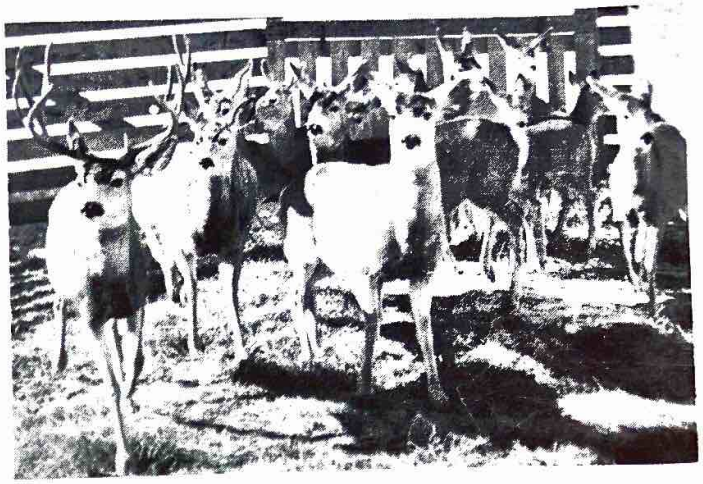
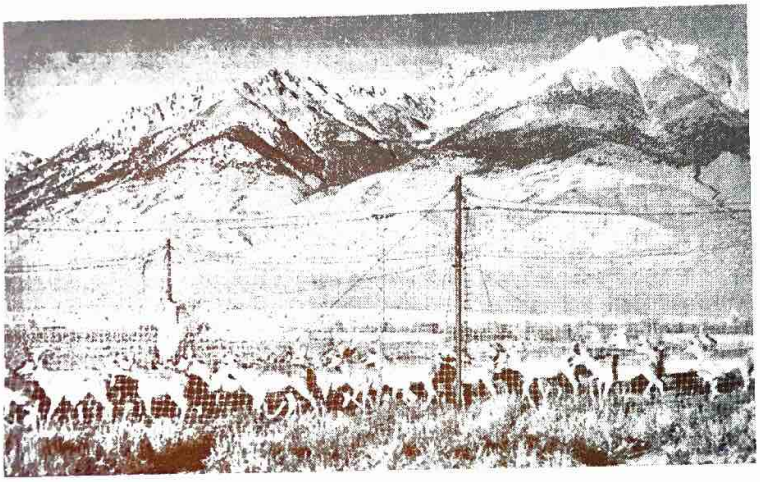
TRAPPED AND TAGGED

Mule deer are trapped and transplanted to relieve pressure on crowded wintering areas. Over 1,500 have been tagged and moved by the department since 1949.





Woven rope net trap is used in taking antelope to prevent injury to the animals. The crews have trapped 1,427 pronghorns since the operation was started nine years ago.

wintering areas south of Boise that season. In the winter of '51-'52 an additional 122 mule deer were removed from the Warm Springs wintering area near Ketchum in Blaine County. Another 100 animals were eartagged on the South Fork of the Boise River near Featherville last winter but not transplanted. Transplanting can be an effective tool for managing the winter range when accessible by truck and trapping crew.

The 1952-1953 operations have been in charge of Conservation Officer Boyd Thietten, stationed at Mackay. Biologist Errol Nielson and Dick Wilson, Refuge Manager at Sand Creek, have assisted. Airplane pilot on the antelope drive has been Clifford McBratney, of Augusta, Montana.

Portions of these big game tagging and transplanting operations were carried out under terms of Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Projects 85-R and 75-D.

Rough Fish Removed

Seining of rough fish by commercial fishermen under state permit totaled 1,552,783 pounds or well over 776 tons for the period November 1, 1951, to October 31, 1952, principally from Lake Lowell and such reservoirs on the Snake River drainage as Wilson Lake, American Falls Reservoir, Lake Walcott and Blackfoot Reservoir.

Predominant species taken in this haul were carp (675,726 pounds) and suckers (580,399 pounds) with the remainder chubs (18,895 pounds) and unidentified small trash fish (127,036 pounds).

State crews under the tench control program removed 150,727 pounds of tench from Hayden Lake, Chatcolet Lake, and the lower St. Joe River.

From November 1, 1948, to October 31, 1950, commercial fishermen took a total of 1,866,821 pounds of rough fish. During this time 767,796 pounds of carp; 499,-351 pounds of suckers; 6,245 pounds of squawfish, 305,809 pounds of tench and 287,620 pounds of unidentified small trash fish were taken.

Most of the carp and suckers are dressed, frozen and shipped to out-of-state markets on the west coast and in the middle west, where they are sold for human consumption, as the flesh of many of these species is highly palatable. A considerable number of rough fish goes to fur farms and fish hatcheries to be ground and processed for feed.

The Coeur d'Alene fish hatchery processes large numbers of tench which are ground to fish meal by a special machine.

Probably the biggest feature in the quail's ability to thrive under frequently adverse conditions is this game bird's varied diet. The quail is known to eat seeds from more than 300 species of plants.

