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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS ASKS WATERFOWL HUNTERS TO COOPERATE IN ANNUAL MAIL SURVEY

John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, today urged all waterfowl hunters who have received registration cards with the purchase of their Federal duck stamps to cooperate with the Service by filling out and promptly returning the indicated portion of the form.

This year more than 700 post offices throughout the country have been furnished with double postcard forms which are handed to purchasers of duck stamps at these particular post offices.

One-half of the card is to be filled out by the hunter and returned at once to the Service. The other half is to be retained as a sort of scorecard on which the hunter can list the numbers and kinds of waterfowl which he bags during the coming season, and the number of days he hunted.

"This sample of hunters who return the cards," said Director Farley, "will receive questionnaires at the end of the hunting season in which they will be asked to report their seasonal hunting success. It is highly important that all duck stamp purchasers receiving registration cards fill them out and mail them promptly. Cards from everyone contacted are necessary to make our sample representative of the entire hunting population."

Chief purpose of the survey, Director Farley explained, is to determine as accurately as possible the extent of the waterfowl hunting kill for the season in order that a proper balance between the harvest of these birds and the hunting regulations may continue to be maintained.

This annual mail survey was inaugurated on a national basis during the 1952 hunting season when 150 post offices cooperated with the Service in handing out the card forms. According to Director Farley, it has potentialities of being one of the most progressive steps ever taken by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the matter of inventorying the annual harvest of waterfowl.

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