

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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REGULATIONS FOR MARKING CAPTIVE REARED WATERFOWL ADOPTED

Regulations for the marking of captive-reared waterfowl have been adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

These regulations are necessary because commerce in wild migratory waterfowl is controlled by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. The market for captive-raised ducks and geese flourishes however. All such captive-reared waterfowl must be clearly marked.

The final regulations, published in the Federal Register, provide several alternative methods for the permanent marking of mallard ducks and other migratory waterfowl. These methods are: (1) removal of the hind toe from the right foot, (2) pinioning of a wing, (3) banding with a seamless metal band, or (4) tattooing on the web of one foot.

These regulations were originally proposed on October 18, 1974. Comments were solicited from the public and interested groups. Those received were virtually all favorable to the proposed regulations. Some changes resulted from these comments. The first requires the marking of both carcasses and containers of mallard ducks killed on game farms or shooting preserves and was suggested by the State of Nebraska to conform to present practice. The second change requires a copy of the waterfowl sale and disposal permit to accompany the shipment of birds. This will facilitate enforcement of the regulations, as well as speed the course of shipment for legitimate transactions.

These regulations will take effect on July 31, 1975.