

**REPORT ON A GAME
SURVEY OF THE NORTH
CENTRAL STATES**

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Report on a Game Survey of the North Central States by Aldo Leopold

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ALDO LEOPOLD

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CENTRAL STATES**

REPORT ON A
GAME SURVEY OF THE
NORTH CENTRAL STATES

MADE BY
ALDO LEOPOLD

FOR THE
Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute
UNDER DIRECTION OF ITS
Committee on Restoration and Protection of Game

333.78

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MADISON, WISCONSIN

1931

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PREFACE

THE purpose of this survey is to appraise the chance for the practice of game management as a means to game restoration in the north central region. It attempts to describe game conditions as they exist, the opportunities which those conditions offer, the human machinery available for acting on them, and the probable consequences of their further neglect.

The survey is financed by the sporting arms and ammunition industry. The motive hardly requires explanation: success in game restoration means continuance of the industry; failure in game restoration means its shrinkage and ultimate liquidation.

The method of survey was to compile and interpret the observations and experience of sportsmen, naturalists, scientists, officials, and landowners. Time permitted of only such original field investigation as was necessary to understand and appraise the significance of work already done by others. Methods had to be developed by trial and error, hence the States surveyed last are described best.

The survey concentrated on farm game, because the crux of the game problem is on the farm. Our legislatures decree game conservation; our sportsmen and nature-lovers resolve we shall have it, but our landowners do not practice it, nor are they yet offered any inducement or motive, other than altruism, for doing so. At the same time the public expects the free run of their lands, and of such game as may accidentally persist thereon. Such is our present impasse. Some more tenable relationship between the landowner, the game, and the public is obviously needed. The farm seemed the place to seek light on what it should be.

The survey began July 1, 1928. Map 3 shows routes and dates of travel. Reports on the progress of the survey have been given from time to time before the American Game Conference, Izaak Walton League conventions, and other public meetings, and published in their proceedings.

No single statement in this report is offered as final or sufficient fact. (This qualification is needless for those who realize there is no such thing.) On the contrary the whole thought and purpose is to show how much and what interesting work remains undone, and what services to conservation may result from its competent performance. The success of the survey will lie not in how long its findings stand, but rather in how quickly they are superseded by more thorough work.

Many cooperators in many fields have generously contributed their time, thought, and the accumulated results of their own labors. Their names are listed in the Appendix.

As a means of stimulating action on some of the unanswered biological questions disclosed by the survey, the institute has financed fellowships for their study at the universities of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. These are under the advisory supervision of the U. S. Biological Survey. A further purpose of the fellowships is to demonstrate the possibilities of professional training in game management.

A companion volume to this report, defining terms and outlining principles of game management, is shortly to be published. This will incorporate a series of lectures delivered by the author at the University of Wisconsin in 1929.

December 1, 1930

ALDO LEOPOLD.

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