

# OVERVIEW OF THE KLAMATH SUCKERS

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## KLAMATH SUCKERS

Koptu - Shortnose sucker  
(*Chasmistes brevirostris*)

C'waam - Lost River sucker  
(*Deltistes luxatus*)

Klamath Largescale sucker  
(*Catostomus snyderi*)





HISTORICALLY  
KLAMATH SUCKERS  
HAD ROBUST  
POPULATIONS IN  
NUMEROUS LAKES  
AND RIVERS



## SPAWNING

- MARCH – MAY
- IN TRIBUTARIES AND SHORELINE AREAS IN UKL
- IN GROUPS OVER GRAVEL IN SHALLOW WATER
- A SINGLE FEMALE CAN LAY FROM 46,000 – 200,000 EGGS EVERY YEAR

## LARVAE AND JUVENILES



- LARVAE SWIM OUT AFTER ABOUT 3 WEEKS
- MOVE INTO NEAR-SHORE WETLAND AREAS WITHIN THE LAKE
- JUVENILES TAKE 3 TO 9 YEARS TO MATURE

SUCKERS WERE  
IMPORTANT TO  
KLAMATH AND  
MODOC PEOPLES  
FOR MILLENIA

No.	Name.
237.	Swallow-tailed Kite.
249.	Golden Eagle.
254.	Gray Gyrfalcon.
274b.	Black Gyrfalcon.
377A.	American Hawk Owl.
445	Gray Kingbird.
468A.	Trail's Flycatcher.
486.	American Raven.
511b.	Bronzed Grackle.
514.	Evening Grosbeak.
515.	Pine Grosbeak.
547.	Henslow's Sparrow.
553.	Cardinal.
597.	Blue Grosbeak.
601.	Painted Bunting.
612.	Bohemian Waxwing.
612.	Golden-winged Warbler.
645.	Nashville Warbler.
646.	Orange-crowned Warbler.
650.	Cape May Warbler.
679.	Mourning Warbler.
724.	Short-billed Marsh Wren.
731.	Tufted Titmouse.
736.	Carolina Chickadee.
763.	Varied Thrush.
765.	Wheatear.

**LOST RIVER SUCKER.**

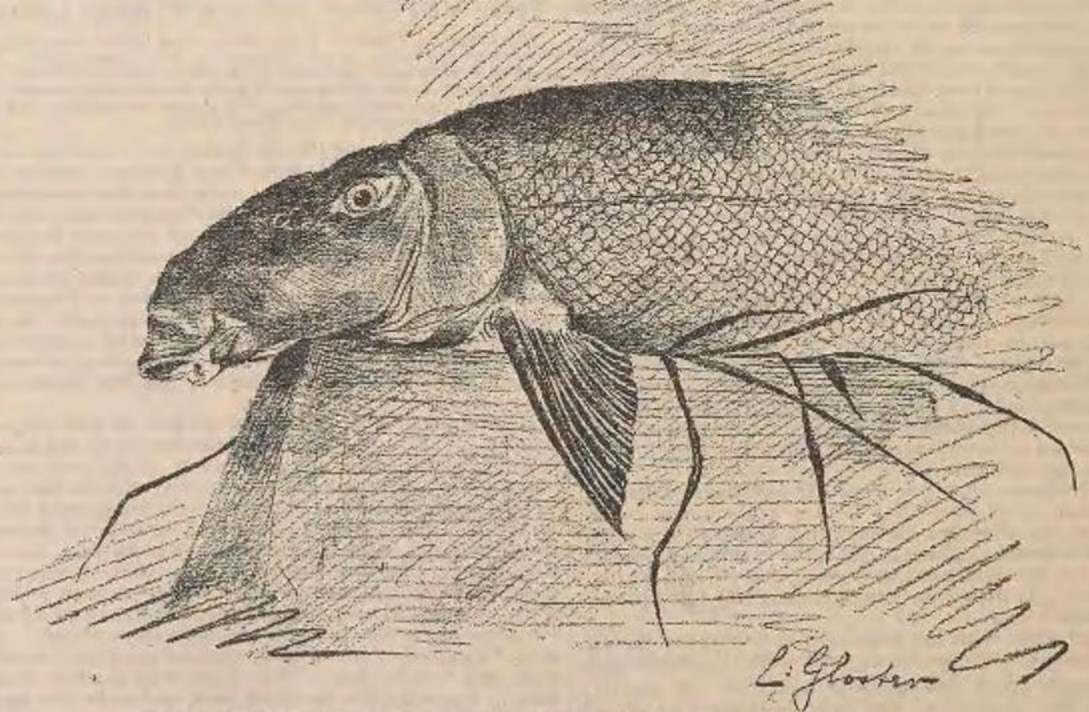
The local term, applied to a good-sized fish, described by Prof. E. D. Cope in the *American Ornithologist*, vol. XIII., 1879, p. 784, under the name of *Catostomus commersoni*. He tersely describes it as follows: "Form, head long, flat above and with a large mouth terminal, the spines of the premaxilla projecting, so as to form a hump on the top of the lower lip very thin, dermal fold extending to the chin. Scales 12-50-9. Radii: D. 11;

