

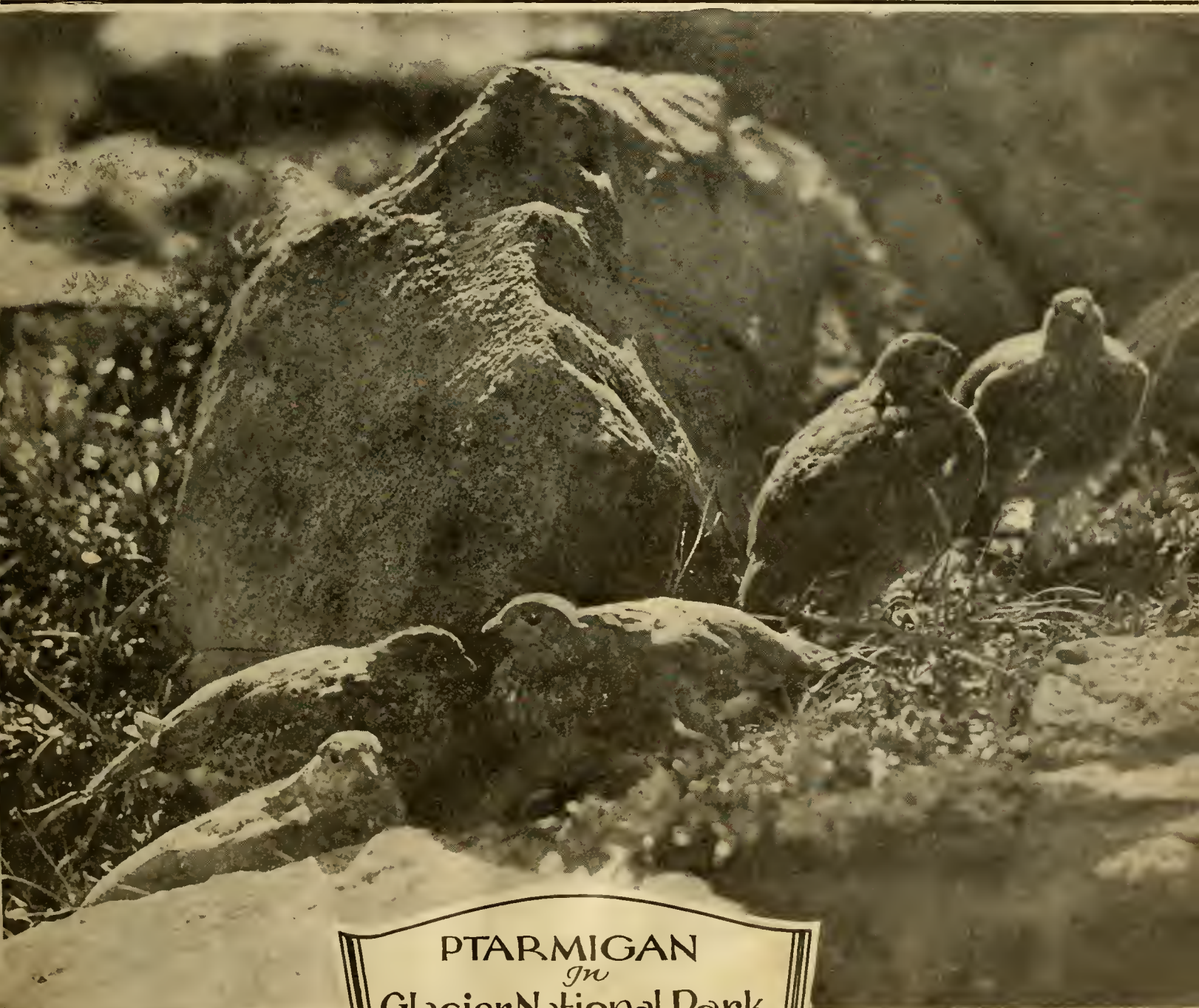
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NO.  
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WILD LIFE

DECEMBER



PTARMIGAN  
*in*  
Glacier National Park  
*Photo by*  
HILEMAN  
KALISPELL

Official Publication Montana State Fish & Game Dept.



# Winter In The Rockies

By W. B. McLAUGHLIN (Bitter Root Bill)

*IT'S winter in the Rockies and the snow is falling fast,  
The blizzard howls among the hills, the skies are overcast.  
The Frost King dwells amidst the pines, his silver throne  
so bright,  
For it's winter in the Rockies, and the world is pure and  
white.*

*WHEN it's winter in the Rockies and the Storm King,  
angry, hurls  
His forces, wild and fierce and his mighty power unfurls,  
When every living thing is hid and cowers 'neath his wrath,  
The surface of you snowy breasts is unbroken by a path.*

*WHEN it's winter in the Rockies and the storm at last  
is done,  
When lofty mounts and summits bold are gleaming in the  
sun,  
Fantastic shapes, cathedral spires, astonish human eyes,  
And all is peace and quietness, when nature dormant lies.*

*OH, I long to see the Rockies, when they are cold and still  
In spring your beauty hath its charms, but if I had my will,  
I'd have you just as you are now, when I may do my best  
To show my love and loyalty and bear your sternest test.*



# MONTANA WILD LIFE

The Official Publication of The State Fish and Game Commission

VOL. IV.

HELENA, MONTANA, DECEMBER, 1931.

No. 7

## Montana Seeks U. S. Fisheries Agreement



MONTANA'S State Fish and Game Commission, at its last regular meeting, voted to continue efforts to secure an understandable working agreement with the United States Bureau of

Fisheries regarding distribution of Loch Leven trout eggs taken from the waters of the famed Madison river valley. Following the resolution passed at the October meeting, letters were addressed to Henry G. O'Malley, chief of the department at Washington, urging that a written agreement be made and that an authorized representative of the federal department appear before the Montana commission, empowered to outline plans and set forth definite figures. Renewal of the controversy was brought about by the appearance before the commission of a delegation of members of the Madison Valley Rod and Gun Club.

The meeting was held at Helena, at the office of the state game warden, Nov. 18, 1931. Those present were: Thomas N. Marlowe, chairman; E. A. Wilson, W. K. Moore, J. L. Kelly, and W. A. Brown, commissioners; Robert H. Hill, secretary; K. F. MacDonald, superintendent of fisheries; Senator M. M. Duncan, Carl Elling, H. E. Rake-man, Jr., and Ernest Miller, representatives of the Madison county sportsmen; Frank Poltnik, Jr., of Great Falls; and Floyd L. Smith, editor of MONTANA WILD LIFE.

Senator M. M. Duncan, of Virginia City, advised that the Madison Valley Rod and Gun Club has been notified by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries that the Montana Fish and Game Department is contemplating placing spawn-taking stations in the Madison valley, and asked the commission to reconsider action. He asserted that the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries has planned to build a new hatchery in the Madison valley, near Blaine, on Spring creek, which construction work was threatened to be cancelled if the commission started operations in that field, as the Bureau of Fisheries advised Madison county sportsmen that they will not infringe in a field in which the state is working. Commissioner Kelly read a letter from Fred J. Foster, wherein Mr. Foster stated that both departments could work in this field in taking Loch Leven spawn.

Secretary Rake-man, of the Madison club, advised that the Bureau of Fisheries has always cooperated with the sportsmen's club in Madison county; that they have taken approximately 16,000,000 eggs (unofficial) in the Mad-

ison district this year; and that they have upheld propagation of fish in the Madison river and its tributaries.

Ernest Miller, as representative of the Dude Ranchers' Association, appealed to the commission to endeavor to make a working agreement with the Bureau of Fisheries.

Commissioner Kelly explained that it has been lack of cooperation on the part of the Bureau of Fisheries which led the commission to make an order authorizing spawn-taking operations by the department in the Madison river, inasmuch as the Bureau of Fisheries have never made a definite agreement with the department relative to the percentage of eggs to be delivered to the state department. He said they have also been mandatory as to where the Loch Leven delivered to the department should be planted.

Motion by Mr. Kelly: "I move that the chairman be requested to advise Mr. O'Malley, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries, that the Montana State Fish and Game Commission is not desirous of forcing the federal bureau from operating within Montana and abandoning their station at Meadow creek, but but they still insist that some definite and immediate understanding in writing should be had, whereby the State Fish and Game Commission will receive a specific percentage of eggs each year from the bureau's operation in the Madison field. This department also feels that it is not within the province of the Bureau of Fisheries to dictate what disposition should be made of the State's share of these eggs."

The secretary presented a request from the Lewis and Clark County Rod and Gun Club for the closing of Prickly Pear creek and its tributaries above Lump Gulch creek, and including Lump Gulch creek and its tributaries, and the Hale lakes at the head of Lump Gulch, in Jefferson county; and a request for ice fishing for perch in Holter, Hauser, and Sewell lakes on the Missouri river.

Motion by Mr. Kelly: "I move that Holter and Hauser lakes, in Lewis and Clark county, on the Missouri river, and Sewell lake, on the Missouri river, in Lewis and Clark and Broadwater counties, be opened to ice fishing for perch until further order of the commission". Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Paul W. Smith, attorney for the Hale estate, and L. J. Borgstede, who has a lease on the lake from the Hale estate, appeared before the commission to contest the request of the Lewis and Clark County Rod and Gun Club

for the closing of Park, or Hale lake at the head of Lump Gulch. Mr. Hill explained that the reason the Lewis and Clark county club requested the closing of Hale lake is because it is planted with public fish from the state and federal fisheries, and that Mr. Borgstede has had the lake posted with "no trespassing" signs, allowing just a few fishermen access to the lake. Mr. Borgstede explained that the reason he has posted "no trespassing" signs around the lake and adjoining property is because there have been several people dynamiting the lake. He expressed himself as favorable to the closing of Lump Gulch creek, and all other waters at the head of Lump Gulch, but asked that Hale lake be left open, pledging that he would allow good sportsmen to fish therein if it was left open.

Motion by Mr. Kelly: "I move, that Prickly Pear creek, and its tributaries, in Jefferson county, above Lump Gulch creek, and including Lump Gulch creek in its entirety, and its tributaries, up to Park or Hale lake, in Jefferson county, be closed to all fishing until further order of the commission, providing, however, that public fishing is permitted in Park or Hale lake." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

M. M. Atwater of Basin, Mont., as representative of the Vigilante Black Beaver Fur Farms, of Basin, requested that the fur farming regulations with reference to beaver, be changed. He explained that his company is raising beaver in large numbers, and fur farm regulations are restrictive. At the present time, he said, a beaver farmer may take for foundation stock two pair of beaver from the wild, in addition to those on the land which he encloses with a fence for his fur farm. He stated that he has purchased about 300 acres above Basin, adjoining forest land, and that there are about 80 acres of adjacent forest land which will make an ideal beaver farm location. He explained that there are beaver on this forest land, and that he had applied to the forest service for an easement on the land, with the right to take over the beaver. In view of the fact that the state game warden did not feel that this land and the beaver thereon should be deeded to Mr. Atwater, the forest service has not given him the easement.

