the sheepman's lap. Cut by shattered glass and partly stunned by the impact, the driver tried to hold to the road but the car skidded, swerved and finally lurched into a ditch. The heavy wallop knocked the eagle cold and enabled Echnas to wrap and tie him in some sacks. Thus he was delivered to Dr. L. E. Hibbard of Burns, an ardent friend of these big birds of prey.

Although protected by law, the golden eagle has been exterminated in many parts of the Pacific Northwest. During the recent spell of cold weather in Harney county, 10 or 12 of these big birds were counted perched on telephone poles. They seem to have little fear as a car approaches and because they are an easy mark, are often shot by hunters.

Traveling many miles over snow-covered roads that wind in and out among the sage brushes and across the wide draws, we noticed the snow was tracked up in places as if tramped by large bands of sheep. These were concentration areas for jack rabbits. In such places, they consume the pasturage that is needed for domestic stock. The rabbit feast is the attraction for eagles and various species of big hawks. Equipped with steel-trap claws, they make a business of catching bunnies. Ravens, crows and magpies perch on the fenceposts and bushes and clean up any remains dropped from the hawks' table. All these feathered hunters patrol the highways where many rabbits are killed by cars.

Big White Owl Arctic Raider, Swift, Deadly

In the Far North when the winter winds swirl the snow across the wide tundra and pile it deep in the forests, the varying hare or snow-shoe rabbit slips on his fur coat of pure white. This is not so much a protection from the cold as a camouflage against raids of the big Arctic or snowy owl. The latter is dressed in fluffy warm feathers clear to his toes. He has no fear of raging storms. His sole interest is in the winter's food supply. Every six or seven years, there seems to be a dearth of lemmings, ptarmigans and rabbits and then the white owls have to move south to new hunting grounds.

Several have been reported recently in the Pacific Northwest. It is a bird as large as a great horned owl, but his head is rounded without ear tufts. His whitish color, sometimes barred with gray, makes him a conspicuous visitor in the Oregon country. Because of his size and color and because he is believed to be a destroyer of game, few of these unusual visitors escape the hunter's gun.

This owl nests on the ground in the Arctic tundra. Sometimes the first eggs are laid in the snow. Contrary to the idea that an owl cannot see during the day, this dweller of the North hunts in broad daylight. With a wing spread of five feet, he moves silently and yet swiftly. His sharp talons are as deadly as a steel trap.

During the winter of 1926-27, the largest invasion of snowy owls on record in the United States occurred through New England and other Northeastern states. The report from 19 different taxidermists in various cities from Maine to Minnesota showed they had received 1322 snowy owls turned in by various people to be mounted. Other records showed that approximately 5000 of these birds were killed in their southern migration during that winter.

Visitor From North - - - Changeable Hare - - - Pest Tacklers



40 Million Not Enough to Set Hunters Free

The fact that More Game Birds in America, Incorporated, has published an estimate that 40,000,000 ducks will fly southward from the prairie provinces this fall should not be taken as an indication that there is no wildfowl shortage, according to John H. Baker, executive director of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Wishing to combat the general inference from this estimate that this year's federal waterfowl hunting regulations are unnecessarily severe, Baker issued a statement recently that even though this number were increased to a not improbable 65,000,000, it would be only a mere drop in the bucket compared to the quantities that were in existence on this continent only a few years ago.

"For 35 years, according to the chief of the U. S. biological survey, this country has been killing more wild ducks than were raised," the statement reads. "Birds lay enough eggs to cover natural losses, but ducks didn't evolve their rate of increase to take care of a large kill by man either for sport or as the result of his agricultural or construction operations. Therefore, it behooves every true sportsman to abide by, welcome and work for such regulations as will permit taking full advantage of favorable breeding years to effect prompt restoration of the duck supply."

