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GAME MORE ABUNDANT
THAN IN MANY YEARS

This is to be a banner season for the American sportsman. Game of the sort usually hunted is more plentiful, generally speaking, than it has been for many years. In some localities there are more ducks and geese than the oldest inhabitants ever saw before. East of the Mississippi River, migratory birds are making their southern flight in unprecedented numbers. The quail, or bobwhite, is present also in numbers not equaled for years. And the deer is not so scarce, apparently, as it used to be.

All told, the 5,000,000 hunters who will carry a gun into the field or to lake or river between now and New Year's are apt to find the happiest hunting grounds of many years, according to reports to the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, from United States game wardens stationed from Maine to Florida and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. The department recently sent a letter of inquiry to each warden and a summary of their replies is given below.

In Maine there are a number of locations for deer hunting where indications point to good sport. Ducks are reported very abundant from numerous bays, with coot shooting good all along the coast. Pheasants were not very abundant but ruffed grouse were reported plentiful all over the State, particularly in the northern portions. Wild geese do not stop in Maine on their flight South but may be found in good numbers in Great South Bay, New York.

Through the ducking grounds of Virginia and North Carolina there will be more ducks and geese this season than there have ever been before - even measured by the memories of oldest inhabitants. Ruffed grouse, pheasants, deer, and bobwhites are reported plentiful. In Virginia State authorities have requested all county game wardens to report available accommodations for hunters, anticipating a big movement to the field.

In New York and Pennsylvania, lack of water in some localities may make shooting somewhat below standard, but the flight of ducks and geese is reported to be unusually large and in general good hunting is anticipated on bays and lakes. Ruffed grouse, scarce for several seasons throughout its

range, are to be found this season in abundance in New York and Pennsylvania. Good pheasant hunting may be had in New York, and the Adirondacks are reported to be well supplied with deer.

Florida boasts more ducks and geese and shore birds than ever before. Quail, wild turkeys, and deer are reported also to be more abundant than for several years. There are also a number of bears scattered over the State and little trouble is anticipated for the deer or bear hunter who desires to get the limit allowed him under the law. There is a possibility, however, of the large quantities of ducks and geese in the northwest section of the State being scared away overnight, as they were last season, by an airship. The migratory birds do not take the presence of the birdmen kindly and leave just as soon after his arrival as they can rise and fly.

The bobwhite is present as never before in west Tennessee and Mississippi. There is also good duck shooting all along the Mississippi River. From Vicksburg to Natchez splendid duck and goose shooting is anticipated. Excellent duck shooting is in prospect at Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., where the season opens November 1. Southern and western Kentucky report an abundance of quail.

Apparently there will be excellent duck shooting in the Lake Erie region along the northwestern border of Ohio. Pintails and mallards are coming fast into that territory. Michigan duck shooting has been excellent in the Monroe and Wayne county territory. Geese have not yet come south in this section. Ohio will have good pheasant shooting in the southern and southwestern sections. Ruffed grouse are reported present in good quantity in the State's northeastern counties.

In Missouri, the wardens are looking for good duck shooting about the last of October, to continue good for a month. Goose shooting is good in Mississippi County, Mo., where many farmers have from 10 to 25 decoy geese which can be rented at moderate prices. Most every wheat field there has its goose pits, ordinarily large enough for three hunters. Best dates for the goose shooting are regarded as November 15 to December 1. The bobwhite is reported to be plentiful throughout the State.

Ducks are reported in fair numbers this fall at their usual haunts in Minnesota. The prairie chicken shooting season there is over and the partridge hunters face a closed season. Quail are not plentiful, nor are deer, but moose are reported to be present in the usual numbers.

Good hunting may be had in Iowa at almost any point along the Mississippi or Missouri Rivers or any of the smaller streams. In the western part of the State there is an open season on ruffed grouse and wild turkey from November 1 to December 15, but they are to be found only in small numbers. However, all species of game birds in the State are reported as having shown a marked increase.