

## SURVEY OF STATE'S ANIMAL LIFE SHOWS INTERESTING FACTS

Expert Biological Study Being Conducted in Oregon; Various Species Extant.

By F. H. McNeil.

Why a biological survey? In the first place it may be said that a biological survey is actively under way in the state of Oregon and at its present rate of progress, the completion may be prophesied as an event of some five years in the future. The biological survey is the taking of an official record and the gathering of specimens of every form of animal life that occurs within a given community.

The United States Biological Survey of the department of agriculture has been plugging along for close to 20 years on this work and with regard to certain sections of the state, the results accomplished are very noticeable. By far the larger portion of the state, however, has been left entirely untouched by the work.

The biological survey, laboring with a not very large appropriation, has 47 other states in which to do the same work, and its rate of progress in a district of such size and with such abundant animal life as Oregon cannot be very fast.

However, the federal survey is being assisted in efforts along this line by state experts operating from the office of W. L. Finley, state game warden.

The biological survey does not mean the mere assembling of the hides and skulls of these animals, their scientific classification and the storing of this stuff away for the study of future generations, although this is an important feature. In its broadest application the survey locates the intimate connection of the animals with the environment, the climate in which they live. To illustrate, of the half-hundred varieties of field mice that can be found from the coast to the Idaho line, no one is exactly like the other.

Stanley J. Jewett, for a number of years an agent of the government biological survey, is in charge of the job. He has collected and he has accomplished remarkable results since taking it over. Through his efforts of less than a year, the state collection consists of 1500 complete bird specimens and 350 mammals. This does not mean, however, that they are ready for exhibition.

As already stated, the collection is far from complete, but it already contains some very unusual things that most people of the state are not acquainted with.

Among the collection of mammals is a complete series of the shrew family, a mouse like creature, the smallest quadruped that lives in the northwest. The shrew is only a little more than an inch long but it is intensely voracious and it kills and consumes from the tails of mice and rats twice as big as it is. Of course, all this is not done at one time, several days being taken to the task.

The magnificent kangaroo rat is also among the state's collection. He occurs only east of the mountains in the sandy regions and his fur is light brown. His crowning distinction is an eight inch tail with a bottle brush effect of thick fur on the end and distinguished looking whorls. The kangaroo rat has the famous horned toad of Arizona beaten badly in records for long distance abstinence from water or anything else to drink for he has been kept in captivity for two years without touching a drop of water and has thrived.

The collection is very deficient in specimens of big animals, elk, deer, wolves and the like and a big effort is being made to build this end of it up. Assisted by Harry Telford, an inspector of state game refuges, Jewett journeyed into the most inaccessible parts of southern Oregon in October of this year after antelope. They secured their game in the northern part of Lake county and over in Harney county west of the Steins mountains. Two adult and one young antelope specimens were secured and are now in the state's collection.

While on this trip Jewett also secured 12 pigmy rabbits, which are found nowhere excepting in this portion of the state. These are the smallest on this continent north of Mexico but they are found in several of the western states. Greatly similar to the big rabbits, the pigmy rabbits scurry across the sands they do not appear to be more than six inches long. Accompanied by O. J. Murie, his assistant in this work, Jewett leaves early this week for southern Oregon to get more specimens of the white tailed deer. The hunt will be made around Davis lake, high in the Cascades, and an effort will be made to get a pair of adults.

Mountain Sheep Sought. Returning from this journey in three weeks or a month, Jewett will immediately make preparations for what he anticipates will be the hardest trip of the many he has made in the interests of various collections. Early in March he will set out on an expedition for specimens of the Oregon mountain sheep. The Steins mountains will be traversed first, according to present plans, and if nothing is accomplished there, Jewett, accompanied by one of the department men stationed at Joseph in Walla Walla county, will travel to the summit of the Blue mountains along the boundary between Baker and Walla Walla counties, just west of the Snake river.

The expedition will be an arduous one because of the deep snow and the expected frigid weather conditions, and after the mountains are reached most of the traveling will have to be done on snow shoes.

Jewett also has designs on "Old Ephraim," the grizzly bear. He is convinced that representatives of the largest American bear family are still extant in Oregon, despite all averments of old hunters and woodsmen to the contrary. Trappers and sheepmen frequently come out of the Blue mountains, especially in the northeastern part of the state, Jewett says, reporting finds of tracks of "salween" type.

At least two were killed in northern Baker county last year, he declares. And so the official state naturalist will go gunning for a grizzly and he may bag one on his contemplated trip after the mountain sheep.

The state collection still lacks many of the brown bear specimens, although there are plenty of ruins of this type distributed pretty generally over the state. A number of perfect specimens of the wild cat and cougar are on hand.

