

For Press Service - Immediate Release  
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**BIOLOGICAL SURVEY AIDS  
STARVING DUCKS ON POTOMAC**

Virginia Wardens assist in  
feeding corn to waterfowl

Ducks along the Potomac below Washington are facing starvation and disaster with the river nearly filled with ice. On Monday (February 12), State Game Commissioner William S. Snow, of Alexandria, assisted by State Game Warden W. Harry Johnson, surveyed conditions down the river 3 miles below Alexandria and put corn out for the birds as best they could in open spaces on the river.

Yesterday (February 13), the corn was gone and acting on recommendation of United States Game Protector Louis A. Branchaud, of Washington, the Bureau of Biological Survey purchased a half ton of corn, and on Tuesday this was put out at strategic points on the river as far down as Gunston Cove, by Branchaud, aided by Virginia Wardens Johnson and Mills, special deputy Boswell, and Robert Wheat, a volunteer assistant.

The ducks affected include black ducks, mallards, canvasbacks, and lesser scaups. On open water areas these birds gather in small concentrations, up to 1,500 to 2,000 birds each. Some are too weak to fly, and some were found starved to death. Tracks of ducks in the snow as far as <sup>100</sup>~~200~~ yards from the water showed that they had gone to the bases of trees for nuts and seeds wherever the snow had melted enough to bare the ground. The northwest wind of Tuesday cleared much of the ice from the Virginia shore and uncovered feeding flats. If natural feeding conditions for the ducks improve, the corn distribution will be discontinued. Otherwise, Federal Game Protector Branchaud states that with the aid of the State Wardens, and their voluntary assistants, he will continue to care for the birds.