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W. B. LEWIS

Superintendent



"LEARN TO READ THE TRAIL SIDE"

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIF. 1927

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF SOME YOSEMITE PLANTS

By Fern E. Miller

Yosemite School of Field Natural History

flora possessing medicinal proper ties, some interesting facts have come to light regarding various plants and their uses-many of which seem very queer. We have all seen and admired the beautiful flowers found here, but how many people know that many of these plants serve purposes other than pleasing the aesthetic senses?

The little meadow plant with a bright pink flower which Spanish Californians call Canchalagua (Erythraea venusta, Gray' is also known as Wild Quinine because of its bitter taste and usefulness in treating fevers.

We usually think of our Godetias with their rich magenta coloring as objects of admiration rather than a basis for a hand lotion. However, the leaves of this plant have been mixed with lard, heated and strained and when cool, used as an application for chapped hands.

Another flower whose beauty brightens many parts of our state is the California Poppy (Eschscholtzia californica, Cham) This is not found commonly in the park. but may be seen near Bridalveil Falls, where, Hall says, it is appar many used by Indians and settlers ently native. This plant has been probably have little or no intrinsic an object of interest to chemists value they are harmless; and some and therapeutics, for it is said to have proved of real worth in curaact in a manner similar to opium tive processes .-

In making ; survey of the park without any of the objectionable features of that drug The flowers. placed in oil and exposed to the sun have been thought valuable as a hair tonic and scalp cleanser.

> One of the most popular medicinal plants of the state found in the park is Yerba Santa (Eriodic-Greene), the tyon californicum, "holy herb" of the early Spanish settlers, who valued it as a blood purifier, a cure for consumption. bronchitis, catarrh, and rheuma tism. The Indians used it also in treating colds, asthma and grippe. A tea is made of the dried leaves. or, if the bitter taste is objectionable, b boiling them with sugar This is one of the few medicinal plants of the park recognized as official in the United States Pharmacopacia.

Plants were found by the early inhabitants for practically every necessity Among other uses, Chia (Salvia columbariae. Benth) furnished a means of removing foreign particles from the eye The seeds are mucillagenous and, placed under the eyelid, collected the offending substance and relieved the sufferer. These seeds were also an important article of diet for the ancient Mex icans, who cultivated the plant, and for the Indians, who used them in soups, etc

There are, in the park, over 120 plants possessing medicinal properties in greater or less degree While



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YOSEMITE'S NEW HATCHERY

By H. C Bryant

Anglers who try their luck in the streams and lakes of Yosemite Nastreams and lakes of Yosemite Na-tional Park are increasing by the thousands. The new all-year high-way is expected to double the travel record and make it turn the half million mark. This means depleted streams unless efforts be made to care for the situation. For many years streams and lakes of the next years streams and lakes of the park have been annually stocked by the California Fish and Game Commission. With but one nearby hatchery, the one at Wawona, most of the fish planted have had to be shipped from the Mount Shasta hatchery. hatchery.

hatchery.

The need of more adequate stockIng and of a nearby source of
supply has long been recognized.
Eight years ago the Fish and Game
Commission operated an experimental hatchery at Happy Isles. The
water proved to be pure and cold
and splendidly adapted for hatchand splendidly adapted for hatch-ery purposes but a move to build

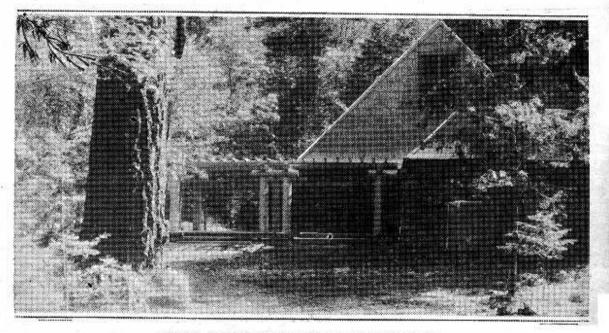
a hatchery failed Years of endeavor by sponsors of Years of endeavor by sponsors of the project finally brought the desired result and a visit to Happy Isles will disclose a fine hatchery building, attractive yet efficient Stone masonry catches the eye before the cedar shingles of roof and sides. A pergola gives a fine rustic appearance and the whole building melts into its forest setting. Inside are to be found fifty-four troughs, making it a sizable hatchery. An addition to increase it to a 100-trough hatchery is contemplated. Guy Tabler, for many years superintendent of the Wawona hatchery, is the capable superintendent in charge.

