

New Pistol River Road Reveals Insect-Eating Plant

William L. Finley, D. Sc. and Ed F. Averill

Write These Wild Life Articles

Tree Crickets Symphony of Oregon Nights

The all-pervading music of a September night is nature's orchestra which begins with the setting of the sun and plays through the hours of approaching dawn. This is a chorus of tree crickets in every garden, orchard and wooded lot around Portland.

A child's knowledge is generally tested by a list of printed or oral questions. How easy to test his love of nature by walking in the garden as night approaches during the late summer and fall and trying to distinguish the players in the omnipresent chorus of insects.

Who knows the master fiddlers in the diffused light of the September moon? No, they are not the tree frogs or the well known little black chickets that cheep like a chick and love a crevice among the clods. They are two species of tree crickets, ghostlike, dressed in pale green, almost white in color and less than an inch in length.

STOP AND HARKEN

Yes, you must consciously stop and harken. The delightful, rhythmic music is so interwoven with the night. It might escape you like the all prevailing dim effect of the moon. Then, harkening, you can single out two musicians in the chorus, the chorus, the "whistler" with a clear, soft, unbroken note; the other we might call the "fiddler," for his notes pulsate, with a slight pause between, as regular as the beat of a human heart. You will notice the key is high-pitched in both but varies a little in different individuals. Hundreds of players join the concert, yet all are in harmony.

Approach the bush or a branch of the tree and try to locate one of these elfin musicians. He is right here. Then you turn the other ear. No, he's over there. He's like a ventriloquist. Press on your flashlight and if your eyes are keen, you'll see the little wings elevated or even bent forward. The inside edges rub together much like a bow crosses the strings of a fiddle. You will be amazed that such a loud clear sound can come from such a tiny instrument. The membrane of the transparent wing is as taut as a drum.

FEMALE IS SILENT

Stranger than fiction, you will discover that the female of the species is silent. The male is a little artist that does not wander about seeking his lady love. He stands steadily at his own gate fiddling in the faith that his sweetheart will like his song and come of her own free will.

The little tree crickets each have six legs with slender bodies. The hind legs are shaped like those of a grasshopper. They are good jumpers. The male and female are easily identified because the female has a slender, round body and what looks like a little tail which is called an ovipositor. With this she punctures a twig or a cane and deposits her tiny eggs. The male has flat, gauzelike wings resting on the top of his back. Both of them have long, slender antennae that move continuously like living threads.

At night when you slip into bed and draw up the covers, if you are a lover of nature, you are conscious of the throbbing of the cricket heart of September. It is a delightful, rhythmic, sleep-inspiring music, the most comforting of all the sounds of nature.

Just Can't Take Python's Pulse

Efforts to determine the actual rise in temperature of a brooding mother python have been abandoned at the London zoo. Snakes disturbed during incubation of their eggs frequently scatter them and they shrivel and die. It is known, however, that there is a temperature increase of two or three degrees during the 11-week incubation period, which also is a fasting period for the brooding python.

Pilchard Eggs Laid, Hatched In Open Ocean

Much interesting information regarding the life history of the pilchard was obtained from the California authorities and also from J. L. Hart of the biological board of Canada.

According to these men, the pilchard is a pelagic spawner, i. e., the eggs are deposited in the open sea and are free floating. In a few days they are hatched. The exact spawning grounds are not known, although California investigators are convinced the fish taken off the coast of British Columbia, Washington and Oregon were spawned off the coast of Southern California.

Each female deposits many thousands of eggs during the spawning season which apparently extends over three or four months. Not all eggs are matured at one time. One batch of eggs will be deposited and then after a period of a few weeks, another is turned loose in the sea and after a still further waiting period another and possibly the final batch is deposited. W. L. Scofield expressed the opinion that the fish now being taken off the Oregon coast have previously spawned at least three times in California waters.

The principal foods during the summer months, according to Dr. J. L. Hart, are diatoms and copepods—many species of each. The former are simple one-celled plants which have the peculiarity of secreting for themselves a siliceous casing. The latter are small, somewhat simpler members of the shrimp family.

