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grouse, doves
& pigeons



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Cover: Mule deer photographed by Dennis Kirkland (HisImages.com)

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FINDING DIRECTION

BY JIM AKENSON

ALSEA UNITY/CODY PARATORE

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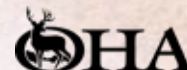
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<http://www.oregonhunters.org>

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Hunters step up again for conservation

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) recently funded eight conservation projects in Oregon – including two supported by OHA – with funds donated by sportsmen, demonstrating once again that hunters and anglers are our state's foremost conservationists.

Many sportsmen check the donation box on the ODFW website when purchasing licenses and tags. This fund was created by the Oregon Legislature and involves accumulating private donations to then be matched with state fish and wildlife

funds. The fund itself is geared toward producing the private donation match amount of \$1 million to then access and expend the combined donation and general fund amount of \$2 million.


A unique feature of this fund-raising process is that while the donated funds are being raised, it can be tapped for worthy projects. This fund is being generated to help promote management of non-game wildlife and encourage recreation, which connects a diverse group of people, including youth and underprivileged, with the outdoors. It also provides a mechanism for non-hunting and fishing Oregonians to contribute to wildlife conservation.

To date, the largest portion of revenue generated has come from hunters and anglers contributing to the fund when they purchase fishing and hunting licenses and tags.

The jump-start of this fund is due to dedicated sportsmen having a heart-felt passion for wildlife conservation in our state. To date, \$80,000 has been raised, and the OCRF Committee decided to put most of this out for project support to demonstrate the type of efforts that will be getting funded now and in the future.

Eight projects were chosen for funding support, and two of these have been actively promoted by OHA. One is the Gilchrist crossing fencing, which was supported for the full \$10,000 that could be requested during this initial phase. Many OHA chapters have donated generously to this effort to provide safe crossing for wildlife, especially mule deer, which use an underpass to travel beneath Highway 97.

The other OHA-endorsed project by OCRF is the Ochoco Trails community collaborative effort to develop a trail system on the Crooked River National Grasslands where people can enjoy a unique habitat while exercising. This project received \$7,500. The Ochoco Trails proposal will create a trail network on the Crooked River National Grasslands that focuses on providing physical exercise and minimizing wildlife displacement onto private land where conflicts could occur. This is a good conservation effort, and our partnership with this makes hunters look considerate of basic outdoor enjoyment, nature appreciation, and improving our personal health condition, which is also important for the upcoming hunting seasons.

It's good that all Oregonians take stake in enhancing our outdoor health and recreational opportunity, but hunters have demonstrated that they earn the honor as Oregon's premier conservationists. Time and time again, hunters have stepped up to support wildlife and the lands and habitats they occupy. Sportsmen's involvement is critical in this type of effort, and joining efforts with other hunting-based organizations will help galvanize our heritage and reputation as conservationists. 

The jump-start of this fund is due to dedicated sportsmen having a heart-felt passion for wildlife conservation in our state.



WE'RE GETTING OUR POINTS ACROSS.

(AND THOSE WITHOUT POINTS, TOO.)



How can you help?
Join OHA, and then reserve
a mule deer license plate
that helps fund wildlife
crossings. See Page 25.



Too many deer are
dying needlessly on our highways,
and in some cases taking human life with them.
OHA has committed more than \$114,000 to the next Hwy 97
undercrossing and successfully lobbied to get grant funding, as well.
Join OHA and help us make sure that our points are well taken and driven home.

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- Receive the Oregon Hunter's Calendar, with 12 photos of Oregon game animals and important season dates and deadlines.

- Make your voice heard on important hunting issues.



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WORK SHARP OREGON HUNTING QUIZ

HELPING SHARP OREGON HUNTERS HOLD THEIR EDGE

KNOW OREGON? WIN A WORK SHARP!

- Which of these is a diving duck?
a) mallard c) canvasback
b) pintail d) all of the above
- What game bird parts must be left attached while traveling home from hunting?
a) feathered head c) a or b
b) feathered wing d) a and b
- What is the largest county in Oregon?
a) Wallowa c) Jefferson
b) Harney d) Yamhill
- What is the tallest peak or mountain in the coast range?
a) Trask Mountain c) Mary's Peak
b) Mt. Hebo d) Saddle Mountain
- What duck has the longest tail feather?
a) mallard c) gadwall
b) wood duck d) pintail
- Which National Wildlife Refuge is the largest in Oregon?
a) Hart Mountain c) Malheur
b) Klamath d) Umatilla
- A state upland bird stamp is needed
a) once a hunter is age 11
b) to hunt doves
c) to hunt turkey
d) none of the above
- Non-toxic shot is required for all
a) waterfowl c) upland birds
b) doves d) all of the above
- Strawberry Mtns. are in what county?
a) Grant c) Wheeler
b) Crook d) Union
- Big game meat given to another person must have:
a) animal's description
b) owner name/address
c) a tag number
d) all of the above



WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Name this Oregon mountain that's lonely in name only, be drawn from all correct entries, and win a Work Sharp Original Knife and Tool Sharpener! Send your best guess to Oregon Hunting Quiz, OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, or submit your guess online at oregonhunters.org, where a larger version of the photo appears. One entry per OHA member.

Entry deadline: Sept. 20, 2020.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

John Bambe, Bend

John's name was drawn from among the OHA members who recognized the John Day River.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

AUGUST 29

General bow season opens

SEPTEMBER 1

Traditional openers for dove, forest grouse and W. Oregon quail

SEPTEMBER 12

Lake County guzzler project, 541-417-1750

SEPTEMBER 19-20

OHA Pioneer Chapter Sight-In Days, Canby Rod & Gun Club, 503-710-1233

SEPTEMBER 26-27

OHA Pioneer Chapter Sight-In Days, Canby Rod & Gun Club, 503-710-1233

SEPTEMBER 27

General bow season ends

OCTOBER 2

Tag deadline for rifle deer, bear & cougar

OCTOBER 3

Any legal weapon deer season opens

OCTOBER 10

Seasons open for chukar, pheasant, E. Oregon quail, Hungarian partridge and E. Oregon fall turkey

OCTOBER 14

Eastside buck season ends

OCTOBER 15

Western Oregon general fall turkey season opens; fox season opens

OCTOBER 16

Deadline to buy elk tags for W. Cascades; Cascade buck season temporarily closes

OCTOBER 17

W. Cascade elk opens; OHA Lake County duck & goose boxes, 541-417-1750

OCTOBER 23

W. Cascade elk closes

OCTOBER 24

Cascade buck rifle season reopens

OCTOBER 24-25

OHA Klamath Chapter youth chukar hunt, 541-643-7077

OCTOBER 28

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season opens

MORO COUNTY, 3 MILE CANYON/DANA JOURNEY

ANSWERS: 1-c; 2-c; 3-b; 4-c; 5-d; 6-a; 7-d; 8-a; 9-a; 10-d.

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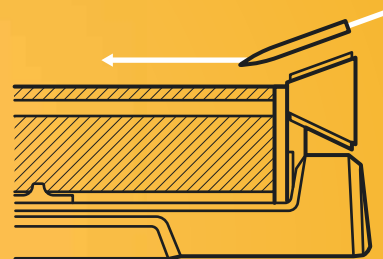
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Sky's the limit for early birds

Oregon's mourning doves and band-tailed pigeons lay truth to the adage, "Birds of a feather flock together." Hunters looking to score on these fast-flying, gray bombers should focus on finding feeding and roosting areas, and the flight paths connecting the two.

While Oregon's bandtail season is brief, and limits shy of what they once were, they're still fun to hunt and make good table fare. If hunting the Coast Range, spend time looking and listening for pigeons congregating amid groves of Cascara trees. Due to the thick foliage this time of year, pigeons can often be heard as they feast on fruit in the understory.

Pigeon hunters on the west slopes of the Cascades will find Cascara trees scattered about, but elderberries are what you really want to look for. The past few falls have



Dove and pigeon season is here, and if you're in the right place at the right time, you might bag limits of both, like author, Scott Haugen, did in the Cascades foothills north of Roseburg.

seen an abundance of elderberry bushes, which has greatly spread out the pigeons.

Hit the woods before daylight with your binoculars, as bandtails are early risers. Pattern their flight path from hillside roost locales to feeding areas, and you'll learn where to set up.

Once done feeding in the morning, bandtails often head to water, so watch for large flocks gathering along river and creek beds, even secluded springs.

Mourning doves are lovers of farmland and river valleys. Westside hunters do well along rivers and creeks where doves congregate for grit, while eastside hunters do

well amid vast grain crops. That's not to say hunting all possible food, grit, water, and flight paths aren't worth it – it is – no matter where you hunt mourning doves.

Setting up dove decoys along the fringes of feeding areas, near grit collecting spots and watering sites, as well as in known flight paths, can be effective. Place the decoys so they're visible from afar.

While Oregon's doves and pigeons are a joy to hunt, quail and forest grouse can also be hunted this time of year, making for one of the most prized upland bird combinations the country has to offer.

—SCOTT HAUGEN



JAMES FLAHERTY

The season for forest grouse runs from Sept. 1 through Jan. 31. The daily bag limit is 3 of each species and 9 each species in possession.

In a ruff year, time to shake the blues

It was September and my friend James and his son Isaac and I were in the Imnaha to scout for mule deer. Deer were hard to find, but there were grouse in large numbers. It didn't take us long to break out the shotguns.

No one shot a limit – we limited our kill – but we sure enjoyed the meals cooked over the wood stove, encrusted in Ruffles potato chips.

We hunt two types of forest grouse in eastern Oregon – ruffed grouse and blues – and it is easy to get a mixed bag for the hunter who knows where to look.

Ruffed grouse are most often found in canyons with a lot of cover – aspens, alders, willows, vine maple, pines and fir trees. They like a bit of elevation change. A little bench over a spring or a swamp can pay off with looks at a bird or two or three. They flash through the timber, offering brief glimpses and a rush of wings like a heart attack.

Blue grouse are most often found closer to the tops of the ridges. They seek out patches of berry bushes and peck out the

greenery under the spruces, the hemlock and the tall pines. Bigger birds, when flushed, go faster and farther – unless they're stopped with a load of 6s.

The Imnaha Unit is a great place to bag representative birds of each species. With 74 percent public lands in this unit, there is good access.

A good place to start is on the Wallowa Mountain Road (also called the 39 Road). Look for grouse on the gravel roads in the last hour before dark. Mark the places where grouse are seen, because their home coverts are small, and birds are likely to be nearby. Several tracks branch off of the 39 Road and offer various options. This is steep, steep country and many hunters will not venture too deep into canyons that might hold grouse.

