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WILD FOWL NEED RESTING
 AND WINTERING AREAS.

The alarming decrease in migratory wild fowl which preceded the treaty and the act of Congress for the protection of migratory birds has been changed to a marked increase, according to reports received during the last few months by the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. The success of this great conservation measure has become apparent more quickly than was expected even by its friends. The measure is looked upon as the first important step in perpetuating wild fowl and wild-fowl hunting in the United States and Canada. A second step of vital importance must now be taken, according to specialists, to provide feeding and resting places for the birds during migration and the winter months by retaining a sufficient number of small lakes, inland and coastal swamps, and marshes for their use. For a long period yet, there will undoubtedly be vast areas in Alaska and Northern Canada which will furnish breeding places for innumerable wild fowl, but other resting places in the southern and intermediate districts to or through which the birds migrate must be provided. The perpetuation of such areas is at present a problem of great uncertainty.

Leading conservationists recommend that water and marsh areas proposed for drainage be carefully surveyed by men who are able to pass on the value of plant and animal products as well as the agricultural possibilities of the region. In many instances, they say it will be found that such areas will return a better profit to the State and its citizens if left in the natural condition than if an attempt is made to reduce the territory to agricultural uses.

The Bureau of Biological Survey, which carries out the provisions of Federal laws for the conservation of wild life, points out that a lake, pond, or marsh is naturally possessed of many profitable features. Among its harvestable products are food and game fish, wild fowl for food, furs, and a natural ice supply. So important are these considerations that a definite effort is now being made in the more progressive States to check unwarranted drainage of these water areas.