

OREGON NIMRODS HAVE CHOICE OF BIG VARIETY OF GAME.

Deer Season Now in Full Swing With Plenty of Bucks in Hills and Forests—Bear Hunting in Many Sections—Ducks and Small Game Plentiful Throughout State—Game Laws Put Restrictions on Activities of Hunters in Oregon and Other States. Scores of New Laws Evolved.

WITH the deer-hunting season in full swing in many sections of the state, with duck-shooting open and the open season for grouse, native pheasants, partridge and quail close at hand, Oregon nimrods are at the high tide of happiness.

Thousands of hunters are flocking to the hills and forests while other thousands are planning to go within the next 30 days. For weeks, for weeks and even longer periods are spent each year in pursuit of wild game by these hunting enthusiasts.

Although Oregon is a state of great expanse and many deep nooks and crannies, there are few of the most obscure recesses that will not develop a hunter or two, just at this time. The hunt for game is barely less arduous than the quest of placer gold. Let it become known that there is good deer hunting in the lower end of Curry County or the upper end of Baker County—and the influx of hunters will begin surely and at once.

There are, of course, a lot of changes in the Oregon game laws which will curtail the hunters to some extent again this year. For instance, elk may not be hunted lawfully this year, or until 1912, for that matter. And when the open season will extend for the solitary month of August.

Chinese Pheasants Protected.
Chinese pheasants, which afford truly royal sport, may not be killed, either. The law protects these superb birds until 1912. Then the season will extend for one month, beginning October 15. Grouse, native pheasants or ruffed pheasants and grouse may be shot between October 15 and November 15 of this year.

Deer and Ducks are the Mainstays of the Hunting Fraternity. In Multnomah, Columbia and Clatsop counties the deer season is in full swing, so far as the law is concerned, the open date having developed September 1. So far the flights have been light along Columbia Slough, Savies Island, Deer Island and other duck haunts of the three counties named. Small bags of ten and 12 birds have been brought in, but few limit bags have materialized.

Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Union, Umatilla, and Walker counties are likewise enjoying open season and with better results. Malheur and Harney counties are the great duck centers of the state. To the lakes and streams of these sections come the great fall migration from the east side of the Cascades. Not only ducks of every variety, but great clouds of swan and geese offer themselves as targets thereabouts.

In Cook, Curry and Lake counties the season opened day before yesterday. Cook and Curry counties get the great coast migration which includes many varieties of ducks. Klamath County is another favorite haunt of the duck-hunter, the lakes of that county being a favorite nesting and breeding place, so that the early season is perhaps the best in Oregon.

Duck Hunting Expensive.
For geese and swan, Malheur, Harney, Grant, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, Baker, Willamette and Gilliam counties have the exclusive hunting attractions at this season. Throughout the rest of the state the season does not open until October 1. White geese and brant are protected in all counties alike.

hunt, must be an earnest lover of the numerous preserves. The man who goes duck hunting except on a preserve will get what the proverbial small boy shot at.

These preserves are located mainly in Columbia County and the Portland hunters go down by boat Saturday nights and hunt Sundays. Except main lake small ponds that are strewn almost daily with good wheat to attract the migratory mallards, Wisconsin raddies and teal that otherwise would pass onward. Watchmen are kept on the various preserves to ward off poachers and attend to the feeding. It costs \$100 or so to buy into a club and \$200 or so to maintain an interest through the season. As a rule good shooting will be had each week, particularly after the fall rains set in. In some instances, though, a law watchman will sell the wheat to a neighboring chicken farmer instead of throwing it into the duck ponds and the hunters will get nothing but a week-end shoot without being certain just what is wrong.

Portland duck hunters who have kept careful records of expenditures for a season report an average cost of as high as \$12 per duck. So it is hardly a poor man's game at best. Ducks the man who gets a limit bag of 25 in a single week-end shoot will only be put to the added expense of distributing them among his friends on returning to the city.

Deer Hunting Extensive.
Deer hunting, of course, has come to be an exact science, for while in many quarters deer are not especially scarce, the new laws provide protection that makes it impossible to get bucks in the old favorite ways. Dogs may not be used at all; nor is it lawful to track the stag or to hunt him in or along runways, trails, creeks or rivers that deer are accustomed to use in changing feeding grounds or in following the law must hunt his deer by chance and work in a fatal shot in the few fleeting seconds that the animal is within sight and range. Deer meat may not be sold or bartered.

Game laws are being developed with each Legislature to protect the game of the state from extinction and the hunter is yearly facing new difficulties imposed by the necessity of game conservation and protection. Nor is Oregon alone, or even a leader, in the matter of stringent game laws.

Many Game Laws Passed.
Of the 250 odd laws passed within the year in connection with game, North Carolina led with almost 75, Massachusetts coming second with 19. Vermont passed 15, while New Hampshire and New Jersey both passed the same number, 12. Canada also passed considerable legislation relative to game, and several new measures go into effect there for the first time this year.

Newfoundland is among the places where game preserves have been established, while in Dominion of Canada it has set aside as forest and park preserve a total of 25,000 square miles in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Absolute protection has been given to elk in British Columbia, while Newfoundland has abolished its closed season for hunting rabbits, leaving only a trapping season. British Columbia has also, by order in council, prohibited the use of the automatic gun.

While limiting the amount of game which can be killed in a day or a season are of comparatively recent origin. One of the first statutes of the kind was that passed in Iowa in 1878, limiting the killing or possession of prairie chickens, snipe, woodcock, quail and ruffed grouse to 25 in a day. Maine in 1882 limited the number of moose game which an individual might kill in a season to one moose, two caribou and three deer, and New York in 1886 likewise limited the number of deer to three.

