

## North Idaho Due For Fish Plants

Planting crews will begin distributing 40,000 pounds of fish out of Hagerman hatchery to northern Idaho streams as soon as high-water crests are passed, James C. Simpson, fish culturist, has reported.

The fish are the biggest planting stock to go into north Idaho waters for many years. Four thousand of them are more than 12 inches average length. Another 30,000 are more than eight inches in length, and another pond of 50,000 fish average more than six inches in length.

Simpson said the plantings are the first real legal size production out of Hagerman since the added raceways and hatching facilities were completed last year. Transports will be rolling northward with the legal-size trout steadily throughout the summer.

## Ballantyne New Bird Assistant

Orrel Ballantyne, former resident of Oregon, has been appointed assistant supervisor of the Jerome bird farm, supervisor Maurice Lundy has reported.

Ballantyne is a graduate of Oregon State College, and was for a time a fisheries nutrition man for the Oregon state game commission. Since 1947 he has been employed in private industry in nutrition work.

He is married and has one child. Ballantyne will assist manager William Gnemi in general operation of the Jerome unit, which annually produces around 15,000 birds.

Screech owls do not nest in open nests in trees. They use some natural cavity or an old woodpecker's cavity.

## Young Sportsmen Form Group for Wildlife Studies

Senior sportsmen of the state will do well to look to their laurels during the coming year as several youth groups are either organized or in the process of setting up Junior Sportsmen Clubs in several areas of the State.

The Idaho Junior Sportsmen organized during June, 1949 in Bannock county with headquarters at Pocatello. This club is unique in that it was conceived and organized by the young people and is not sponsored by any parent organization. The Bannock County Sportsmen's Association gives the youngsters help and advice when they request it, but the I.J.S. is a completely independent organization.

Their aims and purposes are summed in their slogan: DEVELOP—CONSERVE—ENJOY, and their efforts are not just talk. Just a few of the many projects and assistance this group has participated in follows:

Assisted the Fish and Game Department during the special deer hunt on the Pocatello at checking stations and searching for wounded or crippled deer after the hunt, and helped department men on census operations this spring.

Helped the Bannock County Sportsmen in clearing and preparing pen sites on Mink Creek, and helped with their Annual Hunters Ball.

Meetings are held twice monthly where movies pertaining to wildlife, sports, conservation, firearms safety and related subjects are shown, and speakers are recruited to advise along similar lines. Classes on fly tying have been conducted, and fly and bait casting instruction will be given to the youngsters this spring.

The club constitution provides for two months' dues in advance; dues of 50 cents per month; age class 14 to 20 years; delinquent for three months will be dropped from the rolls; fine for game law violation a minimum of \$1.00 or ten percent of the assessed court fine; officer may not hold office more than two years; and members may be fined 25 cents for creating a disturbance during any meeting.

Membership rolls have increased since the group started and the junior group looks forward to permanent organization.



Idaho trapper C. A. Wheeler, left, and fur supervisor John W. Smith examine a large catch of mink made by Wheeler in southwestern Idaho. Wheeler caught 168 mink in 42 days of trapping. Mink prices were up, and catch brought \$3,300.

## Fur Trappers Conclude Good Season

Idaho trappers hung their steel-traps on the cabin wall this spring following one of the most successful fur seasons in the past decade, fur supervisor John Smith reported. Mink led the money makers and 5,318 mink were taken. Although many fur prices slumped this year, mink held strong, averaging \$17 per pelt. A total of \$90,406 was received for mink this year.

Muskrats were plentiful, but prices plunged to less than a dollar per skin, few trappers concentrated on muskrats. Very few otter were taken.

The state's 66 beaver trappers and 132 farmer-trappers were disappointed by a sagging beaver market, which brought average prices down to \$12. Compared with a war-time high of \$98, the 1949-50 winter price represented a drastic cut.