

# Spring ideal time for wildlife photography

by RON SHAY  
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Poets and song writers have long extolled the virtues and glories of spring based on the blooming flowers, blue skies and the birds and bees.

Though the writers of songs and poems seldom bothered to go into detail concerning the activities of the birds and bees, there is actually much to be seen to the careful observer.

If you have any ambitions toward being a wildlife photographer, or just a keen observer of birds, this is the time of the year to get a start. For the bird photographer, two things make spring an especially important time of the year.

Actually, three things, if you count the fact that the birds are mating and thus providing birds for the future.

The other two things relate to the mating antics of the birds. To the casual observer, a bird may be just a bird, but to the person studying birds or photographing them, spring is the time when bird plumage is at its most spectacular. The red wattles on the pheasant males are at their largest and brightest red. The males of other species have the brightest feather coloration of the year.

And if you are a waterfowler, you will never see the mallard drakes and other males of the species in any more intense adornment.

With the waterfowl, the change that takes place when the breeding season ends is one of the most intriguing in nature. The birds go through a process and reach what is called eclipse plumage. The bright feathers used to attract a female are molted and replaced by dull, rather nondescript feathers.

In virtually all of the

waterfowl, this process takes place and during the summer months, it is often quite difficult to tell the male birds from the females because of this color change. Then, as fall approaches, the feather change again takes place in the males and the bright coat familiar during hunting season is again in vogue.

The vivid colors make most birds admirable picture subjects during the spring mating season. Another feature of the season makes all birds at their peak for the watcher and photographer.

Generally, they are very involved in their breeding antics and while this is going on, they tend to be a bit less wary than at other times.

As soon as the hens start laying eggs and constructing nests, they become wary and almost impossible to see. And during the nesting season, the males often go their merry way so it is difficult to see or photograph the pairs. This varies considerably with species and at times the male assists in caring for the nest. But in either case, the birds are not near as apparent as during the period of time when they are doing the courting.

This time of year additionally should remind pet owners of their responsibilities. During the less wary period of courting and during the very vulnerable period of nesting, birds are set up for the predators. Roving domestic and semi-domestic cats and dogs are some of the worst predators the wild creatures have to cope with.

Pets have many of the instincts of wild animals and at the same time have the added advantage of knowing how to get around in human civilization. State law prohibits the running of dogs in wildlife habitat during this

time of the year. The law does not cover cats, but they are probably more effective bird predators than dogs.

The results of free roving pets don't always end in direct death for the animal being pursued, but the final result may be the same. Earlier this week we saw a doe deer well out in the tidal flats of Yaquina Bay. She was laboriously wading back toward shore in the belly-deep water, with the soft mud making each step a tremendous effort.

Dale Snow, marine region assistant supervisor, said that this is not uncommon to see. The animals take to the water when packs of dogs are chasing them on the nearby shore. Usually the deer survive, but not always and it is difficult to imagine how rough this must be on a doe that is due to give birth in a couple of weeks.

Spring is a great time to watch both old and young wildlife, but it is a time when they should be protected from harassment. Some are weak from the effects of winter food shortages, the females are in the process of bringing off young and all in all, they are quite vulnerable. Spring is a good time to look, but also an important time to show consideration.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Early Bird Swim 7:00-8:00 AM		Early Bird Swim 7:00-8:00 AM		Early Bird Swim 7:00-8:00 AM	
	Special Classes i.e. Basic & Advanced Lifesaving 8:00-9:00		Special Classes i.e. Basic & Advanced Lifesaving 8:00-9:00		Special Classes i.e. Basic & Advanced Lifesaving 8:00-9:00	Special Events As Scheduled
	9:00-12:00	AMERICAN RED CROSS INSTRUCTION 9:00-12:00			9:00-12:00	
	Special Classes i.e. Pre Comp 12:00-1:00 PM		Special Classes i.e. Pre Comp 12:00-1:00		Special Classes i.e. Pre Comp 12:00-1:00 PM	
	Public Swim 1:00-4:00	Public Swim 1:00-4:00	Public Swim 1:00-4:00	Public Swim 1:00-4:00	Public Swim 1:00-4:00	Public Swim 1:00-4:00
Public Swim 2:00-5:00PM	COMPETITIVE SWIMMING					
	4:00-6:30	4:00-6:30	4:00-6:30	4:00-6:30	4:00-6:30	
	Adult Swim 6:30-7:00	Adult Swim 6:30-7:00	Adult Swim 6:30-7:00	Adult Swim 6:30-7:00	Adult Swim 6:30-7:00	
	Adult Inst. 7:00-8:00	Public Swim 7:00-9:00	Public Swim 7:00-9:00	Public Swim 7:00-9:00	Family Night 7:00-9:00	Public Swim 7:00-9:00
	Adult Public Swim 7:00-9:00					

