

of the individual counties, but in formulating a continually improved policy throughout the State generally.

Mr. LéCompte, has attended the organization meetings of a number of these Councils, and is quite enthusiastic about the newly awakened interest among those present in the conservation of soil and forests, and in wildlife restoration.

Probably the most important single accomplishment of the Commission during the past year was the establishment, through cooperation with the United States Biological Survey, of the 1,200 acre "Indian Spring Wildlife Restoration Project" on the old Darby property in this Country. Because of the alertness of the Commission in availing itself of the provisions of the Federal Pittman-Robertson Act, it was possible to secure 75% of the purchase money for this tract from the Government, thus making it possible for the State to take over the property at a reasonably small cost. Under the Game Technician assigned to this project, Ernest A. Vaughn, who comes well recommended because of similar work done with the Federal Security Administration, we expect in the near future to begin operations in this area, and to put on a wildlife demonstration project that will prove conclusively to the public the results that can be accomplished in the restoration of wildlife when a suitable habitat is maintained.

Supplementing this project, as you no doubt are well aware, are nine other wildlife refuges, five of them in Western Maryland, that furnish additional opportunity for the propagation of birds and game, under conditions as nearly ideal as could be hoped.

Not at all dramatic but, nevertheless, of first importance to the future wildlife of the State, is the Commission's program for furnishing seeds for the planting of wildlife food patches. In this connection, I might mention, too, that the Commission has done yeoman work in feeding, and thus preserving, the wild water-fowl of the State during the severe winter just finished. Working in conjunction with the CCC camps, 4-H Clubs, school and sportsmens' organizations, the Department distributed tons of grain for both upland game and wild fowl, with the result that losses, despite the unusual conditions, were held to a minimum.

Activities in the interests of the anglers have been most comprehensive and well planned. For instance, in the past five months there have been placed in the trout waters of our State from the Commission's hatcheries, 30,000 trout for the initial stocking, with 15,000 to 20,000 more held for later distribution. As all of these trout are well over the legal size, ranking from eight to fourteen inches, it is easy to estimate what a difference this will make to the fishermen of our State. In addition to the trout, the past year witnessed the raising and distribution of close to 300,000 large and small mouth bass, and 50,000 crappie and blue gills. In the new ponds in Cushwa, near Clearspring, the Commission anticipates at least 25,000 trout, an increase of almost 50% over the old ponds. Along with this restocking the Commission has done valiant work towards clearing our streams of pollution, so that now with the exception of the headwaters of the Potomac, Maryland streams are suitable for the stocking of game and fresh water fish.

When we consider that there is no State appropriation for this purpose, and that the only funds available are the anglers' license receipts, I believe everyone will agree that the State and its fishermen are getting their money's