

Tule Refuge 'Honkers' Object of Annual Water Roundup Drive

By MALCOLM EPLEY JR.
The Canadian Honker—largest of American geese and the only one that nests naturally in the Klamath country—is a pretty tough and wary customer when it comes to trying to capture him alive.
He's the largest and most highly regarded of all geese, sometimes attaining winglengths exceeding six and seven feet.
An important part of tracing down habits and flight paths of the big birds is the "banding" operation carried on at the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge every year. And in order to band Honkers, they pick 'em while they're young.
From late in March through May the birds begin to hatch their broods, usually from five or six eggs. The young are kept "in the family"—in individual broods—for the first 10 days or two weeks. At-

ter that the broods begin to merge. Refuge Manager Tom Horn reports the young geese can be counted in groups up to 100 or more, attended and guarded by as many as a half dozen adults.
During June, Horn says, the adults begin shedding their flight feathers, and through most of July not even the adults can take to the air. But during August, flight feathers grow rapidly in both young and old, and by the end of next month he says most of the Honkers should be airborne.
During that flightless period—when practically none of the birds can use the air—is when Refuge workers "round up" the flocks of water-hungry birds for the banding process. Unlike "cow" roundups, this one demands the use of boats and wire mesh corrals.
This past roundup, held recently, found the birds being driven into the "English Channel" between the Upper and Lower sumps in Tule Lake. The channel is narrow at the south end, but the wide gap at the north end was blocked off with wire mesh after the birds were inside.
Several hundred of the birds were then driven into a mesh corral built on the bank nearby with "catch-cages" at one end. Once in there, the birds won't leave without leg bands.
The Fish and Wildlife Service and the state of California cooperate in banding. This year it was under the direction of Wendell Miller, California game division, and Paul Steel, refuge biologist.
The banding is carried on like this: The birds are taken one at a time from the catch-trap at one end of the corral. An aluminum band is placed on one leg of each bird, the band bearing a serial number, date and location of the banding. Instructions to return the

band to the Fish and Wildlife are also included.
A record of each banded bird is kept. That includes its band number, date, place, age, sex and other vital information.
When each bird is bagged by hunters wherever it might be—the service finds out where the birds which nest here go.
"The information," Horn reports, "is invaluable for management, protection and perpetuation of the Honker and other species of migratory waterfowl."
Horn reports a box score on some 236 bands taken recently. Of that number, 121 were taken in Siskiyou, Klamath and Modoc counties; the other 115 were taken in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, all in Canada; South Dakota, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and California.
Horn says the Honkers won't repopulate areas from which they have been exterminated by over-hunting or for other reasons.
"We've been able to do that, however," he reports, "by maintaining pinioned flocks until the geese live and repopulate the area naturally once again."

He notes hunting pressure may be one reason why heavy weights as once recorded are no longer seen on modern-day record books as often as used to be. Early weight records were made when the birds were allowed to reach ripe old age.
"As compared with the lesser weights and younger ages attained by the birds at present," Horn says, "this probably reflects . . . the fact that but a few now reach their full age and growth potential."

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Oregon Ram Sale Date Aug. 15

The 26th Annual Oregon Ram Sale sponsored by the Oregon Wool Growers Association will be held at Pendleton 10 a.m. (PST) Aug. 15, reports L. E. Pearson, vice president and member of the sale committee.
Twenty-two breeders from the western states will offer 350 rams in the Rambouillet, Lincoln-Rambouillet Crossbred, Lincoln, Corriedale, Columbia, Suffolk, Hampshire-Suffolk Crossbred, and Hampshire breeds.
Members of the sifting committee passing on quality of rams offered will be Harold Cohn, Heppner; O. M. Nelson, professor of animal husbandry at Oregon State college; Dr. R. R. Younce, state veterinarian; Martin Malone, Pilot Rock; and John Landers, O.S.C.
"Featured at the sale this year will be offerings of single pens or pens of two rams in each breed. This will give farm flock owners an opportunity to purchase their ram requirements," said Pearson. Catalogues may be obtained from the Oregon Wool Growers Association, Pendleton.



GOSLING intrigues Nancy, 11, and Honey, 8, daughters of Refuge Mgr. Tom Horn as Paul Steel holds it. Steel is the refuge biologist. The youngsters live right on the refuge with their parents.

Grand Nat'l. Date Oct. 31

With a livestock division headlined by the National Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn Show and Sale and an arena show featuring the world-famous Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride Drill Team, the Grand National Livestock Exposition, Horse Show and Rodeo, looks forward to its greatest presentation this Autumn.
So stated Porter Seshon, President of the Grand National, in announcing the livestock premiums for the Pacific Coast classic.
The Grand National which combines one of the nation's "Big Six" livestock exhibitions with a national full-division horse show, the National Championship Rodeo Finals and the National Cutting Horse Association Championship finals, will be held in the San Francisco Cow Palace October 31 to November 9, inclusive.
Premiums for livestock to be offered for the 1952 Grand National total \$96,568, divided as follows:
Beef cattle, \$34,583; dairy cattle, \$20,000; dual purpose cattle \$3,800; swine, \$10,107 and sheep, \$7,474.
Famous Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn herds from all over the nation have been promised for the American Shorthorn Breeders Association's National Show and some of the finest breeding cattle will be consigned to the National Sale which will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5.
There will be two other great breeding cattle auction sales held at the Grand National in addition to the fat cattle sale.
The Grand National Hereford Breeding Cattle Sale will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5 and the Pacific Coast Aberdeen-Angus Association's Breeding Cattle Sale will be held at 1 p.m. on the day following, Thursday, Nov. 6.
Nye Wilson, secretary-manager of the Cow Palace issued a cordial invitation to lovers of fine animals the nation over to attend this year's Grand National. His invitation said, in part:
"The City of San Francisco and the Grand National directors and management extend a warm invitation to lovers of the livestock and horses everywhere to attend this year's Grand National. The traditional welcome of the romantic City by the Golden Gate awaits you."

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Tule Maps Ready

Maps are available of the Tule Lake Division, Klamath Project, Bureau of Reclamation, showing owners and leases as of March 1, 1952. Gene Gross announced today. They are available at the airport or Newell offices of the Bureau, according to officials. They cost 50 cents each.

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Vegetable Day Slated Aug. 5

Vegetable crops research at Oregon State college will be explained at the second annual field day August 5. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. DST at the OBC vegetable crops farm.
Varietal trials and breeding research will be discussed along with reports on weed and insect controls and fertilizer experiments, according to Dr. W. A. Frazier, horticulturist in charge of vegetable crops research.

TV SET FOR BAIL FAILS
SOMERVILLE, Mass. (AP)—A new use for TV sets was suggested here recently. An Army private was arrested on a warrant charging assault sworn out by his wife. No sooner had he arrived at the police station than his sister-in-law called and offered to put up a television set in lieu of bail.

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