



# DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE

## World-renowned waterfowl breeder retires



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press photos  
**ABOVE: Millie Holderread, left, with her husband, Dave.**  
**TOP: African Geese at the Holderread Waterfowl Farm and Preservation Center.**

By SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN  
 Capital Press

**P**HILOMATH, Ore. — When Dave Holderread, one of the world’s leading waterfowl breeders, announced in 2019 he would retire in 2020, it shook the poultry and waterfowl communities.

“I’m still trying to absorb the news of his retirement,” said Jeannette Beranger, senior program manager for the Livestock Conservancy.

There are few waterfowl breeders of his caliber and knowledge in the world, said Beranger.

“His retirement is huge. I mean, he’s the man. In hockey, it’s Wayne Gretzky. In basketball, it’s Michael Jordan. And in waterfowl, it’s Dave Holderread,” said Colin Davis, owner of Apricot Valley Waterfowl Preservation, a farm in Ontario, Canada.

Holderread, 68, has bred and raised waterfowl for six decades in a lifelong game of duck, duck, goose. Here in Philomath, between Mary’s

Peak to the west and snow-mantled Mount Jefferson to the east, Holderread and his wife, Millie, raised more than 20 heritage goose varieties and 40 heritage duck varieties they shipped to hatcheries and homesteads nationwide.

During his career, Holderread developed a new duck breed and improved existing breeds. He taught people around the world about the benefits of raising waterfowl for pest and weed control, eggs, meat, down, as protection against predators and for companionship.

Holderread says as his body has slowed down, it’s gotten harder to catch and handle birds, and the workload is no longer manageable. It’s time to move on.

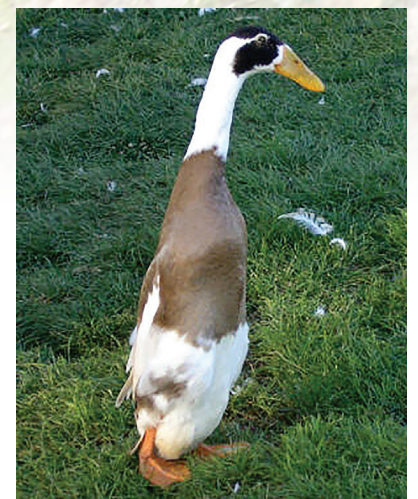
“It’s hard giving them up,” said Holderread.

His glance strayed leftward, where his remaining geese grazed on pasture and ducks rooted under leaves.

“It’s been an adventure.”



Sierra Dawn McClain  
 Capital Press  
**A Silver Apple-eyed Duck.**



Holderread Waterfowl Farm and Preservation Center  
**Pencil Runner duck**



Holderread Waterfowl Farm and Preservation Center  
**Pair of black East Indie ducks**

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# Critical water year on tap for Klamath Basin

Bureau of Reclamation expects water supply to meet 32% of demand

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
 Capital Press

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. — If 2020 was a difficult water year for the Klamath Basin, then 2021 is likely to be even more challenging.

With record-low inflows coming into Upper Klamath Lake, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates it will not have anywhere near enough water this summer to meet minimum requirements for endangered fish — let alone enough water to meet irrigation demands for farmers and ranchers.



George Plaven/Capital Press

**With record-low inflows coming into Upper Klamath Lake, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation anticipates it will not have anywhere near enough water this summer to meet minimum requirements for endangered fish — let alone enough water to meet irrigation demands for farmers and ranchers.**

Jeff Payne, deputy regional director for the bureau, said the basin in Southern Oregon and

Northern California appears to be entering a second consecutive year of extreme drought, exacerbating what was already a critical situation.

“I think everyone in the Klamath Basin felt like they weren’t able to get what they needed last year,” Payne said. “This will be the second year in a row that those conditions are experienced again.”

As of March 1, total precipitation in the Klamath Basin was 75% of average for the water year dating back to October, and snowpack was 87% of normal, according to the latest hydrology report from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

That might not seem too bad, but Payne said Upper Klamath Lake is filling at a disproportionately low rate. Since Oct. 1, cumulative net inflow into the reservoir was 370,000 acre-feet, or about 74% of

normal, which is the worst year on record since 1981.

Payne said he is not sure why so little rain and runoff has made its way into the lake, but suspects more water may be soaking into the dry ground rather than draining into streams.

“It is getting intercepted somewhere,” he said. “The sponge is a little dry in the upper basin, it would appear.”

Upper Klamath Lake feeds into the Klamath Project, a federally managed irrigation system that provides water for 230,000 acres of farmland on both sides of the Oregon-California border. Every year, the Bureau of Reclamation allocates water for the project based on

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# Critics claim Oregon overtime bill would hurt farmworkers



Andrea Johnson

**Workers harvest Oregon winegrapes in this file photo. Lawmakers in Oregon are considering ending the agriculture industry’s exemption to having to pay higher overtime wages.**

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
 Capital Press

SALEM — Critics claim that requiring Oregon’s agriculture industry to pay higher overtime wages would be a “false promise” of help to farm employees, who’d actually lose work opportunities.

Unlike most other employers, farmers don’t have to pay workers one-and-a-half times their normal rate if they work more than 40 hours per week, but House Bill 2358 seeks to eliminate that exemption.

Proponents of the bill claim it would end an unjust labor policy with “racist and exclusionary origins” while recognizing the essential role that farm workers have in the state’s economy and community.

“They do not belong to a lower class of workers in Oregon,” said Rep. Ricki Ruiz, D-Gresham, its chief sponsor. “Exploiting human beings is never a good thing.”

Supporters argue that agriculture shouldn’t receive unique treatment under the law because other industries, including the construction and retail sectors, also have peak seasons with higher labor demands.

California passed a law in 2016 that’s phasing in overtime pay for farmworkers while Washington’s Supreme Court found that an agricultural exemption to overtime pay was unconstitutional last year, the bill’s supporters said.

According to the bill’s proponents, pro-

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