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# THE PINE CONE

MARCH, 1924 (18th ISSUE)

1500 MEMBERS

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE NEW MEXICO GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

CIRCULATION, 5000

## What We Stand For.

1. Vigorous and impartial enforcement of the game and fish laws.
2. A statewide system of game and bird refuges.
3. Passage by Congress of the Public Shooting Grounds Bill, so as to not only conserve game but provide a place where the ordinary citizen can hunt it.
4. Passage by the Legislature of a bill to place the employment of the State Game Warden in the hands of the State Game Commission, without which we can not hope for stable policy and expert service in the administration of game.
5. Long open seasons where possible and low bag limits where necessary.
6. More effective restocking of waters by the use of rearing ponds, one-man hatcheries, and eyed eggs.
7. Co-operation with stockmen in the control of predatory animals.

"You are mighty poor Americans if your care for the well-being of this country is limited to hoping that that well-being will last out your own generation."—Roosevelt.



As the cone scatters the seeds of the pine and fir tree, so may this little paper scatter the seeds of wisdom and understanding among sportsmen.

## Six Rules For Sportsmen.

1. *Be a Real Sportsman.* There is more honor in giving the game a square deal than in getting the limit.
2. *Make Sure It's a Buck.* If you can't see his horns—she hasn't got any.
3. *Help Enforce the Game Law.* Game and fish are public property and only the game-hog will take more than his fair and legal share. Violations should be reported to the nearest Deputy Warden, Forest Ranger or Game Protective Association.
4. *Respect the Ranchman's Property.* He regards the man who leaves his gates open, cuts his fences, chouses his livestock, or shoots near dwellings, as an outlaw. Put yourself in his place.
5. *Be Careful With Your Campfire and Matches.* One tree will make a million matches; one match can burn a million trees.
6. *Leave a Clean Camp and a Clean Record.* Unburied garbage, crippled game and broken laws are poor monuments for a sportsman to leave behind him.

## WHAT THE SPORTSMEN SAY ABOUT--

### STATE GAME DEPARTMENT

**RESOLUTION:** *The present State Game Warden, Mrs. Grace B. Melaven, has worked hard, has consulted with the sportsmen and done her best to make the State Game Department a success. We recognize and appreciate her efforts. We especially commend the action of Mrs. Melaven and the Commission for employing an expert fish culturist like H. L. Bengard to operate the Pecos Hatchery, and for employing the trout expert, Mr. A. H. Dinsmore, to make a survey of the trout streams of the Mogollons. This is strictly in conformity with what the G. P. A. has urged for years, namely, more expert services in conducting fish and game work.*

*We believe, however, that there is still imperative need for putting the Game Department on a more stable basis. Under the system of political appointments which still prevails, a Game Warden, no matter how hard he or she works, barely learns the rudiments of the job before being replaced by another political appointee. The system precludes any chance for establishing or following out a continuous game policy, and a big part of the responsibility for actual work in the field must still be carried by volunteer effort, rather than under the leadership of experienced game officials with stable tenure of office.*

*We therefore unanimously and emphatically renew our endorsement of the amendment to the Game Commission law placing the employment of the State Game Warden in the hands of the State Game Commission. This amendment is vital to the success of game conservation in this State, and all other legislative changes recommended by this convention are of minor consequence in comparison.*

*We protest the custom of asking for or accepting the resignation of the Game Commission at each change of administration. This threatens the continuity of policy, to attain which was one of the objects of creating the commission.*

*The above resolution speaks for itself. It represents the opinion of 1,000 New Mexico sportsmen and likewise, we believe, of an increasing number of straight-thinking citizens.*

*Our plan for securing a stabilized, expert, well-paid, non-partisan game administration has stood the test of two hard-fought political campaigns which would have shown up any weak spots it contained. None have showed up. The sportsmen, whose money pays for the department, and whose interests are principally involved, are still unanimously for the plan.*

*Can any opponent of the plan show wherein it is unsound?*

*Can any opponent of the plan produce a better one?*

*Can any opponent of the plan show how the sportsmen's money, paid in for game conservation, can be rightfully used for patronage?*

(Continued on page 2.)

### PUBLIC SHOOTING GROUNDS BILL

This bill, now before Congress, proposes to require of each duck hunter in the United States a \$1.00 license for the purpose of forming a federal fund to buy up duck breeding grounds and duck shooting grounds, and otherwise conserve duck hunting.

The purpose of buying up breeding grounds is to save them from drainage. Hundreds of lakes and marshes are being drained each year, and many of them afterward found useless for agriculture. Such lakes should be bought and developed to raise waterfowl.

The purpose of buying up shooting grounds is to save a place for the "ons gallus" man to hunt. Clubs and extension of posting are gradually depriving him of any place to go duck hunting.

This, in brief, is the bill. The G. P. A. will gladly furnish the full text on request. Here is what the Convention said about it:

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the New Mexico Game Protective Association in convention assembled that the following facts be called to the attention of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, our Governor, State Game Warden, and Game Commission, and to the other game protective associations of New Mexico:

(1) Notwithstanding the purported increase of migratory waterfowl widely advertised throughout the United States since the passage of the present Migratory Bird Law, it is the opinion of many members of this Association that the flight of waterfowl in the Rio Grande Valley has not increased.

(2) There can be no doubt that a serious decrease would have taken place but for the prohibition of spring shooting and market hunting effected by the Migratory Bird Law.

(3) No responsible authorities have taken exception to the estimate recently published that 1,000,000 ducks per year have died as a result of alkaline poisoning in the region of Great Salt Lake.

(4) The same "duck disease" is now spreading to other localities in the Western States.

(5) All authorities seem to agree that the loss of millions of ducks from duck disease could be overcome if funds were available to turn fresh water into the diseased area, or keep the ducks out of the diseased areas by patrol, or to remove the diseased ducks from these areas and place them in fresh water for recovery. This work would only have to be done during certain seasons when the disease is active.

