

**Transcript of Videotape of Bureau of Environmental Service's
Science, Fish and Wildlife Team¹ Discussion with Tom McAllister²
"The Howling Wilderness"
Portland, Oregon
January 22, 2008**

Introduction

JenD: I worked with Dave Marshall for quite a few years at the Audubon Society, he was on the board there, and I think you two were contemporaries in terms of growing up and living here.

TM: We both joined the Audubon Society when we were twelve, in 1938.

JenD: Right. So did you do some of the fire lookout type of things also?

TM: Dave and I both worked on the Fremont National Forest. I was the lookout on Hager Mountain, Silver Lake Ranger District. I was the lightning rod of the Fremont Forest. It was a bald top mountain and I could look out over the whole high desert towards Wagontire Mountain to the east. On a clear day I could see the Hart Mountains. Hager Mountain Lookout Station has a little saddle – two little promontories on top. Just down on the saddle below the lookout station was the privy and it had steel cables. The guy wires came down and bolted into the ground. They took the concrete eye bolts, to set them to hold it in place, and when you went in and sat on the "throne," the door opened to the west. I could sit there and I could look from Mt. Hood on a clear day, all the way down to Mt. Shasta, except for Yamsi Mountain which – I couldn't see the rim of Crater Lake – but other than that, I could see everything all the way from Shasta to Mt. Hood.

I-84

ClaireP: Tom's here today to talk about wildlife, and particularly in the Portland area, but not just in the Portland area because it's kind of a counterpart to what he did last week on fish. But we can stray into fish topics too because it's all obviously part of the same eco-system. Tom, what would you like to tell us? I've got maps from the City of Portland if that would help inform the discussion and I've got some of the lists that we're working with from the National Audubon Society and lists from our little group about the

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² Tom McAllister (TomM) was the Outdoor Writer and Editor for the *Oregon Journal* and the *Oregonian* newspapers.

species and habitat types right here in Portland that we're trying to focus on because of a lot of different reasons.

KaitlinL: Apparently we've missed the Sandhill Cranes on that list.

ClaireP: Right.

TM: I'd start by ripping up I-84 and getting the pheasants and the quail back in Sullivan's Gulch.

JenD: I was going to talk to you about quail. And I'm wondering about the distribution of quail – that we really don't have any around very much anymore, and I wonder if it's cats or it's just habitat or...

TM: Don't even get me started on cats, particularly if anybody's a cat lover.

Cats and Bones

JenD: Do you think the cat is the quail issue here, or are there habitat issues as well?

TM: Cats and dogs, both. The only improvement is that the leash law was a great help, but a lot of people still let their cats out. I've seen, right in my own yard, with neighbors' cats (and it hasn't been a friendly relationship by the time I got through telling them the possibilities of what might happen—their cat could disappear). But I've had my Towhees, the Song Sparrows. I've had three different Towhees I've picked up from the cats, or the remnants, or the cat with the evidence in mouth, and I wasn't very happy.

My favorite story about Portland Audubon – one of the great early members, Harold Gilbert, who had the Gilbert Piano Company here in Portland, which was a front, because Harold didn't have any pianos once you got in the office. He kept his great collection of ornithological books there, including a full set of Audubon's in the smaller edition – not the elephant – edition. But he had the whole thing. Like "Birds of California" by Dawson - all these wonderful earlier volumes. Harold lived for the Audubon Society, never missed a meeting, and his specialty was bird poetry. Harold would get up with the least amount of invitation or excuse and start reciting bird poetry. He was a real character, but he had a big heart. He was always taking people. At that time, not everybody, by a long shot, had cars. A lot of people just used the street cars to come down to Central Library to attend the meetings at Library Hall, and Harold would get a group together and take them in his car on field trips.

And they lived right there in the Portland Heights, not too far from Ainsworth, in one of the big old homes. His money all came from the Gilbert Toy Company, which manufactured all of the Erector sets and chemistry sets. That's where the money came from, but he wore the same old moth-eaten looking suit and he was just as down to earth. His wife was part of the old Portland society and she could never get him to dress up.

His campaign in the neighborhood was to control the cats – which he used to trap (he was very sly about it). But once he'd trapped and drowned the cats, he had to put them somewhere, and of course he was regularly up to Audubon at the Pittock Sanctuary. They'd excavated this pond up there to be a centerpiece, and he just simply put all the cats in the Audubon pond. When I wrote up the history of Portland Audubon, they didn't particularly cotton to that, and that was one little piece of history which was left out (which I know you wouldn't want to miss out on any of it). When they drained that pond years later, they wondered where all these bones came from.

JenD: I thought that was an urban legend, but its fact.

TM: It's absolutely true, and you had to know Harold Gilbert. And he wrote to David and I and Bill Telfer, all three of us, during WWII; we were overseas. He'd write us the greatest letters on birding in Portland and what was going on here, so you could never have forgotten him.

The Old German Songbird Society

ClaireP: One of the questions that I had...and I think we've touched upon this during one of our little coffees...

TM: You're just trying to keep me on track...

ClaireP: Just trying...

ClaireP: One of the questions that...I came across a report from the Cooper Ornithological Society that reported on all sorts of different species in the Portland area and in the back it said, "Introduced by *the Society*" – a lot of them in the 1880s.

TM: Yeah, that was the old German Songbird Society.

ClaireP: The old German Songbird Society. Can you tell us some more about that? Some of these species obviously did not and some might have.

TM: So much of Portland, in those days we had absolutely open borders, and we were building the country and there was no question or limitation on immigration, except for the Exclusion Act for Orientals. It was the people from Western Europe - and some of the greatest numbers were coming out of Germany. A good number, we had. Of course, when they arrived here, just like in Chicago where you had the big Pollock community, we had an area of the German people; the Italians right down here in southwest Portland where they did all the first great tearing down and renovation – the Portland Development Commission - that was largely Jewish and Italian. But these people from Europe, particularly the Germans, they missed the native songbirds, and they organized this Society to import them, and that's how they came here. There was also support for

people from the British Isles, but the one that was successful was the Skylark. The Skylark was out there in the old Ladd's Addition, which is between Laurelhurst Park and Mt. Tabor, to the east of Laurelhurst Park, in those fields out there off of Belmont. You could go out there in the early '30s. I didn't hear them myself, but I talked to the other members that used to go out there and listen to the Skylark.