Confine scouting to areas close to water – springs, creeks, cattle tanks and ponds. Large parts of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest are roadless, and someone who is willing to walk and/or climb can find birds that have not been pressured.

—GARY LEWIS



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Chad Dotson and hunting buddies show off a hard-earned Hells Canyon chukar.

Hells Canyon chukars are aptly named

As we labored up the two-track to the upper country, my hunting partner Chad Dotson and I infused our conversation with some colorful language about the excess pizza and beer we had consumed the past few months that seemed to make this hike a bit harder than normal.

Hunting chukar is mostly insane. Some people find joy in it, but I'm not really sure how. Chukars live in the most inhospitable terrain you can imagine, in just about every major river drainage east of The Dalles.

The breaks of Hells Canyon are my home turf when I take to the hills to chase chukars: it is no country for hunters of weak spirits, legs or dogs.

Once you've finally worked your way into chukar country, located them with the hard work of a bird dog or your legs, and you are lucky enough to get a shot at them, they fly straight away like they're being shot at.

It was a beautiful day, snow-covered Eagle Caps to the west, canyon sunshine, a light breeze, eager dogs, eager hunters — and birds that would hold.

The first covey caught us off guard. Chad's dog, Phyllis, got birdy, and being our first hunt of the year, we were a little late to the party. We caught up to her only to see her flush the covey just out of range.

All things considered, it was a great start to the day. The rest of the day progressed like most of my chukar hunts do. Good dog work, depending on who you ask, terrible shooting, great views, and great company.

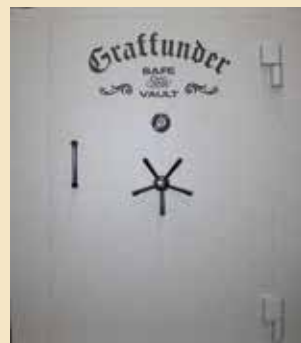
The chukars that call Hells Canyon home are the ultimate quarry for upland hunters, and they do their part to keep your favorite shotgun ammunition manufacturer in business. —ZACH MANSFIELD

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Gun initiatives fail to get signatures

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

The deadline to submit signatures for November ballot initiatives came and went, and no signatures for the four gun control initiatives were submitted.

COVID-19 restrictions certainly played a part in the inability of circulators to gather signatures, but we expect to see them introduced in the 2021 Legislature in bill form.

OHA will remain vigilant in the defense of our firearm ownership rights, and we appreciate the support of our 26 chapters and 10,000 members.

Trump signs Great American Outdoors Act, funding federal lands



President Donald Trump on Aug. 4 signed the Great American Outdoors Act, which will provide \$9.5 billion over 5 years to address the crumbling infrastructure on America's public lands and waters.

While the National Park Service will receive \$6.5 billion in funding, another \$3 billion will repair and maintain public land infrastructure managed by the BLM, USFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Great American Outdoors Act also provides full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually. LWCF is one of the most successful and influential conservation programs in our nation's history. As a testament to the impact of LWCF, the program has completed a conservation, recreation, or access project in every single county in the country. GAOA also ensures \$15 million annually is dedicated to increase public access for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other forms of outdoor recreation.

—CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S FOUNDATION



We expect to see these gun control initiatives introduced in the 2021 Legislature in bill form.

Beaver trap ban fails

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
Amy@oregonhunters.org

Beaver trapping in Oregon became an unusually high profile topic at the June Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. Letters and comments were submitted by 27 environmental groups in support of a requested ban on beaver trapping on all federal land in the state.

OHA, working with a broad coalition of state and national organizations, provided written and oral testimony opposing the proposed ban. In the 12-hour meeting, the Commission heard testimony from more than 60 individuals, including several legislators, who aired concern over the lack of scientific justification for the proposed ban.

Ultimately, the 2020-22 Furbearer Regulations were approved as proposed and without the beaver ban. The Commission couldn't vote on the ban request due to a Secretary of State filing technicality and instead instructed ODFW to form a workgroup to evaluate beaver population health and any impacts of trapping. The Commission also requested a working group be formed to review trap check times and the Commission's ability to adjust these regulations without legislative process. This outcome signals continued involvement by OHA and our coalition of partners to ensure trapping opportunities for Oregonians.

Anti-poaching funds facing budget axe



By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

After receiving all the state agency submissions on budget cuts for the 2020-21 biennium, the legislature put together a cut list that recommended slashing general funds for the OHA-supported anti-poaching program and OSP wildlife enforcement positions.

OHA testified during a legislative budget hearing on the need to protect Oregon's wildlife, and asked that these two especially important programs keep their funding levels.

The legislature will make the final decision on these programs during Special Session 2.

In July, the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted ODFW's requested budget for the 2021-23 biennium. There was no fee increase request in this budget. The budget now goes to the Governor and then to the legislature in 2021 for final approval.

OHA will advocate for more game enforcement and anti-poaching program dollars.

In addition to the 2021-23 budget submission, all state agencies were asked to submit budget cuts for the current 2019-21 biennium. This is due to projected loss of general fund revenues considering the current pandemic crisis.

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BLACK POWDER

By TROY RODAKOWSKI

Go under cover for blacktails

There are only a few magical days a season when blacktails show themselves during daylight hours, and if you plan on cutting your tag, you need to be in the woods when these days dawn.

Every year people ask me what makes a blacktail hunter good and why some folks always get their deer. Simply answered, you need to be out there with the deer when they are active. For these nocturnal ungulates, we need to pay close attention to the surroundings and what cycle of the rut the animals are in where you plan to hunt.

Blacktails relish the thickest of cover, through which they tunnel and weave, enabling them to go undetected for much of their lives.

snaps of the season usually hit during this time and make for some great hunting opportunities. By now the rain has dampened the forest floor and made for some quiet hiking, enabling hunters to sneak to tree stands, ground blinds and elevated vantage points.

Finding trophy deer is not easy, but with does beginning to come into estrus, bucks will become more visible during daylight hours. Scan the densest cover meticulously with optics before giving up on a good looking location. Blacktails relish the thickest of cover, through which they tunnel and weave, enabling them to go undetected for much of their lives. As a hunter, you need to put yourself in their cover or very near it.

Muzzleloader hunting has become a passion of mine over the past decade. I have grown to love the seasons and the options Oregon offers for musketeers.



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Modern in-line muzzleloaders have greater range than open flintlock styles, but the author took this buck at 80 yards, which is an average range for many guns.

Most of the seasons encompass part or all of the rut for the deer. Hunting the rut has some serious advantages, but finding good bucks is not always easy, regardless. Early November brings with it some great pre-rut activity with bucks chasing does and fighting with other bucks. Rubs are made on heavily used trails, mostly at night. However, you will begin to see more deer during the daylight hours at this time.

Last year, I had an opportunity to hunt around Nov. 10 and found deer actively moving. Deer were readily responding to rattling and calls. My dad and I set up on a small ridge and did a few sequences of calling and rattling for a couple hours and decided we should move after only seeing a small spike. We slowly made our way about 50 yards out from the tree line and stopped to glass a small opening. With patches of timber on either side of us, it would be a great place for deer to cross.

In the words of the late great Boyd Iverson, "Deer will get up to stretch and pee or relocate during the middle of the day, so be ready." It was high noon and we figured this was a good place for an ambush.

It hadn't been long when Dad whispered, "Don't move. There's a buck moving across about 80 yards behind you." I slowly turned my head so I could peek out of the corner of my eye and eased the

hammer back very slowly. He was a nice 4-point, and he was walking at a pretty good pace. At this point I knew I'd have to swing quickly and make a quick shot. Taking a deep breath, I ran the scenario through in my head and swung, settled my peep on his chest and pulled the trigger. The smoke was thick like puffy thunderheads and its sulphur aroma filled the air and burned our nostrils.

Through the fading smoke Dad holstered, "You got him good."

My heart was pounding out of my chest like a piston as I saw the buck drop about 150 yards away. I could breathe again and compose myself following the scenario that had just transpired. My 4X3 blacktail had a beautiful double white patch and a very swollen neck. We believe he had heard our calling but approached very cautiously, possibly thinking the deer he had heard had moved across the opening at noon of all times.

These are only a few of the reasons why I love muzzleloader hunting and the early November smells, crisp mornings and rutting bucks. Oregon has several options for controlled tags, so check your regulations for options on hunts for 2021. The use of deer attracting scents has changed in the newest regulations, so be sure to review them prior to heading afield.

BOWHUNTING

By SCOTT HAUGEN

Cascade blacktails: Get 'em while they're hot

Oregon's early season archery blacktail hunt is one of the toughest in which to tag a buck, but also a good time to pattern buck movement. Combine hot, dry, hunting conditions with the knowledge of buck behavior this time of year, however, and the chances of arrowing a mature buck greatly increase.

Blacktail bucks strip their velvet in late August and very early September, and mature bucks begin separating from small bachelor groups at this time. A buck can strip its velvet fast; I've watched bucks complete the task in less than 10 minutes. On average I've observed a majority of big bucks turning nocturnal within three days of stripping their velvet. I've also seen buck movement change the same day velvet was stripped.

While mature bucks likely bed and feed in the same areas they did during summer, at the season opener archers will want to be patient and hunt smart. Once the velvet is stripped, big bucks hang further back in cover, allowing younger bucks to feed into openings first. In summer, a big buck may have traveled with and fed alongside immature bucks, but now he waits and lets them feed out. Often a big buck may keep 100 yards or more of separation from smaller bucks, but is still in the area.

If you've been running trail cameras all summer and catching mature bucks using the same trail, they'll often quit using them once the velvet is stripped. They may still feed and bed in the same areas, but take different routes getting there.

If you're a treestand or ground blind hunter, establishing a place closer to the buck's presumed bedding area may be necessary in order to catch it moving in daylight. Once velvet is stripped, bucks bed down earlier in the morning and emerge



Heat can actually keep blacktails moving as the shade and breeze shift throughout the day.

to feed later in the evening, so being close to their core areas of movement is key to getting a shot.

While trail cameras are the best way I've found to pattern blacktail buck movement, once the velvet is stripped, having as many cameras out as possible will open your eyes to how these deer move. What you'll find are bucks traveling on their own, often not even using trails to get to and from feeding and bedding areas.

Heat can be an archer's best friend in the early season. The hotter it is, the better, as deer rely more on shade for relief. This means deer may keep moving late into the morning, seeking relief in the form of shade and breezes. Once thermals shift, deer often move high toward the top of a ridge in order to find a cool, breezy place to bed. They'll normally travel amid timber to reach these points, not open ground, and if you set a blind or hang a stand in the right spot – usually close to the bedding zone – it can pay off.

