



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, CHICAGO, ILL.

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Organized feeding campaigns to help wildlife, especially birds, through the winter, were recommended today by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

Such campaigns, Dr. Gabrielson declared, were particularly necessary in those areas which have prolonged coverings of snow and ice, and in other areas after excessive cold, sleet, or blizzards.

Winter is a critical period for those species of wildlife which do not hibernate or migrate, he pointed out. Available food supplies diminish in both quantity and quality, and by mid-winter the upland game birds, many song birds, some small mammals, and even some big-game animals are forced to subsist on scanty and undependable foods.

Well-fed game birds rarely, if ever, die from exposure to cold even in the most severe winter weather, and if food is abundant in or near good cover they have little to fear from natural enemies. Starved animals, on the other hand, are likely to die of cold or be so weakened as to become easy victims of predators.

The sheaf of grain that in some European countries is raised on a pole for the birds at Christmas symbolizes man's response to the needs of wildlife, but something more substantial than a symbol is required to keep wildlife alive, Dr. Gabrielson declared.

A town or city game association can sponsor winter feeding and in general obtain the cooperation of hunters, Boy Scouts, women's clubs, businessmen's associations, the local press, outing-goods stores, grain-elevator operators, feed-mill proprietors, rural mail carriers, railway section workers, and others.

For interested individuals, groups, or organizations, the Fish and Wildlife Service has available for free distribution a publication which discusses methods of winter feeding for wildlife that actual experience has proved to be valuable. It also gives suggestions on how to conduct a winter feeding campaign. The Service hopes that an increasing use of these methods will aid in conserving interesting and useful species of wildlife.

Copies of Conservation Bulletin 13, "Feeding Wildlife in Winter," can be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago 54, Illinois.