

MEMBERS' LECTURES

SPRING OF 1938



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY
NEW YORK :: NEW YORK

Wood, Field and Stream

N. Y. Times Feb. 24, 1938

By RAYMOND R. CAMP

crowd at the Sportsmen's yesterday was so large that added us of the opening day season on the Esopus. The difference was that yesterday's crowd went home satisfied, which is not always the case on opening day.

The show is certainly held at the right time for the Eastern trout anglers, as there is only a little more than a month left before the season opens in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The varied displays at the show serve to remind the angler of the replacements he has to make in his tackle and equipment.

Before we break away from the show we want to urge you to look over the exhibit of the sporting gallery and bookshop on the third floor. They are not trying to sell you anything; they just want you to see what some of our wild life artists can do. Among the group is a painting of a woodcock in thick cover, by Lynn Bogue Hunt, which we believe is one of the finest things we have seen and the best Lynn has done. It has a subtlety that does not always accompany wild life sketches.

Gives 1936 License Figures

Although the records for the past year have not been compiled as yet, the United States Biological Survey has come forward with some figures on the 1936 duck hunters which shows how much interest this form of shooting has. The number of hunters is believed to have increased considerably during the past year, so the 1936 report will give you some idea of the popularity of water fowl shooting.

Sportsmen in the United States and Alaska paid \$10,466,237.37 for 6,658,158 hunting licenses in 1936, which was an increase of almost a million dollars over the previous year. During 1936 they spent \$603,623 for Federal migratory bird stamps.

The figures will be of special interest this year, it was announced, due to the fact that the new Federal-State wild life act authorizes

Federal aid to the various States for wild life restoration. This aid will be based on the number of licenses sold in the individual States.

The breakdown in figures shows that three States, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan, sold one-fourth of all the licenses. New York led with 579,525, Michigan was second with 577,579 and Pennsylvania third with 541,954. Nevada was at the bottom with only 7,189.

William L. Finley, Oregon's active naturalist and wild life authority, has asked sportsmen and citizens to request the government to give further consideration to the proposal for the construction of seven dams on the Willamette River. Mr. Finley points out that he is not opposing the project but desires that a further study of the \$56,000,000 project be made before the money is spent.

Wild Life Not a Factor

Matters affecting wild life are no longer local problems; they are national problems, and sportsmen are beginning to realize this at last. From his statement on the matter of the dam project, it is evident that Mr. Finley fears it will be similar to the "mosquito-control" projects where wild life is concerned.

The army engineers who surveyed the Willamette area, he points out, were primarily concerned with the matters of flood control, power development and waterway transportation and not with wild life.

"The proposed Willamette project," he says, "will greatly diminish or completely destroy the salmon runs, as the dams are to be 200 feet high, with no fishways provided. They will back up the water and destroy all the trees and wild life in the area. Then, when the water is released in the Spring, the flooded areas will become biological deserts. The argument given in favor of the dams is flood control, but the need for this on the Willamette is no greater than on many other rivers. Since the people of the entire country must pay the bill, they should be concerned with the project."