



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Information



Release - Immediate.

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT AMENDED.

Washington, D. C.

The United States Department of

Agriculture announces the promulgation of amendments and additions to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Regulations effective October 25, 1918.

Hereafter the open season for black-bellied and golden plovers and greater and lesser yellowlegs in Texas will be from September 1 to December 15. Another change prescribes a daily bag limit of 50 sora to a person in addition to the bag limit of not to exceed 25 for other rails, coots, and gallinules.

An amendment of Regulation No. 6 has the effect of removing the limitation on the number of birds that may be transported within a State during the Federal open season. The export of migratory game birds is limited to two days' bag limit during any one calendar week of the Federal season. Persons must comply with State laws further restricting the shipment or transportation of migratory birds.

An amendment to paragraph 2 of Regulation No. 8, which is of great interest to breeders of game, permits migratory waterfowl raised in domestication to be killed by shooting during the respective open seasons for waterfowl, and the sale thereof subject to State laws; but after March 31, 1919, such waterfowl, killed by shooting, can not be sold or purchased unless each bird, before attaining the age of four weeks, shall have had removed from the web of one foot a portion thereof in the form of a "V" large enough to make a permanent well-defined mark, which shall be sufficient to identify it as a bird raised in domestication.

Another amendment provides that the plumage and skins of migratory game birds legally killed may be possessed and transported without a Federal permit. Provision is also made for the issuance of special permits authorizing taxidermists to possess, buy, sell, and transport migratory birds.

Two new regulations have been added. Regulation No. 11 provides for the issuance of permits authorizing persons to sell migratory game birds lawfully killed and by them lawfully held in cold storage on July 31, 1918. Such birds may be sold under permit until March 31, 1919.

Another new regulation is as follows: "Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to permit the taking, possession, sale, purchase, or transportation of migratory birds, their nests and eggs contrary to the laws and regulations of any State, Territory, or District made for the purpose of giving further protection to migratory birds, their nests, and eggs when such laws and regulations are not inconsistent with the Convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds concluded August 16, 1916, or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and do not extend the open seasons for such birds beyond the dates prescribed by these regulations." This regulation is a restatement of the substance of Section 7 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and is intended to remove the confusion and uncertainty that exists in regard to the effect of the Federal law and regulations on State game laws.

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