Spot and stalk is tough in the early season, but can be done. Patience is critical here, as you may wait for hours – even days – for the right conditions in which to make a move. Once a mature buck is located in its bed, check the wind. The stronger the breeze and more consistent its direction, the better, as it masks your sound, move-

ment, and keeps your scent moving away from the deer.

If you get close to a buck – but not close enough for a shot – and the wind changes, abort and come back another time. The last thing you want to do is educate an already-wise blacktail buck.

I believe the best chance of killing a mature blacktail in the early archery season is during the first 10 days of the season, when they're still moving in daylight, can be patterned, and can be watched moving to bedding areas. Should rains come in late September, toward the end of the early season, this is also prime time to be afield, as the forest floor turns quiet and bucks will often feed earlier in the evening and later into the morning.

It's far from a sure bet, but when you put all the pieces of Oregon's blacktail puzzle together, the chances of filling a tag will improve. One thing is for certain, and that is the more time you spend in the blacktail woods, the more you'll understand why so many seasoned hunters rank them as the toughest of North America's deer to consistently attain.



For signed copies of the author's book, *Trophy Blacktails: The Science Of The Hunt*, visit scotthaugen.com. Follow his adventures on Instagram and Facebook.

2020 FALL GAMEBIRD OUTLOOK

BY JIM YUSKAVITCH

WILLY ONARHEIM

Stormy weather in portions of western and eastern Oregon this spring may dampen some upland bird hunting opportunity in certain areas. When upland game bird nesting season comes around, there is always a thin line between “good” wet weather and “bad” wet weather. You want just enough moisture in the spring to promote a good green-up of vegetation, which in turn increases insect production for bird food. If you get too much rain and cold, upland game bird nestlings will succumb to hypothermia pretty quickly.

Unfortunately, we had a lot of the bad kind of wet spring weather in some parts of the state, and fall hunting opportunities will depend on how hard the young birds were hit and if the adults attempt re-nesting to make up for losses.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife skipped its annual resident duck survey this year, so detailed information is spotty. However, local wildlife biologists report seeing typical numbers of resident ducks, and stable to growing goose populations.

Here’s an overview of what ODFW wildlife biologists around the state had to say about game bird populations and hunting prospects for this year.

Pheasant

With agricultural lands over the years being converted to development or modern farming methods that limit or eliminate winter cover, the best pheasant hunting opportunities west of the Cascades remain the fee hunts sponsored by ODFW at E.E. Wilson, Fern Ridge, Sauvie Island and Denman wildlife areas.

But decent opportunities to hunt wild birds do still exist, mostly in the southeast and northeast portions of Oregon, with the Ontario-Vale and Heppner areas being among the best.

Steve Cherry, ODFW district wildlife biologist in Heppner, reports seeing quite a few adults with chicks, indicating a good hatch for this year, and the probability of good numbers of available birds come fall.

The situation is considerably different in the Ontario-Vale region, which experienced a prolonged period of cold, rainy weather this spring. Philip Milburn, local district wildlife biologist, has seen adults, but very few chicks, and expects low

production for this year. “Game birds don’t do wet and cold,” he said. Hunters planning to get out anyway will do best hunting riparian corridors where there is cover. “Cover is the limiting factor for pheasants,” explained Milburn. “As you move into ag lands there is less cover and fewer birds.”

Lee Foster, assistant district wildlife biologist in Hines, reported that, “Pheasant hunting was good last year and we seem to be up a little this year.”

There are also some opportunities to hunt wild pheasants on the Klamath Wildlife Area, and the Miller Island Unit in particular, but the best hunting is for birds stocked by Unlimited Pheasants, which the organization has been doing for years.

Quail

Both Mike Moore, assistant district wildlife biologist out of ODFW’s Klamath Falls office, and Cherry in Heppner reported seeing good numbers of valley quail broods this spring. In southwest Oregon, assistant district wildlife biologist Bill Cannaday in Roseburg said, “There’s lots of good hunting for quail in the valley and on irrigated agricultural lands.” Overall, valley quail

**The wet late spring
affected some birds
more than others.**



Klamath Falls/Willy Owarheim

Forest Grouse

The North Coast typically has strong forest grouse numbers, and this year Tillamook-based Nuzum reports hearing a record number adult male birds on their most recent sooty grouse calling surveys. But inclement spring weather has taken its toll. “We had crummy nesting this spring, with lots of rain in May and June,” related Nuzum, “so unless a lot of birds re-nest, I’m not optimistic we have good production.”

The situation is much better in the southern Oregon Cascades and Coast ranges. “We’re seeing some pretty full broods of both ruffed and sooty grouse and we expect there will be good grouse hunting opportunities this season,” said Cannaday. Cannaday also reminded hunters to donate wings to ODFW’s grouse barrels, as this helps biologists keep track of population health.

In the Klamath Falls area, it remains to be seen whether the wet spring will benefit birds with a good green-up or has caused high chick mortality, according to Moore, while Cherry in Heppner – which also saw some extended rainy weather – reported seeing some adults with broods this year.

Valley quail are prolific nesters and seem to have fared fine this spring.

in his district are stable and holding.

Despite the cold, wet spring, Milburn in Ontario thinks that valley quail have been less affected, as they tend to nest later than other game birds and are also aggressive re-nesters. However, he still expects their numbers to be down from previous years.

The High Desert had the opposite problem – a dry spring and a low snowpack in Steens that may affect summer vegetation growth. But Foster in Hines expects valley quail populations to be good this year as long as dry conditions don’t worsen.

Mountain quail seem to be doing well and holding steady across their range in Oregon. Assistant district wildlife biolo-

gist Dave Nuzum, based in Tillamook, a part of the state that also experienced a cold wet spring, said their mountain quail populations remain good, and he expects to see good numbers of second nestings.

Although there aren’t large numbers of mountain quail in the Heppner and Klamath Falls areas, populations there seem to be stable. A two-bird limit was approved for eastern Oregon this fall.

In southwest Oregon, recent fires and logging operations have created a great deal of the brushy, early seral stage habitat that mountain quail like, and their numbers are responding in both the Cascades and Coast ranges, according to Cannaday.



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Sage Grouse

“Based on our spring surveys, it looks like sage grouse numbers are slightly up from last year on most of the High Desert District,” said Foster. However, further east in Malheur County, Milburn reported that the very wet spring, with heavy rains during the third week of May, which is typically the peak sage grouse hatch, had a negative impact on current populations. “But we are so conservative with our sage grouse management that lower numbers don’t affect hunting opportunities,” he said. “If you draw a tag, you will probably find a sage grouse.”

Chukar

Chukar hunting may be slow this year, courtesy of heavy spring rain in much of their desert range. “We had a lot of rain in May and the first part of June, so that may have had an impact on chukar nesting,” said Cherry. Similarly, out in Malheur County, Milburn is seeing adults with no chicks and not re-nesting. The High Desert District is a bright spot, though, with Foster noting that chukars seem to be up a bit this year.



OHA backed expanded hunting on Hart Mountain, Nestucca Bay and Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuges this fall.

Duck numbers look good this year, but water levels have been a concern this summer.

Wild Turkey

Wild turkeys are a bright spot. “I haven’t seen any broods yet, but we have been supplementing birds in the Keno Unit,” said Moore in Klamath Falls. “Hunters were finding and taking birds this spring.”

In the Heppner area, Cherry has been seeing a decent number of turkey broods and reports that production seems to have been good this year.

As usual, southwest Oregon remains the wild turkey hunting hotspot.

OHA testified in support of ODFW

proposed changes to turkey season dates (through Jan. 31 in most areas), lifting tag quotas and closing the fall season at White River Wildlife Area to allow greater hunting opportunity during the spring.

Doves and Band-tailed Pigeons

Mourning dove populations vary depending on what part of the state you are looking at, but in general their numbers typically remain stable, which is the case this year as well. Mourning dove hunting usually lasts until cold weather drives the birds south.



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Despite punishing spring weather conditions, the Ontario area remains one of Oregon's top mourning dove hunting regions. While irrigated agricultural lands and grain fields offer excellent opportunities, Milburn said that good dove hunting can be found on surrounding desert public lands at waterholes and irrigation ditches where trees have grown for the birds to roost.

Nuzum reported good numbers of band-tailed pigeons on the North Coast, noting he often spots them in the elderberries. As with mourning doves, the overall band-tailed pigeon population in Oregon tends to be stable, although abundance may vary in different areas.

Ducks and Geese

With ODFW's annual resident duck survey canceled due to the pandemic, data on local ducks is sparse, although local biologists are seeing what they consider typical numbers of ducks and ducklings. Hunting opportunities will depend a lot on how full lakes, ponds and wetlands are in the fall, along with the strength of the fall flight and the bad weather that drives them south.

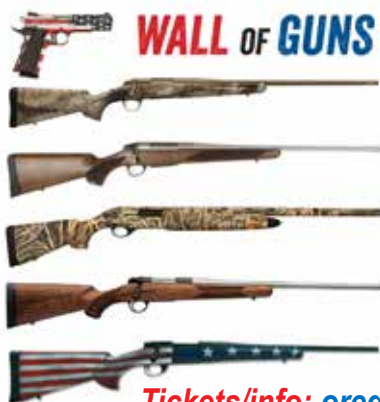
But there is good news. A late spring report from Ducks Unlimited Canada shows that habitat conditions in Alaska, British Columbia and Alberta – source regions for our fall migratory birds – were wet, creating excellent waterfowl breeding conditions.

As usual, Canada and white geese numbers in Oregon are steady or rising. 



