

# Sportsmen and Game Should Be Protected

The sportsmen of Oregon are slowly awakening to the fact that unless better protection is given the game and fish of the state, in a few years what is left will not need protection. At each session of the Legislature measures are introduced and passed protecting the game and fish, yet in spite of this the wanton slaughter is kept up and all because of the small appropriation which is allotted to the Game Warden. Good sportsmen realize this and, while many of them have thrown up their hands in despair, a small body of indefatigable workers keep not only prodding up the Game Warden into activity, but keep the matter before the Legislature.

Only those who have undertaken the colossal task of obtaining game-protection legislation know what great difficulties must be met and overcome. When a bill for the protection of game and fish is introduced it is a signal for long-winded discussions before the committee, and while each member of the committee and the friends of the bill are all in for affording better protection, there has never yet been a time when they could agree upon dates of opening and closing the season. Each member of the Legislature must look out for his constituency. Take, for instance, a deer season. The member from Washington would like to open and close the season for his district would not suit the member from Multnomah County, and as a result the committee is in a mess, each member scrambling for the dates to suit his constituency.

The Oregon Fish and Game Association met this morning in session in all its efforts for better game protection, yet its members keep plugging away. They are getting results, but the progress is slow. The Oregonian, knowing the sportsmen's attitude regarding game protection wrote to a dozen or more asking them to express their views on the subject. All are in favor of a hunt for pheasants, but are in favor of closing the market to the sale of Chinese pheasants, while others think that a month is too long and that the sale of these game birds on the market should be restricted to the winter. All agree that something must be done to afford better game protection. Here is what the members of the Oregon Fish and Game Association have to say on the matter:

**A. C. Pantan.**  
Dr. A. C. Pantan, president of the Oregon Fish and Game Association—I believe in open market for one week only for Chinese pheasants; open season for two weeks, and for elk, as many birds are too young and helpless earlier; daily limit, 15 birds in any one day per hunter; would limit number of ducks to 25 for any one day per hunter; favor open season of one week for elk, and two weeks for deer; limit two deer and one elk per hunter per season; shooting of calves, calves, and sheep, is prohibited; would impose license of \$1 for each hunter of large or small game per season, and a license of \$5 for killing an elk, including a license of \$1 for each hunter of half of all felines to go to informant, whether Game Warden or other citizen.

**W. F. Burrell.**  
W. F. Burrell, Portland—The state should license hunters on the following basis:  
For wild fowl, \$2 per season.  
For elk, \$5 per season, and a limit of two bucks.  
These licenses should be evidence of the right to hunt the game designated in any part of the state, and not, as is the case in the State of Washington, be restricted to the county of issue.  
The season for shooting Chinese pheasants should be open on either September 15, or September 15, the former date preferred, and close 30 days later, also it should be closed on the 1st of October, during the last week of the open season.  
There are always some late broods of these birds, but most of them are well grown and alert by September 1, and when the time for opening the season is open until October 1, many people deem the date to be later in the Fall of the year than is just and fair, and begin to shoot the birds as they come in. The closed season ends, but if reasonable restrictions were made in regard to hunting then the law would be obeyed better, which would enable the birds to increase in number.

**Edwin Stone.**  
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**H. J. Stillman.**  
H. J. Stillman, Pendleton—Taking your question in regard to the sale of Chinese pheasants in open market, I most emphatically do not favor it, nor any other kind of game selling. I believe that one of the very best protective measures is the absolute prohibition of the sale of any kind of game and trout at all times.  
As to closing or shortening the open season for Chinese pheasants, I think that should be left entirely to those living in the Pacific Northwest, where the birds abound, but in the interest of both the sportsmen and the game there should be a limit of not to exceed ten birds to the man per day, during the open season.  
As to a hunters' license law, I think one should be enacted only as a retaliatory measure where adjoining states are concerned.  
Relative to general game protection in the different sections of the state, the conditions vary so much that it is impossible to enact one general law designating the same for all sections. The character of game is so different in the various parts that the open season suitable for one part would not do for some other part. In the Pacific Northwest the open season for deer is not just what it ought to be, but that we will endeavor to remedy at the next session. In the past the Indians have not paid much respect to the game laws and there has been some question whether they can be made to. If they can and are, then it will be easier to enforce the laws with the whites.  
In conclusion I would again say prohibit the sale of game at all times.

**A. V. Andrews.**  
A. V. Andrews, La Grande—I am opposed to the sale of all game at any time, and any game fish at any time in open market. The sportsmen of this state a few years ago we could make a good catch, we cannot get enough for one man to eat now.  
We should have a license law the same as the sportsmen of that state are more than pleased with the results of their license laws. Every one that fishes pays toward protecting game and birds. A license of \$1 for elk, \$2 for deer, and \$5 for fish license, and for hunting, \$1 and \$2, and all money goes to employ wardens. This money is divided equally in different counties, but as we have done here in Oregon, using all the money in the northern part of the state, and leaving 200 square miles in Eastern Oregon without a deputy. Our streams are blocked with beaver and cut rivers, as we call them, have dams every few miles, and no fishways. Mr. Van Dusen, our present fish warden's, attention has been called to this matter, but as yet there has been very little improvement.  
John F. Hall, Marshfield—I do not favor the sale of Chinese pheasants or any other game birds in the open market.  
The open season should not be abolished, but it should not cover more than 30 days in one season.  
I am opposed to hunters' licenses; every American citizen should be permitted to hunt, as long as he does not trespass on private property without any license, but there should be a limit to the number of birds or animals killed by any hunter in any day, and also a limit for the season. I think some penalty attached in case the limit is exceeded.  
In my opinion, if the sale of ducks in the open market was prevented and the number of birds which any one person is permitted to kill was limited to ten birds, our present law is sufficient for their protection.  
We have a statute preventing the killing of elk. I think the time should be extended at least one year longer, but also limit the killing of deer to not more than two to any one person during one year.

