

Is That So!

WHILE WE toast before warm fires during the winter evenings, the warm-blooded animals of the outdoors have made marvelous adjustments to the stinging cold of winter and the scarcity of food.

Many have migrated from mountaintops to valleys, others have gone to warmer climes where food is plentiful; some have undergone a bodily change, putting on heavier fur or feathers—sometimes of a protective color; others have insulated themselves with a layer of fat; countless more have entered into a big sleep.

The most unusual adaptation, perhaps, is the one we are least aware of—the deep sleep. It varies with some it is a profound sleep, near death, for 7 months of the year during which time the heart-beat and breathing stop for minutes at a time and the body temperature drops to within a couple of degrees of freezing. And despite the added cold most mammals eat less.

The intensity of this winter sleep is a highly individual matter—family has nothing to do with it, but the geographic location seems to.

In the north the groundhog goes below decks earlier than his kin-folks of the deep south. In Quebec it may be the middle of September while in the South it may be late in December. In the high mountain tops of Idaho, the badger may hibernate by mid-October and not appear until mid-April; in lower elevations, say from 3,000 to 5,000 feet, he may disappear by January 1 and seldom reappear until mid-March; in the southwest, he may not hibernate at all.

Among the most profound sleepers are the ground squirrels (not the tree squirrels, close family relatives), some woodchucks, some bats, the prairie dogs, jumping mice, etc. With these, hibernation is almost a sleep of death.

Dig out a ground squirrel from its burrow and it will be as limp and inert as if its neck were broken. Respiration and heart beat are scarcely perceptible. It is cold to the touch—perhaps within a degree of freezing. It can be shaken and dropped on a table without waking. How long is this sleep of near death? A female ground squirrel has been known to sleep for 33 weeks out of 52! Perhaps she out-classes all other mammals in this sleep marathon.

Some of the non-migratory northern bats and the dormouse (the prefix dor means sleep) are also deep sleepers. Although the bats tend to hang themselves up, upside down, in great clusters of hundreds and thousands, the little dormouse builds himself a neat little house of dry grass and then, once inside, seals the entrance so carefully that there is not the slightest hint of a joint or a weakness. And then it sleeps soundly.

The skunk, raccoon, badger and opossum become torpid for several weeks but even so they often venture forth during mild periods. They are quite easily roused. Along with it, their respiration, rate of heart beat and body temperature

do not drop so drastically as do those of the true hibernator.

Even lighter winter sleepers are the squirrels and chipmunks. The chipmunk wakens quite often and gets something to eat and the red squirrel goes into winter seclusions only as a last resort, preferring to remain abroad all winter. Some tree squirrels, in fact, may be inactive for only a period of several days at a time.

Standing somewhere in the middle are the bears. In the far north, the female polar bear may go into seclusion under a mound of snow every two or three years when she gives birth to a tiny young but the male plods stolidly about. Farther south, the female black or brown bear tends to den up at the advent of sub-freezing temperatures while the adult males are less likely to go to sleep and when they do, usually for a shorter period of time.

The beginnings of hibernation are apparent in birds: nearly all eat about 2/3rds less in winter than in summer—as do most mammals, and very many, like man's domesticated poultry, store up fat prior to winter's cold. They can go a considerable time without food though they would at that time if they were left without food in the spring. Yet, despite this remarkable provision, many birds starve in winter.

One bird occasionally gets into the hibernation act completely—the poorwill. A pair, studied recently, were found in a cliff. Their heart beat was so drastically reduced that it could not be detected; no movement could be noted on a cold mirror placed in front of their nostrils; and a strong light beamed at the pupils brought no response, not even an attempt to close the eyelids—yet, in spring came, they roused, and were fully alive. In poorwill, chicken, bear, squirrel—in every animal which must face the bite of winter and the scarcity of food, there is an implicit preparation which carries them through.

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Robinson, Jones Top Offhand Rifle Shoot

An offhand shoot in which Paul Robinson fired 92 and Bill Jones 89 decided Wednesday night's first place at the Roseburg Rifle Club shoot at Winchester.

Both gunners tied with 383 marks in the regular shoot to lead both the club and team shoots. Third and fourth places on the team were taken by Dean Paulson with a 381 total and Don Kroegel with a 378 score, giving the club a total of 1525.

In results received this week from the Cal-Oregon Rifle League shoot, the local club received notification that previous 1525 total had been beaten by the defending league champion Klamath Falls club which fired a 1533 round.

Others who fired among the top ten Wednesday were Roy Hill 377; Bill Bailey 375; Pete Serafin 372; Sid Comfort 369; Ken Cloake 368 and Chuck Rice 362.