## Contreras tops Sandy batters

The final statistics have been tabulated for the Sandy High varsity baseball team, which finished fifth in the Timber Valley League with a 6-8 record.

Steve (Mo) Contreras led the team with a .424 season average. The sophomore catcher had a team-high 36 hits in 85 at bats and didn't strike out once the entire season. He was named to the second team of the TVL All-Stars.

Contreras also led SUHS in singles, 31; doubles, four; runs scored, 16; and RBIs, 15.

Mitch Paola was Sandy's second leading hitter, compiling a .321 average for the season. Paola was named to the TVL All-Star team at second base. He had 26 hits in 81 at bats, with three doubles and one home run. Paola had 14 RBIs and scored 15 runs.

John Martin had the third highest average, .310 for the year. Martin was named to the TVL All-Star for the second consecutive season. The Sandy centerfielder had 22 hits in 71 at-bats with two doubles, a triple and a home run. He scored 13 runs and had 14 RBIs.

Other Sandy averages were Troy Bangs, .286; Kraig Gifford, .286; Randy Martin, .255; Mike Lund, .250; Bill Patty, .250; Keith Powell, .240; Mike Contreras, .216; Dave Kirkland, .172; and Matt Falgout, .163. As a team, Sandy batted .278 for the season.

## At Sandy Swim Center

# Summer registration slated

Registration for summer classes at the Sandy Swim Center will be held June 2-5 at the pool.

Classes will include Red Cross Swim Instruction, Adult classes, Pre-Competitive, Lifesaving,

Swimnastics and Tiny Tots (ages 3 to 6).

Registration for persons within the Sandy High School district will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m.

Registration for persons outside the Sandy High School district will be from 10:30 to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m.

Persons who miss the June 2-5 registration may sign up

for classes during public swims after June 5.

The swimming classes will be held in two week sessions. Call the Sandy Swim Center, 668-4400, for more information.

# Truck Line claims 19-16 win in season opener

Sandy Truck Line got off to a good start in Sandy Youth Baseball last week, claiming a 19-16 slugfest over Reynolds East.

Ricky Wheeler went the distance on the mound for Sandy, surviving some early trouble. He struck out two batters in the fourth and fifth, however, to keep Reynolds at bay. Catcher Tony Statstad picked off

three runners at third base to help the Trucker cause.

Bruce Cook Insurance split a pair of Junior Federal games last week. Sandy lost to Reynolds 4-2 last Monday, but came back Wednesday to hand Corbett and 11-1 loss.

Reynolds pitcher Rob English hurled a four-hitter and held Sandy scoreless for the first four innings. Sandy's Matt Novotny was

even better, stopping Reynolds on one hit, but the Sandy defense committed several miscues which led to runs for the visitors. English fanned 11 batters; Novotny, seven.

Darren Pullen struck out nine batters Wednesday, leading Sandy to its win over Corbett. Sandy took advantage of numerous Corbett errors and 11 bases on balls for

the win.

The Sandy Ridge Runners came up a run short and suffered a 12-11 loss to Corbett in Midget National East League action.

The game was called after three innings because of rain.

Carry Kendall picked up the win for Corbett; Nick Kern suffered the loss for Sandy.

Sandy No. 2 exploded for 23 runs in three innings last week and claimed a 23-15 win over Orient in Midget National West action.

Jason Roberts got the win for Sandy, striking out four and yielding three hits. Aaron Knotts came on in relief and picked up the save.

Sandy got three home runs in the game, one each from

Corey Grant, Douglas Hodge and Jason Witteman. All were with runners on base.

In Midget Federal action, Reynolds stopped Sandy 10-2. Sandy came up with just one hit in the game, a fifth inning double by Gary Copher. Copher pitched well for Sandy, but errors helped Reynolds to a five-run third inning.

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