

# UPPER LEFT EDGE

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 6  
SEPTEMBER 1993

FREE!

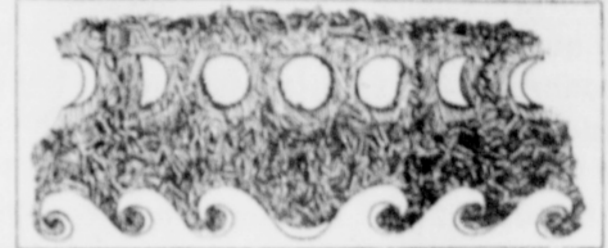
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UPPER LEFT COAST PRODUCTIONS PO BOX 1222 CANNON BEACH OR 97110 503 436 2915

## In Wildness is the Preservation of the World



DON THOMPSON MEMORIAL WILDLIFE OBSERVATION TOWER



CORRECTED FOR PACIFIC BEACHES					CORRECTED FOR PACIFIC BEACHES				
SEPTEMBER					SEPTEMBER				
WASHINGTON AND OREGON COAST TIDES DAY					WASHINGTON AND OREGON COAST TIDES DAY				
LIGHT TIME					LIGHT TIME				
DATE	LOW	A.M.	P.M.	DATE	LOW	A.M.	P.M.		
1 Wed	0:58	7:7	1:37	7:7	1 Wed	7:30	0:2	7:46	0:7
2 Thu	1:39	7:5	2:06	7:7	2 Thu	7:58	0:1	8:21	0:5
3 Fri	2:17	7:3	2:31	7:8	3 Fri	8:27	0:5	8:57	0:4
4 Sat	2:56	7:0	2:55	7:8	4 Sat	8:56	0:9	9:32	0:3
5 Sun	3:35	6:5	3:21	7:8	5 Sun	9:21	1:3	10:04	0:3
6 Mon	4:19	6:2	3:51	7:8	6 Mon	9:52	1:7	10:46	0:4
7 Tue	5:10	5:8	4:28	7:6	7 Tue	10:27	2:2	11:37	0:6
8 Wed	6:14	5:4	5:15	7:4	8 Wed	11:16	2:6	—	—
9 Thu	7:27	5:3	6:17	7:2	9 Thu	12:19	3:0	—	—
10 Fri	8:39	5:3	7:33	7:1	10 Fri	1:56	0:6	1:41	3:1
11 Sat	9:41	5:9	8:52	7:3	11 Sat	3:05	0:3	3:00	2:8
12 Sun	10:34	6:5	10:00	7:7	12 Sun	4:05	0:1	4:06	2:2
13 Mon	11:19	7:2	11:01	8:1	13 Mon	4:56	0:4	5:06	1:4
14 Tue	11:57	7:8	11:56	8:3	14 Tue	5:43	0:6	5:59	0:6
15 Wed	—	—	12:36	8:3	15 Wed	6:25	0:7	6:49	0:2
16 Thu	0:49	8:4	1:13	8:8	16 Thu	7:07	0:5	7:36	0:8
17 Fri	1:42	8:3	1:52	9:1	17 Fri	7:46	0:2	8:26	1:2
18 Sat	2:34	8:0	2:31	9:2	18 Sat	8:28	0:3	9:15	1:4
19 Sun	3:27	7:6	3:13	9:1	19 Sun	9:13	0:8	10:07	1:2
20 Mon	4:23	7:0	3:56	8:8	20 Mon	9:59	1:4	11:02	0:8
21 Tue	5:24	6:5	4:46	8:3	21 Tue	10:51	2:0	—	—
22 Wed	6:33	6:2	5:49	7:7	22 Wed	0:05	0:4	—	—
23 Thu	7:44	6:1	7:02	7:2	23 Thu	11:53	2:5	—	—
24 Fri	8:53	6:3	8:19	6:9	24 Fri	1:14	0:0	1:05	2:8
25 Sat	9:52	6:7	9:30	7:0	25 Sat	2:24	0:2	2:24	2:7
26 Sun	10:40	7:1	10:29	7:2	26 Sun	3:28	0:2	3:36	2:2
27 Mon	11:19	7:5	11:19	7:3	27 Mon	4:24	0:1	4:34	1:7
28 Tue	11:54	7:8	—	—	28 Tue	5:06	0:1	5:25	1:1
29 Wed	0:04	7:4	12:25	8:0	29 Wed	5:47	0:2	6:07	0:6
30 Thu	0:45	7:4	12:55	8:1	30 Thu	6:21	0:4	6:47	0:2

Left - Right: PETER LINDSEY, VI THOMPSON, JOMO WILSONS, VIS FELICIS, T. LAGSEY  
 PHOTO © SHADON, RON LOGAN

Don Thompson loved ducks. He was always modest about his knowledge of the birds but he literally knew them inside and out. Friends who hunted ducks would often bring them to him. The evisceration, preparation, and presentation of duck for dinner was performed with great care and protocol. Don abhorred waste. Nothing that came into his possession was wasted. The feet were fed to the gulls, fishing flies were made with the feathers, and the carcass would invariably find its way into some delectable soup or stew. These recollections are brought about primarily by my fondness for Don's cooking but are not the most marked reasons for Don's extensive involvement with ducks.

