

**THE SECOND NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE  
CONFERENCE IN ST. LOUIS** *Mar-April 1937*

There was evident at this meeting, March 1-4, 1937, inclusive, a great change in dominant attitude of mind as compared with similar conferences of but a few years ago. The former very evident preferential interest in certain categories of animal life, and particularly in game species, was on this occasion very much submerged, and the majority interest seemed to be in the preservation of the great American outdoors for the benefit of Mother, Dad, and the kids: its preservation for their social and material benefit.

It seems to me that we are on the verge of a great increase in governmental activity along true conservation lines; this as a result of a manifest tendency on the part of both Federal and state agencies to reconsider the wisdom of long-established practices, and turn increasingly to biologists for advice as to facts on which to base conservation policies. Should this be so, the development is of tremendous significance.

There were many excellent papers given at the St. Louis conference. Mr. J. N. Darling, who was reelected President, spoke in his usual dramatic and convincing manner, arousing and maintaining the interest and enthusiasm of the delegates, and carried the program through to harmonious conclusion. Among the outstanding papers presented were those by Professor Aldo Leopold entitled 'Research Program of the American Wildlife Institute'; by William L. Finley on 'Fish Protection and Industrial Use of Water'; and by Dr. William R. Van Dersal on 'The Dependence of Soils on Animal Life.'

Announcement was made of a plan for a National Conservation Week in February, 1938, as a means of further arousing interest, as well as raising funds for the program of the General Wildlife Federation.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Federation:

Federal aid should be extended to state wild-life projects by ear-marking 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 Park 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 exist should be vigorously opposed.

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

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.

The officers elected by the official delegates for the ensuing year were as follows:

J. N. Darling, Des Moines, Iowa, President; Davis Aylward, Peabody, Mass., State Game and Fish Commissioner of his State; W. L. Finley, Portland, Ore., naturalist and author; and Dr. W. B. Jones, Montgomery, Ala., geologist, Vice-Presidents.

Directors: Charles Giaque, Edgerton, Ohio; William J. Aaberg, Madison, Wisc.; Justus H. Cline, Stewartsdraft, Va.; Mrs. H. G. Bogert, Akron, Colo.; George Grebe, Kuna, Idaho; Judge Lee Miles, Little Rock, Ark.

Regional Directors: John L. Curran, Providence, R. I.; Colin Reed, Washington, D. C.; C. P. de la Bare, Blacksburg, Va.; Dr. W. B. Jones, Montgomery, Ala.; Edward K. Love, St. Louis, Mo.; Louis Dunton, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Bella L. Foresman, Lansing, Mich.; W. J. Tucker, Austin, Texas; Harold Thomas, Des Moines, Iowa; Charles N. Fahr, Salt Lake City, Utah; W. L. Finley, Portland, Ore.; George E. Walton, Oakland, Calif.; Charles Plummer, Cheyenne, Wyo.—J. H. B.

**Save the Salmon**

From the Pendleton East Oregonian

"The plea of Frank Bell, United States bureau of fisheries head, that if Oregon and Washing fishing interests on the Columbia river received the federal appropriations they have asked for artificial propagation work to compensate for the loss in natural spawning production resulting from the construction of federal works in the river and its tributaries, such as dams and irrigation ditches, other states with hatcheries would descend on the government with similar demands for assistance, cannot stand examination. Where in the other 39 states noted by Bell can be found conditions such as exist on the Columbia river?" — Astorian-Budget.

There is only one Columbia river. It has a commercial fishing industry of tremendous importance, providing work for thousands of people and providing a food supply that is of value to the whole nation. The salmon industry will be hurt by the Bonneville dam, just how badly, no one knows yet, but it will be good sense and simple justice to provide the hatchery asked for. The legislatures of Oregon and Washington have joined in a request for the establishment of a hatchery at an estimated cost of \$500,000 and it was proper to do so. The request should be granted, and the expense could quite well be charged against the Bonneville project, if necessary to do so. It is in the nature of compensation for property damage and as such it is a legitimate claim against the project.

Mr. Roosevelt is a conservationist. He wants the Columbia river utilized for all purposes. He will not be found tolerant of a program that contemplates needless destruction of a fine industry.

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