

Congratulatory remarks regarding *California Fish and Game* volume 100

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., GOVERNOR

Volume 1, Number 1 of *California Fish and Game* was published in October 1914. This volume is the Centennial Anniversary of the journal.

In 1914, Germany had a Kaiser, Russia had a Czar, and California's population was approximately 2.7 million people. Climate change was neither known nor discussed. In 2014, California has more than 38 million people and climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time.

In his 1914 introduction, former Governor George Pardee emphasized that California's wildlife ought to be conserved for the public benefit, and used "at such times and in such quantities and under such conditions as the public needs require, but without unnecessary waste or destruction." He wrote that the conservation of wildlife was dependent upon the continued existence of suitable habitat, including forests and waters, and noted that as a natural resource, water is the most necessary of them all. Since Pardee penned those words, little has changed with respect to the importance of water.

Today, all of California is in some form of drought, ranging from moderate to severe. In fact, our hydrologic cycles and natural conditions are changing. The northern Sierra snowpack is decreasing, reducing natural water storage, and altering runoff patterns. The temperatures of the ocean and rivers are rising.

Something too is occurring in the state's fish and wildlife populations. The spring and fall arrivals of some migratory birds are changing. Small mammals in Yosemite National Park and in the Sierra are found at different elevational ranges compared to one hundred years ago. Butterflies in the Central Valley are arriving earlier in the spring. Data show that of the 358 at risk bird species in California, 128 (38 %) are vulnerable to climate change, particularly those dependent on wetlands. Native fish are also threatened, particularly species such as salmon and steelhead that are found at the southernmost part of their historic range. Our state's bighorn sheep are facing drier weather and less available food and water.

Drought, climate change, and an ever-growing number of people will severely impact our fish and wildlife resources. That is why the conservation measures that we undertake now must produce real and lasting results. And, our commitment to enacting such conservation measures must be resolute. Stewardship — the idea of holding our fish, wildlife and natural resources in trust and passing them along in a better state to future generations — must be our fundamental ethic. The lush, natural bounty of California depends on our success.

California's roots run deep in science, wildlife management, and conservation. The 100 years of *California Fish and Game* are a treasure chest of recorded leadership in these fields, and will remain a guide for the future.

My deepest appreciation to all those who have made this journal possible.