



Yearlings

OHA Junior Newsletter

Winter 2025

Published quarterly for OHA junior members & children of family members

WILDLIFE POSTER
AND TARGET INSIDE!

Set Your Sights on a Big Game Hunt in 2025!

OHA member Katie Ogren
took this cow elk in the
Powers Unit last fall.

Oregon's youngest hunters will get more chances to enjoy big game hunting this year. The Oregon Big Game Regulations offer kids a chance to apply for youth hunts for kids only, plus guaranteed first-time hunter tags in the regular big game tag drawing again in 2025.

Youngsters who have not yet received their Hunter Education cards can still hunt with an adult in Oregon's Mentored Youth Hunter Program.

Youth hunts offered to kids include deer, elk, antelope and spring bear. The 2025 Oregon Big Game Regulations are out now. The deadline to apply for most big game hunts is May 15, 2025.

Oregon's "first-time hunter" program, which OHA helped create, allows a hunter under age 18 who has not drawn a deer or elk tag and is unsuccessful in the controlled hunt drawing for deer or elk tags to reapply for a controlled hunt having a minimum number of tags and be guaranteed a tag.

To find more information about the first-time hunter program, see the 2025 Oregon Big Game Regulations. To learn more information about Oregon's Mentored Youth Hunter Program for kids ages 9-16, visit myodfw.com

Feeding wildlife can do more harm than good

Mark Kirsch, an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist in Pendleton, has seen healthy elk “just fall over and die” in the winter because they’ve been fed the wrong food by well-meaning people.

The diet of deer and elk changes with the seasons, and in the winter, their food is naturally lower in protein. So when deer or elk suddenly switch to high-protein wheat or grains, their stomachs cannot adjust. They get sick, lose weight, and some die. That’s why any feeding of wildlife must be done carefully and thoughtfully.

ODFW does feed deer and elk at a few state wildlife areas to keep wildlife off private agricultural land in the winter, when herds come down from the high country to their “winter range” in valleys. The feeding starts early and goes on all winter so the animals don’t have to suddenly get used to new food.

Wildlife biologists think very carefully before feeding wildlife, as you should, too, because it can cause problems:

- It gathers wildlife, which leads to the easier spread of disease and easier take by predators.
- It attracts their natural predators to areas where humans live.
- It invites more animals to your property and encourages them to stay.
- Wildlife can lose their natural fear of humans and become aggressive when fed.
- It can lead to an increase in road kills and conflicts between wildlife and pets.
- It can hurt habitat if the animals graze on it too much.

Usually wild animals don’t need to be fed. Even songbirds don’t need to be fed all year, so take down birdfeeders in spring and summer when there is plenty of natural food available.

Remember, it is natural for some wildlife to die; it’s Mother Nature’s way of keeping other wildlife healthy.



A blacktail buck, two wild turkeys and a jackrabbit enjoy the wheat put out by a southern Oregon landowner.

But there are steps you can take to help wildlife get through the winter without causing problems:

- Don’t approach wildlife. Getting close will encourage them to run away, wasting their strength and energy.
- Keep your pets far away from wildlife.
- If you have shrubs on your property, knock the snow off to expose some natural food.
- Support efforts to protect winter range in Oregon, by joining your local OHA chapter, or simply buying a hunting license, because \$2 of the cost goes to the Oregon Access and Habitat program, which helps improve winter range.

Courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon kids put feathers in their hunting caps



ODFW, OHA and others helped kids take a shot at pheasant hunting.

Oregon youngsters got a chance to earn their wings in September at special youth upland bird hunts hosted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at locations around the state. Wild birds live at many of the hunt areas, and more birds were released for the youth hunts.

The pheasants are raised and released with money that hunters pay for their state Upland Game Bird Stamps. The Oregon Hunters Association and other hunting groups also buy birds to give kids more chances in the field.