Steelhead trout eggs, secured in Santa Cruz and Mendocino counties, santa Cruz and mendocino counties, have been successfully hatched and more than a half million baby trout may be seen in the troughs. Each trough contained 25,000 fry on June 1. The oldest fish were about a month old and the younger ones about two weeks old. The steel-head is one of the yamest of the anout two weeks of . The steel-head is one of the gamest of the native trouts, often leaping clear of the water several times after being hooked. No finer trout could grace Yosemite's streams

California a Pioneer in Fish Propagation

California was a pioneer in fish propagation work. Even provious to the creation of a fish and game commission in 1870, the California Acclimatization Society operated a small hatchery near the City-Hall in San Francisco and later one on the University commission and Particles. the University campus at Berkeley In 1888 a large halchery was es-tablished at Sisson inow Mount Shasta). Siskiyou county. At pres-ent the state owns and operates more than thirty hatcheries and egg-collecting stations The semite Hatchery is but one of five new ones constructed within the past three years. Op to the present a total of close to a billion and a quarter of fish have been planted from the states hatcheries. During the biennial period 1924-25, a total of 59.524 706 trout and 14,157,150 salmon were successfully reared and planted in California's streams and lakes. About eighty men are employed during the hatching sea-son to care for the millions of baby fish. semite Hatchery is but one of five

Distribution a Great Problem



THE YOSEMITE FISH HATCHERY

"A visit to Happy Isles will disclose a fine hatchery building, attractive yet efficient. Stone masonry catches the eye before the cedar shingles of roof and sides. A pergola gives a fine rustic appearance and the whole building melts into its forest setting."

Proper distribution of the fish has long been a great problem. For many years railroad cars especially equipped for the work, carried the cans of trout to the nearest railway station where they were met by men who donated their services and transported them to various lakes and streams with wagon, auto truck or pack train. Fish were allocated to applicants. An improvement on this system is now in force. A statewide survey is to determine the needs and fish are allocated accordingly. Trained fish planters are to accompany each shipment and will be responsible for proper planting. In many instances, with small hatcheries serving local areas, it is possible for trained hatchery men to move a truck load of fish directly from the hatchery to the stream. With this new system losses of fish during shipment will be cut to a minimum

Not only will the Yosemite hatchery help to stock depleted streams it will demonstrate to thousands of park visitors how trout are propagated. Nature guides will be detailed to show visitors through this model hatchery and explain the secrets of fish culture. This will mean that with knowledge of methods, better support for such conservation activities will be forthcoming. Furthermore, the man who sees how much time and effort is expended in rearing fish will take thought before he wastes the supply furnished the angler.



A PUGNACIOUS SIERRA GROUSE

By D. D. McLean

While hiking down the Glacier Point road a short way above the hotel on June 1, I was suddenly attacked by a male Sierra grouse. He came dashing up behind me and circled me several times, running at top speed. Suddenly he flew at my legs and beat them with his wings. I then knelt down and watched him sparring for an opening. Every few seconds he would puff out his neck pouches and give forth several subdued hoots. Occasionally he would chuckle in a peculiar guttural manner.

and instead of moving away, he grasped me by the back of my hand with his bill and pounded my wrist and lower arm with his wings. As I tantalized and dared him more and more, he became bolder, allowing me to hold him down to the ground and shove him about with my hand. Every few moments he would dash at my hand and pound with his wings.

Several times after that I was attacked in the same way by this male grouse. Presumably, he was I put my hand out toward him, protecting a nest nearby.

THE OWLS OF THE CENTRAL SIERRA NEVADA

By D. D. McLean

Owls are more often heard than

Owls are more often heard than seen and this fact, of course, makes them only slightly known to the general public visiting their abode. The Yosemite section has several species of owls, all more or less common. The one most often heard and one of the most common is the great horned owl, whose deep-toned hoots can often be heard from the camps. The notes are given in a far-carrying tone, sounding like: "Ha, whoo, whoo, whoo," in base clef. clef.

clef.

The bird is about the size of a large hawk and has great staring, yellow-irised eyes, with large "horns" of feathers standing up over each eye. The coloration is a mottled grayish brown, black, white and buff over the entire plumage.

