

# HAYDEN HIT IN FIGHT FOR WILD FOWL

Journal  
W. L. Finley Charges Reclamation Service Careless and Destructive as Regards Birds in the Oregon Sanctuaries.

July 30, '35  
William L. Finley takes exception to the recent statement by B. E. Hayden, superintendent of the Klamath reclamation project, concerning activities of the reclamation service as related to wild life conservation in the area, charging Hayden with pursuing a short sighted policy.

Finley recently returned from Washington, D. C., where he attended a conference with Secretary of the Interior Ickes, Superintendent of Reclamation Elwood Mead; J. N. Darling, chief of the biological survey, and others. The object of this meeting was to co-ordinate the work of the reclamation service of the department of the interior in using land and water resources and that of the biological survey of the department of agriculture in conserving wildlife resources.

## FINLEY GETS ACTION

According to Finley, the reclamation service has been effective in many of its projects in reclaiming arid land for agriculture, but has paid no particular attention to waterfowl and has been careless and destructive regarding these public resources.

"I do not know whether Mr. Hayden has been misquoted or not," Finley said. "First he took exception to the charges the reclamation service burned off the weeds and grasses on Tule lake wildlife refuge when the birds were nesting. In the next place he said that each year in February or March the service did burn off the tule growth. The fact is that Canadian geese are nesting in March. Last spring, these tules were burned at the end of March, destroying many nests of geese, which is both careless and destructive. Both Secretary Ickes and Mr. Mead agree that this will not be done in the future.

## LAKE DRIED UP

"Our object is not to interfere in any way with the successful reclamation of land in these areas but where bird life is unnecessarily destroyed on our bird sanctuaries which are part of reclamation projects, we should like to have it stopped.

"It is well known that Lower Klamath lake was one of the greatest wild fowl refuges on the Coast. It was originally turned over to the reclamation service and later set aside as a federal bird sanctuary subject to its use by the reclamation service. It is now dried up and useless both for agriculture and waterfowl.

"A year ago when I complained to Mr. Mead that bird life was being needlessly destroyed on our waterfowl sanctuaries over which the reclamation service has priority rights, he referred this complaint to Mr. Hayden. Later he sent me a copy of Mr. Hayden's report dated October 9, 1934. Mr. Hayden says, 'No one is more interested in the propagation and protection of wild life than myself.' However, he admits leasing our

sanctuaries on the Upper Klamath, Tule lake and Clear lake to stockmen for grazing of sheep and cattle. This destroys the food and nesting cover of birds. Clear lake is a good example of ruthless bird destruction by the reclamation service.

## BIRDS SUFFERED

"Years ago Clear lake was a body of water 10 or 12 miles long, and its value as a bird sanctuary lay in the number and variety of birdlife and its distance from any settled area. The watershed was small and the supply of water limited. The use of the water was to irrigate farm land below. About five years ago, the reclamation service sold a large part of this water supply to the California-Oregon Power company. The ditch was dug running back several miles from the damsite, and the lake was lowered to about one fourth its former size. Both farmers and birds have suffered."

"The next step of the reclamation service was to lease the land around the border of the lake to stockmen, 14,120 acres at an average price of 22c per acre per year. This destroys the natural vegetation around the border of the lake where formerly large numbers of ducks and geese nested. It now looks like a desert.

## SHEEP IN SANCTUARY

"The colonies of Caspian terns, gulls, pelicans and others still make an effort to nest on the points of land extending out into the lake, but the flocks of sheep tramp through these nesting colonies. In order to protect these bird colonies the biological survey expended more than \$3000 last year in building five miles of fence. On July 6 I visited this sanctuary with Jewett, Worcester and Fairchild of the biological survey. We saw one flock of 2600 sheep grazing inside the fence among the nesting birds, and these were there on the sanctuary under a lease signed by Mr. Hayden.

"The small amount of money that Mr. Hayden gets for the reclamation service for grazing off our sanctuaries does not compensate for the destruction of bird life. In Mr. Hayden's reply of October 9, mentioned above, he says that if the biological survey wants to protect birds and eliminate grazing in this area, they should reimburse the reclamation service and settlers for the amount received from grazing permits. In other words, Mr. Hayden wants the government to pay the government for conserving waterfowl resources on a federal wild life refuge. I think his ideas do not conform to those of Secretary Ickes and Mr. Mead."

# BIOLOGIST RENEWS APPEAL FOR BIRDS

Oregonian  
July 31, '35  
Finley Says Fire Destroyed  
Wild Goose Nests

William L. Finley of Portland, nationally known naturalist, yesterday renewed his charges that the United States reclamation project in Klamath county pays no heed to waterfowl and that engineers have been both careless and destructive of wild life resources.

Recently returned from Washington, D. C., where he attended a conference with Secretary of the Interior Ickes, Superintendent of Reclamation Elwood Mead, J. N. Darling, chief of the biological survey, and others, Mr. Finley aimed his remarks at B. E. Hayden, superintendent of the Klamath reclamation project, quoted in press dispatches earlier this week as denying the allegations against Klamath reclamation.

"Mr. Hayden," he said, "took exception to the charges that the reclamation service burned off the weeds and grasses on Tule lake wild life refuge when the birds were nesting, and then said each year, in February or March, the service did burn off the tule growth.

## Geese Nest in March

"The fact is that Canada geese are nesting in March. Last spring these tules were burned at the end of March, destroying many nests of geese, which is both careless and destructive. Both Secretary Ickes and Mr. Mead agree that this will not be done in the future.

"Our object," Mr. Finley continued, "is not to interfere in any way with the successful reclamation of land in these areas, but where bird life is unnecessarily destroyed on our bird sanctuaries, we should like to have it stopped."

Mr. Finley complained that Superintendent Hayden had leased sanctuaries on the Upper Klamath, Tule and Clear lakes to stockmen for the grazing of sheep and cattle, which "destroys the birds' food and nesting cover."

"The small amount of money that Mr. Hayden gets for the reclamation service for grazing off our sanctuaries does not compensate for the destruction of bird life," he said.