



Yearlings

OHA Junior Newsletter

Summer 2025

Published quarterly for OHA junior members and children of family members

WILDLIFE POSTER
AND TARGET INSIDE!

Leave Baby Wildlife Alone!

As you get ready to head outdoors, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reminds you that if you find baby deer, bear, raccoon, and other baby wild animals, please leave them alone.

It may or may not be an orphan when you find it, but if you remove any baby animal from the wild, it becomes one and its chances of survival go down quickly.

Deer, elk and other game animals often hide their babies while looking for food during the afternoons. Hikers, bikers and other people each spring find baby wildlife all alone and try to rescue the animals by taking them from their habitat. Unless you see the death of the adult animal yourself, there is no reason to think the baby animal you find is an orphan.

Baby animals need their parents to teach them important survival skills, like finding food and escaping from predators. Animals raised by people never learn these skills, and are not ready to survive on their own in the wild. They often die shortly after release.

Wildlife managers offer the following tips for some of the more frequently found Oregon wildlife species:

- **Baby birds:** Nestlings (baby birds not fully feathered) can be gently and quickly returned to the nest. If the nest is out of reach, place the bird on an elevated branch or fence, out of the reach of children and pets. Leave the area so the parents can return.

- **Deer:** Fawns often are left for several hours at a time, but are good at hiding. Unless you see the parent killed, it is safe to believe the doe is nearby. In fact, your presence could be what is keeping the doe away, so move away.

- **Raccoons and squirrels:** Animal care centers get overloaded with squirrels and raccoons each spring. Raccoons are a major transmitter of diseases dangerous to people and pets, including a virus that can cause permanent blindness in humans. Babies that appear too young to make it on their own are able to survive, especially in town, where food is plentiful and predators are few. So leave them alone.

Remember, if you care, leave them there!



PHOTO BY RANDY SHIPLEY

OHA helps kids enjoy summer fun in the sun



Kids built bird houses at the OHA Bend Chapter youth day.

The Oregon Hunters Association holds special youth field days for kids. Some are free, while others charge a small amount to cover the costs of putting on the events.

OHA's youth days give kids a chance to test their shooting and outdoor skills, and there's usually yummy food!

OHA's first youth events of the year are usually youth turkey clinics in April. Some field days are held in May and June.

There are more big OHA events around the state in the summer, and even some special youth hunts in the fall.

In September, OHA will be involved in youth bird hunts around the state, including pheasant hunts, and a chukar hunt in Klamath County in October.

You can stay up to date on youth events in your area by checking out www.oregonhunters.org. Click on events.



Kids learned shooting skills and safe gun handling technique at OHA spring events.

Sign up now 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 very hard to find a class by the fall, so get in now. 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 this website: <https://myodfw.com/articles/hunter-education-classes-field-days>



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.

OHA 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



PUZZLE PAGE



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



Across

3. Size of a rifle bore.
6. Shot or bullets for guns.
7. A young male turkey.
8. Name for a kind of animal that eats both plants and meat.
9. A female bear.
10. Any animals taken mostly for their coats.

Down

1. A short-tailed feline.
2. Most animals are born in this season.
4. Three ingredients make up this dark mixture used to ignite muzzleloaders.
5. To spend time getting to know an area before hunting there.
11. Oregon's only hibernating game animal
12. Mule deer get their name from their big ____

Do You Know?

1. The proper name for sage rats?
2. What causes deer hair loss?
3. Where Rocky Mountain elk live in Oregon?
4. What bird is called a honker?
5. What upland game bird was brought to Oregon from Texas?
6. Where mule deer get their name?

Answers: 1-Belding's ground squirrels; 2-lice; 3-eastern Oregon; 4-Western Canada goose; 5-Rio Grande turkeys; 6-their ears.

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

WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP



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PHOTO BY RANDY SHIPLEY



DUCKS

There are many species of ducks found in Oregon, but most belong to one of two main groups of ducks. One group is called "dabbling ducks" and the other group is called "diving ducks."

