THE GAME REFUGE BILL (Now Pending in Congress)

The Inland Bird Banding Association is about as far as any organization can be from intending any political activities, but when it comes to the protection of birds, it comes exactly in the line of our organization, as our purpose is not only the study but the protection of birds.

We have received from Mr. R. P. Holland a brief statement of the purpose of the Game Refuge Bill which will come before the present Congress. In this statement Mr. Holland gives, as briefly as possible, some idea of what the Bill is and how it will provide funds to give much better protection. Mr. Holland says:

"If migratory birds are to be perpetuated, they must be adequately protected. They must have places where they can nest, rest and feed in absolute security.

"Unwise drainage is rapidly squandering our heritage in lakes and marsh lands. The areas remaining which are suitable for such migratory birds as waterfowl and shore birds must be purchased now if they are to be preserved.

"Such marshes are public playgrounds for the men, women and children in the surrounding territory. They furnish a constant source of pleasure and profit to the scientific student of nature and recreation to the sportsmen at the proper season.

"To acquire this property will take an immense amount of money. Additional funds are needed now to furnish migratory birds, both game and insectivorous, the protection they must have. Where is the money to come from? The government can never be expected to appropriate it.

"The Game Refuge Bill now pending in Congress is the cureall. It will save our lakes and marshes for posterity as refuges and public playgrounds, furnish funds to care for the birds, and not cost the general taxpayer one cent. The sportsmen of America are only too willing to foot the bill by investing the ridiculously small sum of \$1.00 per man for the privilege of hunting migratory birds. Write your Congressman today to vote for the Game Refuge Bill, known in Congress as the Anthony Bill."

A similar bill to this came before the last Congress and failed of passing, by a margin of very few votes, apparently not because of anything against it, except for purely political reasons. Mr. Holland knows what he is talking about for he is vice-president of the American Game Frotective and Propagation Association (Woolworth Bldg., 233 Broadway, New York), and this Association represents the best opinions not only of ornithologists and those who are interested in the protection of birds, but also of the best sportsmanship in this country.

The passage of this Bill is very important not only to those interested in Bird Banding but to all who are interested in the protection of birds, and I therefore advise you to write to Mr. Holland and find out how the Congressmen in your state have voted on this matter and, if any have opposed it, write to the Congressman and find out *what is the matter with him.* The whole subject is a very pressing matter and deserves immediate attention to make sure that the Bill is passed at this session of Congress.

S. PRENTISS BALDWIN, President, Inland Bird Banding Association.

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