Hoppers Ebb And Turkeys Bring in Cash

Drying-up of marshes and large tracts of uncultivated land has in past years brought a great pest of grasshoppers in Klamath county. Hundred of thousands of dollars have been spent in scattering poison to curb these insect outbreaks. At times, they have swept across farm areas like a withering blast of fire, destroying vegetation.

Two or three years ago County Agent Henderson hit on the idea of organizing a group of farmers whose lands were most affected. They financed the hatching of about 50,000 turkey eggs and brought in carloads of the young birds where they were kept in big brooding pens until about half grown. When the grasshopper season started the flocks were released.

Klamath county has thus become an important factor in preparations for Thanksgiving dinner. Big flocks of the birds are handled by herders in much the same way as bands of sheep. From an economic viewpoint, crops are saved from grasshoppers and turned into good profit through sale of turkeys.

WOULD PROTECT RED FOX
"With a diet consisting principally of mice and a few game birds, the red fox should be protected and not hunted as a predator," says Clyde Fauley, Glacier park ranger. Fauley was formerly a game warden in Southern Ohio and should be well versed in fox lore.

Above on the left is a Snowy Owl, an occasional visitor from the Far North, and on the right a pen of young turkeys ready to tackle the grasshopper pest in Klamath county. Below on the left—Great Horned Owl, murderous hunter of Oregon forests and sagebrush plains. On the right—Snowshoe rabbit or hare, the prey of owls. He changes his brown coat of summer to one of pure white, a color that protects him from his many enemies—in the winter.

New Dams To Be Waterfowl Hoven

Extending from Mexico to the Canadian border, a chain of 48 dams in the waters of 12 Western states, will afford new refuge for waterfowl, according to the United States reclamation bureau. Eleven dams now are under construction and six more are to be built soon.

All reclamation storage lakes have been set aside as waterfowl sanctuaries since 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt recognized the necessity for preservation of wild fowl.

With Tail Over Back

The gridiron-tailed or zebra-tailed lizard has the distinctive habit of carrying its tail curled over its back as it seeks a hole or other avenue of escape. This is one of the smaller lizards, says Nature Magazine, but an interesting one to the desert

Bird Fans Willing To Forfeit Berries

Residents of Portland, Salem and other Willamette valley towns who value their bird visitors more highly than they do the berries on their shrubbery have been rejoicing in the presence of Cedar Waxwings the past week. For those who do not know their birds so well these are the trim, sleek birds with a visible topnot, a yellow band on the tip of the tail and tiny red wax appendages on the wings of some of the mature birds. More rarely the wax is to be seen on the tips of the tails also.

traveler, because of its picturesque gait and tail carriage.

It is not always easy to bag geese on Sauvies island, but two Portlanders had that rare experience last week. Each bagged four of the big birds.

Land Owners Taken in Hand By Uncle Sam

Certain landowners on the border of Malheur lake have made a determined effort to defeat the purposes of this federal refuge in protecting waterfowl. At the beginning of the present duck season two residents of this area, Culver Marshall and Wilbur Springer, inserted an advertisement in one of the Idaho papers offering to furnish excellent duck shooting within Malheur Wildfowl refuge. Nearby the biological survey was feeding, banding and live-trapping ducks for scientific purposes.

It is to the credit of hunters that none of them offered to lease this area and an unfair advantage of the waterfowl. Schemes of this kind have been tried in other parts of the country, but have always been thwarted by public opinion stopped by state hunting restrictions.

Government experts have surveyed and appraised the privately owned land that might be desired as part of Malheur refuge. To be fair and avoid criticism, of double the actual agricultural value have been made, and most of the area needed has been purchased. Those residents who have been guided by the advice of attorneys hold out for high prices have idled.

Federal officers have decided not to be duped by exorbitant demands of land owners. The balance of the funds allotted for Malheur refuge will be used to improve the reservation. Some persons have always complained that where an area is set aside as a federal wildfowl refuge, it takes land out of use for grazing or cultivation. The situation at Malheur lake is exactly the opposite.