When both the California and British Columbia authorities were asked as to the possible effect of unrestricted fishing on the supply of a pelagic fish, such as the pilchard, they hesitated to express positive opinions.

"Personally, I think that unrestrained exploitation can reduce the abundance, but that is a matter of unproved opinion," said Hart. "In the second place, it is impossible to forecast what the effect on the salmon runs would be if the pilchard population were greatly reduced or even reduced to the point of economic extermination. It is not at all impossible that salmon and other commercial fishes might be able to turn to other species such as herring and sand lance without radically changing their habits and migration routes."

Fall Near as Honk Honk of Geese Sounds

Wedges of Canada geese cutting southward along the highway of the clouds is one of the most significant pointers toward the approaching fall weather. The first early flock may fare southward the first week or two of September, but that is not an omen of an early winter. All geese are not like the sheep that follow the herd.

There is no fixed code of movement. Some old gander may become restless and his individuality leads him away toward new fields of fodder. Some day in early October you will hear the deep sonorous "honk, ka-honk," which is more inspiring than any other bird note, and you will peer up to see a clean-cut distant arrow moving south.

With what military precision the flocks appear and disappear! Then occasionally you see a misshapen wedge. Each flock must have a leader. It's all very human. One guide is weakening and a competitor is gaining strength, a deflection in the ranks. An opponent gains. The race is on and for the time being the wedges are more wave-like or broken until mastership is reestablished. Meeting a heavy head wind is like a vital disagreement in all political parties because it is the severest test of leadership.

The name Canada goose may give the idea that the real home is beyond the boundary line, but the breeding range is wide spread from Northern California to Alaska. Within the borders of our own country, more honkers are born in the lake region of Southern Oregon than in any other place.

Timberline Party Sights Rare Birds

One party of picnickers who drove to Timberline on Mount Hood last week observed some animals and birds not seen at ordinary levels. These included marmot, golden mantled ground squirrels and a pair of Clark's Nutcrackers. Chipmunks, pine squirrels and many of the smaller birds were found to be unusually numerous and friendly. On the open slopes above timber line were observed some sharp-shinned and red-tailed hawks. The forest service has provided an attractive camp ground at the end of the road, while other picnic spots with water are available at different places.

TIME NOW TO HIKE

The forest service road from Government Camp to Timberline makes available wonderful opportunities for the hiker and nature students. The present season of the year is one of the most enjoyable on the slopes of Mount Hood. The air is clear and just cool enough to be invigorating. The slopes are dry and one can easily reach the glaciers by wearing only ordinary walking shoes.

Comes Fall as Honkers Spear Clouds in Flight



Quack! Quack!

Webster, S. D., Sept. 7.—Day county nominates itself as the nation's most popular waterfowl haven.

The South Dakota duck census disclosed 48,778 resident birds are splashing about in the county's lake and marshland sectors.

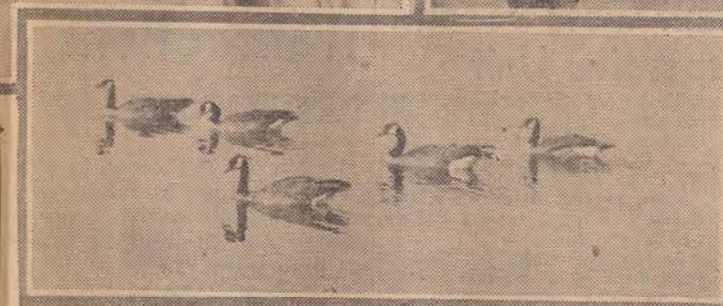
Of these, 8555 were female ducks, 37,085 of the 1935 hatch, and the remaining 3244 drakes.