It is found in the deep timber forests from the foothills well back into the higher mountains.

The little screech owl is fairly common locally in the Sierras, and its song is often heard on quiet evenings. It sounds something like this: "Whoo, hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo loud at first and becoming softer and

loud at first and becoming softer and more rapid as it continues, until it fades away entirely. It also has another call, a louder kitera, kitera, kitera, but it has none of the carrying qualities or softness of the for-

mer.
The bird is a gray, black and
white mottled little fellow about
inches long. It has "borns" nine inches long. It has "borns' also, this reminding one of a tiny horned owl.

horned owl.

The spotted owl, "a bird with a character," is one of the most interesting birds one could ever hope to meet. The barking, cat alling, hissing and chuckling that a pair of spotted owls can carry on is amazing. The commonest uotes are a series of barks, sounding much 'ike a small dog and something like this: "Bow, wow, wow, wow," becoming slower and more muffled as the so-called "barking" continues. There is also a large vocabulary of his es. chuckles, squalls and catealls that is also a large vocabulary of alses, chuckles, squalls and catealls that are seldom heard unless one intrudes their meeting haunts.

The bird is smaller than the great horned owl and has no horns. The head is large and well rounded, with

bluish black eyes and no yellow iris. The color is brownish with larger roundish spots of white over

most of the plumage.

Their habitat is generally in deep, dark canyons or heavily wooded wooded northern slopes where the sun sel-

dom penetrates.

The California pigmy owl, which is only about seven inches long, is the smallest member of the owl family in the Sierras. It is creous-cular in habit but probably hunts to some extent during the night, too.

It is out in broad daylight, especially during dark, cloudy days, hunting for birds, insects, etc.

Its call is clear and different from any other Sierran bird, although it remotely resembles the mountain quail. It sounds like: too, too, too, too, too-toot-toot. The first part is given rapidly at the rate of about three notes a second, whereas the last part is much slower at the rate of about one note every two seconds, and even slower. The notes can be produced in similar tone by whistling with deep intonation.

The bird is dusky brown above, flecked with small white spots; below it is white, heavily streaked with black. The flight is rapid, reminding one of some of the common day birds, such as the flicker, whose

day birds, such as the flicker, whose flight is rapid and undulating. The eyes are small for an owl and beady, with black center and a clear yellow iris.

yellow iris.

The long-eared owl is a mediumsized owl, seldom seen in the Yosemite region. It has long "ears" or
"horns" like the great horned owl.
The color is dusky brown above,
with black and buffy mottlings; beneath it is buffy, streaked with black.

black.

The great gray owl, the largest as well as one of the rarest owls of the whole region, is found only at high elevations and even there it is very scarce. The notes are quavering in tone, although owl-like in character. The bird is diurnal and probably nocturnal also. Those seen have been found abroad in broad daylight and apparently had perfectly good eyesight. fectly good eyesight.
They are monsters, being larger

than the great horned owl in every dimension. They have no "horns" dimension. They have no "horns" to adorn their great round heads, and their eyes are relatively small with yellowish iris.

The plumage is gray, black and white mottling above, with gray underparts streaked with black.

They are to be found in the great fir forests at high altitudes.

The saw-whet owl does not seem.

fir forests at high altitudes.

The saw-whet owl does not seem to be common anywhere in the Yosemite region; at least it has seldom come under much direct observation. It is between the pigmy owl and screech owl in size but more nearly resembles the nigmy in annearance. It is entirely nocturnal so far as known. Its notes are given as a soft scraping sound that nearly defies description, being different from anything else I have ever heard. from anything else heard.

Its plumage is dusky brown above and lighter below, with faint streaks. The feathers are very soft and fluffy, more so, in fact, than those of any owl with which I am familiar.

Recent Museum Accessions

By C. P. RUSSELL

work in national parks are con-Charles Nelson found and donated stantly adding valuable exhibits to the relic. At the same time that the Yosemite Museum collections, and mortar was unearthed, two scap-needed books to the Museum Libra- stone vessels of about a quart cain which exhibits are now housed were broken. Ranger John Wegner and displayed are a guarantee to was the donor of these unusual Yo-

country, the gift of Mrs. William M. A 16 by 20 inch framed photographic copy of Thomas Hill's painting of the old group of buildings long known as the Sentinel Hotel property, was presented by Dr. D. Chester Brown and Francis P. Farquhar. The Sentinel group has existed as shown in this picture since the completion of the main Sentinel Hotel building by Barnard in 1877. A large iron mortar and pestle once used in the assay office of the famous Potosi mine, west of Yosemite, was presented by Chris Hauck. Ranger H. A. Skelton gave a splendid specimen of the old Colt's Navy cap and ball revolver that was so popular with those early Californians who blazed first trails. This weapon was brought to California by Mr. Skelton's father Two opium pipes, and Chinese scales for weighing opium were also presented by Ranger Skelton.

