

SPORTSMEN KILL THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGG

by

William L. Finley

Facts show that the sportsmen as a group are responsible for the gradual disappearance of the most valuable native game birds and game fish in the United States. Experts claim that these results have followed not only from the killing of game but especially from the destructive ~~game~~ policies advocated by sportsmen and adopted in many states. It is through the lack of sound conservation principles that the sportsmen of the country are strangling the goose that lays the golden egg.

Insert Paragraph I and 2. 4 (3)

<sup>license system</sup>  
This, ~~seemed at the time~~ to be a very necessary step. If game disappeared, hunting and angling would end. <sup>And</sup> It was considered sound business for those taking game to pay for keeping up the supply.

~~At the time, the general public had not awakened to the value of these outdoor resources. (The sportsmen, <sup>so</sup> from the beginning, took the stand that game executives should be taken from the <sup>of their own</sup> ranks of sportsmen and that they should control all matters relating to game laws and their enforcement and game protection and propagation. Many went so far as to believe, <sup>since they were taxed,</sup> that it was the duty of the state to furnish them game to shoot and fish to catch. <sup>Their reasoning was faulty in the following respect: they neglected to consider anyone but them.</sup> What was the real purpose behind this fee system? What was to be accomplished and how was the money to be spent?~~

Contrary to the opinion built up by sportsmen, the game does not belong to any one class or group of people but to the citizens as a whole. The native game birds, mammals and fish are recognized as a valuable asset to both state and federal government. The rights of

<sup>the</sup> people as a whole have been neglected because of the ~~dictation~~ <sup>and</sup> or monopoly built up by the sportsmen who have taken the special benefits.

<sup>immediate</sup> problem  
The ~~vital concern~~ of the American people today is ~~to~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~conserve~~ <sup>of</sup> their great outdoor resources. Our native game species are distinctive when compared with those of every other nation ~~of the~~ globe. Plans for preventing their extermination are as important from the natural history standpoint as is the saving of great scenic features like Yosemite and Yellowstone from the geologic standpoint. <sup>and</sup> ~~But~~ facts prove that our native game resources are not only not holding their own but <sup>are</sup> even going down.

not "what shall we substitute when our great natural resources are gone" but "how can we keep them from going?" We don't want the cure. We want prevention.

*Sportsmen kill the game that lays the golden egg.*

PACK I

~~Facts collected which relate to the native game re-  
sources in many states of the Union show that the sportsmen as a group  
are responsible for the gradual disappearance of the most valuable  
game birds and game fish in the United States.~~

~~Strange as it may seem, ~~some~~ experts claim that these  
results have followed not so much from the kill of open ~~and~~ hunting  
and fishing seasons and bag limits, ~~and as~~ from the fallacious game  
policies adopted in many states. (On account of) the scientific know-  
ledge and basic principles relating to native game resources, the  
sportsmen of the country are strangling the goose that lays the golden  
egg.~~

*as the result  
of the lack  
of sound  
conservation  
principles*

Hunting and taking of various kinds of game have been  
in vogue since the different states were settled. The first law regu-  
lating seasons was passed in Connecticut in 1677. The General Assem-  
bly in New Jersey prohibited the export of deer skins in 1679. The  
Massachusetts Bay Colony passed an Act to protect deer in 1698. In  
1843, Maine provided for the appointment of three Fish Wardens and in  
1852 made provision for the appointment of "moose wardens." This was  
the beginning of the game warden service.

①

The lack of enforcement in game laws led in 1895 to  
the hunting-~~license fees~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and also~~ angling-~~license fees~~, thus creat-  
ing a fund in each state <sup>which should have been used</sup> for the protection and conservation of its  
game resources.

