UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
For release March 11, 1967 Most 343-5634

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES NEW MIGRATORY BIRD PERMIT REGULATIONS

Streamlining of Federal permit regulations that govern buying propagating, and selling of migratory birds was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

Developed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the modernized procedures will still protect migratory birds, but simplify the paperwork involved. The regulations were developed in meetings with State game departments, ornithological societies, outdoor writers, and game farmers.

Written comments from United States sources and from other countries strongly supported the proposed regulations announced in the Federal Register last August preliminary to final adoption.

The new regulations provide that:

(1) Migratory waterfowl may now be bought for individual use from licensed propagators without requiring a Federal permit;

(2) Waterfowl propagators with appropriate Federal permits may dispose of marked migratory waterfowl to anyone;

(3) Hatchery-reared waterfowl must be identifiable by removal of each bird's right hind toe before the bird is four weeks of age. Such marking is required on all live, privately owned, migratory waterfowl held captive that cannot be readily distinguished by size or coloration from wild birds;

(4) Mallard ducks so marked may be used on commercial shooting preserves and to train dogs.

Bureau Director John S. Gottschalk said the move will sharply reduce record keeping. The new regulations went into effect March 1.

A copy of Wildlife Leaflet 472, "Birds Protected by Federal Law," lists those birds covered by the new regulations. It is available from the Office of Conservation Education, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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