Dabbling ducks are also called puddle ducks because they like shallow water. They're most often seen in places like ponds, ditches and the shallow edges of lakes and rivers. Some of the most common dabbling ducks are mallards, wood ducks, wigeons, gadwalls, pintails and teal. The legs of dabbling ducks are located near the middle of their bodies, which gives them better balance on land. Dabbling ducks are good walkers. When

they take off from the water, dabbling ducks fly almost straight up.

Diving ducks like deeper water in large bodies of water. Their legs are further back on their bodies, which makes them good divers and swimmers but poor walkers. When they take off, diving ducks tend to fly across the water for a while rather than flying straight up. Some common diving ducks are canvasbacks, redheads and buffleheads.

Most ducks taken by Oregon hunters are puddle ducks, like the American wigeons pictured here.

You can try hunting with a “Learner’s Permit”

Oregon’s Mentored Youth Hunter Program makes it possible for more of the state’s young people to try hunting safely with an experienced adult. The Mentored Youth Hunter Program allows kids ages 9 through 15 to go hunting without first having to pass a Hunter Education class, as long as they are with a licensed hunter over the age of 21. Supervising adult hunters may mentor only one youth hunter at a time and must have the youth under immediate control at all times while hunting. The adult may not also hunt while mentoring a youth.

Kids hunting in the Mentored Youth Hunter Program have to register with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife each year. Kids ages 16 to 17 still must pass a Hunter Education class and have their own hunting licenses and tags.

Similar programs in other states have shown a strong safety record while helping more kids to take up hunting as a healthy outdoor activity.

The Oregon Hunters Association has worked with ODFW to help kids get



Mason Marcum bagged this blacktail buck on a mentored hunt last fall in southern Oregon.

started in hunting. One result was the Mentored Youth Hunter Program.

The program makes it easier for younger kids to get started hunting by allowing them to hunt before they take a hunter safety course as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult.

The mentor program offers a chance for kids to try before they buy. We’re hopeful that once they experience hunting for themselves, they’ll want to make the commitment to take the Hunter Education class and become hunters.

When it started, the upper age limit was 13, but OHA got the age changed to 15 to include busy high school students until they’re old enough to drive.

About 235,000 Oregonians over the age of 16 are hunters. For every three hunters in the state who drop out of the sport due to age or other reasons, only about one new person starts hunting.

For information about the mentor program and how to get involved, visit <https://myodfw.com/articles/mentored-youth-hunter-program>

Got tags? You could still draw a deer or elk tag!



Anika Liner’s first deer was taken with a tag she got in the first-time hunter program.

If you applied for elk or deer tags in Oregon’s controlled hunt drawing this spring but didn’t draw them all, you could still be a winner if you have never drawn a tag for that deer or elk hunt series before.

Oregon’s “First Time Hunter” program, which the Oregon Hunters Association helped create, allows kids who have never drawn controlled tags for buck deer, antlerless deer or elk to be guaranteed a tag if they apply after July 1 but before the hunt begins.