Mr. Atwater suggested to the commission that fur farming regulations be changed so that a fur farmer, at a set cost, could take beaver on state lands, and use them as foundation stock, certain restrictive measures being made and penalties outlined for



violation. He also suggested changes in the beaver trapping law, which would have to be made by the legislature.

The chairman suggested that Mr. Atwater and the state game warden frame some changes in the fur farming resolutions to be presented to the attorney general to test their validity, and then to be presented to the Fish and Game Commission.

The secretary read a report from Deputy Larsen of his investigation of the Smith and Hemel properties, in the Hot Springs district, Sanders county, the lessees of which had suggested be made into a bird preserve. Mr. Larsen advised that at the present time the birds on these lands are being conserved and protected, as the lands have been posted against trespassing and that he will make an investigation again in the future with reference to including these lands in a bird preserve.

Peter Salomon, Sr., of Pablo, requested permission to seine for commercial purposes in Flathead lake this winter.

Motion by Mr. Kelly: "I move that this request for a permit to allow seining for commercial purposes in Flathead lake be denied." Seconded by Mr. Moore, and carried.

The secretary read correspondence with Glen A. Smith, assistant regional forester. Beaver on forest lands are causing damage to a ranger station and are damaging a county road in the Beaver creek district on the Helena National Forest. The department has no authorization to issue permits to trap beaver until the fee for a beaver permit has been received and the forest service has no appropriation for such an expenditure. The chairman advised that he would endeavor to find some solution for the problem.

A claim was presented from Blaz R. Lugar for \$320.60, for work done at Red Rock lake in repairing the dam. The secretary stated that he believed the amount of the claim to be excessive, although Deputy Price reported that the work had been authorized by State Engineer James. Deputy Price also reported that there is a large amount of unused timber on hand, which had been ordered for this repair work.

Motion by Mr. Kelly: "I move that the secretary submit the claim to Mr. James, state engineer, for his approval; and that the claim be presented, with report, at the next meeting." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

Robert Simmons of Moline, Illinois, requested the return of his shotgun. He was arrested by Deputy Roushar, and fined for two violations of the game laws, hunting without a license and killing Chinese pheasants out of season, and had been assessed \$75 fines in these two cases.

Motion by Mr. Wilson: "I move that Mr. Simmons' request for the return of his shotgun be denied." Seconded by Mr. Kelly. Carried.

B. Parker, of Great Falls, asked remission of part of a \$50 fine which had been assessed against him for killing a Chinese pheasant hen. He

## Trapping Season Open December 1

**T**HE trapping season on fur-bearing animals opens in Montana on Dec. 1, and according to records at headquarters of the State Fish and Game Department at Helena, 145 trappers had been granted licenses at \$10 each by Nov. 25. On the same date a total of 299 permits to trap beaver had been granted at \$10 each. Beaver are permitted trapped when damaging private property, after inspection has been made by a deputy game warden and recommendations filed as to the number doing the damage. The trapping season extends from Dec. 1 to April 15. Animals classed as "fur-bearing" under the laws of Montana include marten or sable, muskrat, mink, fisher, otter, fox, raccoon and beaver. Animals classed as predatory under the laws of Montana include the coyote, wolf, wolverine, mountain lion, lynx, weasel, skunk, civet cat, black-footed ferret and bobcat.

explained that with a double shot, he had aimed at a Chinese cock, which he killed, and had also killed a Chinese hen at the same time. Mr. Brown suggested that he would make an investigation and would ask Deputy Roushar for a report, so that the matter could be acted upon at a later meeting.

C. F. Larsen, president of the Matchless Utilities Corporation, New York City, in a telegram, protested the open season on elk in Meagher county in the DuRand vicinity. The season ended Nov. 15.

A letter was read from the Izaak Walton League of America, suggesting that the department have an exhibit at the World Fair in Chicago in 1933. The matter was taken under advisement.

Commissioner Moore gave a report of his investigation of the possibility of impounding waters from artesian wells drilled in the Porcupine Dome district, out of Forsyth, as reported by Dr. Harry Huene of Forsyth. He stated that there are great possibilities for a bird refuge at this location if permission can be procured from the federal government to keep the wells open. He advised that a letter has been written to the Department of the Interior, asking permission for the drillers to leave the wells open. He explained that the wells are on a divide, and the water can be turned on either side of the divide with little expense, either making a pond on the Stellar creek side, or on the Porcupine Dome side. By building a dike about one-half mile long between two buttes, about 3,000 acres could be flooded. If the water was directed to the other side, in the Porcupine Dome district, it was explained that easements probably could be secured, and an area of between 6,000 and 7,000 acres could be flooded, at an expense of approximately \$4,000. Mr. Moore stated that where water from one of these wells has been flowing, there is good vegetation growth. Mr. Moore was authorized to confer with Dr. Huene and other Forsyth sportsmen relative to securing easements on land in this district, with a view to

creating a bird refuge if the wells are not closed.

The secretary read letters from David C. Salyerds, secretary of the Montana Automobile Association; Alvin Seale, superintendent of the Steinhart Aquarium, San Francisco; W. J. Roy, president of the Anaconda Anglers' Club, and Ed Boyes, president of the Libby Rod and Gun Club; and telegrams from Major L. W. T. Waller, Jr., director of Conservation of the DuPont Company, Wilmington, Delaware; and M. K. Kedzie, secretary of the Libby Rod and Gun Club, commending the Department for its publication of MONTANA WILD LIFE, and expressing hope that the publication will not be discontinued, as, in their opinions, it is a great educational factor in wild life conservation.

Motion by Mr. Kelly: "I move that the letters just read be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Carried.

MONTANA AUTOMOBILE  
ASSOCIATION  
Helena, Mont.  
Nov. 14, 1931.

"Montana State Fish and Game Commission,

State Capitol Building,  
Helena, Montana.  
Gentlemen:

"I note with considerable apprehension that there is an inclination on the part of some of your commissioners to discontinue the publication and distribution of your departmental monthly magazine—MONTANA WILD LIFE.

"The Montana Automobile Association formerly edited and published a monthly periodical known as The Montana Motorist. It endeavored by means of that publication to enlighten our people that they might undertake and enjoy touring throughout Montana with intelligence and also furnished a comprehensive and reliable synopsis of Montana's scenic and recreational advantages for out-of-the-state distribution.

"Entirely dependent as this Association is upon the public for financial support through voluntary memberships, the falling off in Association funds due to adverse business conditions, necessitated the unwilling withdrawal and suspension of this publication. To a great extent we have found MONTANA WILD LIFE a valuable substitute in furnishing many inquirers from without the state information as to the vacation and recreational advantages of Montana. Particularly is it of value in supplying increasing requests for reliable data as to fishing and hunting. Its suppression will affect us in that it is becoming of increasing moment to us, due to the competition of other states, to show what Montana is accomplishing in the conservation of her fish and game. I am not at all surprised that we are hearing from all sections of the state vigorous protest against the discontinuance of MONTANA WILD LIFE.

"As a member of the legislature, I was never called upon to serve on any committee of especial interest to your department. Nevertheless, those members interested in fish and game affairs knew that the Fergus county delegation could be depended upon when needed. We most willingly supported



the suggestion of an appropriation of funds for more efficient advocacy of the advantages of Montana, namely as to agriculture, stock raising, mining, and recreation. We would do so today even more emphatically. I refer to Mr. Moses' department and feel that even more extended development of his publicity would be of valuable assistance to Montana's recovery from her recent disasters.

"I am sure that your commission must realize that any future appeal you may be called upon to make for subsistence or support to the Montana legislature must be predicated upon your efforts to advance the best interests of the state. This, I am convinced, you are doing in your publication and distribution of MONTANA WILD LIFE.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) David C. Salyerds."

STEINHART AQUARIUM  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, California,  
November 13, 1931.

"Chairman, Montana Fish and Game Commission,  
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

"I would like to express to you my appreciation of your fine little magazine, MONTANA WILD LIFE, which I believe is published by the State Fish and Game Commission of your state.

"I have been a constant reader of this for the past three years and find it extremely valuable and helpful. I find it is well known and well spoken of among the fish commission and the sportsmen of this state. I hope its circulation will constantly increase.

With kindest regards,

Respectfully,

(Signed) Alvin Seale, Superintendent."

ANACONDA ANGLERS' CLUB  
Anaconda, Montana  
Nov. 6, 1931.

"Fish and Game Commission,  
c/o Robert Hill, Game Warden,  
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sirs:

The writer believes that he is accurately stating the opinions of 90 per cent of the members of the Anaconda Anglers' Club and probably a like ratio of all sportsmen in the state of Montana, when he expresses gratification to the majority of the members of the Montana Fish and Game Commission in the recent meeting when they voted against the motion of W. A. Brown of Great Falls, who, at the meeting in Helena on Oct. 22, moved to discontinue the publication of MONTANA WILD LIFE.

"Mr. Brown is the baby member of the commission. He is not universally known as an ardent sportsman, but he appears at the meetings of the commission, seemingly convinced that he knows more about the conduct of the commission's business and the desires of Montana sportsmen than all the other members, and he started out from his first meeting to demonstrate his abilities along these lines. While Mr. Brown has never been heralded as a real sportsman, he is a banker, and like many other small town bankers, he is

## Montana Wild Life as Christmas Gift

**S**PORTSMEN of Montana, keenly interested in propagation and protection of fish and game, are provided with an opportunity to make Christmas and every month of the year merrier for their friends, by sending them MONTANA WILD LIFE as a holiday gift. Friends in east and west will appreciate receiving the official monthly publication of Montana's Fish and Game Department. It keeps them in touch with achievements. It tells the sportsman where his license fee is being invested. It provides the connecting link between the license holder and the department as well as serving as an educational medium. The subscription price is \$1 per year.

thoroughly imbued with the conviction that he knows more about conducting the business affairs of others than they do themselves, and he is not backward about so informing them of his ability along these various lines.