Clark Nutcracker Bird of Interest On Mr. Hood Slope

Clark's Nutcracker, named after the junior member of the Lewis & Clark expedition, is the bird that attracts more attention of visitors to Mount Hood than any other. In build it is much like the ordinary jay but is without crest. In color it is a smoky-gray with whiteish head, black wings and black central tail feathers. The tips of some of the wing feathers are white as are the outer tail feathers and undertail coverts. This coloring gives it a striking appearance. The bird is often called Clark's crow, but it is not as large as the crow and except for the fact that it is also noisy, has nothing in common with the black marauder.

HORSE-UPKEEP COSTLY

It cost E. R. Bradley \$23,000 a month to keep up his racing strings and also meet the upkeep of the old Kentucky home of 1700 acres in the Blue Grass region, where there are some 200 head, including brood mares, sires, foals and yearlings.



Wedge-shaped sky sprinters indicate summer's passing and honk-honk of Canadian geese heading south leads to thoughts of fuel bins. Upper left photo is of young honkers while below is a group of Grays at rest. The third picture shows a cluster of Pitcher plants that devour hapless insects.

Study and Love of Nature Boon to Child's Health, Happiness

Parents and Teachers Urged to Start Young Folk on Path Toward Clear Understanding

With the beginning of the school year, both parents and teachers might well start the child along the trail that leads to a clear understanding of the ways of nature. This gives him a truer concept of life and encourages him to do those things which make life worth living.

A knowledge of nature develops accurate observation and cultivates a love for the beautiful. It may be the tint of flowers in the field, the flash of an oriole in an oak, the sighing of the wind in the firs or the gurgle of a mountain stream which enriches one's life. The companionship of the out-of-doors builds for physical and mental health and happiness. A

true knowledge of nature's laws is the best proof they are not to be violated.

It is often said this is an age of nerve tension. More and more people seek the relaxation of the forests, streams and mountains. Many men are attracted for the purpose of killing something. Better far to encourage a child to enjoy seeing how wood-folk live than watching them die.

Nature study, with its true stories that are often beyond human understanding, develops the child's imagination more than fairy tales. Walking with a child in the woods opens the opportunity for knowledge and training that cannot be taught in the school room.

Deer Hunting Season Opens Next Sunday

Oregon's 1935 deer hunting season will begin next Sunday, according to a bulletin issued by the state game commission. This is two days earlier than in previous years. The season will close October 25.

Bow and arrow hunting in the Canyon Creek refuge in Grant county, which was set aside by a law enacted at the last legislative session, will be restricted for hunters using the long bow and the broad arrow. All archer hunters will be checked in at John Day before being allowed to enter the hunting area to determine whether their equipment is adequate.

The general season for upland game birds will open two days earlier this year. The season has been set for October 13 to October 31.

Various counties have special seasons, however, and sportsmen are asked to consult the hunting synopsis issued by the game commission. The bag limit for Hungarian partridges has been increased to six in any one day but not to exceed 12 in any seven consecutive days, this applying to all counties that have an open season on this species. In Malheur county a special season on Chinese pheasants has been declared from October 13 to November 3, with a bag limit of six pheasants in any one day but not more than 12 in any seven consecutive days and not more than two female pheasants in a bag of 12. Any hunter taking more than the general bag limit of eight pheasants out of Malheur county must have the extra birds tagged with a metal game tag before leaving the county.

Clusters of Deadly Flora Found in Bogs

South of Gold Beach, following up Pistol river, is a new road that invades one of the primitive areas of the state and opens up a wide region where years ago hunters found deer in the forest almost as abundant as sheep.

The party composed of Ed F. Averill, John Yeon and the writer, was led by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Walker of Gold Beach. All eyes were watching for deer, but all he saw were tracks. One can't expect more than this in the middle of a warm day. But looking for deer, we found a few wild pigeons and remarkable clusters of the Pitcher plant, a unique species of floral display in the southern Oregon mountains.

The Pitcher plant might well be compared to the carnivorous variety of animals that catch and devour others clothed in fur and feathers. Not that it creeps stealthily along and springs like a cat on a mouse to crush the flesh and bones between its strong molars, but it has a lethal trap set to attract all sorts of insects, little and big, that enter to sink and die in the digestive juices and then be absorbed by the plant.