(6) The only practicable scheme thus far proposed for securing the necessary funds to do this is the Public Shooting Grounds-Game Refuge Bill now before Congress. We therefore renew our hearty endorsement of this bill and request our representatives in Congress not only to vote

(Continued on page 2.)

### GAME REFUGES

When the sportsmen of New Mexico voted that a closed season on big game was not necessary and that game refuges would restore our big game supply, they assumed a moral obligation to install a refuge system sufficiently complete and well managed to actually restore it.

Pennsylvania, through her refuge system, has built up her big game from zero to a productive stock which successfully sustains a kill of 500 black bear, 600 buck deer, and 4,500 wild turkey per year.

The most convincing evidence that New Mexico can do likewise is the recent success of the Silver City, Deming, Magdalena, and Mogollon Associations in their management of the Mogollon Mountains during the 1923 hunting season.

No sportsman who was not on the ground can appreciate the magnitude or significance of the Mogollon experiment, nor the obstacles which Colonel G. S. Turner, of the Silver City G. P. A. successfully conquered in his management of it.

Briefly stated, Col. Turner organized a pool to put game protection in the woods during the hunting season. He had a few hundred dollars and one permanent warden contributed by the State Game Department to start with. To this he added the volunteer services of Forest Rangers, cattlemen, sportsmen, and peace officers until he had twenty wardens in the woods. Each refuge had a warden on it. Each hunting party was met by a warden going in and coming out, and in addition each camp was inspected. Every warden talked refuges and law enforcement. As a result the Mogollon refuges were "sold" to both the hunters and the game. The hunters respected the refuges as never before, and the bucks found out that a refuge was no vain thing for safety. One cowman counted 48 big bucks on one refuge in a few hours.

Over 450 bucks were killed, but as a result of the refuges there are plenty left. Doe killing was much reduced as compared with previous years. The deer of the Mogollons are universally agreed to be thriving.

Now if refuges will work in the Mogollons, why not elsewhere? There are 31 big game refuges in the State, but they are mostly in the southwestern part. Close to ten million acres of good natural big game country in the eastern and northern sections are still without refuges (and largely without big game).

The convention unanimously urged that the State Game Department, in cooperation with the local sportsmen, speedily extend the big game refuge system to the northern and eastern counties.

A similar discrepancy exists with respect to refuges for migratory birds. Nine of these have been successfully established on the middle section of the Rio Grande. To the extent that they have been enforced they have been remarkably successful in

### BAG LIMITS

There is now on foot a nation-wide movement to shorten open seasons and reduce bag limits on game.

The recent convention showed very clearly that the sportsmen of this State do not believe in shortened or closed seasons except as a last resort. They believe that when a citizen's opportunity for outdoor recreation is reduced to a few days out of the year, the human value of that recreation has largely disappeared.

Equally clear, however, was the entire willingness of the sportsmen of this State to reduce the quantity of game that may be legally taken to as low a figure as may be necessary to conserve the game supply.

In short, the opportunity to hunt and see game is to the true sportsman a priceless privilege, but the opportunity to kill more than a small quantity is no great matter and is gladly surrendered in the interest of game conservation.

Specifically, the following reductions in bag limits were recommended to the State Game Department:

**DUCKS**—25 per day to 15 per day.

**GEESE**—8 per day to 5 per day.

**QUAIL**—20 per day to 15 per day.

In addition, a possession limit of not to exceed 100 trout and two days bag limit on all species of small game was recommended. This would mean that it would be illegal for any person to possess more than 100 trout or two days' legal bag of small game at any one time.

The officers of the G. P. A. were asked to see whether the Sportsmen's Associations of Colorado, Arizona, and Utah would agree to work for substantially uniform bag limits on migratory birds throughout the four States, with a view to later requesting a similar reduction in the Federal migratory bird regulations.

A totally closed season on Mearns Quail (commonly known as "Fool Quail") was recommended. This interesting little mountain species was reported as growing steadily scarcer throughout the State. On account of its limited number and distribution it is believed to be in danger of serious decimation.

All these reductions are within the legal powers of the State Game Commission and need not await the 1925 legislature. The G. P. A. hopes that the commission will declare them effective before next fall.

keeping geese and ducks in the region. Why should not the system be extended to the Pecos, the lower Rio Grande, and the lakes of the northern counties? The convention strongly urged that this be done.

The Albuquerque G. P. A., in cooperation with Supervisor Kartchner of the Manzano Forest, is restocking the Sandias with turkey. The stock is being obtained from the White Mountains through the courtesy of the Carrizozo sportsmen.



## THE PINE CONE

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by the  
NEW MEXICO GAME PROTECTIVE  
ASSOCIATION

H. B. Jamison, President ..... Albuquerque  
Colin C. Neblett, Vice-President ..... Santa Fe  
Fred Sherman, Vice-President ..... Deming  
Arthur H. Sisk, Treasurer ..... Albuquerque  
Aldo Leopold, Secretary ..... Albuquerque

## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

**Sportsmen's Association of Southwestern New Mexico**  
C. W. Bayne, President ..... Silver City  
E. M. Sawyer, Vice-President ..... Tyrone  
G. L. Webster, Vice-President ..... Hurley  
Frederic Winn, Sec'y-Treas. .... Silver City

**Santa Fe Game Protective Association**  
Frank E. Andrews ..... President  
Reese Fullerton ..... Secretary

**Albuquerque Game Protective Association**  
Arthur H. Sisk ..... President  
N. G. McCroden ..... Vice-President  
C. E. Hyre ..... Secretary  
J. P. Sharp ..... Treasurer

**Border Game Protective Association**  
Fred Sherman ..... President  
Henry Raithel ..... Vice-President  
D. F. Weatherred ..... Vice-President  
J. L. Norwood ..... Vice-President  
J. C. Gage ..... Secretary

**El Paso Game Protective Association**  
H. B. Stevens ..... President  
E. L. Barrow ..... Secretary

**Harding County Game Protective Association of Roy**  
Earl McMinimy ..... Secretary

**Hot Springs Game Protective Association**  
R. A. Howard ..... President

**San Miguel County Game Protective Association**  
Elliott S. Barker ..... President  
E. S. Lewis ..... Sec'y and Treas.