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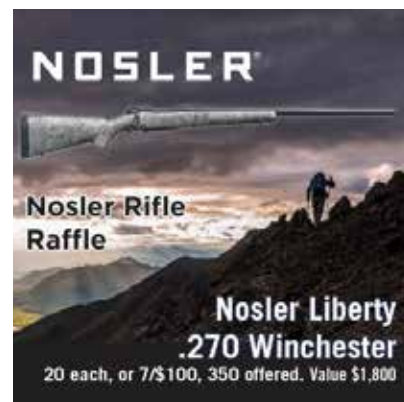
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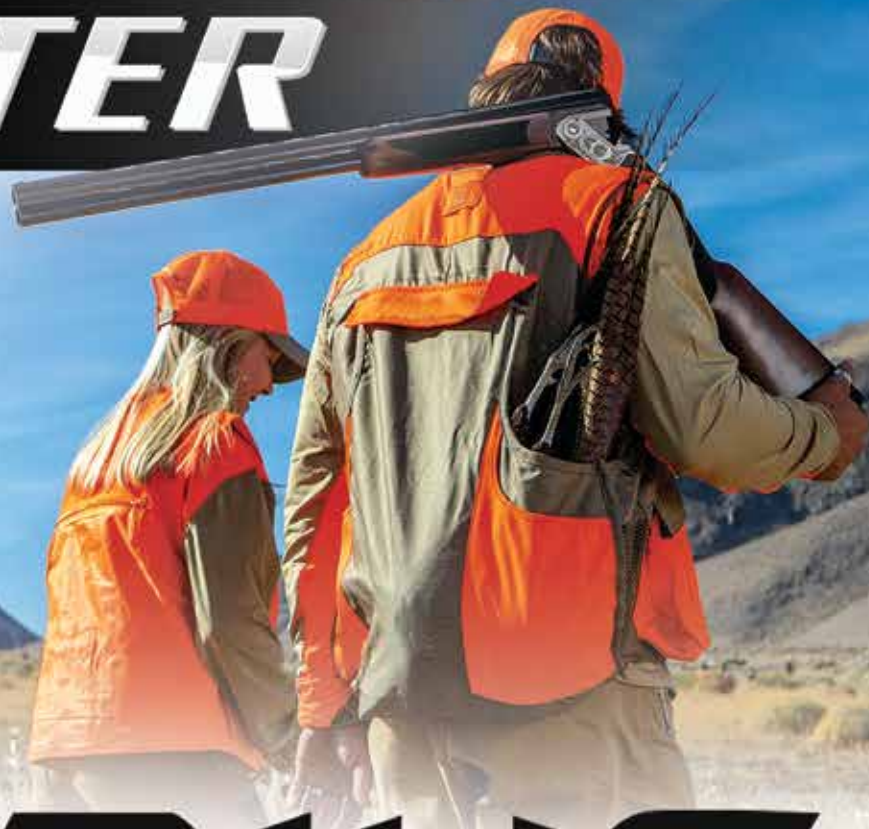
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OREGON'S MULE DEER DECLINE

The problems and solutions are clear.
But who's got the guts?

BY GARY LEWIS

If you are a hunter of mule deer, you see the females in May and you can tell which ones are ready to give birth. You look for the spotted fawns on their wobbly legs and say a silent prayer they will survive those first dangerous weeks of life.

In the summer you watch for bucks and try to see if that 2x3 from last November shows up again, or if that one-horned spike grows two antlers this year.

And in October, you use all your detective skills to figure out where the big bucks live. You know they are there because you watched them through the winter. Out on the winter range, you hunt coyotes to help keep predator numbers in check.

You love mule deer more than any other animal; it is the symbol of the wild and free. Early in the year, you buy a hunting license because that is one of the most important aspects of the North American model of wildlife conservation – whether you intend to hunt or not.

In the fall of 1992, a friend and I drove east past Prineville, Post and Paulina. In every pasture past Post, mule deer prospered. Some herds numbered 100 – does, fawns and small bucks, with larger bucks back up in the rocks.

My friend Mike Crawford recalls the 1980s with thousands of deer wintering in the Bear Creek Buttes area south of Prineville Reservoir. It is very hard to find deer there now.

In the winter of 1992-93, the snow crusted over and deer starved by the thousands. Biologists thought deer herds would bounce back like they always did, but in 1994 the people of Oregon outlawed hunt-

ing with hounds, the most effective method of cougar control, and while mule deer were at their weakest point, the mountain lion numbers began to explode.

If an adult cougar will kill 50 deer or elk a year – and there are a few thousand more cougars now than there were in the early 1990s – it is harder than ever for deer numbers to bounce back. Perhaps worst of all, we are losing the institutional memory of how many deer we could have.

The issues facing mule deer in the West are complex, and nowhere is it more evident than in central Oregon. A couple of months ago I sat with my friend Corey Heath, the district wildlife biologist, and he couched his opinions in his wishes – for fewer cougars, fewer people, less traffic, no poaching, less non-hunting recreation stress that makes deer more susceptible to poaching, predators and disease. I could add to that fewer junipers that choke out native grasses and more stands of bitterbrush.

Consider that there are more vehicles on Highway 97 than ever, that Highway 20 is much busier, that both highways have become walls of death for the deer who have to migrate between winter and summer range twice a year.

A decade ago, Oregon instituted the Mule Deer Initiative, which targeted five mule deer game management units east of the Cascades to address habitat, predation, changing weather patterns, disturbance from ATVs and poaching. The five units, Heppner, Murderers Creek, Maury, Steens Mountain and Warner, benefited from habitat enhancement, predator control and additional enforcement. The initiative



**Has Salem lost
the political will to
keep the Mule Deer
Initiative alive?**



STEENS MOUNTAIN/JOHN WHELAND

Steens Mountain was one of the units of focus in the Mule Deer Initiative, which has gone quiet.

seemed to offer hope, but one wonders if Salem has lost the political will to keep the effort alive.

What is the solution? I think we have to accept that it is going to take hard work. We should not accept the simplistic response that hunters must quit hunting for a few years. We have to stop poaching first, which, we have learned, is equal to the legal deer harvest in some units. And we have to reduce predator numbers, encourage hunters to fill the quota of cougar harvests, and reduce coyote numbers on

winter range – especially during the fawning season.

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where junipers have increased six-fold in the last century, encroaching on grasslands and shrub stands and robbing the soil of precious water. It takes work to provide barrier-free migrations, building passageways under or over highways for deer and other animals to cross without being hit by a truck. And it takes work to prevent threats to winter range, like solar farms, vineyards and other development.

With two bad winters in a row, mule deer numbers are down, but so far this winter has been mild. The important thing is that fawns born this spring have a chance. At the risk of over-simplification, the more babies that are allowed to grow up, the healthier our deer herds will be 10 years from now.

What can a lover of mule deer do?

We can advocate for changes to wildlife management laws that allow for more

predator control. We can support wildlife enforcement to cut poaching in half. We can support legislation for barrier-free migration, and reserve our mule deer license plates that will fund safe wildlife crossings (see ad below and visit myowf.org).

Join organizations like the Oregon Hunters Association, Mule Deer Foundation and Protect Animal Migration that advocate on behalf of mule deer. Buy that hunting license because the money supports scientific wildlife management and keeps biologists employed and interested in a mule deer recovery. And go hunting. It is that connection with the land and wildlife that keeps us committed to mule deer recovery.



Author Gary Lewis is the host of Frontier Unlimited TV and author of Hunting Oregon and other titles. Contact Gary at www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com

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The Dark Tale *of* Blacktails

Cougars, poachers, habitat development & curtailed logging. What's next? Pot grows.

BY GARY LEWIS

For the casual observer, the black-tailed deer is that peculiar and particular animal that lives primarily west of the Cascades from the California coast all the way up through southeast Alaska. It is not a white-tailed deer and it is not a mule deer, and it thrives in habitats where timber is cut or where fires have raged and the new growth has sprung back up. Blacktails are common, yes, but they are not easy to hunt.

Some of us have lived in the good old days of blacktail hunting in Oregon, and now we are seeing a not unexpected decline in deer numbers. Where we lose habitat to development, where predator numbers have exploded, where timber stands mature and choke out the shrubs that deer depend on, there will be fewer deer.

If we are looking around to assign blame for fewer black-tailed deer, then let's get it right.

It is not your fellow deer hunter that is the problem. There is a mistaken notion there are too many hunters. This is not the case.

In fact, hunter participation is lower than it was 10 or 20 years ago. If there is a perception of overcrowding, it is because hunters tend to do the same things as other hunters. I put it down not to too many hunters, but to a lack of imagination. There are lots of places where a person can hunt black-tailed deer and not see another hunter.

Putting new restrictions on hunters is a knee-jerk reaction we should reject. The average black-tailed deer hunter takes one buck every fourth year. It is ridiculous to assert that hunters take too many deer, when one mountain lion may kill 50 deer

in one year. To assign deer population loss to hunters is equally ridiculous when poaching is factored in. Poachers, because they do not abide by laws, are much more likely to kill a high number of deer.

And the person that feeds deer in their backyard is not the problem, either. Yes, people may feed deer improperly and may unintentionally provide bad water sources, but these are not the reasons we are seeing fewer black-tailed deer in the mountains.

What are the real reasons for a decline? First, look at the decline in habitat.

Where a housing development now sits atop a hill where deer used to browse, that's loss of habitat.

Black-tailed deer can thrive in places where the older trees are removed and the sunlight can penetrate to the forest floor. When popular politics disrupt logging practices, deer are the losers.

Another threat to habitat is the solar array. Drive past any solar plantation – they may range in size from five to 5,000 acres – and what you see is glass aimed at the sky, where once the deer used to find acorns, blackberries, wild rosebushes, forbs and shrubs.

Cousin to the solar array is the vineyard, with its high fence and its no-deer-is-welcome-here policy. Grape growers, with few exceptions, do not permit deer upon their properties. The newcomer to the blacktail habitat destruction party is the marijuana grower.

Drive through Jackson County and Josephine County and try to count the marijuana grows. What they have in common are high fences, where apple and pear trees used to grow. And the 12-foot fences go corner to corner at the property lines, permitting no movement of wildlife.

One week in 2016, on a late-season blacktail hunt in Jackson County, I saw the deer fenced away from their bedding areas, fenced away from their feeding areas, fenced away from water. When those fences went up, the deer could not move from one place to the other. The orchards were mowed down.

Illegal marijuana grows are another threat to black-tailed deer. Legalization happened in 2014, but that doesn't mean illegal pot grows suddenly became legal. The drug cartel is still active in back-

Habitat loss is often permanent, but some of these factors can be reversed.



country Oregon, and these shadowy pot growers divert water sources to water their plants. They use illegal nerve agent poisons that kill wildlife on contact. And illegal pot growers also poach deer for the stew pot.

Habitat loss is often permanent, but some of these factors can be reversed.

As hunters, we should be more active in controlling predators like mountain lions, black bears and coyotes that do depress deer numbers in good habitat. Educated deer hunters are the solution. First, we are the only user group that cares enough to buy the hunting licenses that support scientific wildlife management.

So far, writing in February of 2020, this hunter has spent \$196.50 for hunting and angling licenses and tags. I will be spending more in tag application fees before I am done. These dollars support a bureaucracy that may be bloated, but it is the agency that advocates for wildlife and is responsible for scientific wildlife management.

Picture a family of five, mom and dad and three kids, each buying hunting licenses; they can have a thousand dollars invested before the season starts.

If we love blacktails, we can make a difference by educating ourselves, by stronger enforcement to stop poachers, by advocating for predator control, and by habitat enhancement and advocacy with groups like OHA.

Argue for and support safe passage for deer. Buy that hunting license. Go hunting. Take a friend. You are part of the solution.