②

~~At the time, this seemed to be a very strategic move. <sup>at the time</sup>  
(As it was an easy method of providing funds to conserve and increase  
various game species.) The idea was simply stated to the effect that  
if game disappeared, hunting and angling would have to cease.~~

*leave  
the  
sportsmen*

Land  
3

influenced by  
the sportsmen,  
these

The state legislatures passed laws establishing the fee system. <sup>But</sup> At the time, <sup>the eyes of</sup> the general public <sup>had not yet been</sup> did not realize the ~~fundamental problems to be worked out and how they were to be solved.~~

Hence, the real purpose behind the fee system was merely to keep the supply for killing equal to the demand.

sooty grouse is a remarkable game bird formerly abundant and typical of the fir-timbered area of the west. The ruffed grouse inhabits the alder and maple-covered areas, wild crabapple thickets. Both of these species were prizes sought by ~~elder~~ sportsmen. The sage hen or sage grouse, the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse similar to the prairie chicken and the Franklin grouse or fool hen are all splendid species of the drier belt east of the Cascade Range. Comparatively few years ago, the mountain or plumed quail flocked ~~all~~ through <sup>all</sup> the wooded sections, while the little blue or valley quail was abundant in the more open places. *Insert ④*

*Insert ⑤*  
*S/H*  
With the changing conditions, as the country was settled and more hunters took to the fields, everyone realized <sup>that</sup> the diminishing numbers of these splendid game birds <sup>was diminishing</sup>. Instead of the <sup>applying the funds</sup> funds being applied to make a study of these species, establish refuges <sup>and</sup> or take steps against their extermination, the sportsmen took the stand that nothing could be done since the birds couldn't hold their own. Limited shooting of these native birds and smaller bag limits merely raised the complaints of the sportsmen against game officials. The cry of the sportsmen was more birds to kill. *Ry*

The introduction of the Chinese or ringnecked pheasant was hailed as the greatest event of upland game bird shooting in the United States. ~~The whole problem was solved~~ <sup>an important</sup> One of the problems <sup>now</sup> was <sup>then</sup> solved as far as sportsmen and game commissions were concerned. *This was*

*followed by*  
*came* the pouring out of large sums of license money for other foreign species, such as the European or Hungarian partridge, various ~~other~~ species of Asiatic pheasants, Egyptian and Asiatic quail, Mexican quail and <sup>any</sup> ~~everything~~ <sup>else would placate the</sup> that made a good story to satisfy sportsmen.

Next came the efforts of game commissions to cross one species with

Joseph Y

As the country was settled, and more hunters took to the woods and fields, it was soon apparent that on account of changing conditions, the numbers of these splendid game birds began gradually to diminish. The only suggestions offered to meet these facts were smaller bag limits, shorter seasons and even possibly a closed season. It is very evident that <sup>these</sup> steps failed to accomplish the purpose. <sup>despite</sup> (although they helped).

Unfortunately a large proportion of sportsmen are interested only in the size of the game bag. ~~And unfortunately~~ game officials, supported by sportsmen's license fees, are compelled to make a strong effort to supply something for sportsmen to kill. Instead of <sup>using at least part of the</sup> supplying funds for research and study of these native species and for the establishment of refuges <sup>to prevent</sup> and for the taking of intelligent steps against extermination, they felt it was just too bad. <sup>then nothing stopped them</sup> If native game could not hold its own, it would have to pass out. ~~and something else be substituted. They failed to consider any other~~ <sup>in order</sup> but to keep the machine in operation, a substitute had to be furnished. The sportsmen ~~had~~ must be satisfied.

~~The~~ ~~so that their real purpose was merely to~~  
~~keep the supply for killing equal to the~~  
~~demand. and the money that was raised~~  
~~was to be spent for this purpose.~~

Let us, for example, ~~take a view of~~ conditions in the Pacific Northwest, a part of the country known throughout the world for its distinctive and valuable kinds of game fish and ~~unusual species of~~ upland game birds. *one of the main wilderness areas - important natural area*

~~The~~ geographical position and environment of the Pacific Northwest, with its ocean-fed streams have created the wonderful steelhead or rainbow trout. A part of this family have the fortunate habit of migrating to the sea and developing. The rainbow is a beautiful gamy <sup>fish</sup> trout that lives throughout the year in the upper stretches of many mountain rivers. The steelhead is a sea-run rainbow that for some ancestral reason migrates to the sea, developing to a size of from ten to thirty pounds, and returning to fresh water to spawn.

The Clark trout, commonly called "cut-throat," was first described by Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This, like the rainbow, has a divided family, a part migrating to the sea and returning <sup>and the rest</sup> while others stay <sup>ing</sup> in fresh water all ~~of~~ the year.