"The magazine, MONTANA WILD LIFE, published under the auspices of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, is the only one of its kind in our state. The publication is eagerly read each month by many persons interested in such subjects, and all the copies are practically worn out from being handled by many who are readers, if not subscribers thereto. On account of the present business conditions the subscription list is not as large as the publication deserves. The writer believes, however, that with concerted efforts on the part of the sportsmen, the subscription and advertising list may be easily and greatly increased, whereby the publication may be placed on a paying financial basis, which it is not at present.

"Then Mr. Brown, after the meeting, hastens to be interviewed by a representative of the press, which interview has been published in the Great Falls Tribune, and the Montana Record Herald, from which it is learned that he deeply deplores the lack of business sense of his fellow members on the commission, and that he is the only one who recognizes the foolish extravagance by which is "frittered away" cash each year, in the sum of thousands of dollars. The gentleman evidently fails to recognize the fact that the fish and game fund is not a tax on the people, but a voluntary contribution from the individual sportsmen of the state, and that such funds are not contributed to be hoarded in banks, but are freely donated to advance the interests of the wild life of Montana and the interests of such sportsmen, many of whom are desirous of having it known that they approve of the publication of a magazine for these purposes.

"Since its first issue, MONTANA WILD LIFE has won the hearts of all its readers, and we recognize that it is the only medium from which we may learn of the ruling of the commission on questions of vital interest to all sportsmen. We are in favor of the continued publication of this excellent ma-

gazine, and we sincerely thank the members of the commission who so promptly came to the support in continuing the publication. The writer feels that the sportsmen of the state will give united aid to increase the subscription list, in an effort to place this publication on a paying basis.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. J. Roy, President,  
Anaconda Anglers' Club.

WELLCOME-JENNINGS CO.  
Anaconda, Montana  
November 6, 1931.

Montana State Game Commission,  
Mr. Thomas N. Marlowe,  
Missoula, Montana.

"I recently received the November issue of MONTANA WILD LIFE. In reading the proceedings of the last meeting of the game commission, I was very much interested in the matter brought up by Mr. Brown in reference to suspending the publication of MONTANA WILD LIFE.

I was very much gratified to notice that this proposition was voted down. In my opinion, MONTANA WILD LIFE is a very interesting, instructive and educational publication, splendidly gotten up and containing much of interest to every taxpayer in the State of Montana. I certainly hope that there will be nothing to interfere with the continuance of the publication of this magazine.

"With best wishes, I beg to remain,  
Very truly yours,  
(Signed) George P. Wellcome.

Libby, Montana.  
Nov. 14, 1931.

"Mr. Thos. N. Marlowe,  
Missoula, Montana.  
My dear Tom:

"Just a line to say that we are still on earth over here, and watching with a good deal of interest the discussions that are taking place in your department. Believe that every right thinking sportsman will ride along with you in your fight to keep MONTANA WILD LIFE. No doubt the present discussion will not help matters any, as you can hardly expect anyone to renew their subscriptions or place an add with a publication that might quit at any moment; personally I think that the magazine should be continued. Certainly the sportsmen are interested in what is going on, and it is proper that they should know. It's a cinch that most of these newspapers don't publish the facts. Have talked with a good many of the boys since the discussion came up, and they are all in favor of keeping MONTANA WILD LIFE. Some little time ago, I sent a copy of this magazine to the president of Lindenwood College, and he said that it was a fine magazine, well prepared, and a credit to the state.

"Glad to know that you do not intend to suspend operations at the hatchery here. It really would be a crime to dump those fish at this time of the year. We have had wonderful results there this year, and with the addition of some rearing ponds, think that we will be in good shape to take care of this section of the state, with



improved highways it is meaning that we are having lots more fishermen, and I think that the commission's plans of liberating larger fish is a very wise move, and the sportsmen take very kindly to the idea. It is my sincere hope that peace and harmony may be restored to your commission. It is the opinion of most sportsmen that we will never get anywhere by airing our opinions in the press, as we all know that the season is never closed on the fish and game department as far as these politicians are concerned. Let's continue to keep the fish and game out of politics. With kindest regards and best wishes,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Ed Boyes, President,  
Libby Rod and Gun Club.

Telegram by Postal Telegraph, from Wilmington, Delaware, Nov. 6, 1931:  
"J. L. Kelly,  
Anaconda, Montana.

"It is my opinion that a magazine like MONTANA WILD LIFE is of great value in educating the masses in proper sportsmanship and necessity of outdoor conservation. We find moving pictures a greatly beneficial aid. We frequently refer to MONTANA WILD LIFE pictures as progressive action by the State Commission in educating sportsmen.

L. W. T. Waller, Jr."

Telegram by Western Union from Libby, Montana, Nov. 17, 1931:  
"State Fish and Game Commission,  
Helena, Montana.

"Keep Montana the fisherman's paradise. We are on record against discontinuing any hatcheries. Need more, not less. Let's build for future Montana. Consider MONTANA WILD LIFE doing good work and think it will pay its way in time. Recommend it be continued.

Libby Rod and Gun Club,  
By M. K. Kedzie, Secretary.

Game Warden Hill explained that although he had been asked to cut down monthly expenditures in the salaries of the office and deputy game warden forces to \$4,350 a month, exclusive of his own salary, effective Dec. 1, 1931, he did not feel that he has authority to discontinue the services of any deputy game wardens, regular or special. After a study of the cases reported by each deputy, the following motion was made:

Motion by Mr. Kelly: "I move that the services of the following regular deputy game wardens: Harry N. Morgan and Frank W. Snider, and the following special deputy game wardens: Frank Beller, J. H. Chartrand, T. A. Graham, and C. B. Toole, be dispensed with as of Dec. 1, 1931, in compliance with the budget of the commission made at the Oct. 22 meeting." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown voted "no." The other three members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Frank Polutnik, Jr., of Great Falls, stated that on behalf of the Great Falls Rod and Gun Club and the Great Falls Chapter of the Izaak Walton League,

## State Sportsmen Meet at Helena

**D**ELEGATES selected by clubs affiliated with the Montana Sportsmen's Association have been called to gather at Helena, Dec. 18-19, at the Placer hotel for the annual meeting. The call has been sounded by Glen A. Smith of Missoula, chairman of the board of governors. Two new members of the board are to be selected. Legislative matters of importance to the organization will be discussed. Plans for cooperating with the dude ranch operators, hotels, automobile association, and similar organizations, will be made. Two delegates are allowed each affiliated club. Members of the board of governors now holding office are: Glen A. Smith, chairman, Missoula; Ed M. Boyes of Libby, Dr. W. M. Copenhagen of Helena, A. H. Croonquist of Red Lodge, Dr. J. H. Garberson of Miles City, L. A. Smith of Lewistown, and Fred B. Williams of Bozeman. Ben F. Gerry of Missoula is secretary.

he wished to advise that these organizations had requested of the Governor of Montana that an investigation be made of the Fish and Game Department expenditures for the last few years, in view of the interview given by Mr. Brown to the Great Falls Tribune; and that a report of the investigation be published, so that sportsmen might be informed of activities and expenditures. The chairman stated that on behalf of the commission he had advised Governor Erickson that the department will be glad to have such an examination of the books made at any time.

Mr. Smith gave a report of subscriptions received for MONTANA WILD LIFE, and offered, in view of financial conditions, to accept a ten per cent salary cut.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that we accept the offer of Mr. Smith to take a ten per cent reduction in his salary as editor of MONTANA WILD LIFE and publicity manager, effective Dec. 1, 1931, and that we give him a vote of thanks for his cooperation." Seconded by Mr. Kelly. Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kelly: "I move that the state fish hatchery at Hamilton and the state fish hatchery at Emigrant be closed and that all operations and expenses in connection therewith be discontinued, effective Dec. 1, 1931, until further order of the commission, and that the superintendent of fisheries make a survey as to the feasibility of closing other hatcheries in the near future." Seconded by Mr. Moore. Mr. Wilson voted "no." The other commissioners voted "yes," and the motion carried.

Mr. MacDonald, superintendent of fisheries, advised that J. E. Kennedy, who has been employed at the Lake Helena station, would like a permit and license to seine suckers and carp at Lake Helena this winter, with permission to sell them. He suggested that the permit be granted, inasmuch as the department could probably get an idea from Mr. Kennedy's work what fish can be taken from the lake by the depart-

ment next year, should fish canning operations be started.

Motion by Mr. Moore: "I move that J. E. Kennedy be granted a permit, and that he secure a license to seine for carp and suckers in Lake Helena this winter, and that he pay the same license fee and royalties as licensed seiners at Lake Bowdoin and Nelson are paying." Seconded by Mr. Kelly. Carried.

Mr. MacDonald reported that he has investigated the proposed rearing and duck pond near Havre, on Beaver creek, and had found it feasible. No action was taken, however, in view of finances.

Mr. MacDonald advised that at the present time there are about 8,500,000 fish being carried at the hatcheries. In view of the fact that the budget has been cut, some hatcheries have been closed. He also advised that hatchery employes have volunteered to take a ten per cent salary cut so that the budget outlined by the commission can be maintained.

A report of the emergency requisitions made since the last meeting of the commission was made.

## Last Heath Hen Believed Dead

**T**HE last heath hen on earth has not been seen since May 9 and there is strong probability that this once numerous species has finally gone to absolute extinction, according to Prof. Alfred O. Gross, who for a number of years has issued all official reports on the heath hen.

Professor Gross said that never before has so much time elapsed without the bird being glimpsed by attendants on Martha's Vineyard Island, Massachusetts, where final efforts were made to save the heath hen race and where for nearly four years the last survivor existed alone.

If the scientist's fears are correct, metal leg bands which he placed on the bird during his survey in May should help investigators learn how the heath hen cock met its fate.

Gross described the heath hen as "the outstanding wild-life martyr of all time." He said that the wide publicity given the "last bird" has fired the imagination and aroused public interest in conservation as nothing else ever did.

"The going of the heath hen has awakened sportsmen to the fact that other game birds will be in danger if we continue as we have in the past. Because of this awakening, game research has splendid support in America today.

"Had we known 50 years ago what we know today about diseases and parasites, methods of rearing grouse in captivity and various important facts concerning the biology of the grouse, the heath hen would undoubtedly have been saved from extinction," he said. "As it is, the heath hen has passed on, but in going has saved other species."



