



CORMORANTS AND PELICANS ON LOWER KLAMATH LAKE IN 1905

This lake was entirely dried up by the Reclamation Service in 1920 and today it is a barren alkali waste of no economic value. The destruction to bird life was tremendous

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Reclamation vs. Conservation

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MAN has a peculiar habit of building something with his hands and, at the same time, kicking it to pieces with his feet. In no direction is this more graphically illustrated than in conservation and use of natural resources. With grandiloquent inconsistency we move to conserve or develop one resource while, at the same time, we are destroying another. This is, no doubt, all a part of man's imperfection, and is comparable with his inability to avert war or solve, with his vaunted intelligence, the problems of a changing social and economic order. No more graphic example of this can be found than the destruction in the name of reclamation of important areas in southern Oregon and northern California. The history of Klamath, Tule and Clear Lakes should establish the vital need of coordination to achieve a wise plan of land use. The absence of such a broad-gauged program has cost dearly in wildlife resources, with scant economic or agricul-

tural benefit. The destruction done can never be repaired.

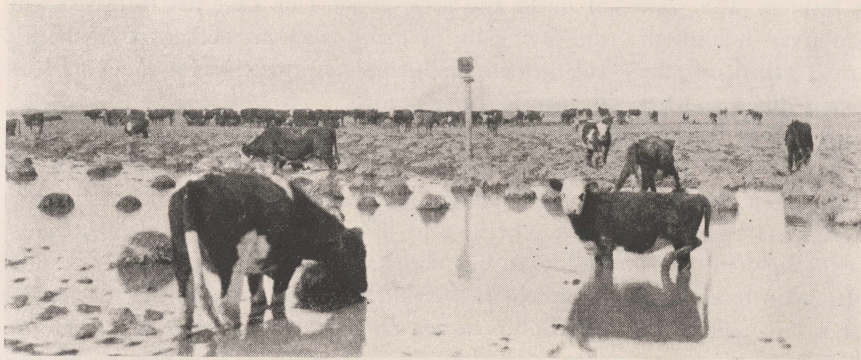
In the early days of this country these lakes and their adjacent marsh lands supported uncountable numbers of ducks, geese and wading birds native to the West. They served as nesting and rearing regions for some, or as ideal resting places for other birds on their migratory flights. In recognition of this, these areas were (in large measure) set aside by Presidential proclamation as waterfowl reservations. Their administration was left to the Biological Survey, whose rights, however, were secondary to those of the Reclamation Service, should the latter choose to invoke them.

It was the war in Europe that finally helped to bring about the doom of the waterfowl. The warring nations clamored for food. To provide it greater areas had to be planted to wheat and other crops. A frenzy of reclamation set in. Promoters and producers contested for land. Regardless of whether the soil was equipped to produce crops,



A SCENE THAT IS NO MORE

Caspian terns, Farallone cormorants and white pelicans on the Klamath Lake Reservation, now gone



BIRDS AND CATTLE DO NOT MIX WELL

Stock grazing on a Federal waterfowl reservation under permit of the Reclamation Service. Below, white pelicans on the Clear Lake Reservation in 1912. Several large pelican colonies have been destroyed and in 1934 only one of them remained

waters were drained off and the land turned, with widely varying success, to the growing of crops. The mirage of economic value quickly faded, leaving areas from which the Reclamation Service has since persisted in trying to derive some benefit. Such meager returns as have been gained are minute when compared with the tremendous loss in wildlife resource.



Lower Klamath Lake, for example, was ceded to the Government in 1904 and 1905 and proclaimed a Federal wild bird reservation in 1908 by Theodore Roosevelt. Eighty thousand acres of shallow water and vast tule marshes made it one of the greatest wild fowl refuges in the United States. Soil analysis and subsequent experiments proved that the soil was useless for agriculture. Yet, in November, 1917, the Reclamation Service contracted with a land promotion company, diked the channel from the Klamath River and cut off the water. The lake dried up. Today it is partly deserted and partly tenanted by destitute farmers.

However, irreparable as was the damage done on Lower Klamath Lake, policies still in vogue with the Reclamation Service on Upper Klamath Lake, Clear Lake, and Tule Lake perpetuate the destruction of wildlife without adequate justification in terms of irrigation or reclamation benefit.

Upper Klamath Lake is a reclamation reservoir in southern Oregon. Its open water and tule patches, and some five thousand acres of land and marsh, are ideal for the feeding and nesting of waterfowl. The land, however, is leased by the Reclamation Service to stockmen without restriction as to the number of grazing sheep and cattle. The animals trample and crop the grass needed by the birds for food and cover, result-

ing in the destruction to bird life. For the grazing privileges insignificant revenue is received by the Reclamation Service. In fact, that bureau is performing a service not properly a part of either reclamation or irrigation when it issues permits to stockmen.

Clear Lake, in Modoc County, California, twenty years ago supported an unequalled abundance and variety of bird life. It was established as a Federal wildlife refuge in 1911. Across Lost River, at the outlet of the lake, the Reclamation Service built a dam, and a ditch to draw off more water. Only a small portion of a lake, once eight miles by ten, now remains, and the water level has been lowered beyond any value for irrigation. As the water level receded, birds fed and nested in the vegetation until the Reclamation Service leased more than 14,000 acres at an average of 22 cents an acre for grazing. Now, during the breeding season, flocks of sheep tramp through the nests and destroy the cover.