And David Marshall, when he walked to school every day, and he'd walk through those old pastures, and Meadowlarks were right there in that district that we called old Ladd's Addition. There were lots of Meadowlarks. Anywhere in the Columbia bottom lands where there were fields, particularly from 82nd Avenue, which was the boundary of the city, from there on east, there were lots of Meadowlarks. The other great thing out there, all that country between Rocky Butte and Powell Butte and clear down to Mt. Scott, all that was farming area and the buttes were forested. They had been logged. There were some pastures up there, but there was lots of nice edge effect. In the springtime, particularly on Powell Butte, were the dogwood trees on the forest edge when they were in bloom. That was a great place to go for Ruffed Grouse - lots of Ruffed Grouse. You'd hear them drumming out there in the spring. There were Blue Grouse when I was a boy there, and Mountain Quail.

In the fields out there in east Portland in the Columbia bottom lands, one of the great things was all of the wintering flocks of Pipits, huge flocks of Pipits, and Horned Larks, that were more northern. The Pallid Horned Lark, more the Arctic form, they were wintering in those fields. Lots of Short-eared Owls. If you got into a tall grass area and if you're out there in the evening, Short-eared Owls - they're diurnal and would feed all through the day, and have that nice bouncy flight over the fields like great giant moths—they would come collectively together, and the Short-eared Owls would get down in the tall grass, just like the Harriers, and Marsh Hawk would do the same thing, and they would roost together at night. If you were out there early in the morning, you'd see them come out and they'd start to take off, but they'd all come out of a communal roost. I've seen that out in those fields in east Portland.

The First Four Blocks of Portland

TM: The area that I've had the longest acquaintance with in Portland and that I know some of the history, takes us back to the very beginnings when Francis Pettygrove and Asa Lovejoy, when those two came together and platted out the first four blocks for Portland, that was down where Tom McCall Waterfront Park was. Naturally it was right on the river. That particular area was where there was a small Indian village, and it was a place that you could bring a sailing ship up without any difficulty, and that was where some of the first trading was in Portland. Oregon City was already well underway, territorial capital, but Portland gets started in 1845 with that platting and those four blocks originally. They laid out the streets but they had the problem when they felled the timber. These are all old-growth Western red cedar and Doug fir. This whole area was just a wall of great timber, except for these small clearings that the native people had made where they had their village— mostly fishing people. And they cut the trees and it

took a while before they were able to get the stumps out of there, and the way they did that is they had these augers – a huge drill with a big wooden handle at the top end – and you auger the hole around the base of the tree and then pour turpentine in, and then set fire to it, and once it gets down in the roots and runs out particularly on the Douglas fir roots, it's got a lot of pitch, but eventually they got the stumps burned out, then later they were blowing the stumps out. That's where we got the name "Stumptown," because at night when people would go down those earliest streets, you could run into these stumps, so they whitewashed them. That was the way they designated them. The street would go around the stumps, and that's how it got to be called Stumptown.

The Talbots

TM: About that same time, where I live, we moved up to Council Crest and bought our home up there in 1943, and I hate to break your heart, but I bought a house that was built in '23 and it has a large, good- size lot and has the adjoining lot that goes with it, it's a separate tax lot, but I've always kept it natural. We bought the two lots and the house on Fairmount, across from Council Crest Park for \$12,500, and I borrowed the down payment and paid my parents back. But it's the single best investment we ever made, especially when I see what's happening to our investments today.

Well, here we are on Council Crest, and almost every day of my life since then when I've been home, I go up every day onto the crest and look over the city and I've always had hunting dogs, mostly retrievers, goldens, and I have had labs. And you get to thinking about who was here first, and if you go back in our title and take it way back, it was part of a 640 acre donation land claim that was taken out by Charles and Sarah Talbot, and any number of you I'm sure have come up there and bicycled or run, or jogged, walked around Fairmount (which is very popular), and where Talbot Terrace and Talbot and Fairmount come together, at that particular entrance, that's where the old street car line went up around the top of Council Crest, and the streetcar line went in there about 1912 and then it served the amusement park that was up there until 1923. There was a major amusement park on top of Council Crest with a big observation platform and a Ferris wheel and that 640 acres that took all of that in, and then the area from Council Crest on towards Healy Heights along the top up there. The Talbots came up there in 1850 and it took them three days with a pack string. They cut the trail out to bring all their household goods and material to build their cabin, which I'm sure, was built out of native material that was there to begin with. And by the way, most of the early building, those were frame and they didn't use the number of studs that you would in any framing today. They were what they called barn type structures. You had your studs, but you used sway bracing between, which gave it structural integrity, and most of them were clap board or the frame oftentimes was a pole frame and then you split the cedar with the froe and you had long lengths of cedar shaking for both the roof and the siding, and that was the beginning of the primitive cabin. And it worked on this side because it wasn't like out on the prairies or eastern Oregon where you dug into a hillside, part of it, to get the warmth of the soddy or heavy logs. You could build it real light and quick for temporary shelter until you could build a more substantial house. So much of it was right what was there

and a big share of it was taking the Western red cedars and just shake siding and shake roof for the first year or two 'til you could get the material together. And a lot of them whip sawed – can you imagine the time to take – well anyway, think of the Talbots and they reference that as you see in many of the old journals as a “howling wilderness,” and was it the wind, the SoWest wind with the big Chinook storm coming in that made it a howling wilderness? No, it was the wolves. And where we have coyotes now, which is God's and nature's answer to cats, it was the wolves, which will not tolerate coyotes in their vicinity.

But anyway, there were wolves and cougars, and the cougars - and the Talbots and those other old pioneers, they always referred to them as panthers, - and the Talbots, on their 640 acres up there, there were probably some natural openings from fire, and they would have used fire extensively to clear and help settle it and cultivate it, but that wasn't a good site for tilling, and what they had primarily, they were raising livestock. They would have had hogs, and their horses and their milk cows and their chickens, and might have had a few goats, but it was largely livestock and orchard, and there're still a few of the old remnant cherries and apples up there in that Council Crest area. And then they'd have had a big garden. And it was subsistence living and a little bit of trading. Mostly in those days it was the women were the ones who traded the eggs and the butter. And the men would raise the livestock and take the cattle to market, and they did a lot of horse trading in those days too. That was the first couple up there, and their children. Their oldest, their girl, her name was Ellie, and she was one of the first of the pupils at one of the earliest schools that was the original St. Helens Hall. And because they worried about Ellie, she rode three miles to school, and she had a nice black pacing pony for a little girl, and she rode every day three miles from Council Crest down to down to the original St. Helens Hall. And they had a pair of shepherd dogs that always went to school with her, in case - they were always worried about “panthers,” not that there were records of attack, but that was something in their minds. And the wolves were a consideration, and of course they were getting rid of wolves, and largely by putting out strychnine bait. That was the standard way of dealing with the wolves.

