



Questions of Size

WILDLIFE administrators are learning new lessons all the time from experience with game refuges. J. Clark Salyer II, chief of the division of wildlife refuges, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, told the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners at their St. Louis meeting.

Since a primary consideration in establishing game refuges is to permit a certain overflow into adjacent hunting lands, size is an important factor, Mr. Salyer stated. There was a tendency in early days of refuge establishment, especially in the richer, more humid parts of the country, to make them too large. The idea now is to make them of more moderate size and have more of them.

Size of course has to be considered in connection with other factors. For small upland game birds in the East, a mere 40 acres will often be sufficient, and a square mile may be enough for adequate protection and feeding of a herd of Eastern deer. But for the scattering bands of desert mountain sheep in the arid Far West, a million acres may not be excessive.

"The size of a waterfowl nesting refuge," Mr. Salyer continued, "can be almost unlimited, so great is the need for greater production. It is conditioned upon the availability of low-grade land for restoration, a satisfactory water supply, and the ability of the administering agency to develop and maintain it.

"It is not sufficient merely to obtain adequate open water and marsh land to produce food and shelter for the waterfowl residents, but for nesting purposes it is imperative to obtain the upland for almost a mile in width adja-

cent to the water areas in order to give adequate nesting area.

"It is standard practice in the national waterfowl refuge program to obtain a zone averaging a mile in width around the major water areas for this purpose alone. Even then, the number of nests plowed under on adjacent farms is appalling."

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

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necessary, to the decreed pattern," Dr. Mead warned. "When such attempts have been merely the blind intuitive gropings of the fanatical and the power-driven, they have been sufficient to destroy all the values upon which the democratic way of life is based. Implemented—a new hideousness is created unguessed at in the darkest torture chambers of the past. The victims of such a process become progressively more apathetic, passive and lacking in spontaneity; the leaders become progressively more paranoid. Only by devoting ourselves to a direction, not a fixed goal, to a process not a static system, to the development of human beings who will choose and think the choice all important and be strong and healthy and wise in choosing, can we escape this dilemma."

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

Democracy Based in Nature

"DEMOCRACY is the way of life that recognizes the right of every man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," declared Prof. Max Schoen of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh. "This is not a proclaimed right, but is rooted in the very nature of living beings in general, and of human beings in particular. Hence, no form of social organization that violates this right can have peace or permanence, for whatever obstructs liberty obstructs life, and life will either destroy whatever obstructs it or itself be destroyed."

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

The percentage of fat in a cow's milk naturally varies at different seasons, and even from day to day, says a dairy specialist, but he adds that a cow will maintain a rather constant test level over a period of years.

Skunk pelts are more valuable the smaller the stripes are, and solid black pelts bring top prices.

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