U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Publications
Press Service

Release - Thursday, January 20, 1921.

1/4/21

MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION
NETS $20,000,000 FOOD VALUE.

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Washington, D. C. The passage of the migratory-bird treaty act, it is estimated, has resulted in a total return, in actual food value to the hunters of the United States, of more than $20,000,000. State officials have notified the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture that in Minnesota alone hunters report 2,058,400 ducks killed in 1919. As each of these birds may be considered to have a food value of at least 75 cents, the total return from them in food to this one State was about $1,500,000. If it had been possible to sell these birds, they would have brought twice that amount. The great value of game to the country is thus made evident.

That the passage and enforcement of the law preventing spring shooting and marketing of migratory game birds is now producing excellent results is pointed out by officials of the Biological Survey. Without such restrictions they say the game birds not only would be greatly reduced in numbers but in many instances would be brought near extinction. The Biological Survey, which is charged with the enforcement of the Federal law and regulations protecting migratory birds, is receiving reports from all sections of the country showing that with the protection now enjoyed by the birds, their numbers are increasing each year, and that they are returning in spring to numerous breeding grounds which they have deserted for several years.

In addition to the food value of the game thus assured by continued protection, the restrictions on shooting made by the law tend to perpetuate hunting as a sport. This has a recreational value through outdoor pursuit in building up the physical health and strength of the more than 7,000,000 hunters in the United States who go out with the guns every fall.

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