GAME PROTECTION AND PROPAGATION IN AMERICA: A HANDBOOK OF PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR OFFICIALS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE CAUSE OF CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE

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Game Protection and Propagation in America: A Handbook of Practical Information for Officials and Others Interested in the Cause of Conservation of Wild Life by Henry Chase

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HENRY CHASE

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HENRY CHASE

AUTHOR OF "POWERS, DUTIES AND WORK OF GAME WARDENS,"
"MODERN DOCTRINE OF GAME PROTECTION" "PRIVATE
PRESERVES IN AMERICA," ETC.



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PREFACE

GAME protection, as the term is understood in this country, consists largely in the enactment and enforcement of statutes regulating the time when, the manner and means by which, and the amount of, game that may be killed or taken by the public. These statutes are enforced by recognized officers of the State. Hence, most of the questions and problems involved in game protection are matters of law, with collateral practical questions of fact and science. In the following pages the author has attempted to discuss these questions, and point out such as have been settled by the authorities, both legal Within recent years a large and scientific. number of legal points have been settled by the appellate courts of the country, which has served to clarify them and dispel doubt. It is believed that every important case of this kind has been examined and the information adduced therefrom used in some portion of this work.

In proceeding with the work of game conservation, at almost every step the protectionist finds

PREFACE

himself confronted with some sort of handicap, or serious problem, but undoubtedly the most difficult task is the maintenance of proper and continuous enforcement of the laws. However, it is thought that practically all these difficulties can and will be surmounted when a sufficient number of unselfish persons take an active interest in the cause of game protection.

In collecting material for this volume the author acknowledges special indebtedness for the valuable publications of the United States Biological Survey. For practical information he has relied upon his own private study and experience of many years in the field in an official capacity and that of others similarly situated.

HENRY CHASE.

BENNINGTON, VT., May 18, 1913.

CONTENTS

EAPTER I.	EDUCATING THE PUBLIC—A FOREWORD	PAGE
- ALTO	그녀는 아이를 가게 있는데 하는데 하게 하는데 나는데 하는데 모르게 되었다.	8 J.
11.	WHY PROTECT THE GAME?	9
ш.	RELATIONS OF BIRDS AND MAMMALS TO THE NATIONAL RESOURCES	
IV.	PRESENT MEANING OF THE TERM GAME PROTECTION	
V.	BRIEF SURVEY OF GAME LEGISLATION IN AMERICA	38
VI.	"Sane, Simple, and Scientific Game Laws"	47
VII.	FEDERAL PROTECTION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS	60
VIII.	PROTECTION OF BIRDS BY INTERNATIONAL TREATIES	72
IX.	STATE LAWS AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT	83
X.	FIELD-WORK OF GAME OFFICERS	109
XI.	INTERESTING PROBLEMS	134
XII.	THE RIGHT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY IN GAME	139
XIII.	PRIVATE GAME PRESERVES IN AMERICA	153
XIV.	RESTOCKING GAME COVERS	168
XV.	Propagation of Game Fish	180
XVI.	POLLUTION OF FISHING WATERS	194
KVII.	FEEDING GAME DURING SEVERE WINTERS	204
VIII.	HUNTING ACCIDENTS	215
XIX.	Fighting Forest Fires	224
	Appendix	232

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GAME PROTECTION

AND PROPAGATION IN AMERICA

CHAPTER I.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC-A FOREWORD

AT a late session of the Legislature of Vermont, a member thereof arose in his place in the House of Representatives and proposed to abolish all the game laws of that State except those which were intended to protect song birds. This was, indeed, an extraordinary manifestation of the spirit of the times. And it is significant of the general lack of information on this subject. To think that in these days of general diffusion of knowledge, an intelligent, and probably conscientious, legislator should favor such a proposition is astonishing, and goes to show the absolute necessity of educating the public on this vital problem. And yet that act was not without its encouraging feature to the game protectionist. It proved that this legislator did appreciate the value of the song birds at any rate, and we may