



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO MAKE BIRD SURVEY IN CUBA

A survey of the migratory birds that winter in Cuba or pass through that country on their migration flights will be started this month by three biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with scientists of the Cuban Government, according to an announcement made today by Albert M. Day, Service Director.

Through such surveys, Mr. Day explained, the Service accumulates a greater knowledge concerning migratory birds in the American Republics and the facts so acquired will eventually lead to the conservation and protection of migratory birds throughout their entire range. The present survey was requested by the Republic of Cuba in accordance with an Act of Congress which authorizes scientific and cultural cooperation with the American Republics.

Frederick C. Lincoln, assistant to the Director, who is in charge of the survey party, and Allen J. Duvall and Thomas D. Burleigh, of the Service's Division of Wildlife Research, left Washington, D. C., on February 12 for Cuba. Mr. Lincoln preceded his associates by plane in order to hold discussions with officials of the American Embassy in Havana, and of the Ministry of Agriculture, which will provide cooperating personnel in Cuba. The reconnaissance will begin after the arrival of Messrs. Duvall and Burleigh, who were traveling by car and boat with their field equipment.

When the Service's annual migratory waterfowl inventory was taken in January, Harold S. Peters, Atlantic flyway biologist, was able to include Cuba in his aerial coverage of the Caribbean area and to make some ground examinations of waterfowl habitat. The prior acquisition of these data will permit the present survey party to devote more time to other game and nongame species of birds.

Although the Service through its Office of Foreign Activities has cooperated in the past few years with several countries in Central and South America that requested help in the development of their fishery resources, Cuba is only the second country to ask aid in the study of its wildlife resources. Guatemala was the first. Three biologists of the Service spent two seasons making studies of that country's birds and mammals.

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