



that improved water conditions in 1965 emphasized a shortage of nesting birds.

The 1965 hunting regulations were designed to send more breeders back to the prairies this summer.

"Our goal is to rebuild the breeding population to take advantage of the restored nesting areas," Gottschalk said. "Any change from last year's restrictive shooting regulations will depend on the output from an increased duck breeding population, plus better water conditions. The information our field biologists gather this summer will tell the story."

The Bureau annually conducts two aerial surveys of the primary nesting grounds. The May survey determines water levels and other conditions that affect nesting success, and the number of nesting birds. The second survey--conducted in July--determines summer water conditions, and success of the hatch, or production. The surveys provide the basis for fall waterfowl hunting regulations.

Nine airplanes are used by biologists in the aerial surveys. Other biologists make local counts on the ground as spot-checks of aerial findings. Light planes fly areas in North and South Dakota, western Minnesota, eastern Montana, Alaska, and the prairie portions of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Amphibious bush planes, capable of operating over wilderness areas, then take over the job of covering Canada's Northwest Territories, northern Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Labrador.

x x x