



WILLIAM L. FINLEY

**"Woods,
Waters
and
Wildlife"**

Nature Magazine Oct. 1936

Well known as one of the foremost wildlife photographers in this country, and a leader in the conservation of our wildlife resources, Mr. William L. Finley presents a dramatic motion picture lecture, "Woods, Waters and Wildlife," to be given in the East this winter.

Mr. Finley, Field Naturalist of the American Nature Association, is also vice-president of the newly formed General Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Finley's lectures, together with his motion pictures, are an important attraction for wildlife meetings, women's clubs, schools, civic clubs and others.

For further information as to dates and rates, write to

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Vanishing Birds and Abandoned Farms

Millicent and Irene Finley in the September issue of *Nature Magazine* find what seems abundant reason for the disappearance of a part of our wild fowl and also for the abandonment of hundreds of farms that were never meant for farms. They say:

Years ago it was the plume and market hunters that we thought meant the end of the birds. This was like a mere visitation of the measles, soon cured. With the coming of the land promoter, a more insidious disease fell upon the feathered residents of the lake. It was a canker in Nature's balanced system, a schemer who persuaded state and county governments that vacant desert lands could be turned into prosperous farms, that ponds and marshes could be drained and would add agricultural wealth to the communities.

In this period, civic organizations, chambers of commerce and even the railroads fell in with the idea of inducing settlers from the Middle West and the East to come out and locate on remaining public lands throughout the dry sagebrush country and especially in the submarginal areas. Common sense would have told even a casual observer that these were not fit to support families.

So this promotion fever swept through the western country, eating away the feeding and nesting-places of the migratory flocks. Water birds could not live without homes. This false land promotion was an epidemic.

The picture that followed this land promotion flurry was one of desolation; deserted shacks with a few starving cattle standing expectantly at the back door; deserted schoolhouses with owls roosting in the bellies; wind-blown sand sweeping across the bleak spaces—lonely, lonely. It was a pathetic ending of the efforts of misguided men to make homes.

Oregon Naturalist Raps Fish Program

Journal Oct 25-36
Activities of the United States bureau of fisheries in Alaska are severely criticized in a featured article in the November issue of *Nature Magazine*, written by William L. Finley, Oregon naturalist and writer in *The Sunday Journal*. Title of the article is "Salmon, Seals and Skulduggery." It is illustrated with Finley's own photographs.

NATURALIST RAPS FISHERIES BUREAU

Oregonian Oct 22-36

Under the title, "Salmon, Seals and Skulduggery," in the current (November) issue of *Nature Magazine*, William L. Finley, widely known Portland naturalist, assails the administration of the bureau of fisheries of the United States department of commerce.

He visits displeasure especially on Frank T. Bell, head of the bureau, charging that "activities of the commissioner of fisheries are open to question."

He says of the commissioner that he is a real estate operator and political appointee "whose knowledge of the past and present fisheries situation is sketchy at best."

Mr. Finley charges the administrator approved in 1934, during an Alaskan visit, a projected closed season in Bristol bay for the ensuing year in order to conserve stock. Subsequently, in Washington, the author relates, Mr. Bell at a meeting of salmon packers reiterated his approval, definitely declaring the season would be closed. It was not closed, the author goes on to say, alleging that certain salmon packers reaped a harvest, while others were "unprepared for the sudden change of policy from conservation to exploitation."