



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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REGULATIONS FOR HUNTING
MIGRATORY BIRDS CHANGED

Amendments Affect Bag Limits, Seasons,
and Methods to be Used

Amended regulations under the Federal migratory-bird treaty act, which become effective at once, have been adopted by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine and approved by the President. During the next hunting season it will be unlawful to take more than 4 woodcock a day (instead of 6 as formerly), and the only shorebirds that may be hunted during the seasons 1927 and 1928 are jack-snipe and woodcock, a two-year close season now being prescribed for greater and lesser yellowlegs. No changes are made in existing regulations affecting the length of seasons or size of bag limits on ducks and geese.

The use of sinkboxes on inland waters is prohibited, but on coastal waters sinkboxes may be used under restrictions that provide that each one must be at least 700 yards from any shore, island, or other sinkbox. The use of motorboats and airplanes to drive and rally ducks to keep them moving and thus provide better shooting, is prohibited under the new regulations.

Local changes in the regulations affect the dates of open seasons for hunting wild fowl in northeastern California and northern Idaho. In northeastern California the season is made October 1 to January 15, instead of the later period of October 16 to January 31, thus conforming with the season in southern Oregon, where climatic conditions are similar. In the five northern counties of Idaho the season is also made earlier to harmonize with that in Montana, as the two areas are climatically similar, the new season on wild fowl there being September 16 to December 31 instead of the former October 1 to January 15.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR.

(The following extension of the above may be used
in articles wishing a more detailed account.)

The number of woodcock that may be taken in one day by any person during the prescribed open season is reduced by the new regulations from 6 to 4 birds. Investigations conducted by the department indicate that the woodcock is maintaining its numbers in New England, the North Atlantic Coast States, and the Maritime Provinces of Canada, and that in portions of these areas it has increased materially. Reports from other sections are not so encouraging, however, and it has been decided, in view of the general situation, to add to the protection of the woodcock by making a moderate reduction in the daily bag limit.

The effect of amending the regulations to provide a two-year close season on greater and lesser yellowlegs is to place all species of shorebirds--except Wilson or jacksnipe and woodcock--on the list of migratory birds for which no open season is at present provided. No shorebird shooting will be permitted in 1927 and 1928 by Federal regulation except in the case of woodcock and jacksnipe. Reports show that yellowlegs have not been increasing, and it becomes desirable to protect them completely for two years to give them a chance to multiply sufficiently to allow a moderate open season at the conclusion of that period.

The use of sinkboxes on inland waters will no longer be permitted. It has been found that the use of this wild-fowling device on the comparatively restricted feeding and resting grounds on inland waters has an injurious effect in driving ducks from these areas, and in addition the marked decrease of marshland through drainage and evaporation renders this amendment all the more desirable. Under restrictions the use of sinkboxes will still be permitted on coastal waters though the new regulation requires that each box be 700 yards from any shore or island and 700 yards from any other sinkbox.

In that portion of northeastern California comprising that part of Siskiyou County lying east of the main line of the Southern Pacific Railway, all of Modoc, Lassen, and Plumas Counties, that portion of Shasta County lying east of the summit of the Sierra Nevada, and those portions of Sierra and Nevada Counties lying east of the summit of the Sierra Nevada and north of the Southern Pacific Railway from Truckee to Calvada, the open season on wild fowl under Federal regulation has been changed from October 16-January 31 to the period October 1-January 15, to correspond with the existing open-season regulations for Oregon. The area specified by the regulation has climatic conditions similar to those of Oregon and sharply different from the southern portion of California. Owing to this climatic difference within the State the migratory wild fowl season is advanced some two weeks earlier in northeastern California than is the case in portions farther south. As a consequence an earlier opening date is desirable, so that the sportsmen of the section may have an opportunity to hunt equal to that enjoyed by gunners elsewhere.

A similar condition existing in northern Idaho has been noted and corrected.