MUST HAVE WATER

The most vital need in this area is a good supply of water. Without water, the bed of Malheur lake might be cultivated for one or two seasons. Then it would revert to a desert and be a loss both to men and birds. If a good part of the lake bed can be filled with water and this level maintained, all the land surrounding will be made useful for grazing by sub-irrigation. This will benefit the bonafide owners on the border of the reservation. Leniency of the biological survey in dealing with some of the persons who have squatted on the lake bed has brought on more trouble than if this federal property had been rigidly protected. No squatters now living within the meander line of the lake have ever received titles to the land from the government. They have fenced and are using government property. They pay no county or state taxes, and therefore have an unfair advantage over bonafide residents around the lake.

TO FENCE LAKE BED

Recognizing these factors, the biological survey now is taking steps to fence the entire lake bed. Fences of those who have come in from the outside and taken possession of government property will be torn down and no cattle will be permitted to graze over this area during the spring and summer nesting season of waterfowl.

A good co-operative plan will be worked out by the government with those ranchers and stockmen who own deeded land around the lake. In the late summer and early fall after the nesting season, a large amount of wild hay can be cut around the border. This will have its value both for stock and the lowering of fire risk. This is the policy adopted by the government on a large part of the land up the Blitzen valley known as the F ranch. Malheur Lake refuge will prove of real value to residents of Harney county when the government has completed its plan.

Bird Hunting Bans Stand Federal Judges of Two Districts Uphold Roosevelt Effort to Preserve Migratory Waterfowl

Since President Roosevelt signed the last regulations limiting the taking of migratory birds this season, several legal attempts have been made to declare the acts unconstitutional. In the federal court at Lexington, Ky., Judge Ford dismissed an action instituted by local sportsmen who objected to the closed season on mourning doves.

"In making the migratory treaty with Great Britain," said Judge Ford, "the policy stated is to provide adequate protection to migratory birds by establishing closed seasons during which no hunting should be done." Congress authorized the secretary of agriculture to make such regulations as were needed. No right of individual property exists for those whose chief interest rests in the sport of hunting and killing migratory birds."

In Illinois a number of hunting clubs claimed they had spent large sums of money buying land, improving and equipping it for hunting migratory birds. Their complaint was that property values were decreased by federal regulations that prevented shooting of ducks over baited waters.

Judge Major of the United States district court in Springfield, Ill., upheld restrictions on

wildfowling and said hunters had no actual or implied property rights in the killing of migratory birds.

Duck hunters along the Mississippi river in Illinois have formed more shooting clubs than in any other state in the Union. Competition of baiting ducks to kill them has commercialized duck shooting along this river more than in any other area in the United States.

21,430 Eggs Parceled

Chinese pheasant eggs to the number of 21,430 were distributed by the Michitan state game division, department of conservation, this year. Individuals and organizations interested were given the eggs without charge. The birds were raised until mature when they were released in what is termed "good pheasant country." Last year 20,228 eggs were distributed.

The New York state department of conservation has this year distributed 75,000 quail and 3500 ringneck pheasants to sportsmen's clubs in an effort to restock the fields of that state. The birds were sent to every section where there was adequate cover.

Swan's Song of Death Not Wholly Based on Myth

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Pulmotor Now Boon To Young Fish in Transit

The pulmotor, that modern invention which every year saves thousands of persons from death by suffocation, now has traveled from hospital and fire-line into an entirely different element. By using an apparatus involving the pulmotor idea, the Oregon State game commission is annually saving millions of fish from the same fate.

Restocking of streams and lakes with fish grown in the hatcheries has always necessitated shipping them in cans or tanks of water.

Even when this was done by truck with the greatest possible speed and over comparatively short distances, a large percentage of the fish died en route. The rest often were so weakened their growth was retarded. Curiously enough, the rougher the roads, the better for the fish. Jostling water provided better aeration.

When life-sustaining oxygen has been breathed from the water the fish literally suffocated in their own element. Oregon, under the leadership of Mat Ryckman, superintendent of hatcheries, was one of the first to make use of the pulmotor principle. Today several other states have installed one of the newest things in conservation equipment to prevent this loss.