Author Gary Lewis is the host of Frontier Unlimited TV and author of Hunting Oregon and other titles. Contact Gary at www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com



Deer visit an OHA water guzzler site in south central Oregon. OHA volunteers install, monitor and repair guzzlers in many areas of Oregon where water scarcity is a limiting factor for deer.

How OHA is Helping Our Deer

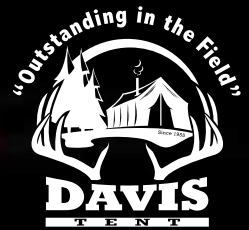
OHA is doing what we can to help deer at state and chapter levels

- Funding and labor for fencing to funnel wildlife into safe highway undercrossings, and successfully lobbying for additional wildlife crossing funds
- Operating the Turn In Poachers (TIP) Reward Fund, paying over \$20,000 annually in rewards to informants who turn in poachers
- Successfully pushing for tougher poaching penalties
- Input on state and federal lands projects to enhance deer habitat
- Successfully lobbying for higher cougar harvest quotas, year-round cougar season, cheaper cougar tags and second-tag opportunity
- Funding state-sanctioned cougar removal
- Planting deer-friendly forage seedlings
- Aspen rehabilitation and protection
- Installing and maintaining water guzzlers
- Protecting fragile riparian areas
- Funding coyote control where needed
- Protecting critical habitat from development
- Pushing for road signage in migration corridors
- Successfully lobbying to keep hunting and trapping as tools in wolf plan
- Cutting encroaching junipers that rob forage and streams of water
- Funding controlled burns to restore early successional habitat for deer
- Granting funds to migration studies to help protect critical habitat
- Encouraging predator hunting with clinics and contests
- Creating forage openings by seeding powerline cuts
- Clearing conifers and brush encroaching on forage meadows
- Working with NE Oregon landowners to feed starving deer in harsh winters
- Participation in habitat projects through the Access & Habitat program
- Securing conservation easements to protect important habitat
- Wildlife friendly fencing to protect water sources
- Continued pressure for updated mule deer & blacktail management plans
- Promoting new license plate that will fund wildlife crossings; see Page 25.



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YOUNG GUNS

By JASON HALEY

OHA gives kids shot at chasing chukars

The OHA Klamath Chapter's Youth Chukar Hunt is as unique as the chukar itself. It's the only youth hunt in Oregon specifically profiled in the 2020 Game Bird Regulations. The hunt takes place in the Lower Klamath Hills Regulated Hunt Area, a 1,400-acre unit just south of Klamath Falls. The slopes and tall sagebrush replicate the look and feel of a wild bird hunt, an experience that is sure to create a few more chukar junkies. This year's Oregon Game Bird Regulations state:

"The Klamath Chapter of OHA, in cooperation with ODFW, will offer a youth hunting opportunity for chukar in the Lower Klamath Hills Regulated Hunt Area on Oct. 24-25. The bag limit is two chukars. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult age 21 years or older. The adult will be asked to refrain from hunting and will be required to wear hunter orange. The mentored youth hunter program will apply to this hunt since it is within the general season dates for chukar. Youth hunters will be required to wear hunter orange and safety glasses. Hunting is available by reservation; call Jason Reed, Klamath Chapter OHA, at 541-643-7077 prior to the hunt. The number of participants for this youth hunt will be limited."



Many kids take their first chukars at the OHA Youth Chukar Hunt held near Klamath Falls.

Another cool aspect of this hunt is the Mentored Youth Hunter Program eligibility. This allows younger kids who haven't passed Hunter Education yet and don't have a license to try things out with a parent or guardian.

Dogs are allowed, but not required, and there are often a few handlers volunteering their canines to get them extra work.

Hunters up to age 17 are eligible to participate. All participants must attend a safety briefing.

Each youth hunter must have:

- A Hunter Education Certificate (or an ODFW-issued document, such as a hunting license, which includes a Hunter Education Certificate number.
- Permit for the hunt area (if required).
- Proof of Mentored Youth registration (if applicable).
- Hunters 12 years or older must have a valid hunting license with an upland game bird validation.
- A blaze orange hat, shooting glasses (eye protection) and vest must be worn by

ALL ABOUT CHUKARS

Chukars are native to the Middle East and Southern Asia, but are firmly established as a game bird now in the arid regions of our west, including here in central and eastern Oregon. They inhabit steep desert canyons and sagebrush hills in some of the most rugged albeit beautiful country we have. In spring, territorial males echo unique calls from rock cliffs, hence the name. They are one of the coolest, hardest-earned birds there is and they have a loyal following. Some adult wing-shooters live for it.

all participants, including adults.

Most years, the ODFW Hunter Education Program sponsors free shotgun skills clinics in conjunction with some September youth hunts for pheasants. This is a good opportunity to practice beforehand. Clinics are open to anyone 17 years of age and younger. Participants are taught basic shotgun skills and many are given the opportunity to shoot sporting clays. Clay targets and shot shells are provided.

ODFW hosts learn-to-hunt workshops on how to hunt game birds. Participants learn how to handle firearms safely, hunt game birds, and clean birds after harvesting. Participants are required to complete an ODFW Shotgun Skills course before participating in a pheasant or waterfowl workshop. To register for ODFW workshops, visit www.odfwcalendar.com.

Sign up online for Youth Upland Bird Hunts at www.myodfw.com.

All of these opportunities are subject to cancelation due to COVID-19, so confirm event status and stay up to date.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTS

FERN RIDGE WILDLIFE AREA

DENMAN WILDLIFE AREA

JOHN DAY (PRIVATE LAND)

KLAMATH WILDLIFE AREA

LADD MARSH WILDLIFE AREA

SAUVIE ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA

CENTRAL OREGON (NEAR MADRAS)

WHITE RIVER WILDLIFE AREA

COQUILLE VALLEY

E. E. WILSON WILDLIFE AREA

IRRIGON WILDLIFE AREA

ONTARIO AREA

KLAMATH WILDLIFE AREA

SEPT. 12 & 13

SEPT. 19 & 20

SEPT. 19 & 20

SEPT. 19 & 20

SEPT. 19 & 20

SEPT. 19 & 20

SEPT. 19 & 20

SEPT. 26 & 27

SEPT. 26 & 27

SEPT. 26 & 27

SEPT. 26 & 27

OCT. 17 & 18

OCT. 24



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For reservations, visit myodfw.com and confirm as event nears

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**Remember the thrill of your first hunt?
Do you have a passion for hunting that you would like to pass on to others?**

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The hunter education program involves passing on the hunting tradition to future generations in a safe, fun, and responsible manner.

- Firearm and hunter safety
- Wildlife management and conservation
- Hunter ethics and responsibilities
- Outdoor safety

Hunter education instructors are individuals 21 and older who have a passion for hunting. You do not need to be an expert hunter to teach this course; a strong interest in introducing young people and adults to the sport is what is required.

How do I become a Certified Instructor?

- Easy process: contact the number below for an application.



Hunter Education

ODFW Hunter Education Program 503-947-6028
www.dfw.state.or.us



CHAPTER NEWS

OHA keeps on truckin' during social chaos

Although numerous events were forced to be canceled, OHA has held online meetings and virtual fundraisers, and conducted projects with safety measures in place. Please confirm events listed here for the latest information.

BAKER

Charlie Brinton
(541) 403-0402

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Best Western Sun Ridge Inn; optional dinner 6 p.m.

2020 banquet: canceled, but we will hold some raffles

Update: The Coastal Farm & Ranch and Les Schwab raffles will be drawn Sept. 9. Baker City Banner Bank has partnered with our chapter in support of our Harold and Rojean Atkins Scholarship, this year awarded to Madison Morgan of Pine Eagle High School.

BEND

Rex Parks
(541) 480-0230

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Bend Golf & Country Club

2020 banquet: canceled; we held an online auction and raffles.

Update: Our 2020 Mule Deer Classic Banquet was canceled, but we held a successful online auction ending in early August. Our chapter is a proud sponsor of the Mountain View Trap Club, which managed to practice some shooting outdoors in small groups with social distancing and no sharing of equipment.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Dean Groshong
(541) 377-1227

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 6 p.m. meeting, 5:30 p.m. dinner and drinks available.

2020 banquet: Canceled, but holding raffles.



Over 30 volunteers helped OHA's Klamath Chapter clean up local forest property and filled trucks and trailers with tires, furniture and other trash this summer. They even found a car chopped up off a road. Basin Tire took the tires, Waste Management loaned dumpsters, Sportsman's Park provided a staging area, and Klamath County waived the dump fees. MDF provided a great lunch.

CAPITOL

Erik Colville
(503) 851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., Marion County Fire Station #1, 300 Cordon Rd. NE, Salem.

2020 banquet: canceled, will hold raffles.

Update: Winning tickets for the Nosler and Les Schwab raffles will be pulled Sept. 5. Chapter elections were held by mail. We are not reasonably able to meet in person, so we meet using a free, live internet video meeting service called Zoom, at 7 p.m. Aug. 25. There are set-up instructions to follow for first-time Zoom users (install the App if using your phone, etc.), so give yourself a little time to prepare for the meeting. We will have a guest speaker and some giveaways during the meeting for attendees. For more information see our website <https://ohacapitol.webs.com> and our Facebook page <https://facebook.com/OHACapitolChapter/>

CHETCO

Wes Ferraccioli
(541) 450-4100

Chapter Meetings: 5:30 p.m., next meetings TBD.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Jim Bergeron
(503) 458-6829

Chapter Meetings: TBD; call for information.

2020 banquet: canceled; we will hold some raffles.

Update: Our June youth day was canceled.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Jordan Hicks
(949) 533-7271

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m., Kozy Korner restaurant, 371 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens.

Update: Chapter elections were held by mail, with such a good turnout we may continue this procedure in the future. We held socially distanced chapter meetings outdoors in July and August.

EMERALD VALLEY

Tony Hilsendager
(541) 729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Sizzler Steak House, 1010 Postal Way, Springfield; Board meeting at 5:30 p.m., Social 6:30 p.m.

HOODVIEW

Kelly Parkman
(503) 706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Elmer's, 1933 NE 181st Ave., Portland.

Update: The White River habitat project was canceled. We had a combined general meeting, board meeting and picnic in August.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Cliff Peery
(541) 761-3200

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., Elmer's Restaurant, Grants Pass.

2020 banquet: Our banquet was canceled,



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but we will hold some raffles.

Update: Our May 16 clean-up day was canceled, as was the June 6 Youth Day. Chapter elections were held by mail. Our annual campout was held at Willow Lake July 23-26, and included a board meeting and general meeting.

KLAMATH

Allan Wiard

(541) 884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Shasta View Community Center.

2020 banquet: Canceled, but an online auction was held and an A&H Statewide Elk Tag was auctioned.