The collection has a couple of poor labor in Oregon and State Game Warden Finley has succeeded in interesting the larger state educational institutions, the University of Oregon, the Agricultural college, Reed college, Willamette university and others in the work.

An appropriation of \$1500 has been set aside of the University of Oregon fund and a man under the direction of Professor John F. Howard of the biology department of the institution is to be put in the field at once. This man will work in conjunction with the state men and those that are to be sent out by the government.

Many Species in Oregon. Oregon has 400 distinct species of birds and about 250 mammals and practically every species has anywhere from two to a dozen sub-species. The differentiation is a result of the different climatic conditions under which they live. To illustrate, of the half-hundred varieties of field mice that can be found from the coast to the Idaho line, no one is exactly like the other.

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## SOME STRANGE TYPES OF BIRDS AND BEASTS FOUND IN OREGON BY BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



PHOTOS BY W. L. FINLEY AND H. T. BOHLMAN.

specimens of Oregon elk and an effort will be made to get better ones. Two distinct elk types are found. The Roosevelt elk living in the coast mountains, was almost exterminated, but closed season and vigilant protection has caused them to increase again. The common American elk is the recognized type of the entire Rocky mountain region and a few still are found in certain eastern sections of the state. The collection likewise is short on Oregon timber wolves, although it is well supplied with coyote specimens.

Sea Animals to Be Included. The field of sea animals, such as seals, sea lions, dolphins and porpoises has been entirely untouched, but all will be studied and specimens secured. Jewett says he is preparing to mount one of the many whales that visitors to Oregon seaside resorts often see venturing shoreward during the summer months, if a museum is ever erected large enough to house it.

Likewise no attention has yet been devoted to reptiles, although snakes, lizards and other members of this class occur in great variety throughout the state. A hunt through eastern Oregon devoted exclusively to the securing of reptiles is planned for the hot months of next summer when they are the most active and in the greatest abundance.

The bird collection is much larger and there are more unusual specimens in it than among the mammals. It includes practically all the common species of game birds, songsters and water fowl, but Jewett is still on the lookout for some of the rarer members of the hawk and owl families, together with a number of the infrequently seen sea birds such as the albatross, the shearwaters and others.

A pair of harlequin ducks are the most interesting members of the bird collection. The harlequin duck is one of the most unusual in his habits of any of the birds of the western hemisphere. He spends his winter along the sea coast hunting his food far out over the surf. He glories in the storm. But in the mating season the pair fly far back inland to nests high in the mountains, where the young are raised. In the summer months they are found as far inland as Yellowstone lake in the national park. Jewett's two specimens were shot from the rocks near the Cape Mearns light-house south of Tillamook bay, last winter during a gale.

Three specimens of the Aleutian sand piper, a bird that natural scientists said did not exist south of Sitka, Alaska, were secured for the state collection over on the Tillamook coast last March. The assortment also includes a pair of the palm warblers, little songsters of the semi-tropics, whose existence as far north as Harney county was never known until these two were secured.

Pelicans and ibises occur in great numbers along the lakes of southern Oregon, and on account of their bulk and angular proportions, the specimens would take up so much room that Jewett has decided not to include them in the collection until there is room for an exhibit.

In the securing of bird specimens, in addition to keeping the complete skin, the collector also takes the stomach and crop and they are examined to find out what the bird is feeding upon. The examination of a number of stomachs of the same species of birds pretty well determines whether that bird is a predator or destructive. Several hundred bottles containing these preserved stomachs are stored away with the rest of the collection.

Quarantine at Houlton. Houlton, Or., Jan. 17.—Several homes here are quarantined for a mild form of scarletina.

Baker, The Editor and the Devil. L. H. Pearson, "Hog Industry," H. T. Irwin, "Reasons for Encouragement," T. Hinkle spoke humorously on "The Duty of Water." The Commercial club quartette furnished music.

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Top, left to right—A family of pelicans in Klamath county; coyote on the run in Harney county. Bottom, left to right—White faced glossy ibis in the lake region of Southern Oregon; female elk in Walla Walla county.

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## CANBY BUSINESS MEN ARE STRONG FOR THE BEST HIGHWAY WORK

Pass Resolutions Urging the East Side Route and Quick and First Class Work.

(Special to The Journal.)

