

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

Release - Immediate

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 27, 1937

SYSTEMATIC FEEDING TIDES WILDLIFE OVER WINTER, SAYS U. S. BULLETIN

-- -- --

Winter losses among wildlife -- especially game and song birds -- can be lessened by prompt and regular feeding during periods of food scarcity, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the newly published Farmers' Bulletin 1783, "Feeding Wildlife in Winter."

Well-fed game birds, the bulletin points out, rarely die from exposure during severe winter weather. Starvation, however, may kill the birds or so weaken them that they become easy victims of predators or more susceptible to cold, disease, and other misfortunes. As most cases of starvation are the result of short rations over long periods rather than only a few days, the feeding should be systematic and extended.

The bulletin was prepared by Wallace B. Grange, formerly a cooperative agent of the Section of Food Habits, Division of Wildlife Research, Bureau of Biological Survey, for sportsmen, farmers, and others interested in winter-feeding campaigns. It describes various kinds of successful feeding stations for game, song, and other birds, and points out that the best results can be obtained by establishing the stations in natural wildlife coverts that are sheltered from drifting snows, wind and sleet.

After a successful winter-feeding campaign even more effective results can be obtained the following year by improving the sites of the feeding places. Those openly situated can be made more attractive and serviceable to wildlife by planting a patch of sweetclover or other suitable vegetation for cover, by fencing-in a corner of a pasture or grazed woodlot, or planting trees or shrubs.

Winter feeding for other forms of wildlife, including waterfowl, cottontail rabbits, squirrels, and big-game, is also explained in the bulletin. A copy may be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

- - - B - - -