Update: The Youth Chukar Hunt is scheduled for Oct. 24-25; call 541-643-7077. We put on a barbecue for the Gerber Reservoir youth antelope hunters Aug. 21.

LAKE COUNTY

Larry Lucas

(530) 640-3368

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m., The Village Restaurant, Lakeview.

2020 banquet: canceled; we will hold the Coastal Farm and Ranch raffle and the Les Schwab raffle; call 541-810-1617.

Update: Two banquet raffles, Coastal Farm & Ranch and Les Schwab, will be drawn on Labor Day, Sept. 7. We held our banquet auction via radio on KORV 93.5 FM on Aug. 7. We plan to meet Sept. 12 for a guzzler project and Oct. 17 for goose/duck boxes at Dog Lake; call 541-417-1750 for info on both projects.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Todd Williver

(541) 648-6815

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meeting, OSU extension office, Newport.

MALHEUR COUNTY

Bruce Hunter

(208) 573-5556

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., no host dinner 5:30, location TBA in the chapter newsletter.

Update: Our chapter scheduled a youth shoot Aug. 22 at the Snake River shotgun complex in Ontario, which is also the date and place for the drawing for the Coastal Farm & Ranch Nosler M48.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage

(541) 296-1022

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles. Next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 19.

Update: Our July chapter meeting was canceled. We hope to hold one on Nov. 19

MID-WILLAMETTE

Jeff Mack

(503) 949-3787

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting at 6 p.m., Old Armory, 4th and Lyons, Albany.

2020 banquet: canceled, but we auctioned an A&H elk tag for \$47,500.

OCHOCO

John Dehler, III

(541) 815-5817

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., Room 1868, 152 NW 4th St., Prineville.

PIONEER

Brian Andrews

(503) 266-2900

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., Canby Rod & Gun Club.

Update: Sight-in-Days at Canby Rod & Gun Club are Sept. 19-20 and 26-27; call 503-710-1233.

The annual family campout took place June 19-20, with a good turnout and all the guzzler work done in record time. As the Clackamas County Fair has been canceled, we will not have our annual booth there. Volunteers worked our duck box route July 25 and Aug. 22.

REDMOND

Shorty Berry

(541) 546-8008

OHA line (541) 383-1099

oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, VFW Hall. Dinner at 5:30, member meeting at 6:30, board meeting at 6.

Update: Redmond OHA has finished up summer projects by completing 50 acres of juniper cuts on the Crooked River National Grasslands near Madras.

ROGUE VALLEY

Ricky Clark

(530) 905-1186

oregonhunters.org/rogue-valley-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 6 p.m. social & dinner, 7 p.m. presentation, Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Rd.

2020 banquet: canceled; we will hold some raffles.

Update: Youth pheasant hunt is scheduled for Sept. 19-20 at Denman Wildlife Area.

TILLAMOOK

John Putman

(503) 842-7733

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., at

the Tillamook PUD.

2020 banquet: canceled; will hold some raffles.

TIOGA

Marcey Fullerton

(541) 267-2577

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. no host dinner, Puerto Vallarta restaurant, Coos Bay.

2020 banquet: canceled; will hold some raffles.

Update: Though the banquet was canceled, we held three raffles, drawing the winners on July 25.

TUALATIN VALLEY

Tony Kind

(503) 290-6143

oregonhunters.org/tualatin-valley-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7, Prime Time Restaurant & Sports Bar, Forest Grove.

2020 banquet: canceled, but the Coastal Farm & Ranch raffle and the Les Schwab raffle will be held, with drawings scheduled for the Christmas Party on Dec. 12.

Update: We did cleanup on the Tillamook Forest target shooting area July 18.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore

(541) 580-5660

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Roseburg ODFW office. Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, same place.

Update: Our chapter picnic at Roseburg Rod & Gun Club was canceled.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

Morgan Olson

(541) 786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

YAMHILL COUNTY

Andy Bodeen

(503) 490-2489

ohayamhill.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. dinner, American Legion Hall, 126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville.

2020 banquet: Canceled, but a successful online auction was held.

Update: We are holding some raffles, with winners to be drawn at our general chapter meeting Dec. 10; go to our chapter website ohayamhill.com to buy tickets. The Yamhill County Fair was canceled. The Sixth Annual Youth Shotgun Shoot was scheduled for Aug. 15 at the Newberg Rod & Gun Club. We hope to have a chapter meeting Sept. 10.



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OHA NEWS & VIEWS

OHA welcomes familiar faces to board and staff

OHA recently filled staff positions for Conservation Director and Conservation Coordinator to better serve our effectiveness as hunter-conservationists.

The new Conservation Director will be Mike Totey. Mike brings a wealth of natural resource knowledge to this position having been a District Forester for Oregon Department of Forestry for 30 years in western Oregon.



Mike Totey

Tyler Dungannon will take on the Conservation Coordinator position. Tyler



Tyler Dungannon

has deep roots in OHA, both as a volunteer and part-time media contractor.

Tyler is currently wrapping up his Masters of Science degree in wildlife science at Oregon State University.

On the State Board, Jason Haley is stepping down after a few years of service as the Board Secretary. His position will be filled by Mary Jo Hedrick of Summer Lake. Mary Jo recently retired from ODFW after spending most of her career as Assistant District Biologist in ODFW's Lakeview District.



Mary Jo Hedrick

OHA is delighted to welcome these folks into their new positions.

OHA gives away a gun a week in 2020 Gun Calendar Raffle!

OHA is giving away a gun every week to winners in the 2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle. The first guns given away were a Kimber Pistol and a Nosler Custom rifle. A new winner is announced every Wednesday on OHA's website and Facebook page.

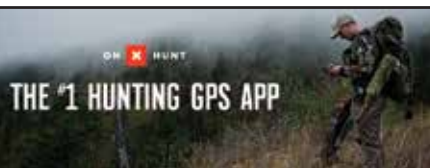
Ticket sales ended Dec. 17 and no calendar raffle is being held for the coming year.

2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle winners so far:

Jan 1 – Kimber Custom II .45 ACP, Christina Houtz, Springfield
 8-Jan – Nosler Liberty M48 .300 WSM, Robert Browning, Baker City
 15-Jan – Beretta A300 Max 5 Camo 12 gauge, Quinton Graves, Klamath Falls
 22-Jan – Henry Big Boy .44 Rem. Mag., Steve Pringle, Gaston
 29-Jan – Savage TH-16 SS Syn. .270 & 3-9x40 Nikon scope, Troy Hickok, Glide
 5-Feb – Tikka T-3X Hunter Blued 7mm Rem. Mag, Luther Yam, Hillsboro
 12-Feb – Benelli Nova camo 12 gauge, Ethel Reeves, Hood River
 19-Feb – Ruger 10-22 Stainless black, Joe Morse, Unity
 26-Feb – Ruger American 6.5 Creedmoor camo/bronze Cerakote, James Slaughter, Bend
 4-Mar – Howa lightweight gray Cerakote KUIU Vias .223, C. J. Trotta, Tiller
 11-Mar – Springfield XD Model 2 subcompact .45 ACP, Dennis Hungerford, Bend
 18-Mar – Remington ADL SS syn. .30-06 & 3-9x40 scope, Curt Allen, Astoria
 25-Mar – Savage 93R17 BTVS .17 HMR, Tom Luttrell, Molalla
 1-Apr – Black Flag Citadel 1911 in .45 ACP, Aaron Burke, Sweet Home
 8-Apr – Browning X-Bolt Hells Canyon Speed .28 Nosler, Bryce Denfeld, Redmond
 15-Apr – Benelli Nova camo 12 gauge, Jonathan Anderson, Warrenton
 22-Apr – Kimber Hunter SS 6.5 Creedmoor, William Abbott, Clatskanie
 29-Apr – Savage TH-16 SS Syn. .308 & 3-9x40 Nikon scope, Kari Phillips, Gresham
 6-May – Stoeger 3500 Camo Max-4 3-1/2 Mag, Derrek Gwyn, Eugene
 3-May – TC Compass .22-250, Jeff Senger, Portland
 20-May – Walther PK380 SS and Teal, Christopher Yee, Eugene
 27-May – Rem. ADL SS synthetic black .308 & 3-9x40 scope, George Somics II
 3-Jun – Weatherby Deluxe 12 gauge, Garrett Weaver, Roseburg
 10-Jun – Howa lightweight gray Cerakote KUIU Verde .223, Jenice Lawson, Rickreall
 17-Jun – Bergara B-14 Hunter 6.5 Creedmoor, Becky Roberts, Salem
 24-Jun – Springfield XD Model 2 subcompact .45 ACP, Jerry Walker, Corvallis
 1-Jul – Flag Citadel 1911 in .45 ACP, David Tetric, Portland
 8-Jul – Browning X-Bolt Hells Canyon .26 Nosler, Dr. Melinda Judd, McMinnville
 15-Jul – TC Compass 7mm-08, Paul Donheffner, Salem
 22-Jul – Stoeger 3500 Camo Max-4 3-1/2 Mag, William Prialux, Junction City
 29-Jul – Savage THXP SS .260 Rem. W/3-9x40 Nikon, Tom Bosworth, Medford
 5-Aug – Legacy Pointer 12 gauge O/U, John Hall, Drain



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OHA surveys members, comments on regs changes

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
Jim@oregonhunters.org

OHA recently surveyed 5,000 members for whom we have email addresses to gauge their opinions on ODFW's latest proposed major changes to big game hunting regulations.

OHA asked opinions on: moving Cascade elk rifle season back to November; making all or part of eastern Oregon controlled hunting for archery elk; and making all eastern Oregon limited entry for archery mule deer. OHA representatives used our survey information to compare with ODFW's broader Oregon hunters sampling during the Sport Group Leaders virtual meeting held on June 25.

OHA sent a letter to ODFW in August

OHA members provided these responses:

• **Moving Cascade elk rifle hunt back to November:**

Yes 63%, No 15%, Unsure 21%

• **Going to controlled hunting in E. Oregon for archery elk:**

Yes 52%, No 32%, Unsure 16%

• **Going to controlled hunting in E. Oregon for archery deer:**

Yes 43.7%, No 43.6%, Unsure 12%



expressing some of our concerns:

• Still too much too fast, need to spread out controlled hunt implementation to better determine tag numbers per unit and weigh in

biological factors as needed.

• Encourage specific unit polling to better gauge crowding and hunt quality, perhaps through a year of unlimited controlled or "choose a unit."

• We recognize that going to controlled for mule deer is in order based solely on poor herd numbers across the eastern Oregon region.

• We have concerns with forest fire related closures and no portability from east to west Oregon, or vice-versa, for both deer and elk. Encourage creativity, within adaptive management, to retain an element of tag portability.

