

Upland bird season looks promising for hunters this year

The upland bird seasons look very promising this year, especially in eastern Oregon. Pheasant production was good in Umatilla County and a good hatch was also seen in the popular areas of Malheur County. A few other eastern Oregon valley areas also had improved pheasant production and the east side daily bag limit this year is increased to

three. Quail populations have done well in some eastern Oregon areas but others were hard hit by winter weather.

Chukar and Hungarian partridge populations have shown the most dramatic improvement in the last year with very good hatches seen in Deschutes and Snake River drainages. Good populations will also be available, though, in

most other chukar areas. A long season, September 29 through January 13, was set with a daily bag limit of eight.

On the west side quail production was again good in many areas and pheasant production was also up somewhat in the Rogue and Willamette valleys. Different season dates were set this year for mountain quail and

for valley quail. In western Oregon the mountain quail season coincides with the grouse season, September 1 through November 4, since these birds occupy much the same habitat. The valley quail hunt parallels the western Oregon pheasant season, October 13 through November 18. In eastern Oregon valley quail dates begin October 13

with pheasant season but extend through December 31. No season was set in eastern Oregon for mountain quail which are relatively scarce in eastern Oregon and whose numbers have been down for two years. Again no season was set for sage grouse. A good waterfowl season appears likely this year. There was again a good hatch

in major northern nesting areas and a waterfowl migration about like last year is anticipated. In addition, many local areas had good production this year so resident birds will be more abundant early in the season.

Even the snow goose had an improved nesting season for a change, and numbers of young birds especially should be

somewhat better this year than last. It will take several years of successful nesting, however, to bring snow goose populations back to levels seen a few years ago.

Late summer rains not only eased a critical fire situation, but set off a much needed fall green-up throughout the state. The new growth will benefit all big game species and some

upland bird species as well. The fire situation could change quickly with a week or two of dry weather, however, so it is always a good idea to take precautions with fire. Should dry weather occur just before the season, it might be well to check with forest fire control agencies regarding any restrictions in effect in the area where you hunt.

As always, hunters are urged to protect the future of their sport by respecting the rights of private landowners and seeking permission before hunting on any private property.

Wheat growers eligible for benefits

Wheat producers will be eligible for farm program benefits in 1980 without setting aside or diverting acreage, according to Judy Buschke, Executive Director for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Office.

However, only those who plant no more wheat than was planted and set-aside in 1979 (1978 for odd-even rotation) will have the full target price protection.

"We do not want to see fragile or marginal lands brought into wheat production," Ms. Buschke said. "The no set-aside decision was not intended to encourage all-out production. Farmers are urged to follow good farming practices in planting their 1980 wheat acreage." She pointed out that acreage not traditionally used for crop production will not be added into a producer's normal crop acreage (NCA) for subsequent years.

The 1979 planted acreage includes credit for set-aside, haying and grazing acreage for payment, prevented planting, and voluntary acreage reductions. Ms. Buschke said the 180 National wheat loan rate will be up 15 cents a bushel to \$2.50, and the target price is expected to range between \$2.95 and \$3.20 per bushel. "The 1979 target price was \$2.98 but because of the 20 percent required set-aside, it was adjusted to \$3.40," the ASCS official explained. The final target price will be announced by March 15.

The national program acreage for wheat for 1980 will be 70 million acres, up from 67.6 million last year. The national acreage is the estimated number of harvested acres that Secretary Bergland determines will produce enough wheat for domestic use, for export, and to maintain an adequate level of carryover stocks.

About 245 Morrow County farmers signed up for the 1979 wheat program with approximately 45 complying.

Forester plans to retire

Oregon State Forester J.E. "Ed" Schroeder has announced his plans to retire at the end of this year. Schroeder's decision was announced in Salem recently at a meeting of the Oregon State Board of Forestry.

Schroeder has served as Oregon's eighth state forester since November 1965. As state forester, he has been responsible to the Oregon State Board of Forestry in carrying out the policies of that citizen board and directing the activities of the Oregon State Department of Forestry.

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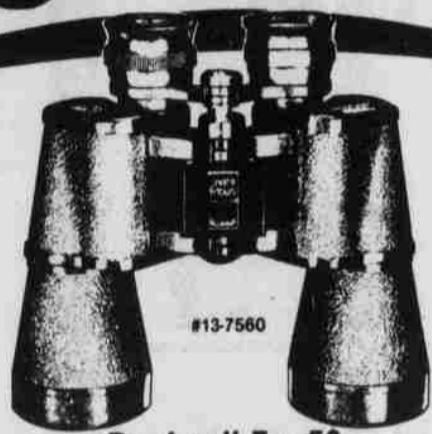
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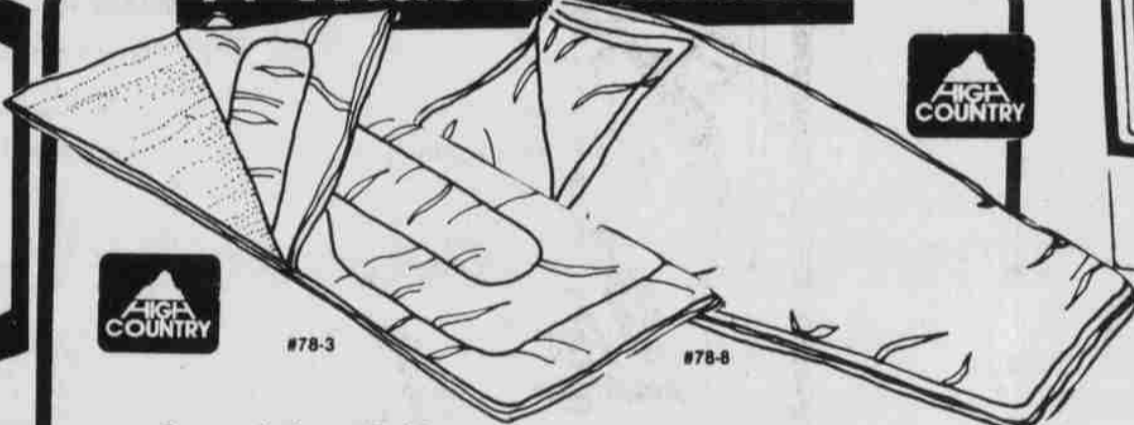


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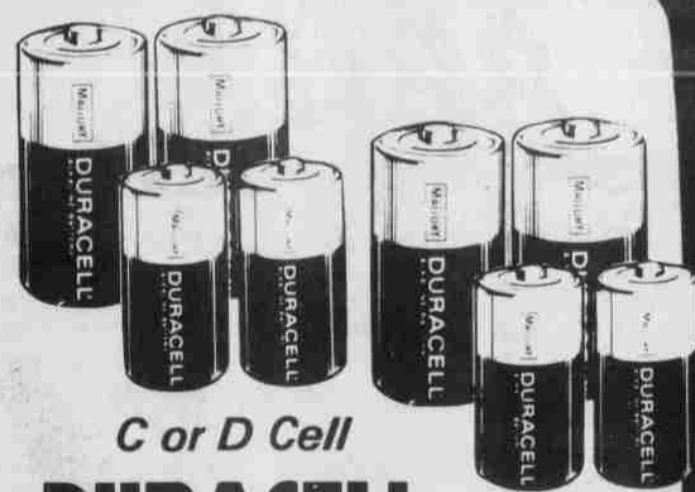
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