**Magdalena Game Protective Association**  
Dr. M. McCreary ..... President

**Taos Game and Fish Association**  
H. R. Leatherman ..... President  
C. R. Dwire ..... Vice-President  
Ralph Meyers ..... Treasurer  
Fred Muller ..... Secretary

**Southwestern Fish, Game and Forest Protective Association**  
T. E. Kelley ..... President  
A. J. Strayer (El Paso) ..... Vice-President  
W. W. Stadman ..... Treasurer  
Geo. T. McQuillen ..... Secretary

**Mogollon Game and Fish Association**  
Wm. Baugh ..... President

**Carlsbad Game Protective Association**  
Guy A. Reed ..... Secretary

**Gallup Game Protective Association**  
T. F. Smalling ..... President  
Perry Coon ..... Sec'y-Treas.

**Reserve Game and Fish Association**  
Allen F. Bloom ..... Secretary

**Raton Game Protective Association**  
C. A. Whited ..... President

## BACK AGAIN

This is the first PINE CONE to appear since the issue of December, 1920.

Like other men, your officers have to firstly make a living in order to secondly go hunting. Then afterwards we used to write PINE CONE.

Of late years there hasn't been any afterward, due to that greatest of all errors—putting only twenty-four hours in the day.

But the discussions of our last convention were so vital to the cause of game conservation in this State that it seemed a rank injustice to withhold a detailed account of them from the thousands of sportsmen who have their heart in the work but who couldn't be there.

Hence this issue.

We have not the funds to mail this issue direct to individuals, but are shipping it in bulk to the officers of the local associations, to be distributed by them. Copies may also be obtained from the Secretary of the State Association.

After the copy for this issue of the PINE CONE left the hands of Mr. Leopold it was noted there was no information conveyed to the sportsmen of the State as to who was filling the important post of Secretary of the State G. P. A. Mr. Aldo Leopold is known as the past, present and future Secretary of the State G. P. A., from the time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. He needs no introduction to any sportsman who has spent a few months in the State of New Mexico, as every sportsman knows he has done more work for the G. P. A. since its inception than any other man. Too often the office of secretary is a thankless job. Therefore, all his fellow sportsmen in Albuquerque have insisted, that this PINE CONE contain a token of appreciation to the man who, they feel, has done more for game conservation in New Mexico than any other man. We, therefore, introduce to you, Mr. Aldo Leopold, Secretary of the State Game Protective Association, and we have never met a man who does not hope that we will never have another during his life time.

## STATE GAME DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 1.)

Can any opponent of the plan show how effective game conservation can be secured with the probability of a complete change of personnel every two years?

Can any opponent of the plan show why the State Game Department is not expert service, which should be removed from politics to the same extent and in the same manner as the State Health Department or the State University? If the President of the University and the State Health Officer were politically selected and politically ejected every two years, what kind of service would we get?

Can any opponent of the plan show why it is not good politics to pass our bill? A thousand sportsmen are earnestly demanding its passage. Most Governors have admitted after they are back in private life that the patronage of the Game Department is more of a nuisance than an asset.

As a matter of fact, we do not believe there are many opponents to our plan. One by one, the forward-looking political leaders of New Mexico have been admitting that it is necessary, just and right. We are confident it will pass the 1925 legislature.

## PUBLIC SHOOTING GROUNDS BILL

(Continued from page 1.)

for it, but to give it their active aid and support. We likewise request the active aid and support of the State Game Warden and Game Commission in furthering the passage of the bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following facts be called to the attention of the parties above mentioned:

(1) Due to the posting of private lands in the Rio Grande Valley against hunting and the leasing of hunting privileges by clubs, the waterfowl shooting grounds open to the general public have been steadily decreasing.

(2) As the demand for hunting ground increases with the population and development of New Mexico, it is inevitable that this posting and leasing should take place. It is necessary, however, that the general public be not deprived of a place to shoot. A large number of citizens depend upon waterfowl shooting for health and recreation.

(3) The only practicable scheme thus far proposed to insure the perpetuation of shooting grounds open to the general public is the Public Shooting Grounds Game Refuge Bill. The license system proposed by this bill will provide a fund out of which suitable areas in the Rio Grande Valley can be purchased and perpetually maintained as public shooting grounds. For this additional reason we renew our hearty endorsement of the bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following facts be called to public attention:

(1) The area of breeding grounds available to waterfowl has greatly decreased through the drainage of lakes and marshes throughout the Western States.

(2) Part of this drainage was justifiable because of the agricultural values created, but a great deal of it was absolutely unwise because the lands were found unsuitable for agriculture and their value for waterfowl production was destroyed.

(3) It is absolutely imperative that there be available a Federal fund out of which lakes and marshes proposed for drainage can be purchased and perpetuated as breeding grounds whenever expert examination indicates that they are more valuable for waterfowl production than for agriculture. The passage of the Public Shooting Grounds Game Refuge Bill would create such a fund and enable such action to be taken. For this additional reason we renew our emphatic endorsement of the bill.

Senator Bursum and Congressman Morrow are supporting the bill, for which the New Mexico G. P. A. hereby extends appreciation and thanks. Our other officials to whom we looked for help and support are thus far opposed to it.

Some opponents of the bill see in it a new attempt to extend Federal jurisdiction over game. Federal jurisdiction over migratory birds was forever decided by the U. S. Supreme Court when it passed on the Migratory Bird Treaty with Can-

ada, and Congress could not extend that jurisdiction if it wanted to.

Other opponents of the bill see in it an attempt to withdraw public domain for bird refuges. Unlimited authority to withdraw public domain for bird refuges has existed since 1906, so just where this bill creates such authority is hard to see. As a matter of fact, the present bill has nothing to do with withdrawing anything. It sets up funds for PURCHASE of private lands.

This bill is supported by a great majority of State Game Departments and practically all sportsmen's associations throughout the country. It seems a bit rough sometimes when men who are otherwise estimable citizens, but who barely know one end of a gun from the other and who never spent a day in their lives studying game or game conservation, lightly reject the natured convictions of the organized sportsmen of the country and refuse to give them progressive legislation which they believe is vital and of which they will pay the entire cost.