And some of you may remember from Oregon history that the very first meeting in this tri-county area was the gathering, mostly with people from the Oregon City area and particularly from Champoeg and St. Paul, and they came together to see if they couldn't collectively put up a bounty for wolf control. Wolves, with all the livestock - and of course they weren't contained, they were running loose – and the wolves were having a real impact, and it was at that original, so-called Wolf Meeting, that the question came up. Great Britain and the United States have joint occupation of the old Oregon country, and they thought they'd just have a test vote to see who would prefer to be under the Stars and Stripes as compared to the Union Jack, so they simply drew a line, and of course in those days it was the men who did the voting, and all those who were for Stars and Stripes stepped over on that side, and Union Jack on that side, and the Americans outnumbered it, and that message took some months to get there, but it was one of the things that went into consideration when it was delivered to Congress, and the people that put it over. See, we didn't yet have the big flood of immigrants from the Oregon Trail. The Hudson's Bay Company, the big share of their employees were French Canadians.

They were the voyagers, and the people that went out on the fur brigades, and they also worked at Fort Vancouver, but that was a very hard life, and it took a lot out of you physically within 20 years, and the men would then settle down and take their family and McLoughlin - the Hudson's Bay Company really representing the British government in this territory - encouraged his people to go down and settle, and they settled around St. Paul, in particular, and Champoege. But those French Canadians never forgot the Plains of Abraham, in Quebec, and their loss of French Canada to the British, so, that had a bearing on the Wolf Meeting and which flag would we rather be under. Wolfe and Montcalm: that was one of the most critical points in our history - when the British defeated the French - in as far as setting things up for us in the future.

Well, those Talbots, as that land was later broken up, throughout these west hills, Portlanders thought that the air was better. This was a time when there was a lot more childhood diseases and particularly [in] adults, tuberculosis was very widespread, and the idea was to get out of the lowlands, down close to the river, and there was the Willamette Valley with all the overflow lands, the floods, the meanders. Water-borne disease was a real factor and there was malaria brought into this country in the Willamette Valley by the immigrant trains in the beginning. Many of those people came out of Missouri and some of the southern states. And at that time, the idea was to come up on the hilltop and have a little summer home and a little hunting cabin, and the people came up here on the hilltop in the west hills and up in the canyons, like Balch Creek Canyon, where Audubon is, and there were little summer homes and then the men enjoyed the hunting, particularly for the Ruffed Grouse, which they called "partridge," or if you were a New Englander, "patridge," and they hunted the Ruffed Grouse and the Blue Grouse, in particular, and the deer hunting and there was still some elk. There were a lot of elk, by the way. When the Talbots came up, one of the best ways to find your way through was not Indian trails because the natives didn't go up there in that heavy forest. They stayed down close to the river. They were dugout canoe Indians. But the elk, Roosevelt elk, homestead a particular territory, and unlike the Rocky Mountain elk, they don't move about widely. It's just the young male elk, the bull elk, which are driven out by the dominant herd bull, and they go and they spread the gene pool from one little pocket to another. But those elk are largely resident and they set a series of trails, and those elk trails are just beaten into the country, and the old elk trails are what you followed through the forest in the Coast Range and even here in our west hills.

Highlight Birding

So, those were the first places up there. When I grew up and was riding my bike with Dave Marshall in the '30s and early '40s, all through this city, we had all these places we were going birding, but Dave's Grandmother Marshall and her siblings, who were up there just off of the upper part of Broadway Drive, her home had all of the birdhouses. Bluebirds were her favorites, and the Mountain Quail that she would feed, and Portland Audubon used to have sunrise gatherings on top of Council Crest. They'd bird up on Council Crest, and then in winter - and we had a lot harder winters then - they would put out feeding stations for the birds, and particularly it was the quail, the Mountain Quail

and the valley quail (California Quail), and one of their feeding stations was on Council Crest. Again, that was the grouse and the Mountain Quail.

When I first came up here, I remember one morning driving up - I started out as Outdoor Editor for the *Oregon Journal* in '53, and I'd always come up Broadway Drive - and one morning a mother grouse with her chicks came right up out of Marquam Canyon across Broadway Drive. That's the first and last time I've seen grouse up there. But there were still grouse in Forest Park.

The places that I particularly enjoyed, that David showed me new birds like the Lazuli Bunting and MacGillivray's Warbler, and the Hutton's Vireo, was Mt. Tabor. And Mt. Tabor, before the Parks Department decided to make a clean sweep of everything in the shrub understory and put it just down to grass, they took out all natural shrub component that was there on Mt. Tabor. And before that, it was a particularly great place, especially on the southwest and west slope of Mt. Tabor, there was a wonderful opportunity to see those beautiful Lazuli Buntings there. The other place that we had some of our highlight birding was from Kelly Point - that whole peninsula there between the Columbia, the Willamette, out to the tip of Kelly Point and back to the old stockyards and the dike, which the railroad put in to protect the rail line through there, so everything that was Smith, Ramsey and Bybee Lakes, all that county, that whole peninsula, before it was developed by the Port of Portland, was a completely wild natural area, and what was especially nice about it, it flooded every spring. In the 1930s they'd just completed the first major dam in the Columbia, and the Columbia River has, like the rising of the Nile, it's an annual spring event, then it floods all the lowlands and then as it recedes, you have all of the depressions that have the natural aquatics - lots of bur-reed or *Sparganiaceae* and the Wapato. And there was no reed canarygrass. There was no Himalayan blackberry. It was all natural sedges, ash and particularly the red osier and willow and then the big cottonwoods along the borders of the sloughs, and that's where we got the last records on the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. That was a wonderful place for cuckoos. There were heron rookeries out there and lots of Wood Ducks nesting in the area, the Western Painted Turtles. There'd be lines of them on a sunny day sunning out on the logs in the water, but the place was just a natural paradise. It was as described in the journals of David Douglas and Dr. Townsend, who were the two naturalists that stayed at Fort Vancouver.

Douglas, in the late 1820s - he met Townsend. Townsend came overland and he was there and was the guest of the Hudson's Bay Company. Those two did so much of that early botanical and field collecting of both the birds and small mammals. But I used to think of that as "this is the way it was" when Douglas and Townsend were here collecting out of Fort Vancouver. Fortunately, we have your wonderful efforts on the Columbia Slough, which was one big polluted combination of sawdust and all the mill debris from the big lumber mills and in particular from the slaughter plants. Everything went into the Slough, and I'm just impressed at what's happened out there and what's happened at Smith Lake. Smith Lake, by the way, is one of the best areas to go birding for diving ducks. It was areas where there were great rafts of Canvasback and blue bill - both the Lesser and the Greater Scaup, mostly Lessers, and in a severe winter - we had much

more severe winters – the Goldeneye that would over-winter instead of going all the way out to the coast – the Goldeneye that would over-winter on the Columbia and Snake river would come on down when those rivers' portions would freeze up there, they'd come down, and occasionally we'd, in January, see wonderful numbers of Goldeneye ducks on Smith Lake.