and above with black punctations, below shades in some specimens, fins uncolored. Length of nearly 3ft. It ascends the streams in the spring, and is taken and dried in quantities by the Klamath and Modoc Indians. The name is given by the Tswam. Its habitat is given as Klamath

There is on record regarding this species, and it has not been fully described nor figured, I make

which is evidently the same body of water universally known in that region under the former name. This lake is located about forty miles from Fort Klamath in a south-southeasterly direction, and is not quite so large as either of the Klamath lakes. As near as I have been able to ascertain, the so called Lost River sucker is indigenous

attached. This rod was bent in the shape of a hook with the point well sharpened. The operator would reach out into the stream with his pole, as far as practicable, the curve of his rod dragging on the bottom, the point upward, and when coming in contact with a fish, a sharp jerk would be given, which usually impaled the poor



LOST RIVER SUCKER. ABOUT ONE-THIRD NATURAL SIZE. (FROM LIFE.)

me that it would be well worth the trouble for the U. S. Fish Commission, which has already done so much valuable and successful work in the line of propagation and distribution of food fishes, to investigate this species to a certain extent. Inasmuch as one of the most complete stations, the one at Baird, Shasta county, Cal., is now within comparatively easy reach, it would not entail such a great amount of labor to do it. I believe the Lost River sucker to be a hardy one, that would stand transportation and transplanting very readily.

CHAS. E. BENDIRE.

TO PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGISTS.—West Chester, Pa., June 6.—Having been informed that you are interested in the study of ornithology, I take the liberty of addressing you and stating that by a recent act of our State Legislature I have been directed to prepare a second and revised edition of the "Birds of Pennsylvania," for gratuitous distribution. I am exceedingly anxious to correspond with competent field naturalists in every county of our Commonwealth. If it is not imposing too much on your time and good nature I will be pleased to correspond with you relative to the bird-life occurring in your section of the State. Inclosed please find a printed list of birds recorded as occurring in Pennsylvania. I will be greatly obliged if you will kindly mark the list as indicated and return it to me at your earliest convenience. Should you decide to furnish me with information relative to the feathered tribes, which is worthy of special mention, full credit will be given in the forthcoming edition of the "Birds of Pennsylvania." If you know of any naturalists in this State with whom I can correspond in relation to birds and mammals, please give me their names and post office address.—B. H. WARREN, State Ornithologist. [A provisional list of the birds of Pennsylvania accompanies this open letter.]

FEMALE NARWHAL WITH TUSKS.—The male narwhal has only one developed tusk, and that is on the left side. The female has two tusks, but they are usually not functional. About the month of July, 1887, Captain James Fairweather harpooned a female narwhal with two tusks in Prince Regent's Inlet. Specimens of narwhal with

shanty." When the duck some days in nur on that little dou it might be used. onward course of had become firm to give it a trial t

Like all old s stories of hunting ably connected v water. It requ word now and th him. We all kn sessed all those v Good-natured, ho day, taking the v whether the days a very tender poi Frank. This aro fellowship than scarcely reached as any of his fell

It was late b looked at the b break. It seeme blankets someth roused by some f "Come, Frank drowsily.

"All right, but kets," and the c over the foot of

A couple of cu in both of us. T we sallied out, lo A small arm o where Frank mo hastily away, we down the little strange and unc swept onward c out on the bay

THE SPECIES WERE DESCRIBED TO SCIENCE IN 1879

SUCKERS  
CONTINUED  
TO BE  
IMPORTANT TO  
THE KLAMATH  
TRIBES IN  
1900'S

The Hidden Mine, twenty-four miles southwest from Fenner, a station on the Atlantic and Pacific road, and about twenty-five miles west of Needles, is the latest big gold-mining find in Arizona.

The Klamath Indians have caught great quantities of mullet this season. They dry them, pile them as high as cord wood and haul them to their homes on the reservation for summer eating.

