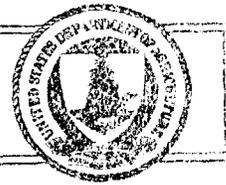




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CONSERVATIONISTS URGED
TO FOSTER BIRD REFUGES

Redington Tells Waltonians of Some
Hindrances to the Establishment
of Wild Fowl Sanctuaries

Local support of migratory bird refuges is necessary both in theory and in practice, Paul G. Redington, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, said to-day at Chicago in an address before the annual meeting of the Izaak Walton League of America April 24-26.

"Millions of acres of wildfowling area," he said, "are now available to gunners. Manifestly, in carrying out its obligations under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and in creating--as we expect to do--a well distributed system of large, principal refuges there must be withdrawals of areas upon which, at present, shooting in one form or another is permitted.

"The Government can not slight its obligations nor does it contemplate the discontinuance of this essential program because of the local jealousy or misunderstanding that may be encountered here and there. To the best of our ability and within the limits of such resources as may be provided we intend to press forward in our attempt to obtain sufficient wild fowl areas to insure for all time the preservation of our migratory birds and to prevent the disaster

that will assuredly result if this essential feature of our national game conservation program is neglected or ignored.

"Here, if ever in the history of game preservation in this country, is the opportunity presented for American sportsmen, rich or poor, to demonstrate the genuineness of those ethics which all have preached and applauded in theory. Here, with the very existence of this magnificent sport in the balance, is the time for unity of thought and action among those who enjoy it and would have it preserved. The privileges of the individual must in some small part be surrendered to preserve the good of the whole. As an actual practical test of the spirit of American sportsmanship this present situation has no precedent or equal."

Mr. Redington stated that in the preliminary work of acquiring suitable areas for national wild fowl sanctuaries, the bureau has encountered prejudice among local sportsmen, and that sometimes there has been a misconception of the purpose by others. "Sporadic opposition based on a misunderstanding of facts," he said, "can be effective in hampering and delaying the operations of the Government, but in the long run, with refuges established elsewhere, the objecting district will itself be the greatest sufferer from its own lack of foresight."

Emphasizing also the continued need for game-law enforcement measures, Mr. Redington deplored the practice of "game bootlegging," under which game-law violators obtain birds by illegal methods to supply to wealthy patrons who lack the skill to get their own share in the manner contemplated by the conservation laws. The remedy proposed by the Biological Survey Chief can be administered if the "members of conservation organizations will build up and strengthen in every locality a spirit of insistence for the strict observance of reasonable restrictions. Experience," he said, "indicates that the courts are quick to respond to organized opinion and indicate approval by the application of effective penalties."