To sign up to receive future OHA alerts and surveys, visit our website at <https://oregonhunters.org>

OHA urges Commission to continue sage-grouse hunting



Sage-grouse hunters provide invaluable scientific support for sage-grouse conservation.

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA was the only participant to testify in the Aug. 7 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in support of continued harvest of sage-grouse and other pertinent gamebird regulation proposals.

OHA urged the Commission to continue to allow sage-grouse harvest due to the biological data that it yields, and the recreational opportunity that it provides hunters lucky enough to draw a permit. Sage-grouse hunters provide biological data by sending hundreds of harvested

wings each year to ODFW for analysis, and this information is critical to effectively manage sage-grouse across the state for analysis of specific demographic rates such as nest success, sex ratio and age structure.

Many factors drive population decline, including predation and habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, but the conservative hunter harvest does not limit sage-grouse populations in Oregon.

ODFW offered an impressive presentation on sage grouse hunting data, and the Commission approved the season structure as proposed by ODFW staff.

POACHING SPOTLIGHT

OHA pays out 11 TIP rewards totaling \$2,300

In the last two months, OHA issued 11 reward checks to informants in 10 cases totaling \$2,300 from our Turn In Poachers reward fund. Charges included: unlawful take of marine fish in closed area, undersized crab, salmon, sturgeon, buck deer, black bear; aiding/counseling in a game offense; criminal trespass while in possession of firearm; waste of game mammal-black bear; exceeding bag limit-elk; failure to immediately validate big game tag.



Chris Gerdes, manager at L.L. Stubb Stewart Park in Vernonia, and Yvonne Shaw, ODFW Stop Poaching campaign coordinator, show off a new Turn In Poachers (TIP) sign. Oregon Parks, which have experienced poaching problems, have agreed to post these signs. OHA was key in getting the new anti-poaching awareness program funded, but a COVID budget panic has the program in peril.

Meet Buck, Oregon's Wildlife Crime Lab

By Yvonne Shaw, ODFW Stop Poaching Campaign Coordinator

Fresh snow had just melted and the scent trail was more than a day old when a yellow Labrador Retriever named Buck went in search of evidence linked to an elk that had been poached on March 19, near Cottage Grove. Time works against tracking dogs. Still, Buck was hot on the scent of gunpowder and shell casings. He found brass casings among grass and twigs, invisible to the human eye. Three times Buck signaled his handler, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Senior Trooper Josh Wolcott.

Finding three casings confirmed the story OSP F&W Senior Trooper Martin Maher had heard from two suspected

The Oregon Hunters Association lobbied for stronger penalties for poaching and a public awareness effort.

poachers. Five shots had been reported through the Turn In Poachers (TIP) Line, five bullets recovered, two elk were down. During his interview with members of the hunting party, the deceptions of that morning came out. First, the teenager claimed

he had shot both elk. He had a tag for one, and the other he had shot accidentally. However, his tag was for a different unit, so it was invalid. Both kills were poaching. The penalties would be severe.

Then another member of the group confessed. He had poached the second elk in two shots, then picked up his brass to conceal evidence of the crime. They had not anticipated the shots would be reported. Or that they would be approached by Senior Trooper Maher, who would spot the second carcass nearby. And they certainly hadn't anticipated that Buck, Oregon's only anti-poaching K-9 unit, would be able to track the scene of the crime to confirm the number of brass casings following an overnight snowfall.

Buck is just one resource in Oregon's anti-poaching arsenal. The culture of poaching is pervasive and entrenched.



OSP Fish & Wildlife Senior Trooper Josh Wolcott and Buck on patrol during antelope season.

The Oregon Hunters Association lobbied for stronger legislation and prosecution against poachers.

In January, ODFW launched a new anti-poaching education and awareness campaign to teach Oregonians how to recognize and report poaching. Because of Oregon's vast land and water areas, assistance from the public is the only hope for solving some wildlife crimes.

That's where Buck comes in. Buck locates gunpowder residue, human scent and evidence trails that troopers would not find visually. Sometimes that scent leads to additional evidence. Sometimes the scent itself marks a specific location.

Earlier this year, OSP F&W troopers served a search warrant on a residence in Roseburg. Residents were suspected of poaching various bird and game species in the area. Troopers suspected the evidence had been burned or buried. Or both. They were right. When Wolcott gave Buck the "Show me," command, the dog surveyed the area by scent and found remnants of a burned turkey carcass and feathers in a fire pit. They found deer bones in burn

barrels. They thought they were done, but Buck signaled a find to Trooper Wolcott, in front of an old overturned boat.

"We could smell something bad," Trooper Wolcott said, "It smelled like old rotten insulation." Buck gave the signal that he had found what he was looking for. Trooper Wolcott and OSP F&W Trooper Jason Stone started looking. They found a partial decomposed buck deer under a blue tarp under the transom of the boat.

Buck started his career with OSP F&W and Senior Trooper Wolcott in 2018. He was donated to OSP F&W by the Portland non-profit Oregon Wildlife Foundation (myowf.org). OWF members had started a fund to purchase an anti-poaching K-9 unit. Wolcott was selected to pilot the program and was paired with the gangly yellow Labrador. They completed training in Indiana at the Canine Resource Protection School and began working as a team in May of 2019. Buck proved his worth immediately.

Buck and Trooper Wolcott are expected to continue as a team until Buck reaches retirement age, which is about 9 years old.

Part of Buck's assignment, along with all Oregon State Troopers, is community development and relationship-building. A larger part is paws-on-the-ground nose work to detect poaching.

When troopers need to find shell casings in a grassy field, they can bring in several people, line up and walk the area in a grid pattern using metal detectors. Or they can bring in Buck to cruise the field, pick up the scent, and locate the shell casings.

It can be difficult to find the scene of a crime with no visible evidence. For Buck, it's a game.

"He has the best job a dog can have," says Trooper Wolcott, "He's doing what comes naturally to a dog like him and then he gets to play."

The Payoff

For Buck, the payoff for a job well done is straightforward: Play time with Trooper Wolcott. Buck switches from working the case to retrieving a ball in an instant. Watching Buck switch from working dog to playing dog is a transformation exemplary of perfect work-life balance. 🐾

ASK ODFW

Wildlife diseases to watch for

Everyone's tired of hearing about disease due to the coronavirus, but here are a few emerging and endemic ones to watch for in wildlife.

Report any signs of disease to ODFW's Wildlife Health Lab at 866-968-2600 or Wildlife.Health@state.or.us and follow these tips:

- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling animals.
- Wear disposable gloves while dressing game and thoroughly wash all utensils afterwards.
- Cook all game meat to an internal temperature of 165 degrees.
- Do not eat meat from animals that appear sick or are found dead and avoid transporting these animals.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease has been recognized since the 1980s as a disease that affects domestic rabbits. A new strain (RHDV-2) emerged in 2010 and beginning in spring of this year, started affecting wild rabbits in the southwest U.S. Highly contagious and often fatal, it spreads through direct contact between infected and susceptible live rabbits or by exposure to contaminated materials (carcasses, pelts, food, water, forage). Birds, rodents, flies, predators and scavengers can also spread the virus via their feet, fur/feathers or feces without becoming infected themselves. Even people can spread it indirectly by carrying it on their clothing, hands and shoes.

Steps to limit its spread:

If you see sick or dead rabbits in an area, do not hunt, run dogs or fly falconry birds, and report to ODFW immediately.

Avoid hunting rabbits in states with RHDV-2 outbreaks (recently documented in New Mexico, Arizona and Texas).

Do not transport live wild rabbits for release into training pens or for field trials, especially if sick or dead rabbits have been seen in the area.

EHD and AHD

They have similar acronyms and are both hemorrhagic diseases, but AHD (Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease) and EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease) are different. AHD can occur year-round, while EHD is a seasonal disease that can occur during the late summer and fall months. Neither can spread to people, but both have impacted Oregon's deer herds in recent years.

EHD is spread via "no-see-ums" or gnats that breed in small pools of warm, stagnant water, making the disease more common during dry hot months. EHD led to the die-off of an estimated 2,000 white-tailed deer in the Blue Mountains late last year, and hunting tags were reduced as a result. However, the whitetail population is expected to rebound in a few years.

AHD symptoms are similar to EHD (rapid or open mouth breathing, foaming or drooling at the mouth, diarrhea, weakness) and occurs sporadically but sometimes, large-scale outbreaks occur. While not as severe as the EHD outbreak last year, ODFW has continued to see AHD-caused mortalities of mule deer in central and south-central Oregon for the last several years, contributing to some reduction in hunting tags.

ODFW discourages people from providing feed or water stations for deer because these may help spread these diseases by congregating deer.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):

CWD has never been detected in Oregon, but it's one of the most concerning diseases of wildlife out there. Caused by a protein prion that damages the brain of infected animals (deer, elk, moose), it results in progressive neurological disease, loss of body condition and eventually death. It spreads through nose-to-nose contact between infected animals and bodily fluids. The prions that cause CWD can also last a long time in the environment, infecting new animals for decades – which is why

Oregon has a ban on importing certain deer/elk/moose/caribou parts from out of state (hunters sometimes dispose of these parts on the landscape, and this could potentially infect an animal that encounters it). The disease has been found in free-ranging wildlife in a number of states and provinces, including as far west as Montana and Utah, but never in Oregon. There is not strong evidence that it spreads to humans, but hunters should not consume the meat of an animal they believe is infected or sick.

To keep Oregon CWD free, hunters are asked to follow the import ban – if you are hunting in another state, do not bring certain parts of your animal back into Oregon (basically, anything with brain tissue). See regulations for details. Successful deer and elk hunters are also asked to stop by a sampling station if you pass one during hunting season; or contact your local district office to arrange a time to have your animal sampled. (Plans for this year's sampling are unclear due to the coronavirus, but details will be announced closer to fall.)

Elk hoof disease

Elk hoof disease, now referred to as Treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD), is a bacterial-associated syndrome causing severe lameness in elk believed to be caused by bacteria in the genus *Treponema*. Elk with the disease can have deformed, overgrown, broken or sloughed hooves. The condition first appeared in southwestern Washington elk herds in late 1990s/early 2000s. After the first confirmed Oregon case in Washington County in January 2014, cases initially clustered in northwest Oregon, but it has since been detected as far south as Douglas and Coos counties and east of the Cascades. There is no evidence that elk hoof disease affects the meat or poses a risk to human health.

Hunters are asked to report any sightings of elk with the condition on odfw.com (search for "elk hoof disease"). If you harvest an elk with diseased or overgrown hooves, take digital photos of the affected hooves and remove the lower limbs for potential evaluation. If possible, place each hoof in a separate plastic bag and label (i.e. front left). Place the hooves in a cool area and contact the Wildlife Health Lab to arrange collection of the hooves, or report online.

