

PROGRAM TO SAVE WILDLIFE VOTED BY CONVENTION

Federal Aid to State Projects Called For—Limit on Trapping Seasons Demanded.

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DELEGATES HOLD
CLOSING SESSIONS

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Big Game More Than Doubled in U. S. in 10 Years, Forest Service Official Reports.

Closing sessions of the four-day North American Wildlife Conference were held today at Hotel Jefferson. The principal business of the convention was completed yesterday with the formation of a permanent pressure group to secure laws protecting wild life.

Big game in the United States is increasing steadily, in spite of open seasons on deer and the setting aside of additional areas for elk hunting under State laws or special dispensations, H. L. Shantz, chief of the division of wild life management in the United States Forest Service, reported today.

Big game in national forests at the close of 1935 totaled more than 1,500,000, representing an average net increase of about 120 per cent in 10 years, he said. "About 1,500,000 fur bearers were also estimated," he continued. "We do not, however, consider small game and game birds in as satisfactory condition as could be desired and as it is hoped they will become. They have not shown the improved status that big game in general has shown."

Deer have been reported by 163 forestry units, black and brown bear by 140 units and elk by 96 units. Among the species regarded as rare, antelope have been reported in 33 forests, bighorn in 53, grizzly bear in 31, moose in 30 and mountain goats in 29.

More Land Needed.

Some 9,000,000 more acres are needed in winter feeding grounds to provide properly for present numbers of big game which use the national forests in summer, he asserted.

Eighty-three men have been employed in wild life assignments in national forests during the year. Sixty-nine have college degrees, the others have qualified for special work through extensive experience in dealing with wild birds, animals and fish.

In 1933, 1934 and 1935, the Forest Service placed 401,000,000 fish in national forest streams and lakes, constructed 59 lakes and ponds and installed 31,000 improvement structures on mountain streams.

Drouth Halts Breeding.

Because of the drouth last year, the waterfowl crop, particularly ducks, was a complete failure in Canada, Hoyes Lloyd, superintendent of wild life protection in Canadian Parks, reported. Tens of thousands of pot holes, ponds and sloughs and many of the larger bodies of water disappeared completely.

"Where water persisted, botulism added its deadly toll," he continued. "The chief migratory bird officer for the district, who made an extensive inspection trip through southern parts of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta last summer, reported he drove for hundreds of miles without seeing a single natural pond or pool of surface water, or a duck of any kind, and that these were the conditions he found in the midst of the old, hereditary breeding grounds where waterfowl once bred in abundance."

The black duck, most important species of wild duck to the hunter of Northeastern North America, was greatly reduced by the abnormally severe winter of 1933-34, but has made a "first-class recovery since that time," Lloyd said. In parts of northeastern Canada, at least, some of the flight lines of Canada geese show improvement in numbers of birds, he added.

American Elder Increasing.

"One bright spot in our wildfowl survey is the condition of the American Elder on the Atlantic coast," he continued. "Sixteen years of effort have resulted in this bird making a slow recovery and replenishing its nesting areas."

Concluding, he said, "The waterfowl situation is not uniformly bad in Canada, but is worst in the part of Canada from which the United States draws a large share of its supply. We are doing all we can to co-operate in conserving this international migratory bird resource which can only continue if it receives adequate protection in both countries."

Fur dealers who believe in "grabbing is good" and State authorities who are more concerned with collection of fines and fees than with fur conservation were criticized by David C. Mills of New Canan, Conn.

An unscrupulous minority in the raw fur trade, aided by "venal politicians," are partly responsible for the diminution in the supply of beaver, he asserted. Moreover, he continued, only an insignificant part of the fines and fees collected from trappers and dealers is devoted to the maintenance and increase of the fur supply. As a result, several species of great commercial importance in the past have now almost disappeared from the United States.

If the fur division were consulted before a dam was constructed to determine what would be the effect on wild life, "it would be revolutionary," Mills said. "In fact, that is just the kind of thing done in Russia."

Water Pollution.

Little progress on a national scale has been made in curbing industrial pollution of waters, Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, said. The reason is that manufacturing industries do all in their power to stop or delay attempts to end the pouring of poisonous wastes into rivers.

A large percentage of the 4-H Club members can be counted on to do their best to protect wild life and to restore shelter and food for wild birds and animals, said Jerry Flicek of New Prague, Minn., youngest delegate.

"Surely the youth of the nation," he said, "should be privileged to enjoy even though in a limited way the things which you adults have enjoyed during your youth, and to that end we dedicate our services to the promotion of a program to save natural resources of America."

Song birds and migratory game birds are killed with little restraint in Europe, but non-migratory game birds, such as partridges and grouse, are rarely killed and are found in great abundance, T. Gilbert Pearson, president emeritus of the National Association of Audubon Societies, said in an address.

A landowner in Europe would no sooner think of destroying his non-migratory partridges and grouse than he would of having all his cattle killed, Pearson continued.

Although the United States and Canada are now taking measures to increase wild life, unrestricted killing still goes on in other countries of the Americas, he said.

Resolutions Adopted.

The following resolutions were adopted by the General Wildlife Federation yesterday:

Federal aid should be extended to State wild life projects by earmarking funds now received by the United States Treasury from the 10 per cent excise tax imposed on the sale of sporting arms and ammunition.

The CCC, United States Forest Service and Parks Service should conform to sound policies of wild life management.

Any modification of Federal law relaxing restrictions on importations of livestock from countries where foot and mouth disease now exists should be vigorously opposed.

The Federal and State Governments should make adequate appropriations for wild life research.

A recommendation that the

open season for trapping should be not more than two months in the prime fur season, issuance of special licenses for trappers only and passage of laws to protect fur bearers.

Vice-Presidents Named.

The following vice-presidents, to assist President J. N. (Ding) Darling, were named yesterday: David Aylward, secretary of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Association, Peabody, Mass.; William L. Finley of Portland, Ore., and Dr. Walter B. Jones of Tuscaloosa, Ala., director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History and State geologist.

The following were named directors at large: Charles Giaque, Edgerton, O.; William J. Aberg, Madison, Wis.; Justus H. Cline, Stewartsdraft, Va.; Mrs. H. G. Bogert, Akron, Colo.; George Grebe, Kuna, Idaho, and Judge Lee Miles of Little Rock, Ark.

The following regional directors were named: John L. Curran, North Providence, R. I.; Colin Reed, Washington, Pa.; C. P. De la Barre, Blacksburgh, Va.; Dr. Walter B. Jones, Montgomery, Ala.; Louis Dunten, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Bella L. Foresman, Lansing, Mich.; W. J. Tucker, Austin, Tex.; Harold Thomas, Des Moines, Ia.; Charles N. Fahr, Salt Lake City, Utah; William L. Finley, Portland, Ore.; Dr. George E. Walton, Oakland, Cal., and Charles P. Plummer, Cheyenne, Wyo.