Sauvie's Island

I also did quite a bit of birding on Sauvie's Island, and that was before the diking district was put in by the Corps of Engineers, and Dewey Charlton, who was a patient of my dad's ran the ferry to Sauvie's Island. Dewey was fascinating because he was a direct descendent of one of the first wagon train parties. He and the Reader family got the two original donation land claims on Sauvie Island, and the Charltons came from the Carolinas, and when the Civil War broke out, one of the great stories in the Charlton family was that a contingent of soldiers was sent over from Fort Vancouver and they made the Charltons take down the Confederate flag at their farm on Sauvie's Island. They ran that as a hunting preserve, and still do to this day, and it was one of the best run of the hunts of the many hunts on Sauvie's Island. But at that time, before the diking district, Sauvie's flooded every winter, and all of the homes were built up high as if they were on stilts, but they were enclosed around, and they could store lots of equipment and things, and everybody had their boat under the house, and when the high water came, the youngsters all went to the Sauvie Island school by boat if they weren't on what high ground there was on the island, and they would take some of the cattle off, and they sometimes would take and barge the cattle over onto the Washington side. But that was an annual event, and the families lived with it and the soil was refreshed. It was just like the rising and falling of the Nile. That was a very dramatic change.

I've covered a lot of ground. I'll let you ask some questions.

ClaireP: I just have one question 'cause you mentioned the Western Painted Turtles that you saw. How about Western Pond turtles, the other native species? Do you know, or did you see, Pond Turtles in your travels in that area too?

TM: I saw Pond Turtles when I was up on the old Sundial property where the Sandy River comes in there in those channels up there, but it was Painted Turtles that I saw out there on the old Ledbetter property. The Ledbetters were an early Portland family. That's the family that first established the big mills at Camas, put the dam in that created Lacamas Lake that later became Crown Zellerbach--(they) bought that. Then that property was gifted to Willamette University and then Willamette University sold it to the Port of Portland.

Powell Butte

JenD: Would you say a few more things about wildlife on Powell Butte – the buttes – Lazuli Buntings, Meadowlarks, just other wildlife on Powell Butte.

TM: The thing that you had up on those buttes particularly in the spring, and early summer, and this is that combination of deciduous on the edges, particularly the maples and the crabapple and the dogwood, but we would go up there, and you could hear, on a spring morning in May, both the transient - the birds of passage coming through - and the birds that are going to be residents, but there were Black-throated Gray Warblers, Townsend Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, the Golden Pileolated (which I guess they call Wilson's now), and the Lutescent Warbler and the Yellow Warbler, and one of the things that I miss the most is the absence of warblers throughout the greater Portland area. There's a scattered few. Then there was the Cassin's Vireo; the Hutton's Vireo we could pick up there even in the wintertime. They get quite active and you'd hear the males calling and singing starting in late February, early March. But that whole gradual, but steady, decline of the neotropical birds has been one of the great losses. The other thing was that resounding call of the Olive-sided Flycatcher. And they'd be right on the tip top of the older fir, especially if they had a snaggy top. Western Tanagers, regularly. And that's such a tremendous loss. In part it is a diminution of habitat, but we still have enough that they should be there. To me, it has to be what's gone on in the wintering range.

JenD: For the Olive-sideds, you mean?

TM: The Olive-sided, and the warblers.

JenD: You said, the "Lutescent's Warbler"? The Lutescent's? Is there a new name for that?

TM: Lutescent Warbler?

JenD: Yeah.

RyT: I didn't hear Lutescent. I heard Pileolated — Golden Pileolated.....

TM: ...which is the Wilson's now.

JenD: You said Yellow Warbler after Lutescent. Are they the same bird?

TM: No.

Laurelhurst District

I'll tell you a great example of the habitat that's intact, and it was created with the new addition in Portland, and that was the Laurelhurst Addition. That's where I was raised. When they developed the Laurelhurst district, by far the dominant tree the developers put in when they laid out those streets was the American elm tree. And the American elm - that district would have been created in 1920s, and our home was on Hassalo - and the Yellow Warblers would return right around the first week of May, but they sang clear into late June. But the thing about the Yellow Warblers, they sang all through the day, and to go out of our house and hear the Yellow Warblers, that song... It was the song of summer. It was the Yellow Warbler in the American elm. The Yellow Warblers are gone. And now the neighborhood group in Laurelhurst is concerned about are they going to raise the funds themselves, with the whole problem with financing this business of maintaining trees, but the Dutch elm disease is attacking the elm trees. The City has dealt with this problem in the parks - some of the parks, particularly right here, our park blocks in Portland. That's a huge problem that's facing those people. Are they going to defend them, or are they going to recognize that it's inevitable, and lose the Dutch elm and then plant another tree. And [if so] they're going to have to take them out. It's going to be a big undertaking.

Oak Habitats

JenD: Can you tell us about oak habitats?

TM: Oak habitat - the best oak habitat was on Sauvie's Island, and it's still there, and the best place to see a beautiful oak forest is on the Wildlife Management Area right in the middle of Sturgeon Lake, is Oak Island. And the only reason those oaks are there is because that underlying soil is all Brett's flood gravel, and although it's surrounded by water, it doesn't hold it right there - that big deposition of gravel. But the Mocks Bottom and the bluffs - where the University of Portland [is and] down towards St. John's - those bluffs, particularly right there at Oaks Bottom - that is well drained, and west/southwest facing, that was a great area for oaks and because of that, that was the place you could always go and pick up the Slender-billed Nuthatch. Then the old oxbow arm in there, those backwaters, before they were filled, that was a great area for the Hooded Mergansers. In fact, Hooded Mergansers used to nest down there in some of the cavities in those old oak trees. There were a few places in the southwest hills, in the Tualatin Hills, where you had, again, a south/southwest facing exposure, where it was dryer and there had been a history of fire. The Indians, throughout the Willamette Valley—you can't imagine the extent to which the Indian regularly burned, burned, burned that valley and created all that oak habitat. That oak savannah prairie, you had the same thing in the Tualatin Valley. The Tuality Indians did the same thing. They may have come up and done some burning, but over all the west hills the indications are that there were never many oaks there. We had a few of some of the oldest trees in the southwest hills - Hillsdale/Council Crest area - there are a few of those old oaks left, but it wasn't like on down the valley on the foothills of each side, where that was always regularly burned to

keep out the Douglas fir and the understory, and that way they had a mast crop, and they could go out, particularly in the spring for the roots and the bulbs, then the seeds that they gathered later in the late summer.