# Dude Ranchers Prepare for Big Year In 1932

By A. H. Croonquist, Executive Secretary of The Dude Ranchers' Association



I. H. Larom  
President

**C**LIMAXING a season reported as successful despite an international period of unrest, dude ranchers from Wyoming and Montana met at Sheridan, Wyoming, November 5, 6, and 7, for their sixth annual convention. In addition to dude ranch operators, representatives of railroads, forest service, national park service, biological survey, fish and game departments, and the state departments swelled

the convention attendance to more than 200 interested in the development and prosperity of the two states.

Particular emphasis was attached to fish and game propagation and conservation. Other discussions ranged from preservation of traditions and historical sites to eastern ranch "rackets," which during late years have been trying to "muscle in" on the dude industry. Considerable time was given to the discussion of wilderness areas and the establishment of game farms and preserves in the two states. Representatives of railroads spoke of the western country and particularly of the dude ranch region as a "country of tomorrow." They pointed out that the American people are getting the travel habit and are coming to give more thought to due ranch and western vacations.

The dude ranches as a group occupy a high status in the public mind. Men and women in the industry are striving to retain that recognition, even if they have to resort to what might be termed an air of superiority to do so. Individuality is the success of the ranches. There are no formalities or conventionalities. No set of rules nor descriptions will fit any two ranches. They are all different, built to the individual ideas and whim of the owner, then operated in the same individual way which makes this different and individual vacation appeal to eastern people. The dude rancher does not settle himself where he will interfere with the commerce of factory or mill but where he works for the conservation, beautification and future prosperity of the region of his chosen home.

The dude ranch industry is a benevolent industry. Although it is vitally interested in all enterprises in the great northwest, it harms none of them. Every branch of industry in Wyoming and Montana seems to have a bearing on the future of our business. Sheep, cattle, fish, game, forests, parks, roads and railroads all have a place in this great

picture. Dudes and cattle can run on the same range. Hay ranches thrive where dudes roam. Truck gardeners find another ready market. Big game and fish are encouraged to stick around.

The publicity plan of the last two years having been completed, particular attention will be directed toward coordinating the local work, increasing membership, and offering assistance to owners of ranches and camps.

Believing that better hunting and fishing is an economic necessity if either dudes or tourists are to be permanently attracted to the west, a particular effort will be made to cooperate with the Wyoming and Montana Fish and Game commissions, the Biological Survey, and other agencies, in seeing that the visitor to the west has opportunities for good fishing and hunting other than the more inaccessible places.

The association, through its secretary, will cooperate with federal and state road authorities in pushing good road programs in the west. Cooperation will also be sought with railway companies in matters of mutual interest.

U. S. Senator Kendrick of Wyoming, in extending a word of greeting to the association, said: "You represent one of the greatest—I shall not call it industries—but rather refer to it as a service of the highest and fullest sense of what you are trying to do—a service that is quite unlimited in its scope."

He lauded the association for bringing western vacations to the minds of increasingly large numbers of eastern residents, and paid high tribute to dude ranchers for their efforts in preserving traditions of the old west.

Senator Kendrick, in discussing the future of the organization, said "there is an unmined resource in recreational grounds which can and will become just as popular and necessary to the people of our nation during the summer months as California is now during the winter."

Explaining the dude ranch business as a service he told the delegates they have a "great opportunity for performing a much needed service to the states and communities of this Rocky Mountain country and also a great respon-

## ALTITUDINOUS BIRDS

When it comes to high flyers some birds really go up in the air. T. H. Harrison of Pembroke Colelge, Cambridge, reports in Nature, the British Journal of Science, a flock of wild geese flying at an altitude of approximately 25,000 feet, nearly five miles up. These high flyers were accidently 'shot' in a photograph of the sun. Mt. Everest climbers, Professor Harrison says, have reported lammergeiers, curlews and choughs (Old World genus of the crow family) flying higher than 20,000 feet. The highest flying airplanes have encountered birds.



A. H. Croonquist  
Secretary

sibility in the direction of providing recreation for large numbers of people."

"There should be a directed, controlled arrangement among the members of the association," Senator Kendrick said, "to stand for the best of the west in order to perpetuate the true spirit of the old west. You should build up opportunities for pleasure and recreation for our eastern friends so that we may claim them for our

own. We should not plan to commercialize these people and exploit them, but we should give them the spirit and the service of the old west."

The Senator referred to the dude ranchers as "crusaders of the settlement of the west." He said they were bringing untold numbers of people who became so attached to this region after spending vacations here that they take a wholehearted interest in the country and become builders.

Officers of the Dude Ranchers' Association for 1931-32, elected at the convention at Sheridan, follow:

Irving H. Larom, president, Valley Ranch, Valley, Wyoming.

C. M. Moore, vice-president, C. M. Ranch, Dubois, Wyo.; Ernest Miller, secretary-treasurer, Elkhorn Ranch, Bozeman, Montana; A. H. Croonquist, executive secretary, 21½ Broadway, Billings, Montana.

## Board of Directors

A. R. Alderson, (Big Bones) Bones Bros. Ranch, Birney, Montana.

Irving P. Corse, Bar B C Ranch, Moose, Wyoming.

E. J. Ikerman, Dean, Montana.

Frank O. Horton, H F Bar Ranch, Buffalo, Wyoming.

J. W. Howell, Holm Lodge, Cody, Wyoming.

J. E. Bowers, Seven-Up Ranch, Lincoln, Montana.

Irving H. Larom, Valley Ranch, Valley, Wyoming.

Ernest Miller, Elkhorn Ranch, Bozeman, Montana.

Charles C. Moore, C M Ranch, Dubois, Wyoming.

Charles R. Murphy, Ox Yoke Ranch, Emigrant, Montana.

Simon Snyder, Sunlight Ranch, Painter, Wyoming.

Paul Van Cleve, Jr., Lazy K. Bar Ranch, Big Timber, Montana.

The father who is a pal to his son never has to worry about his son's pals.

# Montana Fish and

W. A. BROWN, Great Falls...Commissioner

JOS. L. KELLY, Anaconda...Commissioner

T. N. MARLOWE, Missoula, *Chairman*



# Game Commission

W. K. MOORE, Billings...Commissioner

E.A. WILSON, Livingston...Commissioner

R. H. HILL, Helena, *State Fish and Game Warden, Secretary*

## MONTANA WILD LIFE

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VOL. IV

HELENA, MONTANA

No. 7

### A. A. A. STARTS DRIVE TO SAVE WILD LIFE

THE American Automobile Association has definitely entered the lists of wild life conservation. In cooperation with the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, Charles P. Clark, general manager of the association, recently opened an educational drive on the need for wild life restoration by turning the Washington headquarters temporarily into an exhibition of live game birds.

In a statement to the American Game Association, Mr. Clark said he believed every motorist should realize the need for intelligent conservation.

"The American people have been brought in closer contact with the out-of-doors in the last decade of automobile development than at any other time in the past 50 years," he declared. "This contact has been greatly beneficial to the motorist, but also it often proves harmful to nature and her works.

"It is clear that if depletion of wild life and forests continues as it has in the past 10 years there will soon be little left of our great natural resources. To get to the heart of nature most men use the automobile. If the A.A.A. can convince them of the necessity of conservation, the battle will be nearly won.

"There are too many men whose pleasure and health depend on hunting and fishing to consider the legal prohibition of such sports.

"If we can influence the millions who annually 'ride into the country' after every recreation, from picnics to big game—if we can show them the necessity for a new and more rational attitude toward plants, birds and animals—if we can impress on them that they also will suffer if present methods continue, then the A.A.A. will have done the nation a lasting service in conservation."

### WAITIN' FER A BITE

Waitin' for the fish to bite, flies a-bobbin', pine trees sobbin',  
Lake all smiles and air so meller, leaves all gold 'n' red 'n' yeller,  
'Taters bilin' in the pot, fish a-fryin' good 'n' hot.  
Can't you hear the mess bell ringin'? Don't you hear the cook a-singin'?

'Taint no place t' fret 'n' pout, for happiness is all about,  
'Taint no place to be a-moanin', can't see any sense in groanin',  
Ain't there plenty to delight, even if the fish don't bite?

### TENNESSEE RAISES HOGS AS GAME

AMONG the game species listed by the Tennessee game department as flourishing in a 35,000-acre tract of woods recently acquired as a game preserve are "a herd of goats, reverted to the wild," and "scores of hogs which have turned wild after years of roaming the hills." The state now has more than 100,000 acres of wild land under protection as game preserves.

### FAMED DUCK LAKE IS RESTORED

FIVE hundred wild ducks, wing-clipped and released as decoys, will next spring serve as the most memorable reception committee in the history of waterfowl restoration. Their skyward quacks will say "welcome home" to Thief lake in Minnesota, once one of the most famous waterfowl nesting areas in the United States. For 15 years this area has lain bone dry, officially characterized as the worst mistake of the "ditch craze" which started sweeping the country in 1904.

The \$187,000 ditch system that drained Thief lake in Marshall county, Minnesota, has just been destroyed at a cost of \$108,000. Financed by the Game and Fish Department out of the sportsmen's license fund, this is expected to repair a small part of the damage resulting from reclamation enterprises in that state between 1904 and 1916, when an expenditure of \$13,000,000 left water and swamp areas over hundreds of square miles baked hard, fire-swept and dry to a depth of 14 feet underground.

The Thief lake project awaits melting snows and rains of spring to flood the area into a lake seven miles long. While motivated and financed by sportsmen as a waterfowl restoration move of national importance, the project will benefit farmers for miles around, who are waiting the return of moisture to their lands.

The Minneapolis (Minn.) Journal, on the recent completion of the last dam, remarked: "Lone groups of farm buildings, unoccupied and falling to ruin, school houses locked up and abandoned and a general air of desolation, are typical of the area and accent the mistake of unwise land reclamation.

"It has cost \$295,000 in this comparatively small area to find out that reclaimed swamp land is not always adapted to agriculture; that swamps have a value as swamps; that nature in her wisdom has arranged certain balances, and that when man disturbs these balances, penalties follow."

Lesser reflooding projects, instituted for the same reason, have been completed in California, Wisconsin, Michigan, and other states.

Make it a Merry Christmas for your shootin' and fishin' pals in east and west. Send 'em a year's subscription to MONTANA WILD LIFE.

### CATS "FORGOTTEN" BY SUMMER RESIDENTS

IF BIRDS would be protected from predatory house cats they would materially reduce the loss caused by insects and grubs to crops. Insects eat \$800,000,000 worth of seed and crops in the United States each year, and a similar amount also is required to keep the insects under control. The cat population in the United States is estimated to be 25,000,000 strong—a terrific menace to the bird life. Constant warfare should be waged against the cat. The chief damage is caused by cats abandoned along roadsides and left to subsist on whatever they may find. Farmers retain too many cats about their premises. It would be better if the farmer would plan to keep one or two cats for controlling the mice than to have a dozen half-starved animals about the place, most of which are forced to subsist on bird life.