We firmly believe that the opponents of the Public Shooting Grounds bill will come around just as the opponents of the Migratory Bird Law have come around, and that the bill will pass because it is vitally necessary and everlastingly right.

## G. P. A. OFFERS CUP FOR BOY SCOUTS

The convention unanimously adopted a plan proposed by State Game Commissioner G. S. Turner for offering a silver cup to the troop of Boy Scouts performing the most valuable services to wild life conservation during the coming year. The plan has been approved by the National Scout officers. Sportsmen should try and interest their local Scout Troop in the contest.

The details are as follows:

## PLAN FOR NEW MEXICO G. P. A. CUP.

To be awarded by the New Mexico Game Protective Association to the New Mexico Scout Troop rendering the best services to wild life conservation.

1. *Committee of Award.* The President of the New Mexico Game Protective Association, the State Game Warden, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

2. *Plan of Award.* First award in January, 1925, for services during 1924, and annually thereafter. Winning troop to keep the cup one year. Any troop winning cup for the third time to keep it permanently.

3. *Certificate of Services.* Awards are to be made on the basis of a statement to the Committee by the Scoutmaster of each troop, showing the activities of the troop for the year. Such statement to be certified to by the Scoutmaster.

4. *Nature of Services.* The Game Protective Association imposes no restrictions on the nature of the services to be rendered, but suggests the following as offering opportunities to the average troop:

(a) *Education.* Learning what birds and animals are harmful and which beneficial, and why. Learning to identify and study the various species in the field. Learning species, life history, and habits of game fishes in New Mexico. Gathering information relative to game and fish of value to State Game Department. Taking game or bird census.

(b) *Protection.* Effective bird feeding. Effective bird houses. Control of destructive vermin. Improvement of trout streams.

(c) *Aid in Law Enforcement.* Learning the game and fish laws and assisting Game Wardens or others to enforce them by educational work and collecting information.

(d) *Refuges.* Helping to establish, post, patrol, or otherwise make them effective.

(e) *Propagation.* Stocking depleted coverts or streams with game birds or fishes. Assisting State Game Department in its work of propagation.

(f) *Publicity.* Giving publicity in any way to the necessity for and value of game protection.

The G. P. A. is prepared to make more specific suggestions for any given locality.

The convention suggested that the State Game Department go after an amendment to the penalty clause of the present law, authorizing any court to suspend the license privilege of offenders convicted of violations. This would put a crimp into the man who doesn't mind being fined.

## HOT SPRINGS PITCHES IN

New local associations have been recently organized at Hot Springs, Roy, and Reserve.

The Hot Springs delegates told the convention of their plans to make the Elephant Butte Reservoir the big bass lake of the Southwest. A system of Game refuges is also being laid out for the Hot Springs region, and lawbreakers made to feel the force of organized opinion.

The strategic importance of a good live G. P. A. in this part of the State is hard to exaggerate. Hot Springs is the gateway between the northern and southern sections of the Rio Grande basin and in the heart of our best game country. The backers of this new movement will have the support and good wishes of all the sportsmen of the State in their enterprise.

## JACK MINER

For ten years the PINE CONE has consistently refused to admit advertising matter to its columns.

We are now going to deliberately break our rule and advertise a book, without being requested so to do, and with no charge to anyone for such free advertising.

The book is called "Jack Miner and the Birds," by Jack Miner.

No sportsman's education is complete until he has read it.

It is the most modest and withal the most astonishing account so far printed of what can be done with waterfowl.

The word "refuge" means nothing until you have read Jack Miner.

If you want to plant the idea of game conservation in your town you can do more by buying this book and making your friends read it than by five years of theorizing and preachments.

What Jack Miner has done in the backyard of his factory, ten thousand nature lovers can do on the ranches, farms, and parks of New Mexico.

When they do it we can cease worrying about protection of our waterfowl.

The book is sold by Manly F. Miner, Kingsville, Ontario, and costs \$3.15 post-paid.

## WANTED: A PAINT MARK FOR REFUGES

Last fall when the State ran short of funds and the local G. P. A.s had to dig down in their jeans to buy signs for the new refuges which had just been created by the Commission, they found out that refuge signs cost money.

Conscientious hunters who try to find the boundary of refuges so as to be sure and keep off them, know that signs a quarter of a mile apart do not make a very plain boundary.

Forest Rangers who have volunteered to post refuges and spent a week scrambling over the rocks, putting up signs, are not much comforted by the fact that tin signs fade in a few years and cloth signs are liable to be torn off and converted into squirrels' nests a few weeks after posting. After going to the trouble of posting, they would like to have that posting last as long as possible.

All of which leads to this question: Is there not some form of refuge marker which would cost less, last longer, and could be put up more abundantly than signs?

Pennsylvania uses a breast-high strand of wire, but the very reason that makes this a good marker in Pennsylvania would wreck it in a cow country.

The Silver City G. P. A. has suggested a paint mark, with an occasional metal sign to explain the meaning of the mark. This, we think, is the solution. For instance, the letter "R" in white paint, facing out, would be a good symbol. Such a mark would be much cheaper than signs, would last indefinitely, and could be placed on any tree or fence post, or even on brush. Neither squirrels nor vandals could tear it down. Used liberally, it would make a perfectly plain boundary across which the hunters could not stray without knowing it.

The convention recommended that the State Game Department adopt a paint mark and have it legalized by the legislature, and that such mark be hereafter used to post refuges.



## WHO'S WHO IN THE G. P. A.

Some Sidelights On Our Officers, Old and New.

(Inserted without permission by the Secretary.)

The following comment is given for the benefit of those members of the G. P. A. who have never had the privilege of attending one of our state conventions, and who may therefore be curious to know what manner of men are his trustees in furthering the interests of game conservation in New Mexico.