Today laws of a similar nature are being enforced in all but four states. Despite the general objection which has often been raised concerning these laws they are considered the most effective features of modern game legislation. They have been tested in the courts and upheld by the Supreme Courts of several states, notably those of Maine and Wisconsin, and these notwithstanding the fact that the laws are almost impossible of enforcement and easily evaded.



YOUNG COYOTE CAN BE TRAPPED AT ALL SEASONS AND IS PLentiful IN EASTERN OREGON. A BAG OF MALLARDS FROM COLUMBIA SLOUGH. SPAN, PLentiful IN MALHEUR AND HARNEY COUNTIES.

for game protection should not be used by the present State Game Commissioner. This, however, was later declared unconstitutional. Michigan has established a 45-day deer season, but allows only a 25-day hunting license. The reason for the last measure is not far to seek. Of the 150 accidental hunting fatalities reported to the department last year, a goodly proportion were recorded from Michigan.

With but a 20-day season there, 10,000 people were often hunting at the same time, thus causing a high accident per cent. With the new provision it is expected that the same number of people can still enjoy the season, but not be called upon to do their hunting all at the same time. It has been the law in Vermont that if a farmer's property was damaged by deer hunters he could collect damages from the state. This year, however, if he closes his grounds to hunters by posting a "no hunting allowed" sign he cannot collect damages from the state. If he wants damage money he must seek it from the trespassers themselves.

Little legislation which could be termed retrograde took place. West Virginia abolished the resident license, while Vermont abolished her alien license. In Delaware all hunting licenses were abolished, and with the measure all means of supporting the warden and game protection work. In South Carolina the law protecting doves was removed, while New Hampshire has come to the front with a law prohibiting all scientific collecting of birds in the state. California partially opened the law protecting doves of shore birds, and Michigan removed her absolute protection from deer in several counties; this latter change is thought to be accidental by the department, however.

Not only were several changes made in the open seasons, but several small game animals were added to the lists of hunted animals. Thus cotton tail and bush rabbits were put on the game list and provided with a season in California. Wood ducks were added to the Nebraska boys under 18 are allowed to hunt without a license if accompanied by parent or guardian. New Hampshire has placed non-residents on the same footing with residents in the matter of licenses.

While these last few laws were in the nature of liberality, laws were passed by some states making provisions more stringent. Minnesota and Nebraska, for example, passed laws requiring residents to secure licenses to hunt in their own counties, formerly not necessary and Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island placed an age limit below which applicants cannot secure licenses, and another at which they must have the consent of parent or guardian.

According to those in the Agricultural Department who are familiar with game work the country over, and have been for some time, nothing shows the growing scarcity of game more strongly than the rapid growth in popularity of the game preserves. Besides the establishment of the preserves in Montana, North Dakota, Idaho and Washington, Massachusetts and Oregon have provided for the establishment of bird and game refuges by proclamation of the commissioners on fisheries and game and the Governors, respectively.

The propagation of game in state and private preserves is receiving even more attention. Massachusetts has appropriated \$10,000 for the establishment of a game-propagating station. New Jersey has given \$41,000 for a state game farm, and in Wyoming \$10,000 has been placed at the disposal of the State Game Commission for the exchange of game. California has provided for the propagation and sale of pheasants raised in captivity.

and adopted by another is that in connection with the accidental killing of people. In Michigan there has up till the present time been a heavy punishment waiting for the person convicted of accidentally shooting another while hunting. This, however, has been of little or no avail, as sufficient evidence was never forthcoming to convict any one. New Hampshire has, however, just adopted such a measure as this, and will for the first time try it out this season.

Oregon has its full share of these accidental deaths each year. Despite the care of hunters, the death roll is of annual occurrence. There are so many ways in which these killings may be brought about that it is really surprising more hunters are not slain.

Accidental discharging of pieces is responsible for a very small percentage. It is the mistaking of human beings for deer that causes the fatalities.

"There's no reason to convict a man and a deer even at a distance," the unknowing will declare. Quite true; but when a hunter trailing a deer cuts loose down a brushy ridge at top speed and goes bounding about, he may come into the line of vision of some waiting Nimrod, who, catching a glimpse of brown hunting coat, will, with a careful aim and fire at the spot where the foliage is being disturbed.

There are many hunters who aver their responsibility for a law against accidents is of the first importance. It might cause amateur hunters to hold their fire until they saw deer, antlers and all, in bold relief.

Among the interesting laws which have been thrown aside by one state

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Amusements With the Family Mel. SOME OF THE QUIPS AND JEISTS FROM PENS OF THE NEWSPAPER HUMORISTS.

Terse Tales From Humorous Pens

TRAPPED.
Mayor Gaynor was talking to a New York correspondent of the Washington Star about a famous robbery case wherein a criminal had been convicted by means of the Bertillon system of finger prints alone.

Quips and Flings

great affliction was, "Yes'm," replied one little fellow. "He was a poet."—Christian Register.

Among the Poets of the Daily Press

DAD'S LOT.
Every one's coming back to town
But father—he won't come;
Mother's back, with a Paris gown
Which cost a tidy sum;
Mabel is back from Newport gay,
Helen's here from the shore;
Archib's back from camp, and say,
He won't go any more.

THE GLORY OF THE CITY.
How fair the city looks to me,
How bright its towers, how great
Let others wander to the sea,
Or suffer hard discomforts there
Or wander to the far-off hills
If discontentments weigh them down,
Serenest joy my being fills,
And I shall linger here in town.