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OUR FOREST WILD LIFE IS A VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCE  
By

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(The pioneer period with its necessary of devastation of wild life must now be replaced by wise conservation programs. The McSweeny-McNary Measure and the 200 acre Yale forest represent steps in the right direction.)

The Yale Forest School has recently established a 200-acre forest near New Haven, where nesting boxes have been provided for birds, feeding shelves and platforms erected, and spaces cleared in a manner to make the new forest attractive to birds. Here forestry practices recognize the value of the presence of wild life as lively attractions to the visiting public and as an aid in demonstrating the various uses to which forest areas can be put.

Forest management in the future is sure more and more to recognize both the importance of the presence of animals and birds as a distinct forest asset, and the value of forest lands as conservators of wild life. It will take into consideration plans for planting and establishing food-bearing trees and shrubs that will aid in attracting birds and other interesting species of the forests.

The pioneer period of development with its inevitable devastation and waste of our wild life and other natural resources should be replaced by a constructive program of conservation associated with wise use. This program is of more far-reaching importance than is ordinarily recognized, although many progressive thinkers have long been calling attention to it. Vice-President Dawes in a recent address wisely said, "The whole of our business life takes root in nature. All of our progress and prosperity is predicated on the abundance of our natural resources and the manner in which we develop them for man's use."

A far-sighted and important step has recently been taken by the Federal Government in authorizing the systematic organization of research needed as a ground work for National, State, and local programs in developing not only our forests, but also the wild life resources of forested areas. I refer to the recently enacted McSweeney-McNary Bill. This is a measure that provides for the gradual development of a forest-

research program, including investigations of the wild-life problems and resources in connection with forestry practices. Aside from other research the new law authorizes the Biological Survey to conduct experiments and investigations to determine more adequately the life histories and habits of forest-inhabiting mammals, birds, and other wild life forms. This fundamental investigation looks to the development of effective methods for the management and control of the forest fauna not only in order that its conservation, increase, and utilization may be along constructive lines, but that such measures may increase forest land values through more profitable use.

Up to the present, practically nothing has been done in the way of experimental investigations employing modern methods designed to bring about improved strains of game and fur-bearing animals. Hence we are not now in position to say to what extent it might be possible to stock or restock areas suited for the production of these forms with varieties that might prove hardier and more adaptable. It is possible that such animals might be made more attractive for the chase, more toothsome when prepared for the table, or more valuable because of their peltries. The important results that have come from experimentation and research in other fields clearly suggest the desirability of more thorough study and experiment to develop strains that may be better adapted to meet the variety of conditions existing in forested areas. These would add to the attractiveness of the lands to mankind and thus directly increase the value of the land itself.

We have a vast natural resource in our wild life that has been exploited all too long, and now by research, conservation, control and production activities, we must develop it to the fullest practicable extent. Only as we remember that we are only trustees, not owners in fee, of this important national asset, can we pass on this heritage or its equivalent.

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