OHA and other sportsmen’s groups cook breakfast and lunch for young hunters and their families, and some of these folks and their dogs go out in the field with kids to help them find birds. Besides the pheasants that are released, kids can take wild birds like doves and quail that are in season.





PUZZLE PAGE



When you finish the crossword puzzle, find your answers in the word hunt below.

PROUD SPONSOR

OUTDOOR FUND

Across

3. Quail and grouse are _____ game birds.
6. _____ means active at night.
8. An adult female deer.
9. _____ grouse is the largest upland game bird native to Oregon.
10. A home for a bear or a coyote.
11. The only legal firearm for spring turkey.

Down

1. A male deer is called a _____.
2. A pest that may be hunted is called a _____.
4. Ducks and geese do this in spring and fall.
5. Wild animals in their natural habitat.
7. _____ need a fur-taker's license.
12. To hunt big game, you must have a _____.

Do You Know?

1. What a female mountain goat is called?
2. Which side of Oregon black-tailed deer live on?
3. What male duck is called a green head?
4. What is the only goose to nest in Oregon?
5. Oregon's tallest mountain?
6. What bird kills fawns?

Answers: 1-nanny; 2-western Oregon; 3-mallard; 4-Western Canada goose; 5-Mt. Hood; 6-eagles.

J	B	W	A	A	L	E	O	D	U	P	P
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U	G	I	C	E	P	Z	A	C	R	O	L
N	U	F	A	I	P	P	V	U	A	G	P
Q	N	E	B	T	A	I	K	B	T	F	U
O	V	H	H	H	R	N	K	N	E	H	X
T	T	T	A	G	T	M	F	A	E	S	I





WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP

Black-tailed Deer

Black-tailed deer live in western Oregon, while mule deer live on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. Blacktails are smaller deer than mule deer, both in body size and antler size.

How can you tell a blacktail from a mule deer? The easiest way is by looking at their tails. A mule deer has a big white patch on its rump, with a tail that is white on the top part and has a big black spot on the end. A blacktail has a tail that is black from top to bottom, although it's white on the underside.

While mule deer like the big, open country found in eastern Oregon, blacktails like to hide in thick, brushy cover. Big blacktail bucks are mostly nocturnal, meaning they usually only come out at night. This makes them hard to hunt. The best times to hunt blacktails are in the early morning and just before dark.

Blacktails eat broadleaf plants that grow in openings, such as areas that have been logged, but they also love vegetables and flowers that grow in your garden. For that reason, deer can cause a lot of damage where people live.

What to do if you find a dead bird

Birds die every day in Oregon from cats, vehicles, and other causes, so don't be alarmed if you find a dead bird. Some diseases, like West Nile Virus and the deadly "bird flu" (which has never been found in North America), are causes for concern and are checked by ODFW and public health officials. Here's what you can do to help.

Call ODFW's dead bird reporting hotline at 866-968-2600, a number checked daily:

- When you see lots of birds are ill or dying.
- If the dead or sick bird is a duck, goose, swan, or shorebird (sandpiper, phalarope, dowitcher).
- If the incident is unusual or unexplained (bird acting sick, dies while flying).

If you think the bird died due to a cat or vehicle, you or your parents can safely



Sage grouse with West Nile Virus usually die within a week.

TYLER DUNGANNON

safe container where it cannot be disturbed by other animals.

- Do not bring the bird into your home.
- Do not eat, drink, or touch your face with the gloves while handling the bird.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after handling the bird.

Don't let your birdfeeder become a source of bacteria or diseases like salmonella. Keep it clean by:

- Providing fresh seed that does not have mold.
- Cleaning feeders, water containers and bird baths weekly.

• Cleaning up old seed that has fallen on the ground below the feeders.

Stop feeding for at least one month in the event that birds die at your feeder.