The pitcher plant, growing in sphagnum bogs in the Coast range of Southern Oregon, is called Darlingtonia, named for the American botanist, William Darlington. It is interesting to note the first specimen of this species collected was near Mount Shasta. The early explorers were attacked by Indians and while retreating, one of the members of the expedition clutched a plant and later the fragments of this were identified as an interesting and distinct Patcher plant.

We saw clusters of the plant two feet in height. The stems are spirally twisted, rounded at the top like a fiddle head. Underneath this rounded top is the entrance to the trap. From this entrance hang two long, reddish flaps, a sort of attractive landing place for insects and a little walk that leads to the fatal entrance.

Whether it's the color or some attractive odor that rings the death knell for flies, millers and grasshoppers is not quite clear, but the fate that follows is sure. Down the long, narrow funnel the victims crawl guided by hairs that point downward. Lower down, the insects find that the attempt to turn is blocked by an impassable array of little, hair-like lances. They gradually sink into oblivion and are digested by the plant.

The roots of three clusters were brought back to Portland and planted in damp soil by a little pool. Here they are gathering bumblebees and yellow jackets, which seem to add pep and vigor to the pitchers of greenish yellow.

SMOKERS GET BLAME

Careless smokers are believed to have caused more than 50 per cent. of the forest fires in Michigan last year.

Only Mule and Black-Tailed Deer May Be Killed

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Water Ouzels Figure It Out And Save Time

It sometimes seems that birds figure out an easy way of doing things or follow ideas that have been suggested by man. When the forest service built a bridge across Fall creek up Wind River valley in Washington, a pair of water ouzels selected a site for a home on one of the bridge timbers.

This is a slate-colored, aquatic bird with a short tail and smaller than a robin and lives along the swift, rocky streams of our Western mountains.

One day Jack Horton of the United States forest service was watching the pair of American dipper or water ouzels building a nest on the bridge beam. He and his companion saw one of the birds darting down and picking up nesting material that was floating by.

FIND EASIER WAY

To their great surprise, about 100 yards above they discovered one of the birds pulling lichens off the rocks and casting nesting material into the current. It was similar to cutting logs upstream, floating them down the current and salvaging them later on. The ouzels in some way had discovered it was easier to use the flowing stream that swept by just under the doorway of the new house and pick up the drift clog at hand than to make the flights upstream for nesting material and back to the building spot.

The dipper's nest is usually built over the top, and with a doorway in the side. Often it is on a ledge beneath the falling water where the bird has to go through the spray. The habit of the ouzel of lighting on a rock in mid-stream and bobbing up and down as if he had St. Vitus dance has given him the common name of "teeter-tail."

He hasn't webbed feet but he dives into a foaming stream and flies under water as expertly as a duck. He often wades up stream in the shallow water's edge with his head under hunting for water insects. Contrary to the opinion of some anglers, the bird does not live on young fish.

Few persons are familiar with the remarkable song of this bird. As it flies up or down stream following the water course, you generally hear a chattering note. But in the early spring or even during the winter it has a strong, exuberant song with a great variety of trills and whistles that echo from the canyon walls above the roar of falling water.

One can always see some of the water ouzels below Multnomah or Latourell falls or along Eagle creek. A pair generally builds a nest each spring on the cliff at the side of the lower falls at Multnomah.

FISH RICH IN IODINE

Fish are rich in iodine. Marine products are many times richer in iodine than any other sources of food for human and animal consumption. Sea foods contain from 50 to 200 times more iodine than foods of a land source, whether animal or vegetable.

Mountain Meadows, Flowers, Birds, Amazing Beauty Offered Those Who Travel Trail to Eden Park

(There are many wonderful side trips around Mount Hood which lead from the main highways back into wilderness areas where nature lovers may spend a day in pine surroundings. The following article written especially for this department by A. O. Wahn, supervisor of the National Forest, describes Eden Park trail.)