This is a tank truck provided with an oxygen-feed similar to that of a pulmotor. The apparatus sends oxygen into the tanks as fast as the fish breathe it from the water. The supply is controlled by the driver in accordance with the number of fish and their size.

With two such trucks the Oregon commission distributed approximately 25,000,000 fingerling trout this year with almost no loss. The Oregon trucks, according to Ryckman, are equipped with large pumps, especially constructed for the purpose, which keep the water churned up and aerated. He says this leaves the fish in better condition than when oxygen alone is pumped into the water. There is no danger of burning them up with too much oxygen.

Birds Rated on Cash Value in Unique Lot-Selling Venture; Home Builders Recognize Rights

Some time ago New York, the town of tall buildings and blase citizens, recently sat up and took astonished notice of a mere lot-selling advertisement, than which there is nothing the average apartment-dwelling New Yorker is said to be quicker to question.

Hitting on the unique plan of making song birds not only the salesmen of a new subdivision, but legal shareholders for all time as well, a metropolitan realtor broke into many news columns, the cash notes in the chirping tunes notwithstanding.

By legal contract, every purchaser in the wooded precincts of Greenvale was required to bestow a perpetual share of ownership on the birds. He must recognize the section as a bird sanctuary, and promise to protect the songsters, bar all stray cats and keep his own tabbies indoors.

190-Lbs. of It



Frank L. Cameron, police patrolman, returned to Portland at the finale of the deer-hunting season with a big mule tail buck, garnered in the mountains of the Pilot Rock sector. He said the party of eight saw plenty of deer but few elk. However, one of the larger animals was killed.

Elk Does Get Rid Of Horns Yearly, Despite Their Size

Elks do shed their horns every year. This question comes up annually with display of trophies of the hunt. The average person viewing the massive sets of antlers just cannot believe such a miracle of nature really comes to pass. Nevertheless it is true.

Late in March or April of each year the antlers drop off and the new ones start growing. So rapid is the growth that before July is passed the animal again is fully equipped with a mature set of horns.

During the growing period the immature fighting attachments are very tender. They are kept protected by a covering of "velvet." This is shed or rubbed off during July so that by mating time in September the fully developed weapons are extremely hard and dangerously sharp.

Fog and Rain Just Right For Varied Thrush

Along the Pacific Coast, especially during the winter months, we have inquires about a strange bird that looks and acts like a robin but has a different dress. Instead of a brick-red breast, it has one of bright rusty brown, almost orange, with a band of black across its chest and a bluish or slate-colored back. This is the Varied thrush, sometimes called Alaska or Oregon robin.

When John Burroughs was on the Harriman expedition in Alaska in 1899, he saw this strange robin for the first time. At that time in Kodiak, he wrote a poem to it which begins:

O varied thrush! O robin strangle!
Behold my mute surprise,
Thy form and flight I long have known,
But not this new disguise.

The long drizzling rains and heavy fogs of the Pacific Northwest are needed to nourish the great forests of spruce, fir and cedar. The Varied thrush likes the fog and rain. He lives in our Northern climate and the high altitudes as a hummingbird lives in the sun.

WHEN SNOW COMES

Perhaps this thrush would never leave the dripping foliage and his haunts where the sun's rays seldom come if insect life did not fail him. But the heavy winter snows in the Northern mountains drive him to the lower valleys and on into the mild California climate.

On a fall morning when the fog is drifting through the tops of the tall firs, one may hear weird call notes sifting through the mist and yet not see a single bird. The notes, sometimes in a minor key, are drawn out, resonant and penetrating. Burroughs says this song of the Varied thrush is a "long tapering whistle with a sort of burr in it." One might think from its note that all life was full of pathos. This song, to be sure, is not rollicking and happy, but it at least fits a home where the ground is padded deep with moss under century-old spruces. It lends itself to the mystery of the primeval forest.