Remember to always wear rubber or plastic gloves when handling or cleaning dirty feeders.

dispose of it by doing the following:

- Pick up the dead bird, but avoid direct contact with it by wearing disposable rubber gloves, gloves that you can immediately put through a hot soapy wash, or use a plastic bag over your hand.
- Double-bag the bird in plastic bags and place it in a sealed garbage can or other

Sign up for Hunter Education!



The time to sign up for Hunter Education courses is not when you want to hunt.

Classes fill up fast, and it's hard to find a class right before hunting season.

Oregon's Hunter Education course is required for all first-time hunters under the age of 18.

For information about enrolling in a Hunter Education program, visit: myODFW.com



10 Commandments of Shooting Safety

1. Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle. Carry your firearm safely, keeping the safety on until ready to shoot. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
2. Identify your target and what is beyond it. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt.
3. Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the firearm you are carrying.
5. Unload firearms when not in use. Leave actions open. Firearms should be cased and unloaded while in a vehicle traveling to and from shooting areas.
6. Never point a firearm at anything you do not want to shoot. Avoid all horseplay with a firearm.
7. Never climb or jump with a loaded firearm. Never pull a firearm toward you by the muzzle.
8. Never fire a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water. With targets, be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. Store guns and ammunition separately in locked spaces out of reach of children and careless adults.
10. Avoid alcoholic beverages and drugs before or during shooting.

O.H.A. MEMBER PLEDGE

As an OHA member, I pledge to:

- Respect the environment and wildlife;
- Respect property and landowners;
- Improve my outdoor skills and understanding of wildlife;
- Support wildlife and habitat conservation;
- Know and obey the law;
- Hunt safely;
- Show consideration of nonhunters;
- Abide by the rules of fair chase;
- Hunt only with ethical hunters; and
- Pass on an ethical hunting tradition.

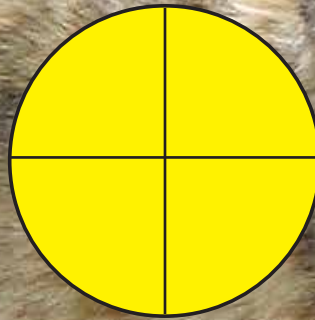


* Adapted from the Hunter's Pledge of the Izaak Walton League of America

NOSLER

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YOUNG GUNS TARGET



COYOTE

Coyotes are smart predators that will eat anything from mice to deer. They feel at home anywhere from wilderness to city parks, as long as there's food and cover. In Oregon, all you need to hunt them is a hunting license. You can hunt them all year with no bag limits.

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Don't Miss a Thing! Join OHA Today!

When you join OHA as a Junior Member for just \$10, you'll get everything adult OHA members get - and MUCH MORE!



* You get 6 issues of OREGON HUNTER magazine.

Just \$10 for kids!

* You get an Oregon Hunters Calendar, with 12 colorful game animal pictures, and all the hunting season dates and deadlines!



* You get 4 issues of OHA's junior newsletter Yearlings.

* You'll be invited to OHA events where there may even be prizes for kids!

* You'll get your own OHA decal!



OHA Jr. Membership Application

I want to be an Oregon Hunters Association Junior Member! Please sign me up, send my Oregon Hunters Calendar and OHA decal, and start my subscriptions to OREGON HUNTER magazine and the OHA junior newsletter Yearlings!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (____) _____

Please enclose one-year dues of \$10

Payment enclosed (check or money order)

Credit card: Visa / MC / Discover / Amex

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ CVV2# on back: ____

Parent Signature: _____

Return to:

OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501

(541) 772-7313

www.oregonhunters.org oha@oregonhunters.org

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GOOD SHOTS FROM OREGON'S YOUNG GUNS



Ethan Viera of Oregon City took these ducks in Washington County last December.



Makayla Schroeder of Klamath Falls bagged this big blacktail last year in the Rogue Unit Youth Hunt.



Allison Bohnert of Burns used a Weatherby shotgun to take this turkey in the Mt. Emily Unit.