T. E. KELLEY, of Carrizozo, our retiring president, received from the convention an ovation and a vote of thanks for his services. Kelley is the "never-say-die" kind who talks little and does much. As the leader of the Carrizozo Association he is quietly rebuilding the game situation in the White Mountains. His success in winter-feeding of turkeys is described elsewhere in this issue.

COLONEL G. S. TURNER, of Silver City, our retiring first vice-president, is now a member of the State Game Commission. Governor Hinkle disagreed with the G. P. A. on legislative matters, but he rendered a signal service to the cause when he appointed Colonel Turner. He is a worthy successor to the late Miles W. Burford, of Silver City, founder of game conservation in New Mexico.

H. B. JAMISON, our new president, is noted among his fellow goose-hunters in Albuquerque as being always ready to go and never ready to quit. Self-starters are not uncommon these days, but the man who invariably finishes what he starts is rare. The G. P. A. has started a fundamental reorganization of game conservation in the State, and is going to finish it.

HON. COLIN C. NEBLETT, of Santa Fe, and FRED SHERMAN, of Deming, our new vice-presidents, are well known to our sportsmen. Judge Neblett, as chairman of our first Game Commission, built the foundation of our present game refuge system. That he did a good and enduring job is daily more evident. Fred Sherman, as leader of the Deming local, is setting everybody a pace in demonstrating what constitutes a Game Protective Association. He ably seconded Colonel Turner in organizing the remarkable achievement in the Mogollons last fall, described elsewhere in this issue.

ARTHUR H. SISK is our new treasurer. He has an armful of service stripes with the G. P. A., having been a mainstay of the Albuquerque local for years past.

"Men who love sport," said Xenophon thirty centuries ago, "will not break down; they are accustomed to go a-hunting. They will be competent both to attack and obey, for it is thus that wild animals are taken. They will stick to their posts, for they have learned steadfastness."

"Men like these, even when their army has been routed, have rallied and won by their courage and their endurance."

## PRODUCING TURKEY HUNTING

The Carrizozo G. P. A. is showing us all how to conserve the wild turkey in this State. For years past they have been feeding grain to the turkeys on the Eagle Creek Refuge during the winter, and in spite of heavy shooting the number of birds has increased each year. They are now going one better by purchasing an old ranch, on which grain crops will be raised and left uncut for the turkeys. This is game production of the first water. If every local would do likewise we would not have to worry any further about the turkey crop. Not only does winter feeding hold the birds in the refuge and prevent winter losses, but the birds enter the breeding season in vigorous condition and raise bigger and better broods. The same holds true of any kind of game.

Do Crippled Ducks Recover? In 1923 B. R. Britton selected 24 cripples, which seemed without body wounds, and tried to save them for decoys. They were well fed and had plenty of room. Only 6 survived. What then becomes of the thousands of birds needlessly inflicted with body wounds by long-distance shooters?

Moral: Don't try to pull them out of the sky. Wait till they are within range, and then shoot to kill, picking single birds. When they have flared out of range, stop shooting. You're out for sport, not war.

## KEEP ONE WILDERNESS HUNTING GROUND

The convention voted unanimously to retain the head of the Gila River as a Wilderness Hunting Ground, free from roads, summer resorts, or other civilized trimmings.

This is the only place left in New Mexico offering a considerable area of attractive big game and fishing country where the man who likes to make a real pack trip can be accommodated.

There are many such men. They care more for the privilege of getting out in the wilds than they do for hunting as such. They want a place where they can get away from the smell of gasoline. The development of the country should not be allowed to deprive them of the opportunity to make a wilderness trip, any more than the growth of a city should be allowed to deprive boys of a place to play baseball. Wise development leaves room for each citizen to choose and practice the kind of recreation he likes best.

A city does not realize that it must set aside recreation grounds for its boys until development produces a shortage of such grounds. Just so states have not realized that they must set aside wild places for its sportsmen until development produces a shortage of such places. That shortage now exists in New Mexico. The Gila is the only place left.

New Mexico is justly proud of its vast outdoors. Surely we can afford to dedicate one little corner of it to maintaining the physical and spiritual welfare of those who retain the instincts of the wilderness hunter, and are the better citizens by reason of that fact.

The rich man need cause us no concern—he can go to Siberia or South Africa if he chooses. But the man of moderate means can not. A sportsman recently boasted that he had made a trip to the hunting grounds of Alaska for only \$3,000. This shows conclusively that unless we take care of the wilderness hunter somewhere near home, we are not taking care of him at all.

It would seem that the Creator made the head of the Gila for this very purpose. The present wild area contains no agricultural lands, and no mineral so far as known. It is so rough that the extension of roads would be exceedingly expensive, and so poor in all economic resources (except timber) that it is doubtful if roads would earn a return on the investment. As to the timber, it might be very sound economic policy to leave one little body of the tall uncut. In the great war France found her reserve of virgin stumpage a decided military advantage.

There are a few cow-outfits on the Gila area. Their continued use of it would by no means interfere with its function as a wilderness. On the contrary the presence of a few old-style frontier cattle operations add to its interest for recreation.

Neither need there be any interference with the construction of sufficient trails and telephone lines to handle forest fires.

The Lord skimmed the Gila as a place for men to fill their pocketbooks, but He lavishly endowed it with fur, fin, and feather. Three kinds of deer, two kinds of bear, beavers, antelope, turkey, grouse, pigeons, squirrels, and trout inhabit its fastnesses. Elk and bighorn could be restored. Last fall the Gila was the happy hunting ground of a thousand devotees of the rifle. Proper care of its game resources could support twice that number without undue crowding, and an equal number of fishermen in season. Many of these men "live on" this annual trip to the wilds. Who shall say that the Gila Wilderness is not serving the state? Who shall say that it would serve any better if riddled with roads?

The citizen who likes golf, motoring, summer cottages, dance pavilions, or merry-go-rounds is, of course, just as much entitled to consideration as the citizen who likes to pack up a pony and disappear in the brush. But the point is that ninety-nine per cent of our playgrounds are already dedicated to the former class. All we ask is that the wilderness hunter be considered before the economic juggernaut runs over the slender remnant.

