

The Arlington Turf Garden as it appeared during the Green Section meeting.

Golf Clubs Owning Lakes Can Aid Waterfowl

By W. L. McAtee

The migratory waterfowl of the United States including the wild ducks and geese so much sought by sportsmen need every help that can be extended to them to insure their perpetuation. Drainage projects have so reduced and so continue to reduce the area of water available to them that every suitable bit of permanent water should be protected and improved either as a resting, feeding, or breeding place for wildfowl.

The presence of these birds enhances the attractiveness and value of a body of water so that attracting them is not without its rewards. Wildfowl will visit unbelievably tiny pools where they enjoy perfect protection, for instance, the writer saw them dropping into fountain basins on the grounds of the Pan-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco while the buildings were still under construction by an army of artisans; and they come into park pools in the midst of great cities.

Ordinary water hazards on golf courses may be too small or too disturbed to attract these birds, but some golf courses include larger ponds, or are laid out along the shore of lakes or other bodies of water over which the club exercises control. In such cases effective steps to help the waterfowl can be taken, and at the same time a splendid resource for entertainment of the members provided. The Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, distributes publications giving recommendations for attracting waterfowl and it will be very glad to hear from and to advise any golf clubs that are in position to protect and improve bodies of water as refuges for wildfowl.