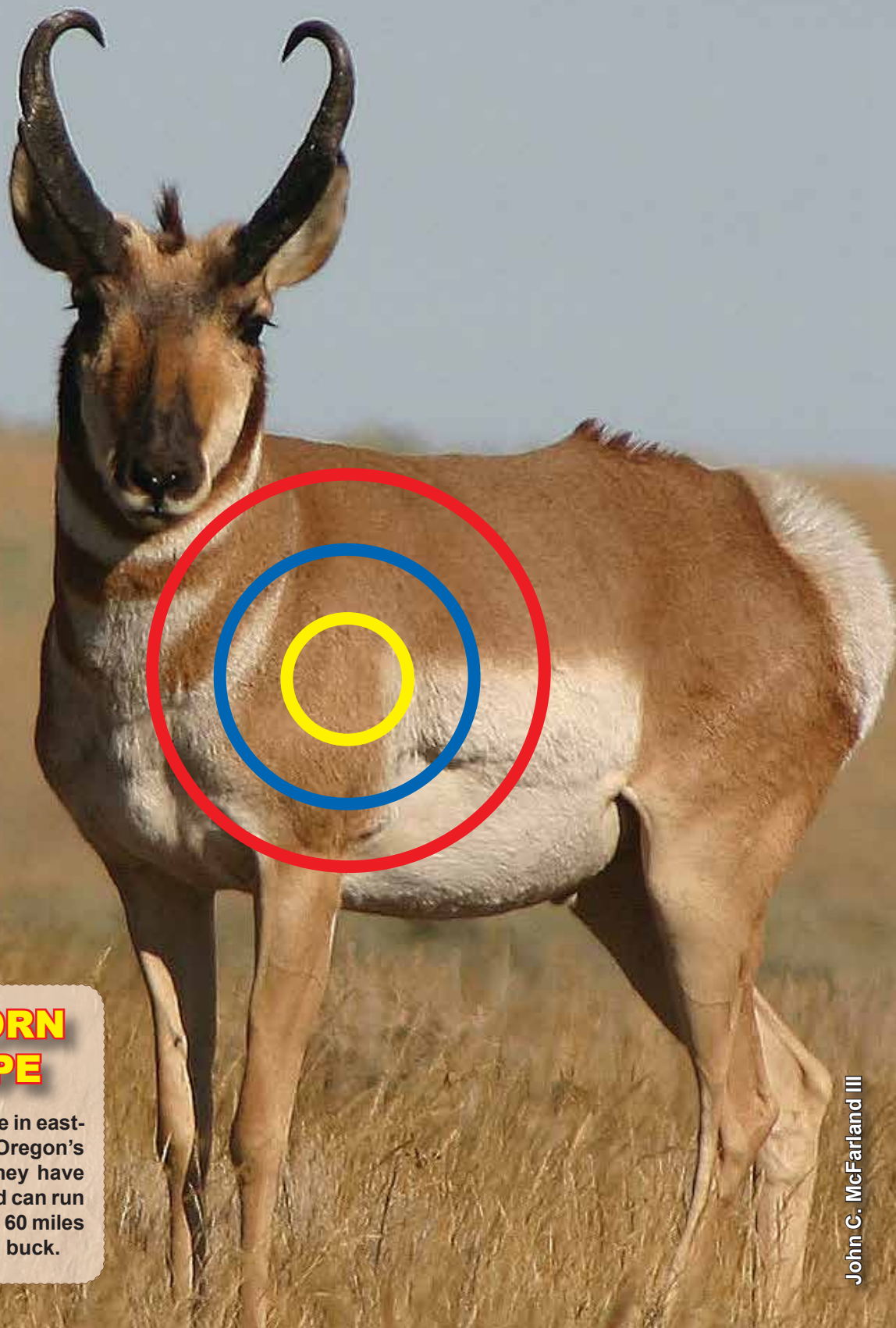
There are some restrictions, though. For example, the only elk tags you can get this way are cow tags, and you can apply for only those hunts that offer a certain number of tags.

For more information about Oregon’s “First Time Hunter” program, see the Oregon Big Game Regulations or visit <https://myodfw.com/articles/hunting-opportunities-youth>

Young Guns Antelope Target

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PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

Pronghorn antelope live in eastern Oregon. They are Oregon's fastest land animal. They have very good eyesight, and can run away at speeds of up to 60 miles per hour. This is a nice buck.

John C. McFarland III

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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 Junior Membership Application

I want to be an Oregon Hunters Association Junior Member! Please sign me up, send my Oregon Hunters Calendar, 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)

☐ Bill my parent's: Visa / MC / Amex / Discover

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ CVV2# on back: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Return to:

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

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Good Shots from Oregon's Young Guns



Harding Huber of Enterprise tagged this mule deer last fall in eastern Washington.



Trenten Forsberg, 12, drew the premium elk tag for the Snake River Unit and took this bull on a hunt with Sour Apple Outfitters of Wallowa.