Who knows the original range of the otter in New Mexico? Information on where and when any others were seen or killed will be gladly received by the G. P. A.

## BIG GAME SEASON SHOULD BE NOVEMBER 10-20

present big game season, November was never suggested or approved by the G. P. A. The legislature did it. It came to mind the yarn about the easterner who asked the sheep man why, since the weather was bad, he didn't postpone his lambing. The November 20-30 season contained the implied request that the bucks delay the rut. They have, so far, ignored the implication. As a result the meat is often bad, especially in the northern part of the State, where the rut is earlier than in the southern part.

It is high time that we adopt a big game season and stick to it. Refuges must be located largely according to where the bucks hang out at a given season. Change the season and you must often change the refuges—which is manifestly an undesirable thing to do.

The proper season for big game is conclusively set by nature and election day, and we had just as well act accordingly.

An October season has been tried again and again in both Arizona and New Mexico, and it has been conclusively demonstrated that it results in much spoiled or fly-blown meat.

The first ten days of November embrace Election Day, and it goes without saying that deer hunting should not be allowed to interfere with it.

The last ten days of November, as already pointed out, are liable to yield bucks with swelled necks.

Therefore the ten days in the middle of November are the proper season.

The convention went on record to this effect, and requested the State Game Department to embody the change in its legislative program.

## THE PARK LAW

For years past the provisions of the New Mexico game law relating to licensed game parks have been the source of heated discussions. Even the owners of parks have been inclined to admit that the law is too liberal. At one time the G. P. A. requested that the park owners themselves undertake the elimination of some of its objectionable features, but they failed to do so.

The individual who goes to the trouble and expense of fencing and stocking a tract of private land and putting its game into a productive condition is undoubtedly entitled to preferential treatment in enjoying the fruits of his labor. Moreover the existence of such tracts is invariably a benefit to the surrounding lands, since their overflow keeps the surrounding lands stocked with game. But when that preferential treatment allows hunting out of season, privilege of sale of game, and exemption from bag limits and license requirements as to both the licensee and his guests, the matter has gone too far. It becomes a source of dissatisfaction and disrespect for the game laws in neighboring communities, and interferes with the progress of game conservation in the State.

It should be clearly understood that some park owners have voluntarily abstained from taking advantage of these over-liberal exemptions. But the fact that such privileges exist at all has nevertheless caused trouble.

The convention recommended that the State Game Department undertake the repeal of the entire Park Law, and substitute in its stead a modern Game Farming statute, for which there are plenty of excellent models in neighboring states. Under this scheme the present park owners would have their choice of operating their holdings either as a straight Game Farm or simply as posted land under Section 55 of the existing statute. Section 55 gives them exclusive use of their game and the legal backing of the State in preventing trespass, but it does not convert the living game into private property, and conveys no exemptions as to season, sale, bag limits, or licenses.

The best evidence we can offer as to Section 55 being a workable statute for large private holdings is that the Bell Ranch has operated under it, and not under the Park Law. If there exists a better example of private game conservation than the Bell Ranch, we have yet to hear of it.

Chief Deputy L. C. Petree has gone to the bottom of the Park Law, made a thorough study of Game Farming statutes, and

delivered an excellent address to the convention on this whole subject. The G. P. A. feels safe in leaving to him the job of drawing up the necessary remedial legislation in this matter.

## DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION

Carrizozo—T. E. Kelley.  
Silver City—Wayne MacV. Wilson.  
Deming—Fred Sherman.  
Hot Springs—Sam Matson, H. G. Smith.  
Santa Fe—Frank E. Andrews, Colin C. Neblett, R. V. Boyle, Reece Fullerton, Alfred Kaune.  
Magdalena—Dr. M. McCreary.  
Socorro—B. R. Britton, M. Baca.  
Taos—H. R. Leatherman, Carrol R. Dwire.  
State Game Department—L. C. Petree, H. L. Bengard.  
Albuquerque—Arthur H. Sisk, N. G. McCroden, C. E. Hyre, John Sharp.

Do refuges hold the birds? Go to La Jolla and see. One thousand geese were seen on the La Jolla refuge by one hunter at one time. But for the refuge, these geese would have wintered in Old Mexico.

The best method of turning out birds for stocking coverts is to raise the young in semi-captivity and then turn out the young but not the old birds. These young will feel "at home" and will not be so liable to wander off as the old birds transported from a distance.

The Taos G. P. A. last year established a rearing pond and raised 50,000 fry to fingerling size. All the labor was done by volunteers. This year they plan to install a pond on each stream, and to provide food by planting fresh-water shrimp. With this kind of action the trout streams of the Taos country may be expected to improve instead of deteriorate year by year.

Municipal bird refuges ought to make rapid strides in the state if people will read Jack Miner's book. The thousands of ducks which use Lake Merritt, in one of the Redlands, Cal., city parks, have often been described. Jerome, Arizona, is installing a refuge pond on the city golf links. Albuquerque is planning one for its Rio Grande Park. Every city and village with a lake or pond ought to make it a refuge. The G. P. A. will gladly describe the methods necessary for success.

Mr. A. H. Dinsmore, of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, who was employed by the State Game Warden to make a survey of the trout streams of the Mogollons, rendered this state a big service in his common-sense analysis of our problems. His suggestion of eyed eggs as a cheap means of stocking inaccessible streams is in itself worth many times the cost of his trip. We suggest to all our locals that if they have any knotty fish problems to try and engage Mr. Dinsmore. He is obtainable by paying his expenses. The Taos Association hopes to get him to unravel the problem of the Upper Rio Grande.

## PHILLIPS DROPPED FROM PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

One of the outstanding figures in American game conservation is John M. Phillips, who for years has been chairman of the Pennsylvania Conservation Commission and is primarily responsible for the upbuilding of Pennsylvania game from zero to one of the most productive game states in the Union. It is now understood that Governor Pinchot is not reappointing Mr. Phillips.

Just why these two eminent conservationists can afford to dispense with each other's services and support is a puzzle.