Three masked men entered the rooms of two ladies at Salt Lake, who had just returned from a ball, and with pistols forced them to give up their jewels. The ladies lost something over \$6,000 in dia-

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Goodwin's birthday.

## MULLET AID NEEDY

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., March 22. (U.P.)—Many families here have been bolstering the family larder with mullet, the spring run of these fish having started. Reservation homes are scenes of industry in smoking and pickling them.

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SUCKERS ALSO IMPORTANT TO EARLY  
SETTLERS

## OREGON SUCKER IS DOOMED NOW

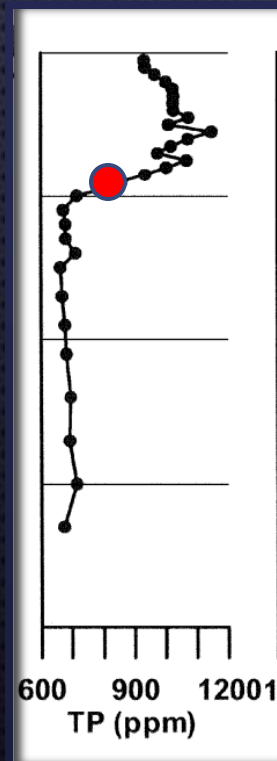
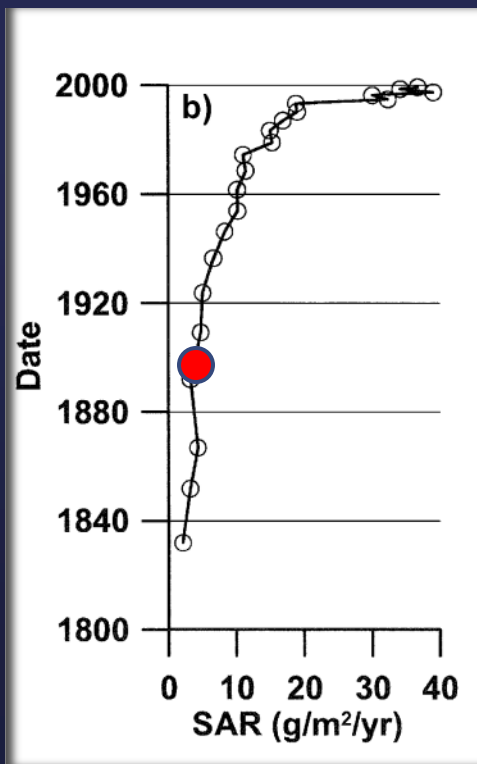
The diversion dam which is to be constructed across Lost river at the gap will mean the passing of the famous Lost river sucker. This sucker, or **mullet**, which is its right name, has been famous along Lost river ever since the white man knew the country writes a **Klamath** correspondent to the Portland Oregonian.

Each spring the suckers have been wont to run up the river to their spawning grounds about Bonanza, and during this time the people living along the banks have caught them by the thousands.

When the dam is completed and the waters of the Tule lake dry up these fish will have no place in which to remain during most of the year, and as the river is to be diverted into the Klamath river what few of them happen to be above this dam when it is finished and the water turned out of the old channel will lose themselves in the waters of the Klamath and lakes of this country.

THE IMPENDING  
DEMISE OF  
SUCKER  
POPULATIONS  
WAS PREDICTED  
AS EARLY AS  
1911

# SEDIMENTATION AND PHOSPHORUS LOADING BEGAN TO INCREASE AROUND THE TURN OF THE LAST CENTURY



BY 1970'S

- SUCKERS IN UKL PART OF A RECREATIONAL FISHERY
- DECLINING TRENDS IN UKL
- POPULATIONS IN LOWER KLAMATH LAKE AND TULE LAKE HAVE BEEN DECIMATED

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# NON-NATIVE SPECIES ALSO INTRODUCED INTO HABITATS



LOST RIVER SUCKER AND  
SHORTNOSE SUCKER WERE  
LISTED IN 1988 GIVEN THE  
DECLINES AND CONTINUING  
THREATS TO THE SPECIES



## CONTINUING THREATS

- ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION & HABITAT LOSS
  - LAKE
  - WETLAND
  - SPAWNING
- WATER QUALITY
- WATER MANAGEMENT
- INTRODUCED SPECIES
- HYBRIDIZATION

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## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ONGOING SUCKER SCIENCE

- CAPTIVE REARING – KLAMATH FALLS NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY & KLAMATH TRIBAL HATCHERY
- HABITAT RESTORATION
- MONITORING
- INTERAGENCY COOPERATION
- TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

Thank you

