

"We hope that you may give this matter as early consideration as is convenient, and that you will be able to support the movement."

In this way your committee has taken up a larger work for the native fauna than has hitherto been attempted. The societies addressed are, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, California Academy of Sciences, Biological Society of the Pacific Coast, Los Angeles Zoological Society, Tamalpais Conservation Club, Great Fish and Game Protective Association, California Game and Fish Protective Association, Paleontological Society of the Pacific Coast, and the State Humane Association. There has been cordial response in nearly every case. Only one organization so far, has not favored the move, namely, the California Game and Fish Protective Association. The two organizations named last have not been heard from. The first six have promised their support, and the first four, as well as the Cooper Club will certainly be represented at the organization meeting. It is not unlikely that every one of the above associations, with the exception mentioned, will ultimately affiliate with the new organization.

The immense possibilities of accomplishment along the lines of better game laws and increased publicity of game matters will be apparent. The Associated Societies will start with a membership of between one and two thousand, including many of the most high-minded and influential conservators in the State.

The organization meeting is to be held early in November in the San Francisco Bay region. Respectfully submitted.

JOHN W. MAILLIARD

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H. C. BRYANT

J. S. HUNTER

W. P. TAYLOR, *Chairman*.
Committee on Conservation of Wild Life
(Northern Division).

COPY OF LETTER AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION BY THE COOPER CLUB THROUGH ITS COMMITTEES ON CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE

Berkeley, Calif., Aug. 26, 1912.

California Fish and Game Commission,

734 Mills Bldg.,

San Francisco, Calif.

Gentlemen:

We submit herewith a list of recommendations as regards new legislation which seems to us would be desirable. We are continually impressed with the necessity for haste in se-

curing enlightened game laws if we are to preserve the remnant of wild life within the state. We feel that California should learn from the experience of other states and commonwealths that, in these matters particularly, a look to the future is necessary. The non-game birds, the game-birds, the fur-bearing mammals, and the food-fishes constitute an immense asset to the state, financially and esthetically. We believe in a progressive policy along the lines of wild-life conservation, and hope that these suggestions may be of some value.

We advocate above all things the passage of a non-sale of game law, for we believe that in this lies the future of some of our best game birds.

We may define our general attitude as being in favor of further restrictions where necessary to the welfare of wild species. "The wild life of today is not wholly ours, to dispose of as we please. It has been given to us *in trust*. We must account for it to those who come after us and audit our records."

Finally, we take this opportunity of expressing our confidence in the State Fish and Game Commission, and trust that we may be able to co-operate with it in the work of wild life conservation. Respectfully submitted,

Cooper Ornithological Club, by Committee
(Northern Division) on Conservation of Wild Life.

H. W. CARRIGER

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W. P. TAYLOR, *Chairman*.

Whereas, to the best of our knowledge many game birds and mammals have been greatly reduced in numbers during the past few years, and

Whereas, certain birds and mammals in this state are known to be approaching extinction, and

Whereas, certain birds and mammals known as game are of such inestimable value to the agriculturist and horticulturist that it is to our interest to protect them, we recommend the following new laws and amendments:

1. A law prohibiting the sale in California of American-killed ducks.

2. A law prohibiting the use of automatic guns and silencers.

3. The abolition of the game districts as at present outlined within the State and, if necessary, a redistricting according to life zones and faunal areas.

4. The shortening of the season on certain game birds and the placing of certain birds now considered game birds on the protected list.

5. Reduction of the bag limit on certain game birds.

6. An investigation into the practicability of a campaign against the English Sparrow to be carried on by the State Fish and Game Commission.

7. A law providing for the protection of the Bear, Raccoon, Mink, Badger, Marten, Fisher, Otter, Red Fox, Wolverine, Skunk, and Ring-tailed Cat during all seasons except during the winter when their fur is prime; the seasons to be determined on the basis of the facts of the case in the different species; provision to be made in the law permitting the killing of these mammals by the owner or tenant of any premises when found doing damage; cases of this necessary killing to be reported to the State Fish and Game Commission.

8. The law regarding rabbits to be amended with the provision that the owner or tenant of any premises be permitted to kill cotton-tails and brush rabbits when found doing damage to crops.

A synopsis of our recommendations and short discussions of each follows:

ANIMAL	SEASON	BAG LIMIT
Redhead	Close indefinitely	
Wood Duck	Close indefinitely	
Other Ducks	Oct. 15 to Feb. 1	20 per day (Bag limit on ducks to remain at 50 per week if "no-sale of ducks" law is not passed)
Ibis and all Shore Birds (<i>Limicolae</i>) with the exception of the Wilson Snipe	(excl'de from game birds and place on protected list)	
Rail	(excl'de from game birds and place on protected list)	
Geese	Oct. 15 to Feb. 1	25 per day
Valley and Desert Quail	Oct. 15 to Nov. 15	20 per day
Mountain Quail	Sept. 1 to Nov. 1	10 per day
Grouse	Sept. 1 to Nov. 1	4 per day
Sage Hen	Sept. 1 to Nov. 1	4 per day
Mourning Dove	(excl'de from game birds and place on protected list)	
Band-tail'd Pigeon	Nov. 1 to Feb. 1	15 per day
Sea Otter	protect absolutely, making the killing of the Sea Otter a felony	
Bear, Mink, Otter, Raccoon, Badger, Marten, Fisher, Red Fox, Wolverine, Skunk, and Ring-tailed Cat	Open season only during time when furs are prime	

RED-HEAD DUCK

The Red-head Duck has been greatly reduced in numbers in this state in the past few years. Data collected the past year shows that there came to the markets of San Francisco only 230 Red-heads making a total of .15 of one per cent of the total number of ducks. The Red-head is a resident species and originally was very abundant in this state.