John M. Phillips' attainments in Pennsylvania have a National as well as a State significance, and to lose him from active work in game conservation is a National as well as a State loss. The successful example of Pennsylvania was one of the strongest arguments in putting across the New Mexico Game Commission and endowing it with broad regulatory powers.

Sportsmen all over the Union who have looked to Pennsylvania as the leader in modern game production are entitled to an explicit statement of the reasons behind Governor Pinchot's action.



## REPORT OF THE QUAIL COMMITTEE

## Albuquerque Game Protective Association

## 1. GENERAL FACTORS.

(a) **Shortage.** The fundamental defect in our quail management is that while we are correlating some very definite ideas on the reasons for the periodic shortages which have occurred in the past, notably in 1923, no one is ready to state positively just what are the sole causes.

It is a fair assumption that the following may be noted as among the reasons for the present scarcity: drought, with its accompanying shortage of feed and failure of quail to pair and breed, a thing well established among Bob-White; it is during a period of this kind that especial damage may result to quail as stock are forced to browse off small bushes otherwise affording protection from their natural enemies.

Among the purely speculative causes the following may be suggested: migration, disease, or a cumulative effect of two or more of the above; certain it is that the primary reason is not overshooting, as they have disappeared over great areas like the Ojito Ranches where no shooting has been allowed and where the birds were very abundant the year before.

Nobody can tell how to avert shortages until we know what causes them.

(b) **Banding.** The first move is to find out these causes. The only conclusive way to find them is by banding operations on a large scale.

If birds banded in the upper valley are killed later in the lower valley or in the mountains it would establish the migration theory.

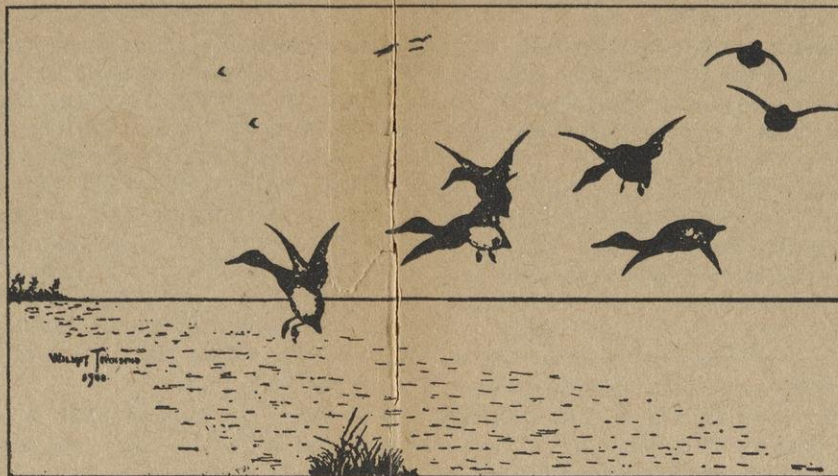
If banded birds disappear and do not show up elsewhere, and fail to return later, it would indicate disease or natural enemies. If a flock of banded birds are still in a flock a year later, it would indicate failure to breed.

We recommend that the State Game Department take the lead in organizing banding operations. G. P. A.s should, of course, co-operate.

(c) **Elastic Seasons.** Even though we do not yet know the cause of shortages, it stands to reason that the regions where they exist should not be shot out. Regardless of the causes, recovery will be slower if the remaining stock is reduced. We therefore endorse the plan recommended by the State Convention, namely, closing or shortening seasons by proclamation of the Commission wherever and whenever shortages exist, as was done in the upper valley last fall at the request of the G. P. A.

(d) **Farm Refuges.** It has been proven that even during shortage periods a few quail remain in favored places on farms when they entirely disappear from the open range. Farms, therefore, seem the best places for refuges. We recommend a system of farm refuge, but mere closure to hunting will not do. The G. P. A. should offer to furnish grain for late winter feeding, furnish legal assistance in prosecution, buy signs and fencing, and contribute labor in planting cover and killing vermin. The farmer should agree to refrain from shooting, leave certain brush cover unburned and ungrazed, patrol against trespass, do away with tramp cats, and in general take care of the birds. There should be a permanent committee to build up and maintain such a system of refuges in co-operation with the farmers on whose lands they are located.

(e) **Overgrazing.** The foothills adjacent to the Rio Grande and the adjoining mesas and mountains have been mercilessly overgrazed for over three centuries. The present generation has no way of knowing with certainty the extent to which this has deteriorated the vegetative cover, but the deterioration must have been very great. It must have greatly damaged the country from the standpoint of quail production, because the nutritious grasses and chemise brush which the quail like are also what livestock likes and what overgrazing eventually destroys. We emphatically believe that overgrazing is a fundamental factor in the quail situation, and of course has likewise damaged the possible productiveness of this State with respect to all upland and big game. Sportsmen should make common cause with agricultural interests, whose water supply has deteriorated through overgrazing, and stockmen whose range has been damaged, in all measures to regulate grazing and restore vegetation to our depleted areas.



## \* WILDFOWL

\* \* \* \*

BY PAI TA-SHUN.

\* \* \* \*

How oft against the sunset sky or moon  
I watched that moving zig-zag of spread wings  
In unforgotten autumns gone too soon,  
In unforgotten springs.

Creatures of desolation! For they fly  
Above all lands bound by the curling foam;  
In misty fens, wild moors, and trackless sky,  
These wild things have their home.

They know the tundra and Siberian coasts  
And tropic marshes by the Indian seas;  
They know the clouds and nights, and starry hosts  
From Crux to Pleiades.

Dork flying rune against the winter glow,  
It tells the sweep and loneliness of things;  
Symbol of autumns vanished long ago,  
Symbol of coming springs.

\* \* \* \*

\*Translated from the Chinese.

## II. SPECIFIC PROGRAM.

In addition to the above general considerations, we emphatically endorse the following program of detailed steps toward quail production, drawn up by the previous committee:

1. **Conserve Brush.** This is the quail's natural refuge against its enemies. Chemise especially is relished by stock, and is gradually disappearing. Small patches of brush, averaging a square rod or two in size, must be fenced. Farmers levelling new land should be asked to leave little corners of chemise "hummocks," but they cannot be fairly asked to do this unless the sportsmen co-operate with them. Where there is no brush, quail cover can be created by planting willow or Russian olive, both of which grow from cuttings and are easily propagated.

