

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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IMPORTATION LIMIT ON MEXICAN MIGRATORY GAME BIRD CHANGED

Hunters returning to the United States from Mexico will now be allowed to import doves, pigeons, and waterfowl up to the possession limits set by Mexican authorities according to a final rulemaking published recently in the Federal Register, Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today. This means in some instances that hunters may bring back larger numbers of birds than previously allowed.

These regulations were originally proposed in the Federal Register on July 16, 1975, and public comments were accepted through July 31.

In announcing the final regulations, Greenwalt said, "The very purpose of this change is to defer primary responsibility for making 'reasoned judgments' about the effects of given limits on migratory birds hunted within Mexico to the sovereign government of that country. The government of Mexico is signatory to a bilateral treaty for the protection of migratory birds and has domestic legislation regulating their hunting. Under these circumstances, we believe the United States should refrain from making judgments whose effects are directed primarily within Mexico.

"I would like to emphasize that Fish and Wildlife and Custom agents will continue to enforce an importation limit under United States law at the border with Mexico. This limit will correspond to possession or export limits prescribed by Mexican authorities.

"Hunters returning from Mexico must still file a Declaration for Free Entry of Game Mammals or Birds Killed by U.S. Residents (Customs Form 3315). No hunter may import more than one day's (Mexican) bag limit unless his hunting permit has been date stamped on the first day he hunts in Mexico. Further, no hunter may import migratory game birds in greater numbers and kinds than the applicable limits corresponding to the number of days which he has hunted during that particular trip, as indicated by the date stamped on his hunting permit."

Importation limits of migratory birds from other countries are not affected by this rulemaking.

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