Few people except scientists realize that this remarkable trait of both rainbows and cut-throats has led to the development of ~~the~~ strong races of fish. The point of great importance should be to keep the condition of these rivers so <sup>that</sup> the natural spawning of the fish is undisturbed. Any artificially spawned fish should be identical with the native species. <sup>great</sup> care should be taken lest exotic fish are introduced, <sup>these</sup> which crowd out or kill off the rainbows and cut-throats. In other words, there should be a <sup>scientific</sup> fish management plan ~~on a scientific~~ basis.

*Ref 06*

Regarding upland game birds, the Pacific Northwest is fortunate in being the home of five species of grouse. The blue or

another and create a new game bird. Only the real nature lovers and scientists foresaw the results.

Today no page in the outdoor history of the United States has such a ~~dark~~ <sup>black</sup> aspect as that relating to those upland game birds, <sup>which are</sup> a distinctive part of our nation, unless it is the chapter that applies to the original residents of the fine streams of the Pacific northwest. ~~The species of trout and salmon were known around the world.~~

<sup>Like the game traps,</sup> ~~The continual complaint~~ <sup>(cry)</sup> of those anglers who paid fees for fishing was more fish for the creel. Not one out of fifty who cast a fly in the streams knew the species native to the waters. ~~Not~~ <sup>4</sup> one in twenty had ~~an~~ <sup>any</sup> idea in mind except the number of fish ~~deposited~~ in his basket.

Any student of natural history knows that a trout develops and thrives where the conditions are suitable, ~~and according to environment and insect organisms in the streams.~~ <sup>repetition</sup> The history of the past thirty years shows a deplorable lack in the study of fundamental fish problems. <sup>the</sup> Protection and conserving <sup>ation</sup> the native species adapted to individual streams has been completely neglected. The sole idea has been to establish hatcheries. ~~Game commissions satisfy sportsmen~~ <sup>so that</sup> ~~(by numbers.)~~ <sup>maybe</sup> In some places, fish are merely raised to maturity by the license money, ~~dumped~~ <sup>fast as they are put in.</sup> into the streams for anglers to hook out as ~~one might pick chickens out of the yard.~~ In other places, Millions of fingerlings, both native and foreign, are poured into the streams without regard to the time of the year when insect food is abundant and with no thought of a location favorable to survival. <sup>or</sup> The quality of the stock has been of little ~~or no~~ interest to sportsmen. <sup>a fish is a fish.</sup>



~~A fish is a fish from a sportsman's standpoint.~~ Suppose in the livestock industry, farmers and stock owners paid <sup>no</sup> little attention to the breed. What a heterogeneous mass of mix-breed chickens, sheep, cattle and horses our country would have if we followed the sportsmen's plan of quantity production with no thought of quality. The state knows well the value of training <sup>specialists</sup> experts in its educational institutions to develop the livestock industry ~~along scientific lines.~~ The breeding and care of domestic animals is in the hands of students and experts, <sup>not butchers & market keepers.</sup> ~~The intelligence of the American people has not left such a vital part of the industry to be governed by butchers and market keepers. Since the sportsmen as a group pay their license fees in order to kill game; they lack the interest and inspiration to keep up or develop the native game resources of the country.~~

~~Thus the result of Thirty years of domination of wild life resources by the sportsmen has~~ <sup>almost resulted in the extinction of our</sup> ~~proved that our upland game species~~ <sup>substitution of</sup> ~~are rapidly nearing extinction, and the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific is being populated by feathered game from foreign countries.~~ <sup>(?)</sup> Our native water fowl with resting, feeding and nesting areas destroyed, are at a point where a closed season seems necessary. Our Pacific northwestern waters are the spawning beds <sup>for</sup> of an increasing number of carp, bass, crappies, shad, Loch Leven or European brown trout and other cannibalistic varieties. <sup>The</sup> Our native species are being rapidly crowded to the wall and starved out. ~~It is like flooding our land with an army of Europeans and Asiatics to exterminate the Americans.~~

(In conclusion) Since the native game resources are hanging in the balance, ~~with the work centered in many different game commissions,~~ some constructive steps <sup>must</sup> should be taken. The present

duties of game officials in the various states <sup>should</sup> may be logically divided into two parts. First is the enforcement of game laws, a police problem which has as a rule been handled by the sportsmen according to business methods. ~~The~~ **S**Second is the conservation of native fish, game birds and mammals of different states, and this is both an educational and a scientific problem and can be solved only by specialists and experts.