2. **Conserve small patches of weeds.** There is plenty of cover in the fall, but by spring many quail grounds are grazed bare as a floor, and the birds fall easy prey to vermin. Farmers and sportsmen should join forces to fence off little odd corner, ditchbanks, and other little spots that occur on every farm and which are worthless for other purposes, as year-long quail cover. Sunflowers and sweet clover land are especially desirable.

3. **Regulate spring burning.** Farmers and sportsmen should co-operate to leave these little cover patches unburned for quail nesting places.

4. **Kill off vagrant housecats.** The country is full of wild cats, which have no owner and no habitation, do nobody any good, and live on quail and other useful birds. Such wild cats should not only be killed on sight, but a determined hunt, during snow, must be made to clean them out of any territory on which

quail are to be produced.

5. **Sharp-shinned Hawks and Road-Runners** should be kept down. The G. P. A. should have exhibits of mounted birds to teach the difference between good and bad hawks, at every sportsmen's meeting, farmer's meeting, Boy Scout meeting, teachers' meeting, and other similar gatherings.

6. **Limitation of Kill on Private Grounds.** Clubs or land owners controlling quail grounds should prevent overkilling by taking a census of the coveys before the beginning of each year, and fixing a limitation on the number to be killed that year. Not over sixty per cent of the year's crop should be killed, leaving forty per cent for seed. On private grounds such a limitation can be easily enforced by requiring every person privileged to shoot to register his bag in a journal kept for this purpose.

7. **Covey Limit.** It should become a matter of honor and good sportsmanship never to shoot a covey of quail down to less than six birds, or to shoot into a covey containing less than six birds. All gun clubs should be urged to provide for a quail census, limitation of kill, and covey limit in their by-laws, and should collect a fine for violation of such by-laws.

8. **Regulation of Tourists.** Many auto tourists carry shotguns and many kill quail out of season and without a proper license. The State Auto Club should be asked to co-operate with the State G. P. A. in putting suitable warnings on all road logs and folders issued by Auto Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, etc., for auto tourists. The local G. P. A. should erect special warning signs at private and public tourist camp grounds

Shooting along a public highway should be prohibited by law.

9. **Quail Killing During Dove Season.** The \$25 cash reward by the local G. P. A. should be renewed each year.

10. **Diseases.** In view of the recent discovery of a parasitic disease believed to be accountable for ruffed grouse shortages in the East, an effort should be made to ascertain whether any disease occurs in our quail. Any hunter who finds a bird which seems to have died of disease, or who kills a bird with swellings in the crop or gizzard, should preserve it carefully and forward to the G. P. A., for forwarding to the Cornell laboratory for scientific study.

11. **Posted Lands.** It is also absolutely necessary, by moral and legal pressure, to control the vandal and irresponsible hunter. If his depredations continue, all lands will be posted and the average man left without a place to hunt.

12. **Bag Limits.** This committee unanimously endorses the stand taken by the State Convention of the G. P. A. regarding daily bag limits, and favor the reduction from twenty to fifteen with the further belief that some form of seasonal limit will eventually be required in the protection of our quail.

ALDO LEOPOLD, Chairman.  
H. B. JAMISON,  
R. FRED PETTIT.

## ALBUQUERQUE G. P. A. STARTS DEMONSTRATION REFUGE

## 18 Pinioned Mallards and 9 Geese Used to Decoy the Wild Birds. Feed, Protection and Cover Provided.

Believing in the value of an actual demonstration of the refuge principle conducted right in the suburbs of Albuquerque, where it can be seen by large numbers of people, a group of ten members of the Albuquerque G. P. A. has built a woven wire fence around several acres of meadow land lying just outside the city limits and issued a blanket invitation to the wild birds to make themselves at home. The "invitation" consists of plenty of feed plus a flock of pinioned mallards consisting of 18 mallards and 9 Canada and Hutchins geese.

Cover has been installed in an effort to get the decoy birds to nest. If they do, the young will be allowed to go unclipped, so that they will migrate and bring the wild birds home with them.

The fence was not completed in time to get the full benefit of the spring flight, but the backers of the scheme are confident that by next fall the wild birds will start using the area. Two pairs of the mallard decoys have started nests at this writing, and the geese have exchanged some loud talk with migrating flocks, but have not yet succeeded in bringing them down.

The educational effects of the demonstration are already apparent. The neighborhood boys are taking a great interest in the scheme and contributed labor to the building of the pond. They are keeping a weather eye on cats, hawks, dogs and trespassers.

Albuquerque sportsmen believe that when the public once sees this refuge in full operation it will insist on the establishment of a municipal refuge in one of the city parks and will insist on a strict enforcement of the system of refuges already established along the Rio Grande. They also hope that many land-owners will install similar private refuges on farms and ranches.

Could not the other G. P. A.s of the state start similar action in their home towns? The Albuquerque G. P. A. will gladly give the benefit of its experience with the practical details of providing fencing, water, feed, patrol, cover and nesting grounds. Jack Miner has done it. Why can't we?

Did you know that eagles destroy foxes? H. G. Smith, of the Hot Springs G. P. A., found a whole bunch of fox skeletons under one eagle nest.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Secretary \*.....Game Protective Association,

\*....., New Mexico.

Dear Sir:

I would like to join the G. P. A. and enclose \$1.00 dues for 1924.

Please send me a membership card and put me in touch with your activities.

Name.....

Address....., N. Mex.

\* List of Local Associations given column 1, page 2.



(CROSS OUT NAMES EXCEPT ADDRESSEE)

HON. H. O. BURSUM, U. S. Senate

HON. A. A. JONES, U. S. Senate

HON. JOHN MONROE, House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am strongly in favor of the Public Shooting Grounds-Game Refuge Bill now before Congress and hope you will do everything you can to secure its passage.

Very respectfully,

Date..... Address.....