**A. E. Gebhardt.**  
A. E. Gebhardt, secretary Oregon Fish and Game Association—You ask, "What should be done to secure better fish and game protection in Oregon?"  
Briefly stated my answer is:  
There should be a more general and widespread interest in fish and game protection and propagation, and everything possible should be done to encourage such an interest throughout the state. This is a matter in which not only the sportsmen, but all good citizens should take a deep interest, and it seems to me it is high time for the people of Oregon to recognize the fact that, with our unequalled natural facilities, and with good game laws, we are in a position to make one of the most attractive regions in the Union for the lover of true sport, and that, not only from the standpoint of sentiment, but also from the standpoint of business, it pays well to protect and propagate fish and game.  
We need better fish and game laws—laws prepared with care and thoroughness—laws that will be enforced, and that will meet with the approval of the people generally, as well as of sportsmen; for it is, after all, only such laws as are sustained by public sentiment that can be actually enforced and that will endure the test of time. Our fish and game laws will be most generally and willingly obeyed at that time when the people of our state have learned to look upon the violation of these laws with the same disapproval they now manifest toward stealing, robbery and other crimes and misdemeanors. This, to my mind, is the keynote of successful game protection, and until that sentiment is thoroughly diffused among our population our efforts in the line of game protection will be only partially successful.  
By better fish and game laws I do not necessarily mean entirely new laws, but rather, such an adjustment of the present laws as will properly meet the needs of the present, and that will be generally obeyed. A great mistake was made when the Legislature created a different open season for upland birds for nearly every county of the state. Such a law is almost impossible to enforce, and it is generally very difficult to enforce. In my opinion, it would have been better to have divided the state into five or six large game districts, grouping the counties into each district with reference to climatic conditions, and to have made the law uniform for all counties within such district. Such a law, if properly prepared, would leave the question of the dates of the open and closed seasons (which has always been the bone of contention) to the people of the various districts, who, from their own knowledge of the seasons, would learn to regulate them correctly, and who would then take a deeper interest in the subject because they would realize that other sections of the state were not endeavoring to legislate for their game laws on this account than is generally known. Uniformity in the open and closed seasons throughout the state, and an important feature of a good game law, in Oregon the law concerning mammals might be made uniform throughout the state, but the law concerning waterfowl and upland birds, sooner or later, have to be changed to meet the requirements which nature has ordained for different sections of the state.

**John Gill.**  
John Gill, Portland—That the greatest newspaper of the West is taking an active interest in the preservation of game is a hopeful sign, and its powerful aid will be welcomed by the Oregon Fish & Game Association and every friend of the sportsmen of Oregon. It is to be hoped that the state could not be better employed than in the protection of its game and fish.

**May Margaret.**  
Theophile Margaret, Portland—That lived on Kendall Green. Then there's that sunny hair of yours That crowned you like a queen? That sunny hair is dim, lad, And the red gold turned to gray, lad, The night a ship went down.  
If you be yet May Margaret, May Margaret now as then, Then where's that sunny smile of yours That broke the hearts of men? The sunny smile is wad, lad, And oh! 'tis weary smiling To keep the tears away.  
If you be yet May Margaret, What area to you say? Then where's that proud, old heart of yours That sent your love to sea? Ah, no! that heart is broken, The proud old heart has died For the light wood outspoke, For all the love unaid.  
Then Margaret, my Margaret, If all you say be true, Your hair is yet the sunniest gold, Your eyes the sweetest blue, And dearer yet and fairer yet, For all the coming years, The fairer for the waiting, The dearer for the leaving!

**Alley L. Fox.**  
Alley L. Fox, Astoria—I am not in favor of the entire abolishment of the open season for Mongolian pheasants. I would be in favor of a law making every alternate season a closed one for pheasants and all upland birds, the open season to extend from September 15 to October 15, the birds to be sold in open market for 30 days.  
Protecting game for only two or three years and then opening the doors for wholesale slaughter does no permanent good. I think some such law as suggested above would find favor with game dealers as well as sportsmen.  
The state should by all means prohibit ducks and pheasants being hunted with automatic air pump guns. There is in this and other states a law against the use of swivel guns in hunting ducks and other water fowl which seems to stand for a more humane and just measure. The magazine guns would be a great protection to our birds.  
I am also in favor of market hunters and those who hunt in private being licensed, the proceeds to be applied to the protection of game. Elk and deer are the hardest game to protect that we have. One elk a season should be enough for any one. The deer would be amply protected if our laws could be more thoroughly enforced. I would like very much to see a heavy scalp bounty placed on cougars.  
L. S. Fritz.  
L. S. Fritz, The Dalles—I am opposed to the sale of Chinese pheasants or any other game bird, game or trout in the markets of this state, also the transportation out of this state of any game or trout. This is in my favor of an open season, except for elk. I am in favor of a hunters' license.  
I am opposed to Spring shooting, also limit 25 ducks enough for one person's hunting in one day. As to deer, I would favor an open season from August 15 to December 15 for the following reasons: It would give the camper a chance to kill deer and the farmer a chance after his hay. It would be in the interest of the Oregon sportsman, and it would be in the interest of the sportsman of other states. It would be in the interest of the sportsman of other states. It would be in the interest of the sportsman of other states.

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