

## RIBBON SEAL

By E. LAURENCE PALMER  
**F**EW READERS of this have ever or will ever see our subject the Ribbon Seal. Not only is the animal relatively rare but it is found only off the coast of Alaska and about the Aleutian Islands neither of which are included in the majority of vacation trips. Even books dealing with mammals or with such specialized subjects as aquatic mammals do little more than list and illustrate Ribbon Seals. One has to get most of his information

about the animals through implication and through what one knows of close relatives.

The Ribbon Seal is about five feet long and in general built like its close relatives the Harbor Seal, Hair Seal or Common Seal. It differs most conspicuously from this better known animal in its conspicuous markings, some of which give the animal its



Ribbon Seal  
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common name. The basic color of a Ribbon Seal is dark brown. Unlike any other seals, however, there are around the neck, the rump and each shoulder, conspicuous, usually definitely defined bands of yellow or orange yellow. Sometimes these join each other but usually they are well separated. In the females the bands are much more obscure than they are in the males. Because of these markings it would be difficult to confuse a Ringed Seal, male or female with any other seal likely to be found within its range. The Saddle-backed Seal of the North Atlantic may have conspicuous back markings but they are not so regularly placed as are those in the Ringed Seal nor are they so conspicuous. Besides this the North Atlantic and the Aleutians and Alaska are well separated.

The typical story of reproduction for members of the family to which the Ribbon Seal belongs may be helpful here. The family includes the Harbor Seal, which is relatively common along our Atlantic Coast south to the Carolinas; the Hooded Seal, which is

## Coast Hardwoods Tested For Use In Textile Trade

Whether Oregon will get its foot in the door for a share of an annual multi-million dollar hardwood market in the textile industry may hinge on tests of a cord each of western dogwood and madrone sent to eastern manufacturers.

Shuttles, bobbins and spools are now made from seven eastern woods for the woof and warp industry. Oregon madrone and dogwood were shipped to the eastern manufacturers by the Oregon Forest Products laboratory. The laboratory has been working on this shuttle-hardwood project in the past year.

Shuttles made from Oregon hardwoods are now undergoing in-service tests. Hardness, ability to take a high polish and smooth wearing are the qualities necessary for a shuttle, according to Jack Pfeiffer of the research agency's industrial relations section.

Western dogwood has never been thought of as a marketable wood, but as a flowering tree and waste product in logging operations. It has been said a stand of one or two cords of dogwood an acre is economically harvestable.

Dogwood is scattered throughout western Oregon. Madrone is found principally in the southwestern part of the state. A conservative estimate has 425,000,000 board feet of madrone over 11 inches in diameter in Oregon.

Visitors at the Swan home are Mrs. Paul Talbot and children, Christy and Paul. Mrs. Talbot, a daughter of Mrs. Swan flew up from San Francisco on Sunday to spend some time with her parents.

one of the most abundant North Atlantic seals, and the Harp Seal that is found in the Arctic waters of both the Atlantic and Pacific. In most of these animals the herds form at rookeries in early spring when the young "pups" are born. The mating that is responsible for next year's young takes place shortly after. The females are excellent mothers and nurse the young on land for a few weeks before the family takes to the sea. The size of the herds of these seals is much smaller than one finds with the group to which the fur seals belong.

Fur dealers give a numerical rating to indicate the durability of furs with otter given as a standard of perfection at 100. In this scale the fur seals yield pelts rated at 80 per cent while the Hair Seals to which the Ribbon Seals belong are more likely to be rated at about 25 per cent. Just because a coat or wrap may be made of seal skin then does not warrant that it will become a family heirloom. The domestic rabbit has a rating of 5 per cent in this classification and the muskrat 45 per cent. The fur seals have been harvested more for the oil that may be extracted from their carcasses than for their pelts and even this practice is usually limited to species that congregate in large numbers.

## Research Program On Forest Soils

Special to The Pilot

Answers to many of the questions Oregon timbermen and farm foresters have about forest soils management are expected to come from a broad new program of research at Oregon State college.

More than a dozen of the most pressing soils problems are now, or soon will be, under study by OSC as a service to Oregon's vast \$900,000,000 forest industry—leader in the nation.

Included in the research program are studies on the effects of different logging methods on soil and site productivity; effects of fires on forest soils; nutrient requirements of various western conifers; maintenance of nursery soil fertility; soils classifications; and problems involved in the multiple use of forest lands—for grazing, forage and forestry.

Disease problems as they related to soils will be investigated also. Emphasis on one project is on the relation between soil properties and the occurrence and severity of tree diseases.

In another, the part played by mycorrhizal fungi in tree growth is being studied. The fungi com-

bine with tiny feeding roots on some trees to form special absorbing bodies which are believed to enable the trees to take nutrients from the soil more effectively.

Soil moisture studies will cover rate of growth, germination and establishment of seedlings from natural and aerial seedings, and plantation establishment.

Leader of the program is Dr. C. T. Youngberg, who was named to the newly-created post of forest soils scientist last fall. In his job, he works with both the soils department of the agricultural experiment station and the school of forestry. Cooperating in the program are the state forestry department and various federal and private agencies.

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