Our resident ducks need far more protection than the migratory species. We believe, therefore, that we are justified in recommending the closing of the season indefinitely.

WOOD DUCK

The Wood Duck is probably the rarest duck found in the state. Practically all of the Eastern states protect this bird throughout the year simply because it is found in such small numbers. But two or three wood ducks were seen in the markets of San Francisco during the past season. This shows the scarcity of the bird.

OTHER DUCKS

Most of the other ducks to be found in the state we believe are still in sufficient abundance to withstand a limited amount of destruction at the hands of the hunter. We do, however, recommend the shortening of the season to three and one-half months, Oct. 15 to Feb. 1st, the bag limit to be twenty per day.

We also suggest that the bag limit on all ducks remain at fifty per week if the "no-sale of ducks" law does not pass.

SHORE BIRDS

Most of the game birds have withstood destruction at the hands of the hunter far better than the Shore Birds (*Limicolae*). We believe that the shore birds in California have been greatly reduced in numbers and that many of them are nearing extinction. Consequently we suggest that these birds be taken from the list of game birds and that they be protected the year through. We owe something to future generations and certain it is that our shore birds need protection above all others.

RAIL

We recommend that Rail be excluded from the game birds and placed on the protected list. The California Clapper Rail, the most important one of these birds, is gradually nearing extinction not only because of the hunter but because of the reclamation of the lands frequented by the bird. In order that this valuable bird be conserved we believe it necessary that it be absolutely protected.

GEESE

Geese form a cheap and valuable source of food. The numbers of these birds has greatly decreased and, unless some sort of protection is afforded them, it will not be long before this source of food supply is exhausted. We therefore recommend the placing of an open season of three and one-half months, October 15th to February 1st, on geese. This is the particular time of year during which their depredations in grain fields are most noticeable, so that the open season at this time should prevent any antagonism by ranchers of the state.

VALLEY AND DESERT QUAILS

Owing to the increased number of hunters, the increased facilities of transportation, and the increased efficiency of fire arms, we believe it necessary that the season on quail be shortened. Quails must be considered the most important game birds of the state and therefore it seems our duty to do our utmost to conserve them. The toll taken by hunters during the present open season appears too large to allow these birds to hold their own. We recommend therefore the reduction of the open season to one month, October 15th to November 15th; the bag limit to be twenty per day as heretofore.

MOUNTAIN QUAIL, GROUSE AND SAGE-HENS

Here also we believe that a shortening of the season is needed for conservation. Two months, September 1st to November 1st appears to us to be the proper season.

It is a well known fact that the Sage-hen especially has been greatly reduced in numbers. Consequently, a shorter season must be demanded in order to save this valuable game bird.

MOURNING DOVE

In the East the Mourning Dove is not considered a game bird. For some years there has been considerable sentiment in favor of protecting the bird in this state. The Mourning Dove is probably our best weed-seed destroyer. The U. S. Biological Survey has found as many as nine thousand two hundred weed seeds in the crop and stomach of one dove. The value of this bird to the agriculturist and horticulturist is therefore very great. We believe there will be little hardship to the hunter in foregoing the pleasure of shooting this bird. Its economic value certainly justifies its complete protection. Furthermore the diminutive size of its body minimizes its value as a game bird.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON

Up to the present time the Band-tailed Pigeon has received no protection. The total extermination of the Passenger Pigeon whose habits are somewhat like those of our native bird, emphasizes the necessity of protection for this bird. In that the Band-tailed Pigeon has a very slow rate of production, but one young bird being raised each year, it cannot withstand so large an amount of destruction as has been accorded it during past years. All of the evidence at hand points to the fact that this bird has been greatly reduced in numbers. Its habit of flocking together during its appearance in California allows a slaughter which the bird is unable to withstand.

Let this bird go the way of the Passenger Pigeon, we recommend that an open season of three months, November 1st to February 1st,

be granted, with the bag limit of fifteen per day.

ENGLISH SPARROW

The following is the final decision of the U. S. Biological Survey on the English Sparrow.

"English sparrows are abundant in most of the towns in the United States and in many suburban districts. They are noisy, filthy and destructive. They drive native birds from villages and homesteads. Though they are occasionally valuable as destroyers of noxious insects, all things considered, they do far more harm than good. Practical methods of dealing with them include destruction of nests, shooting, trapping, and poisoning. Of these, trapping is unquestionably the best."

This bird is rapidly spreading here in the state; consequently, we recommend that an investigation be instituted into the practicability of a war of extermination on the English Sparrow, to be carried on by the State Fish and Game Commission.

SEA OTTER

Perhaps the rarest mammal in California and the one whose fur is most valuable is the Sea Otter.

A treaty between the United States and neighboring nations has been drawn up and the law carrying this treaty into effect is now before Congress. We believe that California with its coast line should take an active interest in co-operating with the Federal government in the protection of this extremely valuable mammal and should therefore pass a law absolutely protecting it. In that the prime fur of the Sea Otter is valued at near one thousand dollars, we believe that a law can only be made effective by making the killing of the Sea Otter a felony.

FUR-BEARING MAMMALS

The fur-bearing mammals of the state of California are no small asset. If figures showing the value of furs taken within the state were at hand they would doubtless furnish some astonishing evidence. In order that such mammals as the Bear, Raccoon, Mink, Badger, Marten, Fisher, Otter, Red Fox, Wolverine, Skunk and Ring-tailed Cat be conserved, we believe it necessary that a law providing protection for these mammals, except during the time when furs are prime, should be passed.

There is a great deal of wanton killing of these mammals and it is only right that those still remaining should be killed only when their furs are of value. Provision should be made allowing the killing of any of these mammals found doing damage by any owner or tenant of premises; cases of this necessary killing to be reported to the State Fish and Game Commission.