When colonies of summer residents return to their homes in the early fall they are apt to "forget" many of their pets, consequently it is not unusual to find many of these communities almost devoid of bird life. It would be far better if the creatures were put to death in some humane manner than to permit them to wander about the countryside in a half-starved condition preying wherever possible on valuable wild life. Citizens are urged to keep their house pets under proper control or to effect some permanent method of removing them other than by casting them off alongside the road.





## UNWISE DRAINAGE IS EXPENSIVE

**D**R. GEORGE W. FIELD, biologist and foremost advocate of rainfall conservation, in a statement to officials of the American Game Association, sees the damming of drainage ditches in a part of the once famous swamp land area of Minnesota as "outstanding evidence that the people are awakening to the existence of a nationwide waste of run-off water which is costing the country an annual sum conservatively estimated at \$4,000,000,000."

He said he believes that agitation against over-drainage and for the reflooding of areas that formerly furnished natural reservoirs, "while at present being pushed mainly by sportsmen, must eventually receive the backing of the whole public; the toll taken of lives, recreation and business is too great to be any longer economically tolerated."

Dr. Field blamed a large part of this loss upon "unwise drainage, which contributes to the defective distribution of water and consequent floods and droughts in many regions."

"There must be a change of national and state legislative and engineering policies relative to flood control," he declared, "so that the major object will be flood prevention. Proper measures to restore or provide checks against the too rapid run-off of water, such as those once supplied by forests, swamps, lakes, ponds and meandering streams, would within a few years check effectively the existing annual loss of \$2,000,000,000 from erosion of soils—to keep the figures at the lowest possible estimate. There is an annual charge to state and federal business 'overhead' from flood damage and from construction and repairs of river channels, ditches, dikes and levees of more than \$1,000,000,000. And the annual loss to the nation in terms of potential value of fish, wild fowl and other birds and mammals cannot be less than another \$1,000,000,000."

Montana's state law requires that big game hunters mail the report card which forms a part of the license, to the department by January 1, 1932, whether any game has been taken or not. Do it now!

## PLAY FAIR WITH FISH AND GAME

**A**LL may be fair in love and war, but hunting is neither love nor war and all is not fair in this great outdoor sport. Hunting is no longer merely a search for food. It ranks with other outdoor sports as a recreational pastime or game. All games have rules to insure each player an equal chance to win by wit or skill rather than by taking unfair advantage of his opponents. The rules for the game of hunting are the game laws enacted by the state or nation to whom the game belongs. Those who transgress the rules by hunting before the season opens, by exceeding bag limits or by hunting otherwise unlawfully are displaying poor sportsmanship. Let's be fair with fellow hunters and with the state that grants the limited privilege to enjoy a part of that which it holds as a trust for the pleasure and benefit of this and future generations. For

"When the one Great Scorer  
Comes to write against your name,  
He writes not that you won or lost  
But how you played the game."

To destroy is not to develop. To conserve is not to hoard.

## WILD GAME HELPS HUNGRY MILLIONS

**F**OOD value of game birds and animals taken by hunters over the country this year as a supplementary fare for their tables will amount to many millions of dollars, in addition to the worth of the recreation obtained in hunting them, observes a bulletin of the American Game Association.

The Fish and Game Commission of New Jersey alone has estimated the food value of the game which will be procured during the present season at \$1,000,000. According to the commission, the hunting season "will furnish an increased food supply for tens of thousands of families."

The Bureau of Biological Survey at Washington has credited the country's wild life with supplying meat and fur each year to the value of \$150,000,000.

Several state game departments are advising deer hunters to remember that, while no part of a game creature may be sold, a deer hide, properly tanned, makes a good coat, and the antlers a good place to hang it.

## FARMERS FRIENDS OF SPORTSMEN

**F**ARMERS are the best friends Montana sportsmen have so there will be more game, and this friendship can best be established by the actions of sportsmen themselves. Farmers can provide shelter and food for game, and also reduce or keep under control their natural enemies, but when gunners over-run and destroy the farmers' property, with no care or regard, one cannot expect much cooperation. Therefore, let us build up this friendship. In doing this some difficulties will be met, prejudice will have to be overcome in some cases and we will have to take the brunt for some acts committed by some unthinking or selfish hunters, but with a little tact, and patience this friendship can be established. No one should hunt or shoot without first securing the permission of the owner or tenant. If it is something worth having, it is certainly worth asking for. Fences should not be broken down, and if bars are taken down or gates opened, they should be replaced and closed. If any damage is done it should be generously replaced. And finally when through hunting, the farmer should be thanked for the privilege enjoyed, and more than likely the hunter will receive an invitation to return.

A suggestion along this line is for the hunter to buy from the farmer a bushel of wheat, and then give one of the farmer's children a coin to scatter this wheat around at likely feeding spots during the winter when feed for birds may be scarce. This procedure is not going to solve the problem of surplus wheat, but it will save some birds directly; it will increase the friendship of the farmer, saving some birds indirectly, and the cost is a trifle. In scattering feed, it should be placed under bushes rather than in the open, so that, while feeding, the birds will have protection.

Grain scattered in sheltered nooks during these wintery days means more and better bird shooting next fall.

## IOWA ADOPTS 25-YEAR PLAN

**A**CTING under authority of an act of the last general assembly, the State of Iowa has launched the preliminary work in the development of a 25-year conservation program. This is an historic undertaking, the first of its kind in America, and is predicated upon the theory that the Tall Corn State should plan now to make the most of her natural resources for conservation and recreational uses.

A Chicago planning engineer has been given the contract. He and his staff, aided by Aldo Leopold, game survey expert, officials of the state department, the U. S. Biological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, are studying the possibilities carefully.

When the field work has been completed a unified plan of development will be worked out which will recognize the proper place of game and fish, parks and forests, lakes and streams, roadside beautification, historic shrines and roadside picnicking grounds.

To develop a plan is one thing; to follow it consistently over a quarter of a century is another. But that's the only way to build sound conservation programs.

Cheap fishing tackle may be dear at any price.

## WILD LIFE IS NATIONAL ASSET

**G**OVERNOR DOYLE E. CARLTON of Florida, speaking before the Convention of International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, recently declared: "Wild life, which constitutes the essence of our great outdoors, is among the major assets of any nation, whether measured by economic, political, social, moral, aesthetic or any other character-building standard. Time was when its one chief mission was to feed and to clothe the race. Now, in addition to its value as a food supply, it gives impulse to multiplied industries, with all that that means to the workers of the world. It brings happiness, health and inspiration to crowded millions of the land and helps to establish that independent, well-rounded, nature-loving, God-fearing citizenship, the one great goal of any nation worthy of the name. To me, America, stripped of this great resource through indifference, waste or destruction, would cease to be America, having robbed its future generations of those elements which make for the happiness of our people, for the building of citizenship and hence for the security of our institutions."



## Experts to Tackle Duck Depression



THE American Game Conference, which last year reversed the methods of game bird conservation in America by promoting game as a secondary farm crop, will meet again this

year Dec. 1 and 2 at Hotel Pennsylvania in New York to tackle the waterfowl shortage as its chief problem. The conference will be composed of game officials of most of the states and Canada, leaders of sportsmen's organizations, scientific workers and nature lovers. Montana sportsmen will watch proceedings of the conference with interest.

The American Game Policy Committee, which formulated the plan adopted by the 1930 conference, will report on the progress made in various states under its recommendations. The new system of compensating landowners for restoring game on their land has been put into actual practice in Indiana, Wisconsin, Nebraska, North Carolina and Illinois, officials of the sponsoring association announced. In these states laws were passed permitting landowners to sell hunting privileges to sportsmen, in one way or another.

A plan to finance a migratory waterfowl restoration program through a federal hunting license will be one of the proposals scheduled for discussion at the conference. Since the purpose of the meeting is to decide on the best means for preserving the sports of hunting and fishing as well as game, it is expected that the conference will oppose discouragingly drastic restriction upon shooting and seek to promote immediate restoration of waterfowl breeding, resting and wintering grounds.

Related meetings will include the annual gathering of game breeders and keepers, a conference of scientific research workers, the National Committee on Wild Life Legislation, the Southern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, the Elk Commission, and the Outdoor Writers' Association.

The numbers of wild ducks, greatly reduced by various adverse conditions, are being still further decreased by a disease caused by a little one-celled organism, a protozoan known as leucocytozoon anatis Wickware, according to a report received by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, from Dr. Earl C. O'Roke of the School of Forestry and Conservation of the University of Michigan. Doctor O'Roke has just completed his second summer's study of this disease at the University Biological Station, Douglas lake, and elsewhere in Michigan.

This organism has a complicated life cycle. In certain stages it occurs in the red blood cells, and in others in tissue cells of glandular organs. The parasite is transmitted from duck to duck by the bites of black flies or

### Buffalo Meat for Blackfeet Indians

THE American bison, once the best friend of the Red Man, has again come to the rescue in helping to keep the wolf from the door of one tribe of Indians. When E. T. Scoyen, superintendent of Glacier National Park, was in the Yellowstone this fall he suggested to Director Albright of the National Park Service that no finer use could be made of the surplus buffalo in the Yellowstone than to furnish meat for the Blackfeet and other tribes. "The Blackfeet really are a part of Glacier National Park," Superintendent Scoyen told the director, "they are my neighbors, and I do not believe Uncle Sam could do a more humane thing than to furnish the meat of the surplus Yellowstone buffalo to aid these people."

Following out Superintendent Scoyen's suggestion, Superintendent Forrest L. Stone of the Blackfeet Indian Agency went to the Yellowstone in late October to make arrangements for securing the meat of 100 buffalo. The Indian office in Washington concurred in Superintendent Stone's request and the director of the National Park Service gave his approval to the furnishing of this meat.

The only expense which the Indian Service will be put to will be for butchering, delivery to the railroad and express. The Blackfeet are a buffalo-eating tribe and many hearts will be made happy and many old stories recounted around camp when the meat arrives.

buffalo gnats. Adult ducks harboring the parasites are apparently little affected by them, but ducklings succumb in large numbers. Death of the duckling may occur at the time of the first appearance of symptoms, but usually it does not take place until the twelfth day after exposure.

