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WILD FOWL SEASON TWO MONTHS; DUCK BAG LIMIT REDUCED TO 12

Open seasons for hunting waterfowl, coot, and jack-snipe in the United States this fall and winter will again comprise two months in each of six zones, opening at 12 o'clock noon, September 21, in Wisconsin, North Dakota, and northern Idaho, and closing January 15 in the most southern zone, reports the Bureau of Biological Survey in summarizing amendments to the regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture and approved by the President, September 11.

The daily bag limit on ducks has been reduced from 15 to 12, of which number not more than 8 of any one, or 8 in the aggregate, may be canvasbacks, redheads, scaups, teals, shovelers, or gadwalls.

Possession limits are reduced from 30 to 24 on ducks, and on the excepted species (above named) from 20 to 16.

No open season for hunting brant on the Atlantic coast is provided by the amended regulations. On the Pacific coast the regulations will permit shooting of these birds, but investigations conducted by the Biological Survey have shown that on the eastern coast a shortage of eelgrass, the principal food of brant, has reduced the numbers of these waterfowl to such a degree that maximum protection is necessary.

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For the first time since 1930 the new regulations include cackling geese in the list of birds that may be hunted during the waterfowl seasons.

In Wisconsin and New York, including Long Island, amendments this year provide for the same open seasons for hunting rails and gallinules that are set for waterfowl in these States.

The season for hunting mourning doves has been changed in northwestern Florida to November 1 - January 31, in conformity with the season in the coastal section of Alabama.

A new provision in the regulations limits to 12 the number of woodcock that one person may have in possession. The season on this bird has been changed in Maryland to November 15 - December 15, and in Wisconsin to September 23 - October 22.

The new regulations also establish possession limits for waterfowl lawfully imported from foreign countries.

The Department is greatly concerned over the present status of migratory waterfowl and has adopted these measures to reduce still further the numbers of birds killed annually in this country. Long-continued drought on the principal breeding areas in the Prairie Provinces of Canada and in the Northwestern United States, together with overshooting, had reduced the supply of wild fowl in 1931 to the lowest point that these birds had ever reached. Conditions on the breeding grounds early in the spring of 1933 were much more favorable, but since the first of June they have been only a little better than in 1931, and the Biological Survey considers it possible that when the wild fowl arrive this fall their numbers may prove to be no greater than two years ago. In this event further restrictions may be necessary. The Department urges sportsmen to cooperate with the Federal and State game conservation authorities during the present emergency. It should be realized that an adequate breeding stock must be saved if the sport of wild-fowling is to continue.

Copies of the amended regulations, being printed as Service and Regulatory Announcement No. 78, of the Biological Survey, may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Dates of Open Seasons

In detail the new open seasons for ducks (except wood duck, ruddy duck, and bufflehead duck), geese (except Ross's goose and snow geese in Florida and all States north thereof bordering on the Atlantic Ocean), brant (except on the Atlantic coast), coot, and jacksnipe are as follows:

In Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, and in the five northern counties of Arizona, October 1 to November 30;

In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York (except Long Island), Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Idaho (except in the five northern counties), and the northern zone of New Mexico, October 16 to December 15;

In Wisconsin, North Dakota, and the five northern counties of Idaho, September 21 to November 20;

In that part of New York known as Long Island, and in Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, California, and the northern zone of Texas, November 1 to December 31;

In New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Arizona (except in the five northern counties), and in the southern zones of Texas and New Mexico, November 16 to January 15;

In Florida, November 20 to January 15; and

In Alaska, September 1 to October 31.