Canby, Or., Jan. 17.—The Canby Business Men's club, composed of the most influential business men and farmers in this vicinity, has taken an advanced stand on the good roads question, and has forwarded to the county court the following resolutions, pledging support to the improvement of highways:

Whereas: At the last regular session of the state legislature an act was passed authorizing the levying of a state tax of one-quarter of a mill each year for the purpose of aiding in building a first class main trunk road or highway across the state from the Washington state line on the north to the California state line on the south, said main trunk road to connect with similar main trunk roads provided for and now being built by the states of Washington and California, the whole together forming a great continuous highway from British Columbia to Mexico and will be known as the Pacific Highway; and

Whereas: Such main trunk road or highway to be of the greatest benefit to the greatest number and to the state at large, in times of peace or strife, should be laid in the most direct line, consistent with easy and practicable grades, between the most populous sections of and the important trade centers and markets of the state; and

Whereas: We believe that the best and most direct line for such main trunk line between Portland and Salem consistent with good, easy and practicable grades lies on and along the eastern side of the Willamette river and south of Salem to the California state line along and over the roads or highways substantially as now indicated and marked as the Pacific Highway except where minor changes may be necessary to make the line more direct and to improve the grades; and

Whereas: Immediately after the returns of the taxes collected, or about April 1, 1914, a large part of this state fund for the highway work, estimated at about \$238,000 each year, will be available for use by the state highway commission under the direction of which this work is to be done and which commission we hope and trust will be ready to immediately begin the work and in the best organized and systematic manner, and will secure to the state and its people in the least possible time and at least before the fall of 1915 the completion of this main trunk road of the Oregon section of the Pacific Highway, other permanent roads and highways to be built throughout the state as rapidly as possible, and as needed, thereby securing to the people of the whole

state the greatest economic need of the present or future time.

Resolved, That we, the Business Men's club of Canby, Oregon, in meeting assembled, pledge ourselves to render every aid and assistance possible to the state highway commission and secure the cooperation of the various counties and communities to be traversed by the highway in locating and constructing this main trunk road or Pacific Highway.

Be it further resolved that these resolutions be made a part of these minutes and a copy thereof forwarded to the Oregon state highway commission, the county court, and the Pacific press.

Fail Results Fatally. Silverton, Or., Jan. 17.—Lawrence Woolen, a farmer who has lived near Silverton practically all his life, died suddenly at his home two miles east of town Monday evening at the age of 65 years. About a week ago he slipped and fell, striking his head upon a rail and he never fully recovered.

Forty-two states have fixed a maximum number of hours as a working week for children.

## OLIVER PRESIDENT OF ROSEBURG CLUB



John W. Oliver.

Roseburg, Or., Jan. 17.—At the annual meeting of the Roseburg Commercial club Tuesday evening, officers were elected as follows: John W. Oliver, president; J. E. McClintock, vice president; S. S. Josephson, secretary; M. F. Rice, treasurer; and A. J. Lalbur, D. J. Stewart, Harry Pearce, trustees. The club has a growing membership and it is expected that the ensuing year will be the most prosperous of all.

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## BEND, OR., IS CITY OF RAPID GROWTH, WITH PROMISE FOR FUTURE

Much Substantial Building in Past Year With Quantities of Material Nearby.

By A. D. Cridge.

Bend, Or., Jan. 17.—The city of Bend in the last two years has built 400 residences and increased from 500 people to over 1500. In the last year there have been erected six large, substantial and modern buildings in which are some 15 stores on the ground floors.

Much pride is taken in the completion of the new sewer system costing \$70,000 and in the construction of a new school house to cost \$25,000. The grading of the streets, installation of cluster lights and the laying of good sidewalks are other matters of pride.

One of the peculiar industries of Bend is the ice harvest. From ponds and backwater the natural ice is gathered, the pure water of the Deschutes river is used for the quality of ice. One firm has its sheds ready for 100 tons this winter, and while the season has not been particularly good from the iceman's standpoint, there will be much more secured without trouble.

Considerable interest is being taken among grain farmers in this section in the development of summer fallow land by the planting of beans. It is said that some summer fallow land in central Oregon has returned \$18 an acre profit. The beans are said to cost \$8 an acre to cultivate, and thereby weeds are kept down for the next year's grain. There will be considerable summer fallow to beans next spring on dry land summer fallow if the season is what is called in central Oregon a "wet" one.

The building stone to be found in quantities within reach of Bend will some day be utilized instead of lumber for farm buildings and city residences. It has been demonstrated to be cheaper in the long run, but the people are still in the pioneer stage, lumber is cheap and to look ahead 40 years in putting in a residence is too long a vista for most of them, to say nothing of building a stone house to last for centuries.

## ANOTHER RECALL IS PROBABLE IN HOOD

Hood River, Or., Jan. 17.—Reports are current that the newly-elected county judge and commissioners will be called upon to face a recall election as soon as the law will permit of its filing which will be after the present incumbents have been in office six months. Citizens of the Hood district, it is said, will head the movement because the county court refused to consider a petition bearing over 80 per cent of the names of the taxpayers in road district No. 6, for the appointment of Thomas L. Lacey as road supervisor of the district.

## HERMISTON CLUB HAS PROJECT CELEBRATION

West Extension Work Is Discussed at Annual Election and Banquet.

(Special to The Journal.)