DISASTER HITS OLYMPIC SKI HOPEFUL—Jill Kinmont, 19, of Bishop, Calif., one of the top U. S. skiers, suffered a broken back during the Snow Cup giant slalom at Alta, Utah. At left Jill goes into the air, an instant later she lost her balance, struck her head and rolled end over end into spectators and trees. At right Jill is comforted by fellow skier Dick Navitz as she awaits ambulance. Following an operation physicians said she was in no acute danger. (AP Wirephoto).



NEW CHAMPS—Sylvia Wene and Steve Nagy are all smiles after winning National All-Star Match Game Bowling Championships. Miss Wene, of Philadelphia, had a 142.30 point score in winning a \$600 prize. Nagy, the Cleveland pin-spinner, averaged over 245 in his last three games as he took the \$2000 first prize in the men's division. (NEA)

Sports

Sutherlin Girl On Star List

Sutherlin's Carole Jo Kabler is one of 45 candidates from the Oregon athletic world currently under surveillance by a committee of judges which will select 12 finalists for Oregon's 1954 outstanding sports figure award.

Miss Kabler is one of six candidates nominated from amateur golf ranks in the state.

The 45 candidates in the field for the 12 finalist positions represent 17 fields of athletic endeavor and number among them those persons most representative for the year just concluded.

A secret committee of sports writers and broadcasters are now screening the group of 45 candidates down to a dozen, who will be voted on by a citizens committee of 40 or 50 persons. The winner will be presented the Bill Hayward trophy at a "Banquet of Champions" Feb. 10, which annually commemorates the presentation event.

Names of the 12 finalists will not be announced until the night of the banquet. Joe E. Brown of motion pictures and the sports world, will be guest speaker for the event.

The list of candidates follows: College football: George Shaw, Jack Patera, Oregon; Darrell Everett, Lewis & Clark; Don Porter, PSCJ infield. Pro football: Duane Marshall, St. Helens, College basketball: Ken Wenzner, Barrow, Idaho, Oregon; Swede Halbrook, OSC. Pro basketball: Bob Alexander, Portland Beavers; Ad Liska, old-timer; Clay Brown, new president, Beavers.

Semi-pro baseball: Ron Hyden, Norgan's Beavers; Nick Scavone, Rich Carls, Oregon City Elks; Dorothea, Lynch, Park Bureau, Bill Bottler Sr., Bowling; Bill Goelter, Vern Turner, state secretary. Track: Bob Dellinger, Oregon. Skiing: Howard Hermanson, Pro Golf; Eddie Hogan, Amateur golf; E. R. Jones, publiclinks; Billy Lees; Marty Leptich; Mary Rowell; Tim Thayer; Carole Jo Kabler.

Softball: Carolyn Fitzwater; Ken Westmoreland; Dale Leabo. Swimming: Maureen Murphy; Luella Lilly; Dan Cramer. Handball: Bob Schoning, Trapschooling; Helen Watkins; Baxter Moore Jr. Archery: Barbara Glazer. Coaching: Wayne Sturdivant, ex - Milwaukee.

Game Committee Approves Bills

SALEM (AP) — The Senate Game Committee today approved a package of three bills, but held up action on four others until the State Game Commission explains proposed changes in tagging and controlled season regulations.

Bills approved by the committee would let the commission use its discretion in setting aside lakes for ice fishing, permit trapping or netting of carp and other non-food fish, and discontinue the sale of hunting and fishing licenses by county clerks.

Committee members agreed there is a need for a better system of tagging deer and elk kills. They said some hunters had circumvented the punch-out requirement by using a pin, then sealing the hole, and using the tag again after they had disposed of the meat.

The committee also questioned whether to give the commission authority to close a special hunting area without adequate notice. They said a hunter in the area, having no knowledge of a close, might bag prohibited game, and then be liable to penalty.

Joe Perry of the San Francisco 49ers is the first runner in pro football history to gain more than 1,000 yards in two successive years.



HE GAINED PLENTY—Alan Ameche, Wisconsin's NEA All-America fullback, and wife Yvonne hold onto the sweetest reward the Badger star has received for his ground-gaining. Ameche was presented with 3,212 one dollar bills, fastened together, representing the yardage he picked up in college—an NCAA record. Gift came from hometown Kenosha, Wis., (NEA)

Furman Star Boosts Scoring Lead

NEW YORK (AP) — The field is falling farther and farther behind Furman's Darrell Floyd, shooting along on a 37.1 game average in major college basketball and branching out into the total points lead as well this week.

Only two other scorers are hitting 30 points or better on the average at this stage — Ohio State's Robin Freeman (33.5) and Virginia's Buzz Wilkinson (31.6). Freeman's mark is based on 11 games, with an ankle injury putting him on the bench last week. Floyd took over the point lead for the first time in the statistics.

CATCHES BIG CATS — CEDARVILLE, Mich. (AP) — Trapping off Lake Huron on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Martin De Jonge, a Zeeland, Mich., taxidermist, caught two prize specimen bobcats. One weighed 44 pounds; the other 41. Bobcats normally weigh 20 to 25 pounds.

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