Do you like high mountain meadows where clumps of gay wild flowers are watered by sparkling streams? Do you like whispering voices of the timberline—the far-off boom of the avalanche, the rush of distant waterfalls carried nearer by the changing breeze and the strange cries of the mountain birds? Do you like the sharp spires of Alpine pine fir against the sky, or the gnarled snags of conifers that have withstood the storms of centuries?

If you do, leave your car some day near Cloud Gap Inn on the north slope of Mount Hood and hit the eight-mile forest service trail to Eden Park. Take along a light camping outfit. This is not a developed park as its name might indicate. It is a veritable alpine garden in almost the pristine state in which the first white man viewed it.

The trail leaves the ridge above Cloud Gap and heads west across Eliot creek which has its source in Eliot glacier. This is part of the forest service timberline trail which eventually will encircle Mount Hood and is well developed for foot or horseback travel. This section of the trail possesses the magic of true artistry, leading you on with increasing expectancy across each succeeding canyon, around each new shoulder of the mountain, whetting your interest with increasing charm, till it

leaves you at last in the lap of Eden Park meadows, the crowning experience of all.

Elk Cove is the first notable way-station along the route. It is perhaps four miles from Cloud Gap and is an experience by itself. From Coe glacier to the east of Barrett spur a turbulent stream pours down to Elk cove. The orange-colored paint brush of the Cooper spur area is being supplanted here by specimens of the richer hue. Deer tracks are numerous, and if you are watchful you may catch a glimpse of one of these graceful animals bounding off through the forest sheltered openings.

From here the trail carries you below Dollar lake around the mountain shoulder to Wyeast basin, which in some respects is the most attractive of all the mountain meadows. But push on to Eden Park crossing one or two exquisite glades enroute. Eden Park itself is below Lead glacier and beyond you appears the formidable barrier of Yocum ridge. You are now on the northwest slope of the mountain with Bull Run lake and Lost lake, the west fork of Hood river and one of the forks of Sandy spread out below you.

Here is superlative mountain scenery, from the majestic snow caps in the distance to the heather-enspanned meadows at your feet. Nothing is more entrancing than these joyous, flower-spangled openings, the transition from timberline to ageless snow. There are two main benches in Eden Park. Pitch your camp at either level and don't hurry home.

Bad Words Wasted; Hungry Trout, Once Loosed, Bites Again

A few days ago Jack Cody, well known swimming instructor at the Multnomah Amateur Athletic club, and Harry H. Stage, head of the local office of the U. S. Bureau of entomology,

were fishing on the Metolius river. They were near the headwaters of that stream when Jack hooked the largest fish of the day. And, as usual, after giving the angler a few of the thrills which Kipling ranks as the greatest of all, the fish broke the leader, leaped clear of the water a half dozen times and disappeared.

Just Can't Eat Fish He Raises

"There is one drawback to the business of raising trout," says L. R. Purdy, World war veteran of Salina, Okla. "Sometimes you get too fond of your fish to enjoy eating them."

Purdy has found health and a livelihood in raising game fish, but he goes elsewhere when he has the urge to wet a hook.

"I like to fish, so I just go somewhere else to do it," he explained. And because he doesn't like to see other people catch his fish either, Purdy rarely opens his lakes to public fishing, but depends on the sale of his fish, which he seins out, to stock other lakes. This is the way he makes his living.

Objects of Many Sportsmen in Oregon Hills Today



Deer hunters will be stalking through hill and dale today and until October 25 in quest of the fleet of the fleetest of the forests. Picture on upper right is of Eden park on Mount Hood, which is a reserve but a wonderful spot. Center top—Mule deer in squaw grass. Right—Columbian black tail. Center—Columbian black tail fawn. Below on the left are tails of three species of deer. They are (from the left) Columbian black tail, mule and white-tailed and on the left typical horns (left to right), mule, Columbian black tail and white tail.

Power Guns Barred

Deer hunters in the Malibu mountains of California may not use a gun with a killing range of more than half a mile. The county sheriff has issued an order that the law to that effect must be enforced. In some of the thickly-populated Eastern states rifles are prohibited entirely. Hunters are restricted to shotguns.