Missing the Birds

JenD: So we still have those trees, but we don't necessarily have the nuthatches. We have the nuthatches out on Sauvie's Island but not here.

TM: We don't have enough.

The other bird that I miss was the one that would sing at night. It was the largest of the warblers, and that was the Yellow-breasted Chat. The Yellow-breasted Chat, the best habitat for them was in the spirea thickets that were out there around Rocky Butte, in that area, and then of course, the Yellow-breasted Chat, especially on a clear night with any amount of moonlight, they would sing all night long.

ClaireP: Tom, could you say something about the Common Nighthawk, because you remembered them here on Broadway and I'd like others to hear that.

TM: Yes. The Nighthawk was the definitive sound of mid-summer nights in Portland. When we came on a Friday or Saturday evening as a family – everybody gravitated to downtown, and where was the heart of downtown? It was Broadway. And of course the first neon signs had come up and it was bright and colorful and everybody was going to do dinner and the theater – take in a movie. When you come out of the theater, and first thing you'd hear at night was the Nighthawk -- that "peeting" sound and then the dive. The Nighthawks were all up and down Broadway. In my mind, there was an additional attraction from all this light. There was nothing better lit up than Broadway, and the insects, particularly like the moths at night and the millers, so there all the Nighthawks were. I saw the Nighthawk eggs – there's no nest – they just lay their eggs and they like bare ground. The old – we called it the Southern Pacific Building, it's the building just across the street to the east of Pioneer Square – that originally, I think was the Southern Pacific Building. We'd take the elevator up, and I went up there with Willard Ayres Elliott, and Elliott knew about it, and he took us up there, a group of us, and we got up there with the engineer for the building and went out to look at the Nighthawk eggs on the roof of the building. It was one of those graveled tar roofs, but the Nighthawks were nesting in the old downtown - on the top of the old downtown Portland buildings.

ClaireP: In high density? Did they nest communally?

TM: No. You know, - you mention high density - there are some areas where a group of Nighthawks will come together – I wouldn't say it was like a tern colony or any density, but you'd have a number of Nighthawks nesting in the same...

JenD: Were they wide-spread though in Portland at that time anyway?

TM: Yes. You'd hear them all through the neighborhoods. I would imagine that one of the places they would have chosen to nest might have been old gravel quarries, but particularly along the river, on high water gravel bars. They didn't like any cover. The thing that struck me in recent times - one of my sons is a private contractor for the Indians and the Forest Service and the BLM, both on wildlife and forestry issues, and he was doing Marbled Murrelet surveys for the Siletz tribe on some of their lands. And where they set up on a ridge top and high lead - on a big yarder - they high lead everything up to the top of the ridge and then they stack, and log trucks come in and bring the logs up. That particular spot with all that operation - it's literally ravished, I mean it's just laid bare, and that's where, after they'd finished and left, that's where the Nighthawks were nesting here a few years ago. Last time I saw nesting Nighthawks was in the Coast Range on those old logged off walls. Of course they put down lots of gravel because of the traffic at that time and then it was abandoned. It goes to show you that if we think in terms of some of their requirements, we could go in and create, which is what I think Audubon's thinking what they might do.

ClaireP: The City too—we'd like to do...

RyT: When was it that you saw the Nighthawks really decline or disappear from Portland, roughly?

TM: I'd say when I came back to Portland after the war, and that would have been in the 50s. There was nothing like the Nighthawks of the 30s and 40s.

ClaireP: I've heard some people say that they think part of the problem, besides pesticides/herbicides, might be the change in lighting systems in communities. I don't know how much about lighting systems, but you mentioned neon. I wonder if neon has more of an attraction or if it's just.....

TM: I don't think they were disturbed. Most of the Nighthawks, when they winter, they winter in Venezuela, in that same area where Angel Falls [is]. That's still some of the wildest part of northern South America. That's where they winter, and those high limestone mesa country down there.

David Douglas, Botany and the Fast Brigade

ClaireP: Going back a little bit when you were talking about David Douglas and Townsend doing some botanical work, you also mentioned small mammals. Did that include bats, by any chance ... ?

TM: I think Townsend collected some bats. Douglas included some bird and mammal notes, but he was the botanist sent up by the Royal Horticultural Society. If any of you have the opportunity to go to Kew Gardens when you go to London, you can take a train out from town up the Thames; it's just off the bank of the Thames. That Royal Botanical

Garden was established early on in the 1700s. When Barbara and I went there the first time - we used to hike, one of our favorite early trips was the Rogue River trail, and it's climatically ideal to hike down there in March and April, but the wildflowers, which are just endemic to that particular area, especially that serpentine rock. But there's this one, it's the Bolander's Lily, and it's an absolute crimson, beautiful lily, and we go to Kew Gardens, and we go into the rockery section and here's their North American, here's these Bolander's Lilies in bloom. It just blew me away because Bolander's Lilies, which you would see in the Rogue Canyon or up on the slopes in the Siskiyou country.

ChrisP: So did Douglas get that for them?

TM: No. The farthest south that Douglas got was into the Umpqua River country. That's when he went down and picked up, shot, lying on his back, kind of leaned up against a tree with his long rifle, and he shot the first specimens of the sugar pine; got the cones to get the seeds. That's as far south as he got.

CindyS: Did he run into some tribes down there?

TM: Oh, he had real problems.

He traveled light. One of the most remarkable parts of his journals is when he went up the Columbia, just before the big spring freshet. When you're going to leave this country, instead of taking a ship and taking over a year to get back to Europe, what they would do on the fast brigade was they'd leave Fort Vancouver in March. The reason they started up the Columbia then is the river is at low winter flow. They got up the river, all the way up to the big bend and canoe camp, and then they made the portage simply packing. The canoes were stashed there at the canoe camp on the great bend of the Columbia, before it comes back around to its headwaters, Columbia and Windermere lakes, then they went over Howe Pass and ended up at Rocky Mountain House. Then they picked up the Saskatchewan River, and they take the Saskatchewan all the way to Lake Winnipeg, then from Lake Winnipeg, they pick up that tributary outlet that goes to York Factory on Hudson's Bay and they pick up the ship there. They've left here in late March and they are in London, because it's a much shorter trip across the Atlantic, and of course, they're way north latitude, and they're in London in late August or September. That is an annual brigade for a number of years that very few people are aware of.

