



Yearlings

OHA Junior Newsletter • Fall 2025

FREE POSTER
AND TARGET INSIDE!



TAKE A BEAD ON A YOUTH BIRD HUNT!

Oregon's young guns can set their sights on some great bird hunting this fall at youth upland bird hunts around the state. Youth pheasant hunts will be held in Oregon this September, along with shotgun skills clinics at many of the hunts. The Oregon Hunters Association will be helping out at many of these events, helping with the shotgun clinics, serving food, and taking kids in the field with dogs.

Young hunters must have a Hunter Education card, Harvest Information Program validation and a permit for the area they will hunt. Hunters who are 14 or older also must have an Oregon juvenile hunting license and an upland bird hunting validation. Kids may take up to two pheasants per day. Youngsters who are hunting must be in the field with an adult who cannot hunt that day, and the adult can't supervise more than one young hunter at a time.

See dates of hunts near you on the next page. OHA's Bend Chapter will host a hunt on Oct. 18; call 541-480-7323.



Theo and Mari celebrate their first pheasant taken on a youth hunt at the Denman Wildlife Area near Medford.

2025 OREGON YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTS

• SEPTEMBER 6-7:

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

• SEPTEMBER 13-14:

Ladd Marsh and White River Wildlife Areas, Central Oregon (Madras) and John Day

• SEPTEMBER 20-21:

Klamath, Denman, Irrigon (Sept. 20 only), and Sauvie Island Wildlife Areas

• OCTOBER 27-28:

Coquille Valley & E. E. Wilson W.A.'s

• OCTOBER 25:

Klamath Wildlife Area

RESERVATIONS

Hunting is available by reservation unless noted otherwise. Each hunter may reserve only one day. However, youth hunters without a reservation and those wishing to hunt a second day, may hunt on a standby basis if reservations are under-filled, or as registered hunters check out. Reservations must be made online (myodfw.com) or at a license sales agent. There is no cost to register. The deadline to register is the Thursday before the hunt.



PHOTO BY CARLY HUGHES



Special youth hunts and a statewide youth waterfowl day give kids a great shot at duck hunting.

AIM FOR A YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

Young Oregon hunters will get to hunt certain state wildlife areas this season without crowding by adult hunters. Some state wildlife areas have reserved dates and places just for hunters 17 and under to hunt this fall. An adult over 21 must accompany the youth, and the adult may not hunt. Hunters over 14 need a state waterfowl stamp and hunting license, while those over 16 also need a federal waterfowl stamp. Registration is required. See Page 26 of Oregon's 2025-26 Game Bird Regulations. Statewide youth waterfowl weekend for kids under 16 is Sept. 27-28.

Fern Ridge: Nov. 29 and Dec. 29.

Klamath Wildlife Area: Oct. 25.

Sauvie Island: Oct. 25, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Dec. 23, and Jan. 11, 2026.

Tualatin NWR: Nov. 8, 16, 22 & 30; Dec. 6, 14, 20 & 28, Jan. 3, 2026.

Umatilla NWR: Nov. 8.



Last year's OHA youth chukar hunt was a blast.

OHA offers chukar hunt for kids

The Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association and ODFW will offer its annual youth chukar hunt in the Lower Klamath Hills Regulated Hunt Area on Oct. 25-26.

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 youth mentor 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. Please reserve a hunt day by calling 541-883-8326 prior to the hunt. The number of participants for this youth hunt will be limited.





PUZZLE PAGE



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



Across

1. What color are a mountain goat's horns?
3. This black colored bird is the most under-hunted gamebird. Now there are seasons to hunt it. Corn is one of its favorite foods.
5. Once game is spotted, sneaking close enough for a shot is called _____.
6. Legal number of animals of each species to take in a day or season.
7. This type of dove is able to fly up to 60 miles per hour. It eats grains; millet is its favorite.
8. An early sign of hypothermia.
10. A favorite food of turkeys, other birds, and even spiders.
11. Inside part of the barrel on a firearm.

Do You Know?

1. What animal is also known as a catamount?
2. What a male bear is called?
3. What two kinds of deer live in northeast Oregon?
4. Where moose live in Oregon?
5. What upland game bird was brought to Oregon from India?
6. What a young gobbler is called?

Answers: 1-cougar; 2-boar; 3-mule deer & whitetail; 4-north-east Oregon; 5-chukar; 6-jake.



Down

1. A large size of shot (can be used for deer).
2. Other name for cougar (also a shoe brand).
4. Remove the entrails of a game animal.
9. Male pheasant.

MOURNING DOVE PHOTO BY RANDY SHIPLEY





Mourning Dove

Mourning doves are commonly found in Oregon during the spring and summer months. They are gray and tan with a few dark spots on their sides. Most migrate south at the first sign of frost or stormy weather, so it is wise to plan your hunting trip as early as possible in the September season.

Doves are often found in roost trees and brushy areas near water, especially along the major Oregon rivers (the Columbia, Deschutes, Snake and Willamette). They are most common near farm lands, but large numbers can also be found in sagebrush areas around permanent water sources.

A new species of dove has come to Oregon: Eurasian collared doves. They can be seen around most towns in Oregon. They are easy to tell by a black bar on their necks and by the lighter collared, fan shaped tail, which is unlike the pointed tail of mourning doves.

OHA helped Oregon kids have a field day!



OHA's Tualatin Valley Chapter youth event this spring offered archery and shooting skills.

The Oregon Hunters Association held special youth field days for kids all around the state this spring and summer.

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 the youth turkey clinics held in April. More field days are held in May and June.

There are more big events in the summer, including annual youth shotgun skills clinics and a youth bow shoot in the Columbia Basin.

Some of the events are free, while others charged a small amount to cover the costs of putting on the events.

In September, OHA is involved in youth bird hunts around the state. (See the schedule on Page 2.) You can stay up to date on youth events in your area at <https://oregonhunters.org/events-2>

Last call for Hunter Education!

If you haven't passed Hunter Education yet and you plan to hunt with your own licenses and tags this fall, you need to get in a class now! Oregon's Hunter Education course is required for all first-time hunters under the age of 18. It's hard to find a class by fall, so don't wait! For information about enrolling in a Hunter Education program, visit: <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

Young Guns Bighorn Target

NOSLER

Proud sponsor



Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep live in some of eastern Oregon's highest and rockiest country. Bighorn sheep were once wiped out in Oregon by settlers and disease spread by their tame sheep. Sportsmen helped bring bighorns back to Oregon.

Jim Ward

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

(541) 772-7313 oregonhunters.org

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Yearlings is published quarterly for OHA junior members and the children of family members.

Good shots from Oregon's Young Guns



James Dornin of Astoria tagged this blacktail buck in the Saddle Mountain Unit on Oregon's north coast.



James and Janie Quimby show Canada geese taken in central Oregon.