DOWN FROM THE RANGES

One morning I looked out the window down the hillside and saw the dry leaves stirring and bumping up in spots. The Varied thrushes had just come down from the higher mountain ranges. They were tossing the leaves out of the way looking for worms in the damp soil. When disturbed they flew up into the branches with a "Chuck! Chuck!" of alarm.

Later when the ground was covered with snow, both the thrushes and the robins gathered around an old apple tree in the orchard where some fruit still hung to the bare limbs. Fruit or berries of some kind are an essential part of the diet of these birds.

One might get the impression that a Varied thrush is timid and mild in disposition. But in snow time when there are apples on the bird lunch counters, the thrushes fight more than any other boarders.

Trained Worm Pickers

Fifteen mallard ducks, trained to pick worms from tobacco plants, are prized possessions of W. J. Cople, tobacco grower of Humansville, Mo.

Which reminds the writer of a duckling which this spring followed him about the garden and gorged itself on worms. A marauding neighbor cat finally took the duck.

Majestic Swan Unhappy Victim of Man's Greed



Only One of 4 Hunters Bagged Elk This Season

About one of every four sportsmen who hunted elk bagged their quarry during the 10-day open season in Eastern Oregon, according to Frank B. Wire, state game supervisor.

Nearly complete reports showed 629 elk bulls were killed by the 2758 hunters who checked in.

"There may be some resident hunters who will check out later, bringing the official kill to about 650," said Wire, who himself thrashed through snow-covered thickets and brought down his allotted elk. Last year 674 elk were reported killed.

"The elk were wilder this season than either of the two previous open seasons," Wire said.

"An hour after the first shots were fired the old bulls bounded for thickets or dashed away to snowy mountain retreats. You had to chase them out to get them. Young bulls were less wary.

"Hunting conditions were poor much of the season. The snow was from eight to 12 inches deep at times and the thermometer dropped to around zero each night.

"We tracked an elk for six hours in the snow, but couldn't catch him. Boy, I was all in. Elk will strike out across the country on a lode and run five or six miles, sometimes.

"Tenderfeet pulled out when snow began to swirl, but a number of old-timers braved the cold and made kills."

He estimated from his observations and forest official reports that the elk population increased about 1000 more than the kill.

REFUGEES IN NEW YORK

Five bird sanctuaries are to be established in the larger parks of the city of New York for preservation of remaining natural wild life, if a plan proposed to the city park department by the National Association of Audubon Societies is adopted.

Outside England, there are almost no cities approximating the size of New York which have wild life sanctuaries within their limits.



Above on the left is a pair of black swans and cygnets, natives of Australia; on the right Alaska Robins or Varied Thrush engage in a fight over a partly eaten apple. Below on the left is the kingbird, a persistent enemy of hawks (National Association of Audubon Society) and two white swans, dwellers on Malheur lake.

Birdland's Fightin' Fool

Kingbird Discards All Safety-First Measures in Centuries-Old Warfare on Fierce Hawk

By Marjorie Englis

The fighting fool of birdland is the kingbird. Closed season on certain birds are man-made laws, but the kingbird is lawless, for he belabors his enemy any time, any place, anywhere; all the year round is open season for him on hawks.

Well known east of the Cascade mountains, the kingbird is a rare visitor in Western Oregon but, rare or common, no taint of cowardice has ever touched the name of kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus). Some call him an exhibitionist, but seldom does a show-off take his own life in his hands. Even in war time what airman, totally unarmed, would deliberately attack an enemy plane equipped with death-dealing devices and four or five times as large as his own? Yet this is what the kingbird does. When we see him, even smaller than a robin, at-

tacking his age-old enemy, the hawk, do we stop long enough to thrill with the realization of what suicidal courage must be in the heart of that tiny bundle of feathered fury?