Well, he's still exploring for botanical material, and he wants to get into the Blue Mountain country. And this particular trip, he's gotten up the river and he's in the Clearwater country in Idaho. He's gone all the way up the Lower Snake, and at Lewiston, where Lewiston is today, he's now gone up the Snake River towards what would be Kamiah, and he's up in those mountains, and he's done his collecting and now he turns around and he comes back on the great freshet. And with their dugout canoe, they come down that river. They made it from there to Fort Vancouver in five days. Now that tells you how the Columbia River is moving. Of course they went from dawn to dusk. They kept a lot shorter hours than we do. Oftentimes, in the fur brigades, you were

always up with the teapot going and getting ready and breaking camp starting at about 4:30 in the morning.

Varied Thrush and Tom's Declining Birds List

JenD: I have one [question] about your sightings of Varied Thrush and maybe some thoughts about abundance.

TM: The Varied Thrush has done very well. The Varied Thrush are going to winter here, particularly if you've got an old apple tree or a madrone with berries, and mountain ash, dogwood berries. They come to our feeder. We put out apples on our railing. I'll spike the apple and they'll take to the apples. They've always been a shy bird. It's interesting; they've got a nice shyness about them. But our Varied Thrush, they have a migration in which most of them are coming from the forest all through the West Coast of British Columbia. All through those mountain forests, and southeast Alaska, so we draw on a large population comes down here to winter. Plus we have Varied Thrush nests up in the Cascades in the summertime. Most of them are up there in that 3,000-4,000-foot, that mid-elevation range. They'll come down to the valley. The Varied Thrush is in good shape.

ClaireP: This is interesting. I suspect the reason you asked the question is that the National Audubon Society has recently come out with a new watch list of species that they're concerned about, and that's one that they've listed here in this particular area, and so it's one on our watch list, if you will, for the City, but now we're wondering whether this is something we ought to pay attention to, and if so, monitor, or what we should do.

TM: When I think of the habitat area they come from and they're drawing on, and the fact they winter within the West Coast area here, they're not neotropical and facing other problems. I would be doubtful, personally, as to having a status that they need to be that closely watched.

ChrisP: Claire, was that the study where Audubon found that even the most common birds that we thought were in pretty good shape were starting to decline?

ClaireP: Yes, in part. We've just compiled, based on this National Audubon Society...

TM: I'll give you a quick listing of birds that were once more common and they were north-tempered zone birds. The Western Evening Grosbeak. Everywhere in Portland, particularly where the maple trees were in flower, great flocks of Western Evening Grosbeaks. I don't know why or what's happened to them. The other one would be the great flocks of Pine Siskins. We have maybe two or three Pine Siskins where we used to have maybe a couple dozen come to our feeders with the thistles. We just don't see the Pine Siskins like we used to. The fascinating thing is the rapidity with which population changes take place and one replaces another. Dave Marshall and I, early on, were the first to report House Finches nesting in Portland. That was out in the Mt. Tabor district

in the shrubbery around the old German manhome and the House Finch came into this country from California from the central valleys and there were some in the Rogue Valley, and that sudden movement where they took over completely in all the farmed and settled areas of western Oregon and the resident Purple Finch, which was a far, far better songster. I love the song of the Purple Finch. And the Purple Finch just completely gave way and moved out of the valley and into the foothills. If you want to hear Purple Finches, you've got to go out there into the foothills of the Coast Range or the Cascades to hear the Purple Finch. But they were the finch of the Portland area, wherever particularly where we had fir trees. We heard them singing all through the west hills, and they're gone, completely gone.

Possum, Flying Squirrels, Screech Owls, Chipmunks and Chickaree

ClaireP: Do you have an opinion about Douglas squirrels? Some people call them chickarees. When we had our little stakeholder advisory group about a year or two ago, some people expressed a concern, not necessarily documented based on research, but a kind of general concern that they might be in decline here in the Portland area.

TM: When I think of chickarees, my concern was the invasion of the Eastern fox squirrel and the Eastern gray squirrel. And watching the interaction at the feeder, the chickaree is aggressive and will stand its own and it will drive the fox squirrel off, which just tickles me no end. It's a great thing to see. We continue to have the little Douglas squirrel in our area, and I haven't had a concern about them. Some of the other things - to show you how rapidly exotics will appear - the opossum, which was brought into this country in the late '30s by 3-C boys, they were southern boys, that had opossums for pet and they brought them with them and then the first records of escape and reproducing opossums were in Clatsop and Columbia counties and they spread all through the valleys here in western Oregon, and in the '50s and '60s and early '70s, there was an eruption of possums everywhere. Possums mashed all over the streets up there. I defy you to find a possum. It's a rare thing to see an opossum. It's just like, you wonder, is it eruptive, and what triggers it and what controls them? Like raccoons we know that they're subject to a number of diseases that our domestic pets have too, and where we had a huge number of raccoons, they're very few right now. Just like the white-tail and the black-tail jack rabbits, which they don't fully understand what controls those dynamics.

JenD: What about your recollections about Townsend's chipmunks. Were they always less common and now what about flying squirrels?

TM: Flying squirrels, for obvious reasons, it's hard to know, except that they will come to a feeding station, and we've had flying squirrels come onto our deck, which is on a fairly steep hillside, and I have large Douglas fir at the lower edge, but that is an interesting sight to contemplate when they would launch out of the Doug firs at the lower end of the lot, but they are doing it and they will come to our deck on the 2nd floor, back of the house, and I see them there off and on at night. There's usually just one or two at the most. However, there was a researcher that worked up at the - I think it was the

Primate Center – and he had access to laboratory mice and he was a birder and he thought it would be interesting to see what happened if you tethered mice out on your deck, and he did, and it got to be a great show to see the Screech Owls come in and take the mice. We also have an occasional Pygmy Owl, but I've always had Screech Owls up there. I've used a Wood Duck nest box, which I have up in the park up on a big maple trunk, and they've been consistent about using that. The Townsend chipmunks: the last I saw was on a walk a week or so ago at a neighbor's feeding station, they were right there on the ground in the yard, so they're there. I think with these rodent populations, the chickaree and the Townsend chipmunk, unless somebody just did a long time definitive study, you wouldn't know what point in their fluctuation they are, but they're there. They're there.

The Nutria Invasion

SusanB: Could you elaborate on the invasion of nutria too, or maybe you already told that story. I understand it was the '64 hurricane that released them from a fur farm up in Gresham.