The blood of a sick duckling is thin, pale, and watery, and contains numerous spindle-shaped parasites somewhat larger than normal blood cells. The most common lesion at autopsy is the greatly enlarged, blackened spleen.

Doctor O'Roke has found the parasites in wild mallards, black ducks, pintails, and widgeons, and in several varieties of domestic ducks. The distribution of the disease is spotty, many flocks being entirely free from it, while others are 100 per cent infected. Farmers raising domestic ducks and persons raising wild mallards and black ducks in captivity or on protected areas report losses of from 70 to 100 per cent. Among Dr. O'Roke's experimental ducks, losses in his first summer's study were

35 per cent and in the second summer 85 per cent.

It is of interest, says Doctor O'Roke, that in several cases where persons attributed the disappearance of ducklings to predatory birds or animals, a check-up disclosed the presence of diseased birds which later died while under observation. It is also significant, he says, that losses reported did not occur in ducks younger than 10 or 12 days, which accords with the incubation period of the disease, which is 10 days. Doctor O'Roke suggests that the small broods of young black ducks commonly reported in certain parts of Michigan may represent the survivors of larger broods, the others having succumbed to the disease.

When a shortage of ducks, caused by drought, drainage, and over-shooting necessitates restriction of hunting, it is especially important that conservationists consider other factors that reduce the number of ducks, says Dr. J. E. Shillinger, in charge of the Biological Survey's disease investigations, in commenting on Doctor O'Roke's report. Various diseases, such as those caused by lead poisoning, botulism, water pollution, and intestinal parasites, play an important role in reducing the numbers of wild ducks, says Doctor Shillinger.

Broadcasting an appeal to bird students and sportsmen to check on the flocks of ducks in their vicinity in order that a nationwide census can be taken of the waterfowl situation, the Izaak Walton League has called attention to the fact that by a curious whim of nature some of the least desirable ducks as far as sportsmen are concerned had a better nesting season than many of the popular species which are eagerly sought after by hunters.

The Conservation Department of the League has compiled a percentage table showing four groups of waterfowl affected by the drought areas in Canada. This table, prepared from maps drawn up by Hoyes Lloyd, supervisor of Wild Life Protection, Canadian National Parks, shows the dry areas and the breeding range of each species. It tells sportsmen that the American scoter, black duck, greater scaup, old squaw and surf scoter ducks had none of their breeding range in the drought area.

Ten per cent of the breeding area of the American golden eye, Barrows golden eye and white-winged scoter was in the dry area. The third group of birds, including some highly prized species, had 40 per cent of their breeding range in the drought section. This list includes the green winged teal, the pintail, mallard, blue winged teal, and baldpate. But the ducks reported to be hardest hit by the drought area are found in the fourth group which had 75 per cent of their breeding range in the rainless sections of Canada. In this list one finds the canvasback, redhead, gadwall, ruddy and shoveller ducks.



# History of Fishing Dates Back Centuries

By Denise Ruth Flint of Helena



Denise Ruth Flint

of these stories served as a potent factor in the colonization of America. They were the forerunners of sportsmanship as today displayed in angling for trout, grayling, and fighting salmon in Montana's crystal waters.

Cod fishing about Newfoundland was conducted by Normans and Britons as early as 1504, and there is a tradition among fishermen of the Bay of Biscay that one of their number who had been fishing in the western Atlantic informed Columbus of the land in that region before the explorer had commenced his memorable voyage.

An American writer on the early fisheries of this country makes a plausible case in favor of his contention that the Pilgrims could not have escaped the fishing mania which affected all other peoples of maritime Europe at the time, and weary exiles in Holland, noting the riches acquired by the Dutch from their fisheries, could not have been unmoved by accounts of vast schools of fish to be found on the shores of the New World.

Settlement of colonies in Massachusetts was due directly to the possibilities of establishing fisheries and the original proprietorships established in the first history of New Hampshire were the results of a desire to create wealth in this industry.

That Montana should recognize this industry, such an important item in the lives of all sportsmen and lovers of the great out-of-doors, as an adjunct to the development of the Treasure State into a mecca for tourists, was first implanted in our minds by our Pilgrim fathers.

By the imposition of a state license fee, voluntarily paid only by those desiring to hunt and fish, Montana has established a State Fish and Game Department. This department has charge of extensive properties made available for the perpetuation of fish in her streams and wild life and fowl in her mountains and on her prairies.

Fish culture and propagation is carried on from well located hatcheries, accessible to lakes and streams for

**F**ISHING, one of Montana's greatest assets from the standpoint of development, is one of civilization's oldest methods of gaining a livelihood. The early history of France, Spain, Portugal, and England is a romantic record of the industry and its hatcheries. Alluring tales of cod, herring and other commercial species served as the incentive for further voyages of adventure and discovery. Proof

which the state is noted. Skilled attendants, trained for this work, during proper seasons of the year, collect the eggs, watch over them carefully during the hatching period and after feeding the fry until they have grown to the proper size, see that they are equitably distributed.

In order to perpetuate fishing for future generations and to furnish adequate fishing for folks today, the Montana Fish and Game Commission operates five spawn-taking stations and 14 hatcheries, including the internationally famous spawn-taking station at the mouth of Flint creek on Georgetown lake, from which, in 1930, were taken approximately 35,000,000 eggs that later became fingerlings for Montana's lakes and streams.

Scientific surveys of the waters making up our streams and lakes are to determine where each type of trout, grayling, whitefish and others, thrive best. A program of establishing rearing ponds also has been under way in all sections of Montana where the fish can be kept safe from cannibal varieties until they are large enough to fight well, their own battles.

Fish eggs are obtained from the female just prior to natural spawning time. This is done by the attendants who, after trapping the fish, draw the eggs by a stripping process. These eggs are fertilized and distributed among the hatcheries.

Trays are used for hatching purposes. In them, water is kept at proper temperatures. The process of hatching eggs is most interesting. In each tray can be found the eggs in different stages of development. A fish culturist goes up and down the rows of trays with a glass tube fitted with a rubber syringe for the purpose of extracting the unfertile eggs or those that have spoiled.

The water is kept running constantly through the trays to supply oxygen and to keep the eggs separated as they soon spoil when formed into a mass.

A 24-hour vigil is important as the stoppage of the water for even a short time would ruin the work of a hatchery for an entire season.

The hatching of fish eggs covers a period of about 30 days from the time the eggs are placed in the trays until they are developed to sufficient size for feeding.

Each specimen shown in the bottles of the exhibit represents development. It is interesting to note by a study of the exhibit, the first signs of development are the appearance of the eyes, which can be first easily noticed about the 21st day. On the 25th day there can be seen the appearance of a tail protruding from one edge of the egg sac.

The head commences to take form in front of the egg. Gradually the tail increases in size and the head enlarges until the yolk sac has the appearance of hanging from the ventral side of the fish. The egg seems to disappear and formation of the fins and gills takes place when the specimen becomes a completely formed fish, ready to be fed and grown to the proper size for liberation.

## One Buffalo Robe--- Three Cups of Sugar

**T**HE following extract is from an article appearing in the February, 1931, edition of the Journal of Mammalogy, by Tracey I. Storer of Davis, California:

"Recently I made the acquaintance of A. R. Easley of Auburn Calif., who was in the vicinity of Fort Benton, Montana, in 1872, and he has told me of some of the then current trade values of various skins. The prices paid by the traders follow: A good buffalo robe—3 small tin cups of sugar, 2 small tin cups of coffee, or one 10-pounds can of flour. A wolf skin—two cups of sugar. A coyote skin—One-half cup of sugar. A beaver skin—One-half cup of sugar.

"Mr. Easley says that he has known an Indian to trade a good robe for a little 10-cent file to sharpen the knife. Licensed traders paid white trappers five dollars for a buffalo robe, three dollars for a wolf skin, and one dollar and fifty cents for a coyote skin. In 1868 buffalo robes were being sold in eastern communities at twelve to fifteen dollars apiece."

Lions stalk their game at night almost exclusively.

## Helena Girl Writes Fishing History

**D**enise Ruth Flint, author of the accompanying article, is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Flint, 622 Harrison, Helena. She is a member of the sophomore class of Helena high school and a disciple of the out-of-doors. This well-written review of fishing was prepared by Miss Flint after studying the cabinet exhibit of the State Fish and Game Department, shown at the recent fairs in the state, which contains 48 bottles showing the development of a trout from the egg to fingerling size. Since she was a wisp of a girl, Miss Flint has been interested in denizens of forest, field and stream. She is a granddaughter of J. A. Mahood, who resides near the Station Creek hatchery on Flathead lake, and while spending her summers at the Mahood home, Miss Flint has been a keen student of hatchery methods as employed there by Eli Melton, fish culturist.



## Millions of Fish Liberated in Montana

Photos by Courtesy of the Division of Fish and Game of California.



MONTANA'S State Fish and Game Department, in the operation of its battery of spawn-taking stations and hatcheries, has made possible the liberation of a grand total of 24,586,190 game

fish thus far during the 1931 season and at the present time there are an additional 8,850,625 on hand, gaining growth preparatory to placing them in lakes and streams for the benefit of sportsmen. These figures are taken from the monthly reports of foremen of the fish hatcheries and represent the strenuous work of the season which has been conducted in the face of drought and other obstacles. The summary of fish liberated shows the following grand totals to date:

- Native black spotted trout, 15,065,930.
- Rainbow trout, 3,319,428.
- Loch Leven trout, 1,680,215.
- Grayling, 1,250,000.
- Chinook and Sockeye salmon, 580,109.
- Large and small-mouth bass, 193,540.
- Eastern brook trout, 770,438.
- Warm water fish from Miles City pond cultural station, 525,830.
- California Golden trout, 25,700.
- Whitefish liberated in Flathead lake, 875,000.

Five state hatcheries are carrying the stock of fingerlings on hand at the present time.

The summary of fingerlings on hand shows the following figures:

- Anaconda—2,500,000
- Loch Leven, 500,000
- Eastern Brook, 22,447
- Rainbow trout, 1,120,367
- natives, or a total of 4,142,814.
- Big Timber—2,500,000
- Loch Leven, 459,850
- Rainbow trout, 340,990
- native trout, or a total of 3,300,840.
- Great Falls—37,894
- Rainbow trout, 634,528
- natives, or a total of 1,008,528.
- Libby—95,147
- Rainbow trout, 265,402
- natives, or a total of 360,549.