With his death-dealing talons and flesh-tearing beak, the hawk would need but one successful thrust at his small heckler to spell finis. All this the kingbird knows, but though each sally and dart at the hawk opens the possibility of instant death, it matters not!

We must acknowledge that a human being with half that amount of valor would be bedecked with war medals and innumerable honors, yet the little kingbird not only goes unsung but unrecognized, for few persons glancing casually up into the sky and seeing that small bird badgering a hawk many times his size visualize the courage that must be his to fight at such terrific odds!

Snake Gulps Down Fat Toad, Then Wishes He Hadn't

A Virginia spread-head moccasin snake that elected to make a meal of a big toad recently appeared to suffer more from the experience than the toad. A landscape foreman at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military park, Virginia, vouches for the incident, which was a sort of Jonah and the whale episode.

The snake, a foot-long specimen, was writhing and twisting as though in pain when he first saw it, the foreman said, and when prodded with a stick the creature assumed contortions which did not suggest anger but anguish. Suddenly it disgorged a toad which seemed almost half as large in bulk as itself, after which it lay perfectly still and could not be induced to move. The toad, however, hopped away under its own power after a few dazed seconds.

From Pharaohs Land

Wasps from the land of the Pharaohs have been imported to the United States in an effort to stamp out the pink bollworm in North America. This particular worm has not yet reached the real cotton belt but because of its extreme destructiveness the deadly wasp enemy is being brought in for the purpose of checking its inroads at the outset.

Strange Note Sounded When End Approaches

The swan is a favorite bird of medieval history and mythology. Its song has been a symbol of death for many years and is not entirely a myth. D. G. Elliot, one of the older ornithologists, reports he heard it once at Currituck Sound when a swan in the air, mortally wounded, set its wings and sailed slowly downward. Its death song continued until it reached the water nearly half a mile away. This was unlike any other swan note, plaintive and musical like the soft running of the notes in an octave.

The large size of the swan and its conspicuous color have made it a shining mark for gunners. The older birds are about as tough and unfit for food as an old horse. However, until these birds were protected by federal law, it was "sport" to kill them. In earlier days fashion called for swansdown. Thousands of swans' skins were handled in pioneer days by the Hudson's Bay company.

It now is an unusual sight to see a wedge of these magnificent snow-white birds. Vast flocks formerly migrated across our continent, but the change of conditions and the insatiable desire to kill have almost locked the trumpets of these big birds in the silence of the past.

Two species of swan are found in this country. Both were recorded along the Columbia river by Lewis and Clark in 1805 and 1806. The common American or Whistling swan was named *Cygnus Columbianus* from the Columbia river.

The Trumpeter swan was discovered on the Columbia river by Lewis and Clark, but it was not named as a separate species until 1831. This is larger than the Whistling swan, but the size is a difficult mark of distinction unless both species are together. The Whistling swan has a distinct yellow spot in front of the eye. This is lacking in the Trumpeter.

The breeding range of the Whistling swan is near the shores of the Arctic ocean. Some spend the winter along the Southern Atlantic and some on the Pacific Coast. Formerly large flocks frequented the Columbia river, but the main line of migration was east of the Cascade range where the birds rested and fed in the lake region of Southern Oregon and Northern California.

The Swan song might well be applied to the Trumpeter, because for many years he has been at the point of final disappearance. His nesting range was the interior of North America and especially the North Central states from Iowa and the Dakotas northwest. The drying up of breeding areas and the great change through that part of the country have almost led to its complete extermination. Fortunately, in recent years, a few pairs have been discovered breeding in Yellowstone Park, Montana, and Canada. Efforts to protect these breeding areas have so far prevented the last swan song. The numbers are few but rigid protection may keep some of them with us.

The swans that are seen in parks and zoological gardens are as a rule not of a species native to America. The European Whistling swan, sometimes called Whooper, has a note like a bass trombone. The Old World also is the home of the Mute swan, so called because it is said to lose its voice when domesticated. The celebrated Black swan of Australia is one that is domesticated and breeds in various parts of the country.