Some years ago, Don sat on the sewer board of the city of Cannon Beach. Because of new regulations dictated by the state's Department of Environmental Quality, the city was required to modify its sewer treatment system. An engineer was hired to develop a plan for the city and eventually drafted a report suggesting a configuration that was typical of municipal sewer systems. Pumps, steaming trenches, chemicals and a hodgepodge of mechanical devices were outlined. This prospect was discouraging to Don. He and his wife Violet decided to travel to Holland to research a new, little used system of waste water treatment. The results of their findings and effort can be found just east of down town Cannon Beach at the Thompson Marsh. The system uses a natural four-pond settling process that is truly safe and effective. It has since been used repeatedly as a model for other communities.

Don was often able to speak with relevance on just about any subject you might care to throw at him. If ever he was stumped by a question or curious at a prospect, he would follow up with the acuteness of a prosecuting attorney and report back with full detail, often including articles, diagrams or guest speakers. I believe that the question of how water fowl would react to these new ponds was raised in Don's own mind. He wondered if ducks and sea birds

would be receptive to these things. Only time and evaluation would tell. There were few models, expert opinion or scientific papers written on the subject. He would have to do his own research. And so Don, with the help of Bill Canessa, another lover of ducks, began to evaluate this question. Once each week since August of 1988, the two counted ducks on the treatment ponds and compiled the data.

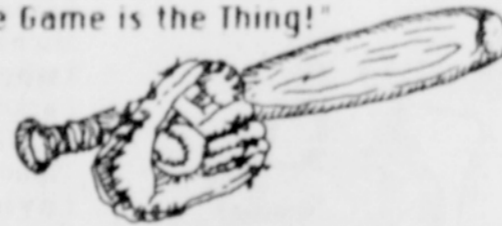
Contained here is the count data, in line graph form, for five of the more prevalent species that visit the ponds. Northern Shoveler, Greater Scaup, Wood Duck, Pintail and Bufflehead appear in the greatest numbers but there are many other species, including both ducks and sea birds, that are included in the count data. With curiosities now satisfied, Don and Bill agreed that the counts were significant and thought that other parties, more closely involved with this type of data, might be interested. Annual counts are distributed to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Division of State Lands, Washington Department of Ecology and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These agencies all use the data for a variety of reasons. They find it particularly useful because there are few coastal fresh water holding areas between the Clatsop Plains and Nehalem Valley. Fresh water marshes are places where water covers the land shallowly in lakes or quiet beds and rivers. Perimeter vegetation thrives in the form of cattails, reeds, sedges and bulrushes. When the ponds were completed, Don and Violet sold two cemetery plots they had purchased years ago in Seattle. With the proceeds, they bought irises and marsh grasses to plant along the parameter of the ponds. The two labored long placing the plants in the most ideal locations throughout the marsh. Many of these plants thrive there today. Swamps are marshes with tree growth. The area directly north of the Thompson Marsh is a swamp. This is what most of Cannon Beach was comprised of 150 years ago.

Upon graphing the data, Don and Bill were intrigued by the chronological precision with which the species return to and leave the ponds. Their migratory schedules are etched in stone. Those that breed there do so in the same precise order and timing each year. The ponds offer them the environmental consistency that their precise characteristics require. Each year the bird's path leads them over an ever-changing landscape. The changes are usually not conducive to their general well being but the ponds

Continued on page 8

## BASEBALL

As we watched the beloved Cubs blow another one, we were reminded of why we are Cubbie fans. Our National League Neighbors to the North pulled off a triple play. And we found ourselves celebrating the game and its execution rather than being concerned about the mundane matter of who is winning or losing. If winning is the only thing you care about you shouldn't be a Cubs fan. To paraphrase Shakespeare, "The Game is the Thing!"



OREGON COAST  
SUPPORT GROUP

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### MITAKUYE OYASIN

A special event is coming to this region in September. "MITAKUYE OYASIN" (Lakota for "We Are All Related") will be a two days of cultural events to celebrate the United Nations' Year of Indigenous Peoples, sponsored by the Oregon Coast Support Group. We will hold this event Saturday and Sunday, Sept 18th & 19, at the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Cannon Beach Arts Association Gallery and other venues in the area. This event will be a presentation and sharing of Native American and other Indigenous People's Art, Music, Dance, Traditional Foods, History and present day issues.

The Oregon Coast Support Group (and The Upper Left Edge) ask for your help with this event.

If you can donate a prize or a gift certificate for the raffle, food, housing in the Cannon Beach Area, transportation from Portland and back, cash, telephone work, etc. etc., please contact the Oregon Coast Support Group at (503) 436-2420 or (503) 436-0527 or the Edge at 436 2915. The City of Cannon Beach is participating by funding a portion of this event.

We need to know of your interest and commitment soon, and we hope that you and your friends will attend this very special event.

Sincerely,  
Donna Osborne