Eastern Brook Trout (*Salvelinus Fontinalis*)

The grand total on hand shows the following figures:

- Loch Leven—5,000,000.
- Eastern brook—500,000.
- Rainbow trout—989,338.
- Native Black Spotted—2,361,287.

In addition to the fingerlings and eggs on hand at eht hatcheries an additional half million salmon eggs, 3,000,000 rainbow eggs and 7,000,000 whitefish eggs will be distributed among the plants for care during the winter. The salmon eggs are to be distributed as follows: Somers, 175,000; Libby, 125,000; Big Timber, 100,000; Anaconda, 100,000.

The Rainbow trout eggs will be distributed among the hatcheries as follows: Somers, 750,000; Anaconda, 500,000; Great Falls, 750,000; Lewistown, 500,000; Big Timber, 500,000.

The shipment of 7,000,000 whitefish eggs intended for liberation in Flathead lake will be placed in the hatchery at Polson.

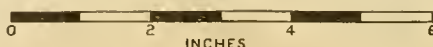
Extensive work has been done at

the hatcheries and among rearing ponds of the state this year in bringing the fish to a larger size before liberation. The liberation of larger fish is believed to result in making them better capable of combatting natural enemies and equipping them with better means of surviving. Thousands of fish liberated this year have been several inches in length and within a comparatively short time will attain proper proportions to provide sport for the ever increasing number of anglers.

The 1,250,000 grayling eggs hatched at the Anaconda plant were returned to the waters of Georgetown lake to insure a continued supply. Peculiar conditions have diminished the grayling supply to such an extent that it has been deemed advisable to build up the natural habitat, rather than distribute them in uncertain waters. Georgetown lake provides the great spawn-taking station at the mouth of Flint creek with its supply of game fish from which eggs are artificially taken during the spring months of the spawning season.

### FIGHT FOREIGN GAME

Immigration restrictions on foreign wild life are wanted by Wisconsin conservation officials, who are fighting the suggested introduction in that state of European hares. "Unstudied introduction of foreign species frequently proves disastrous," the commission is quoted in a bulletin of the American Game Association. "Two outstanding examples in the United States are the English sparrow and the German carp, both of which have multiplied from very small original importations and are now a constant nuisance in most parts of the country. The European starling, recently brought to this country, is an increasing menace to native bird life throughout the east and is now spreading into Wisconsin."



Rainbow Trout (*Salmo Irideus*)



## More Fish for Young Montana Anglers

Photos by Courtesy Division of Fish and Game of California.



**S**PORTSMEN have watched crystal cold waters of Montana being stocked with fighting game fish, yet Montana's State Fish and Game Department has not overlooked the

reservoirs and warmer streams of the eastern part of the state which do not appeal to fickle fancies of a trout and which are particularly desirable for the planting of bass, crappies, sunfish, catfish, and yellow perch.

Figures compiled at headquarters at Helena from reports of the distribution from the great pond cultural station at Lake Garberson, near Miles City, which is operated jointly by the United States Bureau of Fisheries and the State Fish and Game Department, show a total liberation of 773,010 fish during the season which has just closed.

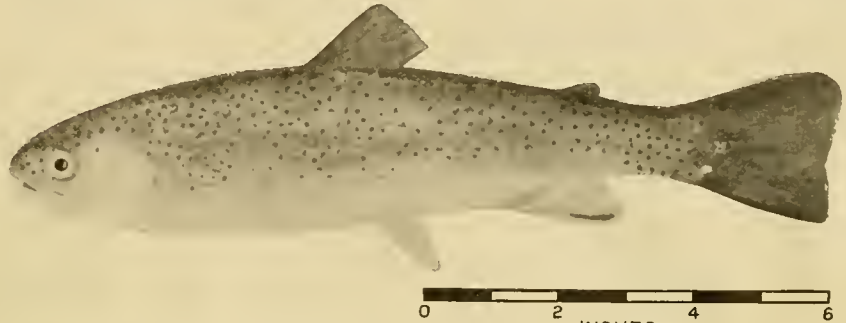
Of this total production during the season, the state department liberated 525,830 fish in Montana waters while the federal department liberated 247,180 in other waters of Montana as well as in waters of the nation as far east as Pittsburgh. Fish taken by the federal bureau are distributed at points throughout the nation wherever deemed advisable by that department.

In creating this pond cultural station, which is regarded as one of the largest of its kind in the world, Montana's department had in mind meeting demands of anglers of the eastern portion of the state where rivers and reservoirs are of such character as to forbid planting trout. These anglers find it necessary to drive hundreds of miles for their trout fishing.

With the stocking of their streams, lakes and reservoirs with fish adapted to warmer water, they are provided sport within a few miles of their communities.

Under an agreement with the federal department, a division of the annual crop is now being made.

Figures compiled from reports show the following total taken during the season which has just closed:



Native Black Spotted or Cut Throat Trout (*Salmo Clarkii*)

Bass—55,510.  
Crappies—44,975.  
Bream (Sunfish)—595,582.  
Catfish—9,450.  
Yellow Perch—52,287.

Assorted Bream and Crappies—15,206.  
These are the species of "boy fish" which in the youthful days of every modern angler, appealed to the fancy of the barefooted fisherman equipped with cane pole and can of worms. The Montana commission is mindful of the necessity for providing lakes, ponds, and warm water streams with a plentiful supply of these fish in order that the youngsters of the state may be appeased. With the continuation of the planting, Montana boys may be assured that their piscatorial playgrounds will continue fruitful.

Out of the total crop of 773,010 fish taken from the ponds where the fish are permitted to spawn naturally and rear their young, the state and federal department liberation is shown as follows:

	State	Federal
Black Bass .....	30,450	25,060
Crappies .....	27,825	17,150
Bream (Sunfish).....	493,225	192,357
Catfish .....	7,325	2,125
Yellow Perch .....	42,005	10,282
Assorted Bream and Crappies .....	15,000	206
Totals .....	525,830	247,180

### One on the Warden

**A** GOOD joke is going the rounds on a game warden. It seems he was prowling around in the brush when he suddenly heard a shot just a little ahead of him. Knowing a good deer trail lay in that vicinity, and visualizing an opportunity of picking some law violator who was poaching deer, he slipped cautiously up, and there in the trail was a burly Swede, stooping over a nice, big six-point buck. The warden stepped out and asked if he had killed the deer. "Yah! I jüst keel him now, don he was fine?" "Yes, he is a nice one, all right. Have you a license?" asked the warden. The Swede's face immediately sobered up, his jaw dropped, he commenced hurriedly fumbling through his pockets, getting more and more flustered all the time. Finally, he confessed, "Py golly, I guess I got no license. You game warden?" "Yes, I'm the game warden," he replied. "You're under arrest. Pick up your deer and let's get out to the road before it gets dark." "No," said the Swede. "If I ban under arrest dot deer he no ban mine now. You vant heem, you bring heem," whereupon, unwilling to lose his evidence, the warden picked up the deer and started out. After about three miles of hard traveling, up and down hills, over rocks and logs, through devil clubs and underbrush, they finally reached the road where the Swede's car was parked. The game warden dropped the deer to the road and pulled his handkerchief to wipe the sweat from his face. The Swede meantime reached for his cigarettes and as he drew them out of his pocket another paper came with them. The Swede looked at it for a moment, then a smile slowly spread over his face as he exclaimed: "Py golly, dot shore ban one goot yoke on me. I jüst found my license."—Western Outdoors.



German Brown or Loch Leven Trout (*Salmo Trutta*)

The goldfish, a native of China, still is found in a wild state in rivers of that country.



## Kansas Woman Asks Venison Marrow

WHILE thousands of Montana sportsmen headed for the deer and elk hunting grounds, creating such a demand for big game licenses as has never before been witnessed in the state, eastern and middle western hunters are likewise turning their attention to big game opportunities of the Treasure State. But the hunters are not alone in their demands for select portions of wild mutton. The State Fish and Game Department for years has been receiving its quota of strange requests, confessions of conscience stricken violators who have hit the sawdust trail and belated remittances for human errors. A new use for Montana deer, however, has developed in the following letter received from a woman in Mulberry, Kansas:

"I am writing to ask a favor. I understand there are a good many deer in Montana. Would it be possible to get me the marrow out of the saddlebone of a deer? I am very hard of hearing and I know that the marrow from the saddlebone of a deer will bring back my hearing, as I have seen it tried on my husband, who, at one time, was totally deaf. He could not hear a sound. Now he can hear as good as anyone. I will gladly pay you for it. But it must be the marrow of a saddlebone."

Here's the opportunity for Montana sportsmen to do a good turn. First the hunter must find the saddlebone and then locate the marrow. The State Fish and Game Department will do the rest.

### LICENSE FOR OARSMEN

Anyone who rows or paddles a boat for a person engaged in fishing must also have a fishing license if not in the county of their residence, in the opinion of Julius Me erhardt, attorney for the Missouri Game and Fish Department. If a person is fishing while another rows the boat, the person rowing the boat is equally taking an active part in the catching or attempting to catch, take or kill fish, and under the circumstances would be required to comply with all the state fishing laws.

### LICENSE FEES FOR CATS

A bill before the Pennsylvania committee on agriculture provides that each owner of a cat must procure a license, the fee for which is fixed at 50 cents. The bill further provides that any cat may be killed whether licensed or not, when seen in the act of pursuing, worrying or wounding any poultry or birds. A similar bill introduced in a Missouri legislature several years ago failed of passage.

### FOWL LANGUAGE

Midnight at a chicken coop. Owner raps on the door:  
"Anybody in there?" he shouts.  
"Only us chickens, boss," says a voice from within.

## Just A' Fishin'

WHEN the birds begin to sing  
As a harbinger of Spring,  
One just gets to itching  
To be on his way a' fishin';  
For all one's thoughts are good and clean—  
Nothing seems petty, small, or mean  
When you're fishin'.

Let's free our minds from worry and care;  
By gettin' out in God's clean air,  
And goin' fishin'.  
For be it the Loch Leven's wriggle  
As your rod begins to jiggle,  
Or the lordly Rainbow's smashing strike  
As he sends his challenge for a fight,  
It's a' fishin'.

So let's pay our license to the State  
Forget all bitterness and hate,  
And go a' fishin'.

### CONTROL MOTORS ON LAKES

With outboard motors apparently turning every known variety of aquatic craft larger than a waterbug into speed boats, three states have recently passed laws to check reckless driving on their waters. New laws in Michigan and Pennsylvania authorize officials to silence, slow down and otherwise regulate motorboats as being unnecessarily dangerous to bathers, obnoxious to waterside residents and destructive to valuable aquatic life and fish spawning beds. The Indiana legislature forbade the operation of any motor craft on lakes smaller than 325 acres between April 1 and June 16—when fish are spawning—and restricted the speed to 10 miles an hour at other times.