To prevent further destruction of bird life, the Biological Survey has built fences across points of land near the lake to keep out the stock. The result is that while the Reclamation Service receives money for grazing leases that destroy wild life, the Biological Survey must spend fully as much to preserve a small portion of the area as a sanctuary.

Tule Lake in northern California, once fifteen miles long by eleven



ON CLEAR LAKE RESERVATION

Fence built by the Biological Survey to keep grazing cattle out of Canada goose nesting ground

miles wide, has suffered in similar fashion. The west side of the whole northern border was a vast tule marsh and a natural wild fowl breeding area. Taken over by the Reclamation Service, this section was diked and has been taken up by settlers. The southern half of the area was designated as sump area to care for the water from the northern part after irrigation. About ten thousand acres in the center of this sump region has been proclaimed as the Tule Lake Wildlife Refuge, in 1928. The Reclamation Service leases the lands on three sides of the Refuge for settlement, or, at a low rental, for hay and grain crops. In addition, in 1933, it began renting the area within the sanctuary to stockmen and cattle have been turned into the refuge, and destroy the food and nesting sites of the birds. The revenue is small; the damage to bird life large. The concentration

Three bills pending before Congress propose the creation of new National Parks. They have the endorsement of the Park Service. All three merit enactment into law since they would preserve areas outstandingly worthy of preservation. These are H.R.7086, for the establishment of Mount Olympus National Park on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington; S.2289, for the creation of Kings Canyon National Park in California; S.2131 and H.R.6373, to set aside about 1,500,000 acres in the Big Bend country in Texas.

The New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, with a membership of about 100,000, has adopted a resolution in favor of a closed season on migratory waterfowl and endorsing the principles contained in the Berlin Bill.

The action of Governor Lehman of New York in vetoing the bill providing for making so-called "improvements" atop Whiteface Mountain in the Adirondacks wins the applause of all who resent the continued sad efforts of man to improve on Nature.

It is announced by the Biological Survey that permits will no longer be issued for the taking of waterfowl or their eggs for propagation owing to the fact that "the breeding stock of wild birds is much too low at this time to justify risking any portion of it in the hands of inexperienced persons." We trust that before the waterfowl shooting season of 1935 arrives the Biological Survey will also have had the courage to declare that the breeding stock is also too low to sustain another disastrous hunting season.

An interesting pamphlet entitled "4-H Club Guide in Wild Life Conservation" has been written by Floyd A. Johnson and published and distributed by the South Dakota Game and Fish Department. This is a sane and constructive document and a distinct credit to the State of South Dakota. It could be read with profit by other Game and Fish Commissions.

of ducks and geese about Tule Lake has increased with the drying up of many lakes in southern Oregon, and enlargement and complete protection for the Tule Lake Refuge is sorely needed.

Thus, at a time when agricultural production is being curtailed by government edict and bounty; when the Biological Survey is engaged upon a program of restoring land, otherwise useless, to its natural wild inhabitants; and when our ducks and geese are dangerously reduced in numbers, we find programs unjustifiably destructive to wildlife carried on by another branch of the government. Practical common sense dictates the cancellation of the leases in these important regions, the cessation of destructive grazing and the restoration of these areas to the purpose they most efficiently serve—wildlife protection and production. Certainly this is a reasonable demand.

A recreation State with a large tourist traffic at stake, Maine has at last recognized the menace of the rural billboard through the enactment of a license law requiring permits for billboards, providing certain restrictions as to proximity to the highway, to intersections or points of public interest. The law is a splendid start at solving this serious problem and is a credit to the State.

The National Association of Audubon Societies has gone on record in favor of protection of hawks and owls, against the killing of any hawk or owl other than individual birds known to be damaging property, against bounties, against the pole trap.

Two recent pamphlets issued by the Emergency Conservation Committee, 734 Lexington Avenue, New York City, are significant and valuable contributions to conservation literature. One of these is entitled "Where Do You Stand on the Matter of Shooting?" and is a sane statement by L. Raymond Talbot, president of the Brookline, Massachusetts, Bird Club. It deserves wide attention. The second pamphlet asks the question: "Is It 'Good-bye' to America's Waterfowl?" and Dr. William T. Hornaday is the questioner. The answer rests with Jay N. Darling and the President of the United States.

"Mr. Walt Jamison, Glenwood, Iowa," reports *Outdoor Iowa*, "has found out how many cats roam over his orchard. Early in the winter he put out five box traps to catch rabbits that were girdling his fruit trees. He says: 'In the last two months I have caught and killed 36 cats and there is no question about them not eating the wild birds, as one of them ate too much fat meat (the bait in the trap) and became sick, disgorging a cardinal it had just eaten. We had a fine covey of quail that were raised on the place and I had been feeding them since they were the size of a sparrow, but they have all disappeared. I believe the cats cleaned them up. I know they catch the young squirrels. I never see cats in the daytime, wouldn't know there was one in the country, but they work all night and take an awful toll of wildlife.' "