Interesting Indian Artifacts Among the most interesting In-dian artifacts recently acquired is of Western North America," and a small saucer-like mortar found in Jepson's "Flowering Plants of Cali-Yosemite valley by workmen who fornia" were given by the 1926 class were excavating pipeline trenches. of the Yosemite School of Field This little mortar is made of soap Natural History. The beautiful stone and was, of course, brought Sierra edition of John Muir's works

Numerous friends of educational been used a very long time ago. ry. The splendid fire-proof building pacity were found. The walls of and the creditable plate glass cases these pots were quite thin and both donors that their gifts will be prop-erly cared for for all time to come. dance rattle used by Yosemite In-It is most gratifying to national dians, and made from cocoons of park service officials to find so the Ceanothus silk moth, was do-many visitors in possession of arti-nated by Chris Brown, a local Incles that have significance in the dian. This same Indian found fragwork done by the Yosemite educa- ments of a very ancient basket high tional department. Likewise it is on the talus slope above the Indian pleasing to discover the fine co-op- Cave. Quite possibly, the fragments erative spirit that prompts donors are remains of a basket dropped by Recently the history and Indian collections have been enriched by the addition of a number of desirable articles. Of special interest are twelve valuable quartz gold specimens from the Mother Lode ketry.

Museum Library Receives Gifts

The Museum Library has been greatly added to in the past several months. Chief Naturalist A. F. Hall has obtained several hundred books for us from the Veterans' G. E. Reynolds presented Bureau. a nicely bound series of that record of national park affairs, the Out-o-Door section of the Stockton Rec-ord for 1926. A beautiful edition of "Two Years Before the Mast" was given by the famous author's son, Richard Henry Dana. "Letters of John Boyes Tileston," containing an account of the first ascent of Mount Lyell, is the gift of Mrs. J. S. Tileston. The National Society of Colonial Dames presented copies of D. N. Lehmer's "Seven Indian Songa From the Yosemite Valley" Dr. H. M. Hall made available another copy of his now rare "Yo-semite Flora," which book is, of course, very essential in Yosemite to Yosemite from some distant (ten volumes) was also presented point. It was found several feet be- by this class. Roland Case Ross neath the surface, and must have gave ninety numbers of the Na-

tional Geographic Magazine. Many tives. The possession of these of the magazines contain important slides has made it possible to equip natural history material. "Wild the naturalist stationed at Glacier nia," Jepson "Textbook of Geology," erously given nine beautifully col-Twenty-seven books from the old some of our negatives, has made Yosemite Public School Library ten natural history slides. were made the property of the Laboratory equipment has been museum. The Yosemite Natural added with funds made available by History Association purchased a the Yosemite Natural History Association purchased a the Yosemite Natural History Associopy of Joseph LeConte's 1882 ciation, and Chief Naturalist Hall "Elements of Geology." About 100 has supplied another 5 by 7 inch books, mostly fiction, which were turned over to the Yosemite branch of the Mariposa County Library, were received from Mrs. Ella W. Mrs. David White gave a C. J. Hamlin of Buffalo, recently gone of "History of a Mountain." by

Beautiful Lantern Slides

made by the George Stone Labora-results in our former natural histories chiefly from our own nega-tory preparations.