TM: Nutria was basically a scam. It was selling the stock when there was no market, but people were raising nutria. I think there was quite a number of nutria turned loose because people didn't want to keep them anymore, and some people, being tender of heart, didn't want to kill them, so they just turned them loose, like people take unwanted dogs or cats and take them up to Audubon Sanctuary and turn them out at night because maybe somebody will feed them up there. The nutria did very well, and there again, they have had fluctuations. I've seen times when Sauvie's Island – I've hunted waterfowl down there over many years – and it just seems like there's periods when there's more nutria than others. Then again, I don't know the dynamics. They've done very well for themselves.

Condors

ClaireP: I've had a burning question because you hear about the captive breeding program the zoo is doing with condors, California Condors, and there's some debate about whether they ever really nested in Oregon or if they just came in to feed on salmon carcasses and then moved out. But some of the tribes, as I understand it, will tell you that they thought they were present.

TM: There's no records of condors nesting aside from one or two in southern Oregon in the Siskiyou country. But the condor, with its ability to cover such great distances, if there was an adequate food supply, I'm sure that they nested much more widely at times not that long ago. When you think of the condors that were all through the Sacramento - San Joaquin valleys, and especially with the Spaniards, when the principle product out of Spanish Upper Baja was cattle, and largely in hide. When the ships put in there at Monterey, one of the major cargos was hides. You know, they let their cattle run pretty

much free off those great haciendas and then they gather them up. Well there's going to be dead livestock. I can just imagine a the time in the early 1800's for a period of 40 years there when there must have just been an abundance of food for condors, and the birds would have responded and as far as this country, the great salmon runs and all the carcasses of dying salmon. Many of the salmon, of course, went all the way up into the interior like the spring and the summer runs. But there were vast numbers of late-run Chinook, particularly the fall Chinook and the Chums that used to come into all these lower Columbia tributaries. There were huge quantities of dead salmon available to the condors, and I just make the assumption that it takes no time at all for a condor to fly and ride the currents up here and then go back. He'd dine on fish and then go back and dine on beef. I mean, he had the best.

The best story on the condor was the Clatsop people. Saddle Mountain, in that saddle, it's in that saddle – in the Coast Range, you can look right at it from the Astor Monument, you can see that legend is also there on the interpretive sign at the Astor Monument – that was the origin story of the Clatsop people, that the great so-called thunderbird was the condor, and the condor nested on the top of Saddle Mountain in that little saddle and one of the monsters in their legends was this monster woman with a vile temper and she was always out to capture small children and eat them and this is what they would discipline and scare their children with if they didn't straighten up. You know those old legends. Well, she knocked the eggs out of the nest and they rolled down to the foot of the mountain and cracked open, and out of those came the Clatsop people. That's their origin story. So, they were certainly aware of the condor. Maybe in another time they did nest up there, but not in recorded time. Not our recorded time.

Gabrielson and Jewett

RyT: Tom, Gabrielson and Jewett wrote some of the early stuff about birds in the Portland area. Was that all their work or were there a lot of birders involved with them? What's their story in contributing to Portland?

TM: By the way, before the updated *Birds of Oregon* was recently published by the OSU Press, there was a 1941 *Birds of Oregon*. But before that, Gabrielson, I think maybe Jewett joined him in it, but they did the *Birds of the Portland Area*. Have you ever seen that report?

RyT: In the 20s, I think. '24 or something. I think we have that one.

TM: That's right; mid 20s. Gabrielson and Jewett were both involved in the old Biological Survey when one of their principle divisions was the Predator and Rodent Control. And of course this was predominantly a lumbering, agricultural, mining region in those days, and they had under them the control agents and then they go out and work with ranchers and farmers, but they were both keenly interested – they were birders to start with and.....I just saw a falcon go by and you could see why it went by.

ChrisP: What kind of falcon?

TM: A Peregrine. It took a run at that flock of pigeons.

RyT: Oh, there it is – just above the building.

TM: You've also got a pair of red-tails. It shows you how adaptable they can be as far as a food source. It is not normal for Redtails to hunt birds. They will, but they largely work on rodents. But with all the pigeons in downtown Portland, we've had a pair of Redtails a good number of years, that have resided through this downtown area and worked on the pigeon flocks along with the Peregrine. It's not often you see the Redtails.

ClaireP: Are they the ones by the park blocks and a pair farther south?

TM: Yep. Those are the ones. Excuse me, where were we? Gabrielson and Jewett. Gabrielson was a high school biology teacher and a botanist, and he came out of Iowa. And in those days there was no discipline taught in wildlife management or wildlife. You'd take some biology courses. So the old Biological Survey started out with just a few individuals who had professional training – usually they were college professors who went to work to do surveys, and it was largely on the benefits of birds or the disruptive abilities of birds or animals in relation to people, and they were what you would call “economic surveys”. And those eventually turned into...The refuge system became a division that was formed and then not until the beginnings of the 1940s are there any full-fledged wildlife biologists or ornithologists showing up. So neither Gabrielson nor Jewett had professional training outside of Gabrielson, but he was a brilliant man. He had great political savvy, and a very practical man, but his particular love was birds and alpine plants. And he wrote one of the finest books on alpine plants that's ever been published. He ran a nursery out in southeast Portland. He had a nursery that specialized in native plants, and particularly alpines, which he shipped all over the country.

And then he's doing the collecting in the days when a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush as far as identification that will be accepted for new records, and they're still doing all the measurements and he's collecting both mammals and birds, small mammals, running trap lines and putting up museum skins, as is Jewett, and then he moves up and heads the regional office here and Jewett's working under him, but Jewett then sets up in the Sellwood district at his home, that whole collection—and it was a magnificent collection of bird skins which I think is now all at Western Washington College. That's where Dave and I got our experience working with Jewett. He took us under his wing because we're always out and about. He got both of us collecting permits – federal collecting permits – with the proviso that all our specimens were turned into the collection. So we'd spend Saturdays over there putting up museum skins at his house. And the collecting guns we had for the smallest specimens, I had a single shot Winchester bolt action, and I took it to Jewett's gunsmith and he bored out the 22 barrel, and I used 22 birdshot. You know, they do make 22 long rifle shells, but instead of a slug, it's about number 9 or 10 birdshot. With that, you can collect clear down to hummingbirds, and it's very efficient. Then the next one up, which we would hand load

was an Iver Johnson 410 shotgun, and you could also put an adapter in, and you could load 38 caliber shells, so you could load a variety of loads. That was very handy to pack because it's a sawed off – well it was not sawed off, it was made as a short muzzle hand gun – but it's a shotgun. Today that would be illegal. Then they stepped up to a regular shotgun. But that little bored-out 22 and that 410, which you could hand load with an adapter for even smaller shells, those were two of the principle collecting guns, and that's the way it was done then.