### GIDDY AT GREAT HEIGHTS

Vacation visitors to the mountains and canyons may find consolation in the fact that getting giddy when looking down from great heights is no sign of fear. Science holds this sensation to be due to a "confusion of the eyes" between the distant landscape below and the edge on which one stands. The remedy is to focus the eyes on one point of distance at a time, and not try to see near and far simultaneously.

The Sierran grouse is one of the outstanding game birds of the higher areas

## Circulating Air In Fish Homes

THAT winter homes need proper ventilation even when they belong to fishes has long been recognized by game departments. But the Iowa department is probably the first to install a modern air circulating system for its lakes and ponds which freeze over in winter. As soon as the lakes freeze, five men will devote their time to cutting "windows" through the ice and making tests of the water for oxygen content. Where "ventilation" is needed they will insert a specially designed hose to the bottom and pump air into the water. Deficient oxygen in ice-bound lakes, particularly shallow ones, is claimed to be an important cause of fish mortality.

### MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Juror: "I can't serve on this panel, Judge. Just one look at that man convinces me he is guilty."

Judge: "That's not the prisoner. That's the prosecuting attorney."

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# Twin Elk Calves a Freak of Nature



SPORTSMEN who are ever keenly interested in the study of moods and fantasies of nature form the bulwark of the structure of fair play founded upon precepts emphasized and

expounded by Montana's State Fish and Game Department. It has been said that when a lumberman enters the woods he glances about him and sees little aside from the stand of timber. When the sheepman wanders through the timber, he sees not the beauties of nature, the trees and denizens of wild life but the grass and buds that make commercial grazing facilities. In like manner it has been said that when a sportsman traverses the same territory he not alone makes a study of foliage, timber, grasses, birds, fish, and big game, but assimilates the inspiring atmosphere of it all and drinks deep of invigorating potions of Nature's nectar made possible through conscientious conservation.

Hence, in the presentation of educational articles by MONTANA WILD LIFE, citing interesting observations of sportsmen in field, forest and stream, instances often arise where conflicting viewpoints are apparent. In the presentation of both sides of a question, much satisfying information is conveyed to students keenly interested in gathering all available data regarding a controversy.

In presenting the following communication from Senator Thomas J. Walker of Butte, which is self-explanatory, MONTANA WILD LIFE feels that sportsmen of the state will not only glean additional information, but will read between the lines the wholesome, sincere observation of a sportsman afield who sees and analyzes more than the game which may become an eventual target.

Senator Walker has for years been an outstanding exponent of the conservation of wild life in Montana and has given willingly and voluntarily of his time and means to encourage development of the recreational assets of the commonwealth. He has served Silver Bow county in the upper house of the legislative assembly for years, hence his communication, which carries the caution regarding undue personal publicity emphasis, is of significance.

"I recently read in the November edition of MONTANA WILD LIFE an article by W. M. Rush, in charge of elk study in Yellowstone National Park, entitled, 'Montana Cow Elk Is Cunning Mother.' The writer is credited in the article with the following statement:

"I have never observed a case of twins in elk, although reliable observers have reported two calves nursing the same cow. Twins occur very rarely if at all, as I have examined several hundred cows that were killed by hunters and

dozens of diseased specimens without finding a case of twin pregnancy.'

"For what it may be worth, I desire to call your attention to the fact that about 20 years ago, Colonel D. G. Stivers, of Butte, during one of the unusually severe winters in Yellowstone Park, and at a time when food was scarce in the park, prompted by a true sportsman's desire to care for the emergency, got a group of men to subscribe \$25 each for the purchase of a few carloads of elk from the government and had them shipped to Montana, and I recall one carload was shipped to Deer Lodge, Montana, to Frank Conley, then warden of the State Penitentiary. At the time the shipment was received by Mr. Conley, I happened to be a guest at his home and assisted in unloading the elk in a corral on a siding of the Northern Pacific tracks at Deer Lodge, and then in company with a bunch of men on horseback, we drove the band into the hills beyond Irwin lake, the summer home of Frank Conley. While they were being herded into the hills, we observed a cow elk, which we knew to be pregnant, lagging behind, and shortly upon our return to herd her with the bunch we found she had given birth to twin calves.

"I know of no other case than this, but Mr. Conley and I can substantiate the facts with reference to what I have stated. My recollection is that it was about 20 years ago in the midst of one of those very severe winters when the game in the park suffered severely from lack of food, and Colonel Stivers took this action for the purpose of relieving distress. This is the herd which has multiplied many times over and has been the source of many difficulties for the State Fish and Game Commission in its endeavor to protect elk in Powell county."

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# MONTANA WILD LIFE



## Hunters Count Noses of Deer and Elk

By Floyd L. Smith



MONTANA'S open season on deer has closed with the passing of Nov. 25, and the only portion of the state remaining open to the killing of elk is Park county, adjoining Yellowstone National Park, where the open season extends to Dec. 20, unless closed prior to that date by order of the state game warden. The close of the big game season has marked the start of the flood of big game report cards headed toward State Fish and Game Department headquarters at Helena, and if cards already received may be taken as a criterion, hundreds of Montana families have been provided with succulent venison sufficient to vary their winter fare.

Under the law passed by the last legislature, all purchasers of big game licenses are required to make a report to the department of deer and elk killed, the county in which killed, whether or not on a forest reserve, and the sex of the animal bagged. This report must be made on the card attached to the license whether game was taken on the license or whether the sportsman was outlucked.

Compilation of cards received at department headquarters at Helena up to Nov. 26 show that a total of 603 deer have been killed and 116 elk legally tagged. This is but the start of the return. The cards must be filed with the department before Jan. 1, 1932, in compliance with law, and 34,000 big game licenses were placed in the hands of dealers before the close of the season. Hence, out of the thousands of licenses issued, only 719 have been returned showing game killed. Many, of course, have arrived with such notations as: "Out of luck," "Couldn't find a blind one," "Range sheeped off," "They outsmarted me," and "I'll eat beef."

In the tabulation of returns received up to Nov. 26, the figures show that the largest number of deer have been killed this season in Lincoln county, a total of 139 of both sexes being reported downed. Flathead county is next with a kill reported of an even 100. Twenty-five elk have also been reported taken in Flathead county. In Gallatin county five deer have been reported killed and 24 elk taken. The majority of these elk were killed along the West Gallatin.

In Lewis and Clark county, reports show 59 deer killed and 17 elk taken. The northern portion of Lewis and Clark county includes portions of the Dearborn and Sun river areas. Reports from the Sun river are to the effect that the kill this year has been comparatively light, as against the forest service estimate of 1,125 killed out of that herd last year. The season was

shortened 15 days on petition of sportsmen of that vicinity.

Sanders county reports show 36 deer and four elk killed. Judith Basin figures show 45 deer taken. Mineral county reports 35 deer, Broadwater county 23 deer, with figures varying from many other counties. A lone buck was reported killed in Silver Bow county. One hunter reports taking a 12-point buck deer in the Flathead district. The number of women hunters shows a decided increase, many of them reporting downing their venison.

If an average deer weighs 125 pounds, the 603 reported killed thus far means that 75,375 pounds of venison has been taken from the woods—and the report cards are just beginning to come in.

If an average elk weighs 300 pounds, then the 116 reported killed have provided Montana homes with 34,800 pounds of fresh, delectable meat—and the season is still open.

These striking figures provide a forcetful example of the true worth of wild life to the sportsmen, aside from the healthful joy of pursuit.

When the figures showing the elk and deer killed are completed at State Fish and Game Department headquarters, the commission will be provided with accurate information on counties where the heaviest shooting has taken place, the number killed on and off forest reserves, the condition of the range, the number of either sex taken, and other valuable comment on the cards.

### Deer and Elk In Hunter's Bags

THE following table, compiled from big game license report cards returned in accordance with law, to the State Fish and Game Department, show the total number of deer and elk killed in each open county, as of Nov. 25, the figures, of course, being preliminary and incomplete for the season:

County	Deer	Elk
Beaverhead	8	.....
Big Horn	1	.....
Broadwater	25	.....
Cascade	10	.....
Deer Lodge	4	.....
Flathead	100	25
Gallatin	5	24
Granite	8	6
Jefferson	13	.....
Judith Basin	45	.....
Lake	13	1
Lewis and Clark	59	17
Lincoln	139	.....
Madison	17	3
Meagher	30	3
Mineral	35	.....
Missoula	19	2
Park	2	11
Powell	10	9
Ravalli	11	3
Sanders	36	4
Sheridan	1	0
Silver Bow	1	.....
Stillwater	2	1
Sweet Grass	3	.....
Teton	.....	7
Wheatland	8	.....
<b>Totals</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>116</b>

### Send In Your Report on Big Game

MONTANA has just witnessed the greatest exodus of big game hunters in the history of the State Fish and Game Department. Under provisions of the law adopted by the last legislature the big game tagging system was adopted and 34,000 licenses bearing deer and elk tags were placed in the hands of dealers. The law requires not only that the carcass shall be tagged but likewise requires that the license purchaser shall tear off and return report card attached to the license and mail it to the department before Jan. 1, 1932. This card must be filled out and mailed whether any game has been killed or not. The following is an extract from the law: "To said license to take elk or deer shall also be attached a card, which card shall on or before the first day of January of the year following the issuance of said license, be returned by the holder of said license to the Fish and Game Commission and a report made to said commission of the game taken under said license and the place where the same was taken, it being the intent of this act to require every licensee to make said report whether any game was taken under said license or not."

### GET BUNNY ON THE JUMP

With feathered game quite scarce, many hunters will desire to complete the hunting urge by indulging in pursuit of the erratic cottontail.

To these we again recall the advisability of getting their furry game on the jump—if the rabbit is active, there is less possibility of its being infected with tularemia—a disease which is communicable to human beings. Transmission occurs when dressing infected animals; if the handler has a small cut or abrasion on his hand, infection is almost certain.

Possibility of infection can be avoided by the use of rubber gloves; cooking destroys the germs, and the meat may be eaten without any danger.

An infected animal is usually dumpish—if the rabbit bounds away with celerity chances are that it is a fairly healthy animal, untainted with tularemia.

"You seem a bright little boy. I suppose you have a very good place in your class?"

"Oh, yes, I sit right by the stove."