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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL RESEARCH CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

An international meeting to determine the research needed to provide more waterfowl for North America will take place November 16-20 at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Md., the Department of the Interior announced today.

Six waterfowl experts from Canada, two each from the technical committees of the four United States Flyway Councils, and others from the Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will participate.

The experts are expected to develop waterfowl research proposals for consideration by State, Provincial, Canadian and United States wildlife agencies. Emphasis will be on research projects which will require cooperative effort among the agencies.

The Department said ducks and geese hold a unique place in the North American wildlife management picture, primarily because they are migratory, nesting in one part of their range and wintering in another. International treaties to protect and manage migratory birds have been in effect between the United States and Canada since 1918 and between the United States and Mexico since 1937.

Cooperative waterfowl research projects among State, Provincial and Federal governments presently include habitat surveys by Flyway Councils composed of representatives from State game and fish departments, banding to show seasonal distribution and survival of separate populations of waterfowl, and the annual breeding ground surveys which are the primary basis for the waterfowl hunting regulations.

The Patuxent meeting will have three main objectives: The first is to establish priority of research projects. High on this list will be the problem of determining habitat needs to meet projected waterfowl population goals and to provide for recreational use of the resource. Methods of conducting this research is a second aim, and determining which agencies are in the best position to do the work is another principal objective. The resulting proposals will be submitted to agency officials for final approval.

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