~~The suggestion is offered~~ <sup>It has been suggested</sup> that license funds <sup>also</sup> be divided into two parts, one part <sup>to be</sup> spent by game officials for the enforcement of laws. ~~The balance of the license funds collected~~ <sup>to</sup> should be turned over by legislative action to the State Agricultural College or a similar institution. If this had been done in the beginning, our country would have been much further along the road toward <sup>the</sup> conserving and developing <sup>ment to</sup> her outdoor resources (~~from a recreational standpoint.~~ <sup>unnecessary</sup>)

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Facts show that the sportsmen as a group are responsible for the gradual disappearance of the most valuable native game birds and game fish in the United States. Experts claim that these results have followed not only from the killing of game but especially from the destructive policies advocated by sportsmen and adopted in many states. It is through the lack of sound conservation principles that the sportsmen of the country are strangling the goose that lays the golden egg.

The hunting and taking of various kinds of game have been in vogue since the different states were settled. The first law regulating seasons was passed in Connecticut in 1677. The General Assembly in New Jersey prohibited the export of deer skins in 1679, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony passed an Act to protect deer in 1698. In 1843, Maine provided for the appointment of three fish wardens and in 1852 made provision for the appointment of "moose wardens." This was the beginning of the game warden service.

The lack of enforcement in game laws led in 1895 to ~~the~~ hunting and angling-license <sup>S. I.</sup> ~~fees~~, thus creating a fund in each state, <sup>available</sup> ~~which should have been used~~ for the protection and conservation of its game resources.

The state legislatures, influenced by sportsmen, passed these laws establishing the fee system. But at the time, the eyes of the general public had not yet been opened to the real problem. Hence, the purpose behind the fee system <sup>at the time</sup> was merely to keep the supply for killing equal to the demand.

print

from the sportsmen view -

This license system seemed to be a very necessary step. If game disappeared, hunting and angling would end. And it was considered sound business for those taking game to pay for keeping up the supply. *wood stock,*

So from the beginning, the sportsmen took the stand that game executives should be drawn from their own ranks and that they should control all matters relating to game laws and their enforcement and game protection and propagation. Many went so far as to believe that since they were taxed, it was the duty of the state to furnish them game to shoot and fish to catch. *This conclusion was illogical.* ~~Their reasoning was faulty in the following respect: they neglected to consider anyone but themselves.~~ *The hunters and anglers*

Contrary to the opinion built up by sportsmen, the game does not belong to any one class or group of people but to the citizens as a whole. The native game birds, mammals and fish are recognized as a valuable asset to both state and federal government. The rights of the people as a whole have been neglected because of the monopoly built up by sportsmen who have taken the special benefits.

The immediate problem of the American people today is not "what shall we substitute when our great natural resources are gone" but "how can we keep them from going?" We don't want the cure; we want prevention. Our native game species are distinctive as compared with those of every other nation. Plans for preventing their extermination are as important from the natural history standpoint as is the saving of great scenic features like Yosemite and Yellowstone from the geologic standpoint. And facts prove that our native game resources are not ~~only not~~ holding their own but are *steadily* ~~even~~ going down.

Let us, for example, view conditions in the Pacific Northwest, a part of the country known throughout the world for its distinctive and valuable kinds of game fish and upland game birds.

Its geographical position and environment with its ocean-fed streams have created the wonderful steelhead or rainbow trout. The rainbow is a beautiful <sup>gamy</sup> fish that lives throughout the year in the upper stretches of many mountain rivers. The steelhead is the sea-run rainbow that for some ancestral reason migrates to the sea, developing to a size of from ten to thirty pounds and returning to fresh water to spawn.

The Clark trout, commonly called "cut-throat," was first described by Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This, like the rainbow, has a divided family, a part migrating to the sea and returning and the others staying in fresh water all the year.

Few people except scientists realize that this remarkable trait of both rainbows and cut-throats has led to the development of strong races of fish. The point of great importance ~~should~~ <sup>is</sup> <sup>to</sup> keep <sup>the</sup> the condition of these rivers so that the natural spawning of the fish is undisturbed. Any artificially spawned fish should be identical to the native species, and great care should be taken lest exotic fish are introduced and these crowd out or kill off the rainbows and cut-throats. In other words, there should be a scientific fish management plan.