Flowers of California," Parsons; Point with creditable lecture ma-"Flora of Western Middle Califor- terial. Dr. Oastler has again gen-Pierson; Good's 1837 "Book of Na- ored slides made from his Yosemite ture," and fifteen other volumes negatives. The State College of were presented by E. M. Hilton. Washington, in return for use of

copy of "History of a Mountain," by called and presented \$100 to the Yosemite Natural History Association for the purpose of completing . Our series of lantern slides has the taxidermy work needed for the also received important additions. upper Sonoran case in our life zone The Yosemite Park and Curry Com-pany has presented forty-one col-mens shall be prepared by Egmont ored and fifty-nine uncolored slides Rett, who produced such creditable

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS TO BE SEEN IN YOSEMITE

By H. C. Bryant

A newspaper dispatch from Nee- anywhere acorns are available. nah Wis., claims that four passen- large number of these wild pigeons ger pigeons have been seen on the are found in the Yosemite valley in shores of Lake Winnebago. Such summer. They may be seen in reports appear every year; yet no flight above the tops of the trees, one claims the reward of over \$3000 or may be startled from the ground for the finding of a nesting pair, beneath black oaks, where they As a rule, similar reports in past feed. One is sure to find them years have been traced to records about barns where there is waste of the mourning dove. Though the grain. Several nests placed high in passenger pigeon is extinct and is trees have been located this sum-likely to remain extinct, California mer. The bird lays but a single has wild pigeons to show. The egg. Its rate of increase is thus band-tailed pigeon came near ex-shown to be very slow. If the seatinction in the West because given son on this game bird is ever re-no protection. But fortunately the opened, care will have to be taken federal government and later the to take a toll consistent with the state gave the bird complete pro- rate of increase. Meanwhile, the tection beginning in 1913. Since band-tailed pigeon, the wild pigeon that time band-tailed pigeons have of the western United States, may increased and are likely to be seen be seen and studied in Yosemite.-

One is sure to find them

AFIELD WITH THE NATURE GUIDES

White-Crowned Sparrow in Yosemite Valley

One of the most familiar sparrows throughout the State is one that has three white stripes separated by two black ones across the head. Because of the major white stripe over the crown of the head, the bird is known as the white-crowned sparrow. Not all those who recognize this bird realize that there are three varieties found in the State-each varying as to when and where found. The Nuttall white-crowned sparrow is a resident of the humid coast belt, the Gambel white-crowned sparrow is a winter visitant throughout the valleys, returning to nesting grounds in British Columbia and Alaska, and the true white-crowned sparrow is a summer visitant to high mountain meadows. Each of the three varieties has a distinctive song. In the mountain form the white stripe above the eye does not reach the bill and the area between the eye and the bill, known as the lores, is black.

Although fairly common in Tu- cool pure air day after ds olumne Meadows and other alpine to give expression to the dimeadows, it is seldom that this vading peace and serenity bird is to be found at elevations mountains."—H. C. Bryant.

of 400 feet. Several years ago a pair nested near the old village in Yosemite Valley and several different years birds have been seen near the Rangers' Club and another male 'as been seen and heard near Camp 19. Of the habits and song of this bird, Mrs. Bailey's Handbook of the Birds of Western United States, has this to say: "The white-crowned sparrow is pre-eminently the sparrow of the moun-Along the willow-bordered that run through the streams mountain meadows in the Sierra its thin, sharp chirp of parental anxiety is often heard, and its song dominates the bird chorus. song is composed of two long whistled notes, the first sliding up to the second with grace notes, the second followed by a lower note repeated rapidly three times. The two long whistled notes are rich and plaintive in tone, suggesting the whistle of the pine woods sparrow, and as they ring through the cool pure air day after day seem to give expression to the deep pervading peace and serenity of the

Clark's Bridge Water Ouzels Leave Nest

For several years a pair of water ouzels have built their nests on a beam beneath Clark's Bridge about a quarter of a mile from Camp Curry. The last year's nest was remodeled, and on May 24 several baby ouzels left the nest. The young birds have spent most of their time near the bridge, and the nature guides have been able to lead people to a place where water ouzels could be seen. The parents gave splendid exhibitions of the feeding of the young.

On several occasions baby birds were closely approached so that the white membrane, which can be drawn across the eye-ball, could be plainly seen. This nictitating membrane, which is visible on a chicken

as it starts to go to sleep, is very well developed in the water ouzel and apparently is utilized for clearing the eye-ball of mist and water which the bird must combat because of the location chosen for its home. The water ouzel, even though without webbed feet, dives and swims easily, and usually the nest is placed alongside of a waterfall, where spray keeps it continually moist. The controversy as to whether the white flash noted in the eye of the water ouzel is due to the white eye-lid or to the nictitating membrane was recently settled when a naturalist secured close-up motion pictures which, when studied closely, showed that the white flash was due to the well developed nictitating membrane.—H. C. Bryant.

