

"I am now thoroughly convinced that in view of the many different forces now actively destroying American game; in view of the well-declared and unquestionable difficulties and failures in regulated farm breeding of game to shoot; and in view of a dozen other evils now bearing down upon our remnants of game, the day has come wherein it is the duty of the Federal Government to again intervene, firmly and boldly, and put more checks upon game shooting (1) by the total stoppage of baiting game to entice it up to the guns, and (2) by the total stoppage of the use of decoys, unfairly to lure geese and ducks down to the very muzzles of the hidden batteries of guns—'so close that it is impossible to miss.' But we will say little here about the bad sportsman ethics involved in those two killing methods, and will base our request for these two reforms upon their necessity for the preservation of adequate breeding stocks of waterfowl.

"Of course it is probable that the stoppage of those two too-deadly practices, whenever carried out, will give rise to protests from the gunners whose deadly methods are stopped. But does any criminal ever praise the law that stops his operations? Of course some of the 'shooting stands' of Massachusetts might go out of business. Of course some of the goose-selling 'clubs' of Illinois and California might be reduced. Every reform measure necessarily re-forms the objectionable practices that it seeks to abate.

"Beyond all question, less killing of waterfowl in the professional 'clubs' that now monopolise the wild flocks of certain states will have the effect of making fair shooting in thousands of other localities wherein there now is none. Shall a few persons always be permitted to monopolise the shooting privileges that belong to all the licensed sportsmen of the states concerned?

"The killing of game by the aid of baiting and the use of decoys never will be voluntarily discontinued by the states whose hunters most extensively practice those deadly and unfair methods. As usual, the Federal Government *must act—as it had to do to reduce those bag-limits and open seasons.*"

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Dr. J. T. Auten, a silviculturist associated with the Branch of Research, United States Forest Service, found that the top inch of forest soil in a normal protected forest absorbs forty-seven times as much moisture as the top inch in a field. In New Zealand this top inch, owing to the greater water holding capacity of our forest floor, would in all probability hold much more moisture than in an American forest.