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GABRIELSON ASKS BREATHING SPELL
FOR FOUR DWINDLING FUR ANIMALS

A five-year breathing spell for the marten, fisher, wolverine, and otter to save them from joining the list of extinct wild animals is urged by Ira. N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. He says these fur animals may share the fate of the passenger pigeon, the heath hen, the Maine giant mink, and other extinct species unless the hunting and trapping season on them is closed for five years. He has asked game and conservation officials in states where these animals still live to provide a five-year closed season on them.

"Several states have laws providing closed seasons on these animals, but broader protection is needed," says Mr. Gabrielson. "These fur-bearers never were very abundant and their pelts always have sold at prices high enough to cause close trapping. They have disappeared entirely from much of their former range."

Resolutions recommending shorter open seasons for taking wild fur animals, and a closed season of at least five years on marten, fisher, and wolverine were adopted at the North American Wildlife Conference in Washington, D. C., last February. The otter should also receive special protection as its number is diminishing. However, it still lives in most states largely because trappers find it difficult to locate its haunts.

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Trapping female marten and fisher before they bear their young late in March and early April has to a large extent kept these two species from multiplying. The female marten requires about $9\frac{1}{2}$ months to develop its young, and the fisher 11 months. Before the Bureau's scientists learned of the marten's gestation period, it was generally believed to range from 60 to 102 days. This animal lives in the pine forest regions of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Montana, New Mexico, Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

Fishers may be found in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Wolverines live in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.