CLARK NUTCRACKER'S NEST, are gay with clusters of yellow cat-NEAR SENTINEL DOME

On June 4, 1927, while returning from a field trip to Sentinel Done, I chanced to hear a call with which I was not familiar. I soon discovered that the call came from near the top of a lone Red fir (Abies magnifica) about 100 feet tall. moved about until I finally saw a nest near the top of the tree and made out a bird perched on its edge. Finally the bird turned its head and I knew it to be a Clark Nutcracker.

The trunk of the Red fir was unscalable, but by climbing across into the limbs of the fir I was able to reach a point within a few feet of the nest. I was stopped in my ascent by a space too great for me

to reach between limbs.

There were two young just leaving the nest, one being perched on its edge, the other peering over the side from within. The nest seemed to be composed of small twigs and Some of the material rubbish. looked like the entire plants, with the roots attached, of some species of grass. It was placed about seven feet out from the trunk, on a drooping heavily foliaged branch and well concealed from above by overhanging branchlets. The nest appeared to be about twenty inches in diameter. The cup of the nest could not be seen from below, so no estimate could be made of its dimension. The adult birds flew overhead, calling, and perched in the tops of other nearby trees .-D. D. McLean.

BOTANIC REPORT FOR YOSEMITE

Cottonwoods, Black caks and maples have settled down to the serious business of spring housekeeping, and the leaves are assuming the deep greens of maturity. Pretty clusters of voung leaves and catkins have appeared at the twig ends of the Chrysolepis caks. Candle like, the ridged clusters of young needles protrude from the lustrous green foliage of the Western yellow pines, and rosy and bright as a flower, the immature staminate catkins cluster at the ends of the branches. Even the Lodgepole pines

kins.

austed, perhaps, seasons," the Exhausted. by three "dry seasons," the manzanitas scarcely bloomed this season, and the few shrubs that fid put out flowers had a discouraged look. The Chokecherry (Prunus demissa) bloomed radiantly and, as usual, the bloom was quick to go-by the end of May the white flower clusters had turned brown. As the cherries faded the first Azaleas (Rhododenoccidentalis) commenced to flower. flower. Meanwhile the Ceanothus (C. inte gerimus and a form of C. cordulanthus) was a bower of airy white or blue flowers. Lifted high above the grasses on

satiny stems, shooting stars (Dodecatheon jeffreyi) formed splendid gardens of rosy lavender in the greensward of Sentinel meadow. larkspurs (Delphinium Gecorum var. patens) mingled with the grass blades. Golden stars (Brodises ixithe grass oldes) twinkled gayly and the white heads of Polygonum bistortoides nodded over the tallest meadow Hidden under the grass plants. blades, strawberries ripened on the warm days, and in the pool goldenwater lilies (Nymphaea polysepalum) expanded above the flat green leaves.

On the warm slopes rear Indian canyon many flowers bloomed-Popcorn flowers (Crytantha flaccida), pussy paws (Spragua umbellata), Lupines (Stiversii and micranthus), Indian paint brush (Castilleja pinatorum), Rosa californica, Carduus californicus and many other flowers.

After three years of scanty rainfall, when the flowers had been forced into early bloom, this season of normal rainfall seemed one of late bloom: in reality, however, past records show it to be a normal year in so far as the Yosemite flora is Nowhere are flowers concerned. abundant this season nor is there promise of abundant bloom on the floor of the valley. The swarms of tourists that now your into the vallev as well as the browsing deer, who have a special appetite for flower buds, are menacing the last frail stand of Yosemite flowers.

When tourists go to Mr. Holman at the Le Conte Memoria! lodge and say to him, "Where are the wild flowers?" he answers, "There are no flowers, there used to be flowers in Yosemite, but now they are all gone."-Enid Michael.

FROM THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OUT DOOR RECREATION

Called by PRESIDENT COOLIDGE

"THAT THE CONFERENCE ENDORSE NATURE STUDY IN SCHOOLS AND THE EXTENSION OF THE NATURE STUDY IDEA TO EVERY AMERICAN SCHOOL AND FAMILY; THAT THE ESTABLISH-MENT OF MUSEUMS OF NATURAL HISTORY IN NATIONAL PARKS WILL INCREASE THE EDUCATIONAL RECREATIONAL VALUE OF THE PARKS".—Resolution of the Conference.

and the same that be endine with