Regarding upland game birds, the Pacific Northwest is fortunate in being the home of five species of grouse. The blue or sooty grouse is a remarkable game bird formerly abundant and typical of the fir-timbered area of the west. The ruffed grouse inhabits the

alder and maple-covered areas and wild crabapple thickets. Both of these species were prizes sought by sportsmen. The sage-hen or sage grouse, the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse similar to the prairie chicken and the Franklin grouse or fool-hen are all splendid species of the drier belt east of the Cascade Range. Comparatively few years ago, the mountain or plumed quail flocked through all the wooded sections, while the little blue or valley quail was abundant in the more open places.

As the country was settled and more hunters took to the woods and fields, it was soon apparent that on account of changing conditions the numbers of these splendid game birds were beginning ~~gradually~~ to diminish. The only suggestions offered to meet these facts were smaller bag limits, shorter seasons and ~~possibly~~ even a closed season. It is very evident that although these steps helped, they failed to accomplish the purpose.

Unfortunately, a large proportion of sportsmen are interested only in the size of the game bag. And game officials, supported by sportsmens' license fees, are compelled to make a strong effort to supply something for sportsmen to kill. Instead of using at least part of the funds for the research and study of native species and for the establishment of refuges to prevent extermination, they felt that it was just too bad; *if* native game could not hold its own, it would have to pass out.

But in order to keep the machine in operation, a substitute had to be furnished. The sportsmen must be satisfied.

The introduction of the Chinese or ringnecked pheasant was hailed as the greatest event of upland game bird shooting in the United States. An important problem was now solved as far as sportsmen and game commissions were concerned. This was followed by the

pouring out of large sums of license money for other foreign species, such as the European or Hungarian partridge, various Asiatic pheasants, Egyptian and Asiatic quail, Mexican quail and anything else that would placate the sportsmen. Next came the efforts of game commissions to cross one species with another and create a new game bird. Only the real nature lovers and scientists foresaw the results.

Today no page in the outdoor history of the United States has such a black aspect as that relating to those upland game birds, which are a distinctive part of our nation, unless it is the chapter that applies to the original residents of the fine streams of the Pacific Northwest.

Like the game hogs, the continual cry of those anglers who paid fees ~~for fishing~~ was more fish for the creel. Not one out of fifty who cast a fly in the streams knew the species native to the waters, and not one in twenty had any idea in mind except the number of fish in his basket.

Any student of natural history knows that a trout develops and thrives where the conditions are suitable. The history of the past thirty years shows a deplorable lack in the study of fundamental fish problems. The protection and conservation of native species adapted to individual streams <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ been completely neglected.

The sole idea has been to establish hatcheries so that fish may be <sup>propagated</sup> ~~raised~~ ~~(to maturity)~~ and dumped into streams for anglers to hook out as fast as they are put in. Millions of fingerlings, both native and foreign, are poured into the streams without regard to insect food or location. The quality of the stock has been of little interest to sportsmen. A fish is a fish.

Suppose in the livestock industry, farmers and stock owners paid no attention to the breed. What a heterogeneous mass of mix-breed chickens, sheep, cattle and horses our country would have if we followed the sportsmen's plan of quantity production with no thought of quality. The state knows well the value of training specialists in its educational institutions to develop the livestock industry. The breeding and care of domestic animals is in the hands of students and experts, not butchers and market keepers.

Thirty years domination of wildlife resources by the sportsmen has almost resulted in the extinction of our upland game species and the substitution of foreign varieties. Our native water fowl, with resting, feeding and nesting areas destroyed, are at a point where a closed season ~~is~~<sup>is</sup> necessary. Pacific northwestern waters are the spawning beds for an increasing number of carp, bass, crappies, shad, Loch Leven or European brown trout and other cannibalistic varieties. The native species are being rapidly crowded to the wall and starved out.

Since native game resources are hanging in the balance, some constructive steps must be taken. The present duties of game officials in the various states should logically be divided into two parts. First, is the enforcement of game laws, a police problem which has, as a rule, been handled by the sportsmen according to business methods. Second is the conservation of native fish, game birds and mammals of different states, and this is both an educational and a scientific problem and can be solved only by specialists and experts.

It has been suggested that license funds be divided into two parts, one to be spent by game officials for the enforcement of laws and the balance to be turned over by legislative action to



the State Agricultural College or a similar institution. If this had been done in the beginning, our country would have been much further along the road toward the conservation and development of her outdoor resources.