

# INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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### 30-DAY DUCK HUNTING SEASON ALLOWED BY NEW REGULATIONS

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A 30-day duck hunting season this year with changes in dates and zones was announced today by the U. S Department of Agriculture. The previous two seasons also were limited to 30 days in order to cut down the annual kill and speed up the Department's waterfowl restoration program.

In the northern zone the season on ducks, geese, Wilson's snipe (jack-snipe), and coot opens October 9 and closes November 7. In the intermediate zone the season is November 1 to 30, and in the southern zone, November 27 to December 26. Dates are inclusive.

States in the northern zone include Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York (except Long Island), North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

In the intermediate zone are Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Long Island of New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia.

The southern zone includes Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

#### Successful Policies Being Continued

This year's regulations, says the U. S. Biological Survey, represent the continuance of a program that has checked the decline of waterfowl and resulted

In an increase in the numbers of these birds. Investigations are conducted annually by the Survey over a large part of the continent, including Canada and Mexico, and reports this summer indicate that for the second year in succession there has been a noticeable increase in most species.

Survey officials attribute the increase in part to success in the Federal refuge program for restoring large areas of marsh land to the birds for breeding, feeding, resting, and wintering. But they consider the present gains largely due to success in reducing the annual kill, through stringent regulations that have been supported by the large body of sportsmen. It will be years before the refuge program will produce maximum results, and in the meantime the preservation of adequate breeding stocks is an especially critical problem.

"The slow but steady increase noted last year appears to be continuing," says the Survey, "but it is not great enough to warrant any lengthening of the season or removal of other restrictions."

#### Regulations First Since Mexican Treaty

This year's regulations were approved on July 30 by President Roosevelt. They include regulations pursuant to the amended Migratory Bird Treaty Act to give effect to the convention of last March with Mexico for the protection of migratory birds and game mammals.

Regulations first put into force under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 have been amended annually to embody provisions found necessary under changing conditions for protecting migratory birds. The amendments this year are included in a "restatement" of the regulations--or 12 regulations which include a new one covering the transportation of game mammals between the United States and Mexico.

### Summary of Regulations

Other restrictions embodied in this year's hunting regulations on migratory birds are summarized by the Survey as follows:

Continuation of the regulation providing no open season on snow geese and brant in Florida and in States north thereof that border on the Atlantic Coast, and no open season in any part of the United States on Ross's geese, wood ducks, ruddy ducks, canvasbacks, redheads, bufflehead ducks, and swans.

Bag and possession limits, continued from the last two seasons, place the daily bag limit on ducks at 10 in the aggregate and make the possession limit conform to the daily bag.

The daily bag and the possession limit on geese and brant of the kinds permitted to be killed have been increased this year to 5 in the aggregate of all kinds. Last year the limit was 4.

The new daily bag limit on coot is 25. Last year the limit was 15.

Baiting of waterfowl and doves and the use of live decoys in hunting waterfowl are not authorized regardless of the distance between the bait or decoys and the shooter.

The 3-shell limit on repeating shotguns, either hand operated or auto loading, in effect the last two seasons, is continued this season. Hunters may use shotguns not larger than No. 10 gauge.

Waterfowl and coot may be hunted in season from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Snipe, rails, gallinules (other than coot), woodcock, mourning doves, white-winged doves, and band-tailed pigeons may be hunted in season from 7 a.m. to sunset. No changes were made in the regulations on band-tailed pigeons.

In Alaska north of the Alaskan Range and the Ahklun Mountains the ~~waterfowl~~ hunting season will open September 1 and close September 30; south of these

mountains and west of the 141st meridian and east of False Pass at the tip of the Alaska Peninsula the open season is September 16 to October 15; in southeastern Alaska from the 141st meridian to Dixons Entrance, October 1 to 30; and islands of Unimak, Unalaska, Akutan and Akun west of Unimak Pass in the Aleutian Islands group, November 1 to November 30.

Open seasons on rails and woodcocks have been readjusted in several States, and the daily bag limit on sora rails has been reduced from 25 to 15. These birds, the Survey explains, are abundant only in a few restricted areas.

Open seasons on white-winged doves, one of the species included in the Mexican treaty, are established only in Texas and Arizona. The daily bag limit on both mourning and white-winged doves is 15 in the aggregate of both kinds.

#### Dove-Hunting Seasons

Seasons prescribed for the States for shooting mourning doves are as follows:

September 1 to November 15, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

September 15 to November 1 and November 15 to December 15, Delaware.

September 1 to September 30 and November 15 to December 31, Maryland.

October 1 to November 15, counties of Dade, Broward, and Monroe in Florida; the rest of Florida, November 20 to January 31.

September 15 to October 1 and November 20 to January 15, Louisiana and Mississippi.

September 15 to October 15 and December 20 to January 31, North Carolina.

September 15 to October 15 and December 20 to January 31, Alabama, in the counties of Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Jefferson, Shelby, Talladoga, Clay, Randolph, and all counties north thereof; Georgia, in the counties of Troup, Meriwether,

Pike, Lamar, Monroe, Jones, Baldwin, Washington, Jefferson, Burke, and all counties north thereof; and South Carolina, in the counties of Aiken, Saluda, Newberry, Fairfield, Lancaster, Chesterfield and all counties north thereof. In the remaining territory of these States the season is from November 20 to January 31.

September 1 to October 31, Texas in the counties of Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Stonewall, King, Cottle, Childress, and all counties north and west thereof; south and east of the foregoing boundaries, September 15 to November 15.

Open season for white-winged doves are as follows:

August 5 to September 3, Arizona.

September 1 to October 31, counties of Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Stonewall, King, Cottle, and Childress, in Texas, and all counties in the State north and west thereof; south and east of the foregoing boundaries, September 15 to November 15.

#### Season for Woodcock

Open seasons for woodcock hunting are as follows:

In New York north of the New York Central Railroad from Buffalo to Albany and the Boston and Albany railroad to the Massachusetts State line, October 1 to October 31, and south thereof, October 15 to November 14, and Long Island, N. Y., November 1 to 30.

October 1 to October 31, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and North Dakota.

October 15 to November 14, Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa.

October 17 to October 31, Wisconsin.

October 21 to November 20, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

November 10 to December 10, Missouri.

November 15 to December 15, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

December 1 to December 31, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

On rails and gallinules (except coot) the season as formerly will be September 1 to November 30, with the following exceptions: Washington and Massachusetts, October 1 to November 30; New York, except Long Island, October 9 to November 7; Long Island, N.Y., November 1 to November 30; Wisconsin, October 9 to November 7; Alabama, November 20 to January 31; Louisiana, November 1 to January 31. Coot seasons conform to those for duck hunting.

#### Duck Stamp Required

Possession of a Federal duck stamp is required by law of every migratory waterfowl hunter over 16 years of age. The stamps are on sale at post offices.

The regulation permitting the killing of migratory birds when they become injurious to crops or property has been modified so regional directors of the Survey can also issue permits in individual and isolated cases.

Copies of the new regulations, as soon as available, may be obtained from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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