GAME ON THE GRILL

By TIFFANY HAUGEN

Have the guts to try 'em

The gizzard is among the healthiest and most nutritious parts of a game bird, yet is among the most neglected when it comes to table fare. Full of protein, low in fat, and carb-free, once the silver skin and grinding plates are removed from a gizzard, it's a firm, clean cut of meat.

Bird hearts are also a tasty, healthy treat. High in protein, riboflavin, iron, zinc and vitamin B12, we like cutting out the large arteries and fat surrounding the upper heart, prior to cooking.

Cooked alone or chopped up with other parts of your bird, here's a tasty recipe that makes a great topper for your salad, rice, or pasta, or can be enjoyed, as is. If you want to save a bunch of gizzards and hearts from small game birds to cook all together, this recipe is great for that, too. This recipe works with any game bird. In this sample we used duck.

Duck Bulgogi

1 pound thinly sliced duck meat (heart, gizzard, breast, thigh and/or back)

1/4 cup soy sauce

2 tablespoons sesame oil

2 tablespoons honey

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon minced garlic

1 tablespoon gochujang or chili sauce

1-2 green onions

1 teaspoon cornstarch

1 tablespoon cold water

Thinly slice duck meat. Thinly slice green onion, separating the white bottoms (to put in the marinade) from the green tops (to use as a garnish). In a medium bowl, mix onions, soy sauce, honey, oil, garlic and chili sauce until thoroughly combined. Place meat in marinade and let sit at room temperature 20-30 minutes. For longer marinade times, up to 4 hours, refrigerate until ready to cook.

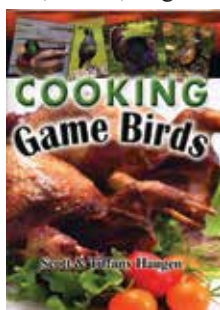
Heat a large skillet on medium-high heat. Add meat and marinade to the skillet and stir-fry until meat reaches desired doneness. Keep in mind, the longer duck cooks, the stronger the flavors may become. Remove meat from skillet and set aside. In a small bowl, mix cornstarch with cold water. Add to the skillet



Nutritious Duck Bulgogi can be prepared with game bird hearts or gizzards.

and bring sauce to a boil, stirring constantly for about a minute. Serve sauce over duck or add duck back into the sauce before serving. Garnish with remaining green onion.

For signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular cookbook, *Cooking Game Birds*, send a check for \$20 to Haugen Enterprises, P.O. Box 275, Walterville, OR 97489 or visit www.scotthaugen.com for this and other titles.



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2020-2021 PHOTO CONTEST

FINALIST PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in general and youth categories.

1ST PRIZE: Nosler M48 Heritage Rifle

2ND PRIZE: Case (10 boxes) of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo

3RD PRIZE: Leupold Scope

4TH PRIZE: Danner Alsea Hunting Boots

5TH PRIZE: Benchmade Altitude Hunting Knife

Each finalist will receive an OHA-engraved Coast knife, and entrants whose photos are selected to appear in Oregon Hunter will receive a Nosler hat.

Two finalists in each category will be chosen and published in each issue of Oregon Hunter, beginning with the March-April issue and ending with the November-December issue. From the 10 finalists in each category, five finalist prize winners will be chosen. These will be announced in the January-February issue of Oregon Hunter. Photos received after the entry deadline will be judged for the next issue.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

Go to **OHA's website at www.oregonhunters.org** Click on **OHA CONTESTS**. Read the rules, and fill in the required fields. Click **CHOOSE FILE** and attach your photo. Click **SUBMIT**. That's it! You will be entered for a chance to win more great prizes courtesy of Nosler, proud sponsor and OHA supporter for more than a quarter century!

PHOTO CATEGORIES

GENERAL: Any aspect of hunting, including but not limited to preparation, camping, hunting situations, game and packing.

YOUTH: Same as above, except photos must feature a person who was 18 or younger at the time the photo was taken.

Current year contest prizes will be delivered the following year



NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

GENERAL CATEGORY FINALISTS



OHA member Nancy Doran of Maryland claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of herself with an eastern turkey taken this spring with a Benelli shotgun.



Kyle King, OHA member in Hillsboro, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of himself and his crew with a ram he tagged on a John Day float trip.

NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS

Springfield OHA member Will Waddell wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Kori Groff and her dad Matt with a turkey she bagged this spring in the Melrose Unit with a Remington 870 Express shotgun.



OHA member Brock Cota of Sweet Home claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Sophie Cota, 6, with her mother Ashley's bear taken this May in the Imnaha Unit.

BANDON MARSH/DUANE DUNGANNON

NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



Michael Moehnke, OHA life member in Springdale, Wash., receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of a wilderness elk he took near Cody, Wyoming.



OHA member Lee Foster in Burns garners honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of shotgun ammo and decoys awaiting the arrival of the first birds in Lane County.



Junction City OHA member Chris Schnider gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with his first turkey, taken in Lane County.



Jason Kendrick, OHA member in St. Helens, earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a Siuslaw spring bear he tagged.



OHA life member Jason Gerding of Philomath gets honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Audrey Gerding with an Alsea Unit blacktail.

Calvin Davis, OHA member in Pendleton, gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of a pheasant captured with a trail camera on a rock in Umatilla County.

Watch for a new Oregon Hunter trail camera photo contest starting in 2021!



Kirstin Ornelas, OHA member in Baker City, receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Reanna Ornelas with an elk taken in a youth hunt last year in Baker County with a Remington 7mm Magnum.



Albany OHA member Emma Fast collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of herself and Darren Fast with a mule deer she tagged last year in Harney County with a First-Time Hunter tag, an opportunity OHA initiated many years ago.

No Rules. Just Right.

Koalas and other ethnic foods

Back when Lil Sassy was still in pigtails, we saved our money for a family vacation and went to see the big city. The highlight of our trip was going to the zoo. We had a checklist of all the animals and we went down the menu, marking off the ones we thought would be good to eat. Kind of like a backyard barbecue bucket list.

Lil Sassy would say, "What do you think that one tastes like, Daddy?" And I would make comparisons based on my culinary experiences in various parts of the globe.

"A snail? Haven't tried one, but I'm sure it tastes like Top Ramen with shrimp. Your favorite."

"Ooh, Daddy, a zebra. What do they taste like?"

"Like a rich, marbled, grass-fed prime rib. A little gassier, though, whoo boy!"

"Ooh, Daddy, a crocodile."

"Tastes like a squirrel, but there's a lot more meat."

"Ooh, Daddy, an elephant."

The Missus always seemed to stay about 20 paces away. When we got to the North American exhibit, we took out our sack lunches and partook of chipped black bear on white bread while we watched the bruins scratch themselves and the cougar stalk the circumference of his enclosure.

I thought about our long-ago trip to the zoo last week when I read about a wild mountain lion named P-22. Perhaps he was bored with his regular diet of jack-rabbits, mule deer and housecats, because he found his way into the L.A. Zoo and into the Wildlife of Australia exhibit. He would have had his choice of kangaroos, hairy-nosed wombats, echidna, woylie and the sugar glider, but he went for a tree-dwelling koala bear.

Once inside the Australia exhibit, he grabbed a marsupial named Killarney, the zoo's oldest koala and took the 18-pound animal 300 yards away where he ripped

its face off. The koala's absence was noted the next morning, when she did not show up for roll call.

The young male lion first came to the attention of the public when it was photographed beneath the Hollywood sign. Later, it consumed enough rat poison to kill two and a half men and had to go to the Betty Ford Center for treatment. Now, P-22 is back in the Santa Monica mountains, healthier than ever.

When Lil Sassy heard about it, she reckoned P-22 was influenced by the Outback Steakhouse and their aggressive marketing in Los Angeles. There are 10 Outback restaurants close to the Santa Monica mountains and the nearest one to P-22's home turf is in Thousand Oaks. Unfortunately, the Thousand Oaks location closes at 9:30 and P-22 was looking for a midnight snack. No rules, just right.

We don't know how koala tastes nor how to prepare it, but we'd be happy to experiment with it on our pellet grill and serve it to guests. It may taste like a cough drop with that all-eucalyptus leaf diet.

A quick examination of the Los Angeles Zoo website reveals the zoo is home to more than 250 different species, of which 29 are endangered. We think they are all endangered, now that P-22 is trying different taste sensations on midnight forays.

P-22 is now approximately six years old and weighs 123 pounds. He has come to represent his kind in the Santa Monica Mountains, there on the edge of the nation's second biggest city.

We have to believe this is the first time in history a North American mountain lion has tasted a koala bear. Perhaps there was a time in pre-history when mountain lions and koalas shared the same habitat, but it doesn't seem likely.

If P-22 is taste adventuring, he will be back. And if he, as we think is likely, is influenced by popular culture and marketing, he might be going for Chinese takeout next. According to our research, there are



five Panda Express (slogan: Chinese for Yummy) locations on the edges of P-22's home territory.

There are no panda bears in the L.A. Zoo, but there are pandas in the San Diego Zoo. If ever a mountain lion kills one, there will be a public outcry. He eats a koala, that's one thing; he kills a black and white cuddly, that would cause an international incident and all sorts of panda-monium.

I discussed all of this with Cousin Leddy and Lil Sassy. We would like to try the Chinese water deer fried with sweet and sour sauce and a bit of that hot mustard.

And then we would want to have a fortune cookie. Like 96 percent of our fellow Americans, we think a fortune cookie is an integral part of the Chinese food experience.

According to research, fortune cookie sayings fall into four main categories: prophecy, compliments, advice and wisdom. Two thirds of Americans read their fortune aloud.

As everyone knows, you should always add two words to the end of any fortune: "in hunting."

That will transform dull, could-apply-to-anything fortunes like "You will enjoy great success and win respect" or "You should invest all your worldly assets wisely" into something truly worthwhile.

Hopefully P-22 has beaten his addiction. Cousin Leddy extends this wish to P-22. Stop eating rats. Rat poison causes mange. We would also offer him this fortune: Practice safe eating. Always use a condiment.

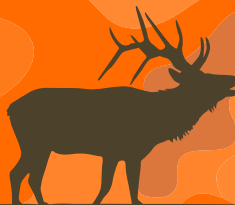
When the mountain lion makes his next midnight tour of the L.A. Zoo, we think a Chinese water deer could be next to go. Of course, the lion would be hungry again in about an hour. We hope he doesn't eat a German wild boar for dessert. Then he'll be hungry for power.



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Photo by Marcus Hockett