

A PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR
THE WILD FOWLERS OF NORTH AMERICA

The name of the organization shall be ^{American} ~~The Wild Fowlers of North~~
~~America~~. The location should be in Washington where the Field Secretary
must be provided with an office as near as possible to the controlling
Federal agency.

MANAGEMENT

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to add to their number
at will and ^{to all} fill vacancies as they occur, and shall be classified so that
the terms of one-third of their number shall expire each year. They shall
appoint an Executive Committee. At present ^{The Board} ~~they~~ consist of the Executive
Committee and Mr. George Slade, Mr. Thomas Cochran, and Mr. John Dymond.

The Executive Committee as appointed at the dinner at Mr. George
Slade's house on May 25 consists of the following gentlemen:

Dr. John A. Hartwell, Chairman
27 East 63rd Street, New York
Mr. Edward C. Baetjer,
16 West Madison St., Baltimore, Md.
Mr. William H. Wheelock,
14 Wall Street, New York
Mr. D. Mark Cummings,
First National Bank, Chicago, Ill.
Mr. Chester K. Brooks,
10,600 Quincy Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
Mr. Charles Sheldon, (after summer)
1830 Phelps Place, Washington, D. C.
Dr. John C. Phillips,
Wenham, Massachusetts.

They shall be responsible for the affairs of the organization and will re-
port to the whole Board of Directors at least once a year, and before
November 1, 1927. They shall hold office for one year and have authority
to employ assistance, establish an office if necessary, and engage a Field
Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP

The most important work will be at first among the larger clubs
with headquarters in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland,

ditto

Chicago, New Orleans, and other cities of the East and Middle West. [Club dues to be determined later by the Executive Committee.] Two classes of Club membership may be provided.]

Individual membership should be limited in numbers and confined primarily to those who own or lease shooting property individually or as members of Sportsmen's Clubs.

OBJECTS - GENERAL

To interest all persons, groups of persons and corporations in the preservation of the migratory game birds of North America to the end of securing proper regulation for the perpetuation and increase of the same, in order that legitimate sport and recreation may be insured for the present and future generations; and in order that the annual kill of wild fowl shall be correlated with the natural increase of the existing stock.

In attaining these ends to co-operate closely with the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey and to resist legislative efforts designed to take away from that Bureau or the Department to which it may be assigned, the authority necessary to administer the migratory bird life of the Nation.

To extend when and if possible, the benefits of our migratory bird regulations into the ~~Republic of Mexico~~ *countries both south of us* by treaty or otherwise, and to co-operate with Canada for mutual betterment of present conditions affecting wild fowl supply.

OBJECTS - SPECIFIC

1. An effort to secure among sportsmen a better observance of the Federal regulations designed to protect migratory game birds, and to secure the adoption by Congress of legislation that will insure the protection of the Federal Courts to the Federal Wardens enforcing the Federal Laws; and to co-operate with the constituted authorities so as to suppress the illegal traffic in game. Also to ~~forbid~~ *prevent* the use of automatic and pump guns with a

capacity of more than two shells.

2. To circulate information in behalf of legitimate sport in order to show the public its importance from both the recreational and economic sides, and to stress the fact that the active interest of the sportsmen is essential as being the most important element in saving the game in the long run. To distribute information showing that the shooting by sportsmen is a minor factor in ^{reducing} the supply of game. In order to bring this about all persons and groups of persons owning preserves or hunting clubs frequented by wild fowl must be listed and data secured as to location, area, value of lands and waters, and the value of the permanent improvements thereon, so that the extent to which the sportsmen owning ^{or leasing} ducking grounds are contributing towards the maintenance of migratory game bird life may be ascertained and publicly announced.

3. To co-operate with the Bureau of Biological Survey in organizing a systematic census of wild fowl populations at strategic points so that we may have available a scientific basis of fact rather than a mass of conflicting and controversial evidence as a groundwork for regulating the shooting. To endeavor to obtain laws in each State requiring those who take out hunting licenses to make annual returns of all game killed, and likewise to educate the Clubs to the importance of keeping complete species records of all wild fowl shot on their preserves, the same to be open to State or Federal inspection; and to assist the Biological Survey in defense of its policies and in the conduct of controversies where its officials in public office may be barred or handicapped from effective participation.

4. To investigate and if necessary help to study or rectify various factors which may affect the wild fowl of North America such as food supply and methods of increasing the same, including the control of areas rendered saline through accident or otherwise; the study of the so-called duck sickness and its prevention; the study of pollution and its effects; the study

of the damage done by predatory birds and mammals in nesting areas; and any other questions which may be called to the attention of the organization from time to time.

5. To aid in securing funds for the more intensive study of migration routes, the movement of individual birds and the percent of artificial mortality (through shooting) of all important species by means of systematic banding of ducks and geese on both breeding and wintering areas. To interest owners of preserves in the importance of trapping and banding wild fowl; investigation of the causes of bad breeding years; changes in migration routes; their causes, etc., etc.

6. To co-operate in or inaugurate a study of areas necessary for sanctuaries or Public Shooting Grounds and areas already drained which may be restored to valuable wild fowl resorts by negotiation with State Game Commissions and owners of property. To aid in every way as soon as possible in the passage of a Federal Game Refuge Bill which shall provide more adequate funds by a system of individual Federal licenses for those who shoot migratory game birds.

7. Education of sportsmen to a realization that the Federal Government cannot with safety interfere in the minor regulations of wild fowl killing that may be locally found necessary in States or Counties, and that the States themselves must not depend on Federal authority to regulate local or temporary conditions.

of the stability of
8. Plans to eventually provide ^{consideration by the Board of the advisability of providing} (as soon as finances warrant) for a regular vehicle of publicity, either by the purchase of a journal or the reservation of space in one or more journals for publishing the activities of the organization and combating all propoganda aimed at the destruction of legitimate sport, misrepresentation of sportsmen or any other activities which might prevent the legitimate taking of the surplus wild fowl of this country.

FINANCE

The salary and traveling expenses of the proper Field Secretary will be about \$12,000, because much travel will be necessary at first in order to organize clubs and individuals, secure memberships and start the movement. A surplus fund should be available for temporary finance of important emergencies as they may arise, or as a direct aid to investigation already under way at the Bureau of Biological Survey.