THRIVE ON FISH MEAL

The value of fish meal in animal feeding is well known. In surveying the literature in this field, it will be found that there are 21 references which report that fish meal gave better results and more economical gains in feeding farm animals than did tankage or meat meal, whereas

there are only three references which reported the superiority of tankage or meat meal over fish meal in this respect.

A championship certificate was mailed recently for Champion Kuroochi-No-Chikoro-Guan, a Japanese sparrow owned by Mrs. Ineko Shimokawa of Kobe, Japan, by the American Kennel club. This little dog traveled 7000 miles for the express purpose of winning an American championship.

Few Left of White Tails; No Shooting

The two species of deer common in Oregon are the mule deer in the eastern part and the Columbian black-tailed deer ranging from the Columbia river to the California line and up to the east slope of the Cascade mountains, where it overlaps the range of the mule deer.

With the opening of the Oregon deer season today and extending to October 25, it is important for hunters to know there are a few white-tailed deer still remaining in Oregon and it is against the law to kill these. A limited number remains on both sides the Cascade mountains.

The white-tailed deer, ranging in the headwaters of the Deschutes river, is a sub-species of the common Virginia deer of the eastern states. The one west of the Cascades is a distinct species and is called the Oregon white-tailed deer. The foothill region of the North Umpqua has been set aside as a state game refuge for protection of this species.

The first specimen known to science was killed near Oregon City the early part of the last century. The Oregon white-tailed deer, according to old residents, was at one time common in the foothills near Beaverton and in the oak timber through the Willamette valley.

The white-tail is intermediate in size between the mule and the Columbian black-tail. The tail is bushy and wedge-shaped, snow white on the underneath and on the edges and is held high and sways from side to side when the animal is running. The antlers rise from the forehead, then drop suddenly forward with the beam almost horizontal. From the beam, three long, sharp tines or points rise perpendicularly.

The mule deer is the largest of the three and can be told from the others by the large ears and the short white tail with a black tip. The winter color is steel-gray changing to gray-brown in summer. Although many sportsmen hunt the forested country of eastern Oregon for these deer, their numbers seem to hold up fairly well, which must be attributed largely to the closed season on does, enforcement of the laws, killing of predatory animals and the state game refuges.

The Columbian black-tail is the smallest deer in Oregon and about the same color as the Oregon white-tail. The tail is wider than that of the mule deer with the outer surface black all over and a white under side and tip.

The rutting season of all these deer is during October and November, and one or two fawns are born in April and May. The young are spotted at birth and remain so until the hair is shed in the fall. Antlers of all the bucks are shed during January, February or March.

Squaw Grass Garden Prize In the East

Wild flowers are often known by local names which are derived from some of their common uses. Such names may or may not be recorded in some of the volumes on plant life. This is the case of the squaw or bear grass. If you want to read about it in a text on botany, you will have to look for its technical name, Xerophyllum.

Every visitor of the Mount Hood country who motors along the paved highways or tramps these alpine areas in summertime can scarcely help seeing the stately shafts from three to five feet high with a thick oval cluster of yellowish flowers at the top. The plant from the center of which flower shaft grows is a dense tuft of long, wiry leaves.

In the East the Xerophyllum grass is grown in gardens and is called turkey's beard. This is a native of the higher western mountains from the Cascades to the Rockies. The squaws of some of the Indian tribes used the wiry leaves for making baskets. Bears sometimes dig up the root stocks for food and deer are especially fond of the sweet blossoms.

Get Poison From Frog Skin Glands

From the skin glands of the Dendrobates, a South American frog, Columbian Indians obtain poison for their deadly darts, and an excretion which they employ to alter the color of neck plumage on parrots. The poison is extracted by holding the frog over a fire. A shipment of frogs has been brought by Karl Griem to New York for the laboratories of experimental biology of the American Museum of Natural History.

Ouzels Follow Mankind



Above is an ouzel perched on a rock in a rapid stream and (below) is the dipper's home, a round nest of moss, with a side door.