Federation Members Approve Legislative Program at McCall

McCall was a busy place over the week-end of December 5, 6 and 7 when nearly 200 sportsmen and Fish and Game Department personnel attended the 16th annual Idaho Wildlife Federation meeting.

A panel discussion on the problems of supplemental feeding of big game during the winter months opened the three-day session on Friday evening with Theo H. Wegener, federation president, acting as moderator.

Members of the panel included Norman Tague, Boise, third district federation chairman; Claire C. Mackrill, president of the Washington County Wildlife Club; Dr. I. D. Rasmussen, Ogden, Utah, wildlife specialist with the U.S. Forest Service; Robert Casebeer, big game biologist with the Idaho Fish and Game Department; Forrest Luthy, assistant range keeper at Loomis, Washington and Glen McRoberts, president of the Ketchum Rod and Gun Club.

Dr. Paul Dalke, head of the University of Idaho wildlife cooperative research unit; Dr. Virgil Pratt, fishery instructor, and Dick Buehler, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts president, also addressed the Saturday morning session.

In addition, papers were delivered by Dwight Smith, and Stewart Brandborg, both of the game department, who summarized their findings during a three-year study of bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Ralph Holmgren, U.S. Forest Service, described progress to date in a series of range improvement projects conducted in cooperation with the game department.

The Saturday morning session opened with a brief address by Theo H. Wegener, Idaho Wildlife Federation president, who defended the State Fish and Game Department against attacks by persons who are not aware of changing conditions and by those with selfish motives.

Referring to controversies during the last year Wegener asked for reappraisal of the commission's,

(Continued on Page 10)

FISHES OF IDAHO No. 20
CARP

Cyprinis carpio Linnaeus

BY JAMES C. SIMPSON

Idaho Fish Culturist

Carp, native to Asia, were introduced into Europe and, from there, into North America. The first carp to reach the United States were planted in California in 1872. The earliest record of the introduction of carp into Idaho was 1886, when 31 applicants received 686 fish from the U.S. Fish Commission. In 1894, 2,000 carp were planted in Mud Lake near Paris.

Since its introduction, the range of the carp has spread until, at present, it is found in the majority of waters tributary to the Snake River above the mouth of the Clearwater River and is widely scattered throughout the Bear River drainage. Highly esteemed as a food fish in Asia and Europe, the carp has proved to be very much of a nuisance in America.

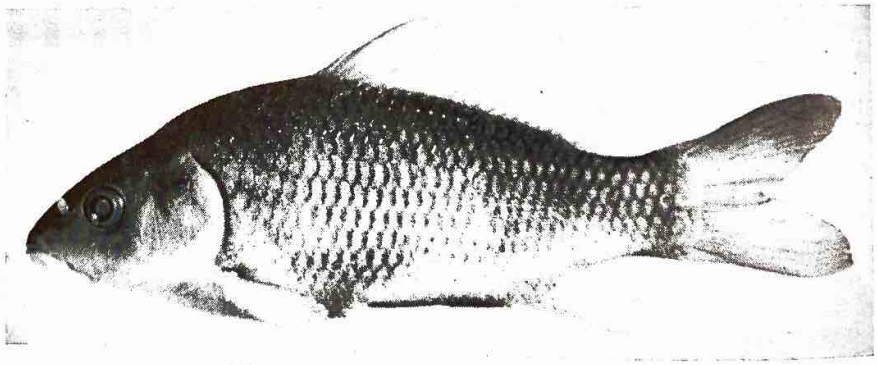
As a result of long cultivation, several varieties of carp have been established. These are known as scale, mirror or spiegel, and leather carp and are so designated according to the prevalence or absence of scales. The scale carp is the most common variety.

Carp are utilized as a food item to a very limited extent in Idaho. However, large numbers are taken commercially and shipped out of the state, most of them finding markets on the West Coast. Markets which purchase carp for human consumption prefer fish which are three pounds or larger in size. As a result of the market demand, commercial fishermen exercise selective fishing methods, using seines with a large mesh. Consequently, commercial fishing merely harvests the crop and does little toward reducing the population.

Carp are extremely prolific. It is reported that a female, weighing from 15 to 20 pounds, will produce over 2,000,000 eggs. Spawning takes place during April, May or June depending upon the temperature of the water. They spawn in the shallow bays of lakes or migrate into tributary streams where they spawn in the shallow, quiet headwaters.

Carp are omnivorous feeders, eating some animal and much plant material. They root up bottoms of streams and lakes, overturning plants and destroying the vegetation. If present in sufficient numbers, they may render the water turbid and unsuitable for the spawning of many of the warmwater fishes.

The body of the carp is compressed laterally. There are four barbels, two on each side of the upper jaw. The dorsal fin is long with a single spine. The anal fin also contains a single spine. The color is olive-green to brown above shading to yellowish below.



The carp . . . An omnivorous feeder.

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