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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1947 WATERFOWL KILL MUCH REDUCED

The drastic waterfowl hunting regulations of 1947 which were designed to bring about a very substantial reduction in the kill of ducks and geese succeeded in their purpose, Albert M. Day, Fish and Wildlife Service Director, said today.

Hunter take data for 1947, which Service officials feel are the most accurate to date, are based on a combination of duck scorecard returns submitted by interested hunters, a new method of random telephone sampling, plus information collected by the States.

In waterfowl areas throughout the country, Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and collaborators made random telephone calls to chalk up a total of 8,845 contacts with duck stamp holders in 32 states. The results of these calls revealed the following information:

The average seasonal kill amounted to a little more than 7 birds.

The average daily bag was 1.8.

Each hunter went afield about 4 times.

The Pacific flyway had 19 percent of the hunters and 25 percent of the kill, representing no change from the 1946 season.

The Central flyway had 25 percent of the hunters and 19 percent of the kill. In 1946 this flyway had the same percentage of hunters but the kill amounted to 29 percent.

The Mississippi flyway had 44 percent of the hunters and 46 percent of the kill, a reduction of 2 percent in the hunters, but an increase of 9 percent in the kill as compared with the 1946 season.

The Atlantic flyway had 11 percent of the hunters and 10 percent of the kill in 1947. In 1946 it had 14 percent of the hunters and 9 percent of the kill.

A certain small percent of the duck stamp holders contacted by phone reported that they did no hunting during the 1947 season. We believe this number is fully compensated by a sizable group of hunters who are not required to purchase duck stamps, i. e., boys under 16 years of age.

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