But those two, with all their field experience, with the old Biological Survey, doing all of the collecting throughout the West, and they set up what is referred to as life zones or transition zones. There was the Upper and the Lower Senoran, the Transition, Hudsonian, Alpine and their habitat. It was a very simple habitat classification, but they'd collect by the different zones and they had field crews that went out and collected in all these various areas. The one that led that work in this area was Vernon Bailey, and if you get Vernon Bailey's *Mammals and Life Zones of Oregon*, you've got, even to this day, one of the best accounts of what was here. Gabrielson went on to Washington D.C. and Gabe ended up in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration under Ickes' as head of the Fish and Wildlife and he was probably the best administrator they ever had. At a time when the Fish and Wildlife Service and the director was kept pretty much free of interference and ran the agency just like the Forest Service was run by the Chief Forrester, without all the political interference and with Congress setting mandates or holding the budget club over them. It was a different era. It's when you could still manage.

The Christmas Bird Count

TM: ...towards the terminus with the Willamette River, what was the city garbage dump. On the Christmas bird count, I, for a number of years led the Christmas bird counts and the area was the garbage dump, and I would get the greatest number of birds, just in sheer numbers, but that's the first time I saw a Glaucous Gull, which is the one with the very, very pale mantle and no black wing-tip markings, but we had the gulls in the tens and tens of thousands, and then vast numbers of the newly arrived Starlings but lots of Brewer's Blackbirds with a few Redwings. That's where we also picked up the first Cowbird records – right out there.

JenD: When were those? Those Cowbird records?

TM: Those would have been in the early '50s.

Ry: Did you or your buddies ever take a camera out with you? Along the Slough, or Ramsey or any of those areas?

TM: I wasn't into photography. The only pictures I ever took that were worthwhile today, I had opportunity to take pictures of the fishing at Celilo. I've still got some of those. In fact I just ran on them the other day. David was the one. He had a box

camera.³ David took some pictures, but I didn't.

Field Notes

RyT: One other question... did you guys keep pretty good field notes and journals of where you went and what you saw?

TM: They weren't detailed field notes, but they were bird lists with some notes appended to them.

RyT: Have those ever been scanned in or written up?

TM: David...a good share of that is filtered through the new edition of *Birds of Oregon*, edited by David Marshall, and the account of my and David's experiences, if you get that Oregon Historical Society-published *Wild in the City*, or the more recent compilation of all the stories about Portland and various people, the one that's just come out. They picked up our story, and that's in there. It's just repeated, but it's in either one of those books.

SusanB: I was just given it a day or two ago. So I have it at home. I'll bring it in.

TM: It will be under McAllister and Marshall.

ClaireP: This week, Dave and I are going to be meeting with the archivist at the Oregon Historical Society to look at some bird surveys that cover parts of Portland, not all of Portland from 1940 or '41. Dave told me about those. They found them out in their archive offices out I guess towards Gresham. They brought them in, so we've got an appointment this week to go take a look at those.

TM: It'll be a treasure, when you think of it, as far as what's gone on with birds in the greater Portland area, because Portland Audubon was one of the earliest involved with the Christmas bird counts, going back to its beginning in the early 1920s I think or earlier possibly. They were one of the very first when National Audubon set up this bird count, but if only we'd had an equivalent spring count that was done, well, in late May when birds had set up territory, but if we'd had that count, that would be something. Then you'd be able to look what happened as the gradual loss of Nighthawks and neotropical birds and Bullock's Orioles, and tanagers and warblers.

Scrub Jays and Ravens

ClaireP: And also to find out what's coming in. Barred Owls is one example. Talk about change in the urban area.

³ Dave Marshall later informed the City that he did not have a box camera, but rather a 3-1/4 " x 5-1/2" camera that took photographs that had postcard-size negatives.

TM: The other change – I keep harking back- the dramatic incursion was the Scrub Jays, the California Jays. They were never here until - there was one tiny colony just a few of them down there, where would you imagine they were in the greater Portland area? It was habitat, purely...Oak Island...

RyT: Out on Sauvie.

TM: Yeah, that bird urbanized. It took to the city. Now you can find them throughout, but that's a bird that made that transition. The bird that I'm waiting to see it make this transition is the Raven. The Ravens have come over Council Crest several times this winter. That's the first time I've seen Ravens right in the city, and yet when you think of the Raven, and its close affiliation with the native people and their villages in the northwest coast, living practically in the villages, a part of the village life, I can foresee a time when the Raven is regularly seen in years to come in the big urban areas as long as they've got the proper nesting sites.

RyT: What would the crows have to say about it?

TM: I don't think they'd like it. Raven's top dog.

Hunting

TM: Just like the Golden Eagle is the top of the chain. One of the fascinating things when I've hunted mule deer, I've hunted all these years. We've had the same encampment in the Eagle Cap Wilderness in the Wallowa country. When I hunt up above the Minam River, they had a little pot creek, one of my favorite spots, I get a deer down, I'll go down, and it's a pretty steep basin. And you'll get your deer positioned and sometimes I'll have to tie it in so it won't slip, and then you can eviscerate the deer and roll the whole gut pile out, then you skin and quarter your deer and we'll pack it out, if not that day, ideally, come back the next morning, and the gut pile will usually roll down some little ways and overnight the meat will set up nice and hard. Then you come back the next morning early and you look down. You always come in very quiet and look and you hope that the bear didn't get there because you're hunting right there above Timberline and there's no place to hang your quarters, but there will be...I've had Golden Eagles. And the Golden Eagle will have a couple coyotes around and the Ravens will be hopping around and they'll be coming in and trying to get something. And you've got the Gray Jays...but that eagle, he will extend his wings and cover as much as he can, and he's got his feet locked in and of course that tearing tooth on that bill, and he's tearing in strips and until he's through, not even the coyote will come in on that Golden Eagle. It is a sight to see. Now, when you're working on your animal, whether it's a deer or an elk, and particularly when you're in the wooded section, it's mostly Alpine firs, an occasional Mountain hemlock or Limber pine, the first thing that'll pick up on you is the Gray Jays, and they'll come right in, they're fearless, just like when you go skiing, if you hold a cookie out they'll come eat out of your hands sometimes. The

ones I love are the Mountain Chickadees, and they'll be right there for the suet, so the response is quick and then people say, "Oh, that's terrible, you leave that gut out there and that's polluting," but that's candy for all those critters.