



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



Release Immediate

December 13, 1924.

EATING LEAD SHOT CAUSES
POISONING OF MANY DUCKS

Lead poisoning due to eating shot is a malady of various species of wild ducks which of recent years has attracted attention among persons interested in game birds in the United States. It is thought by the Biological Survey that a number of species in addition to those about which facts are known may have been poisoned in the same way. At present little can be done about lead poisoning beyond calling attention to its prevalence and describing its cause and symptoms.

From year to year a large quantity of expended shot is deposited in the mud about shooting points and blinds in marshes, shallow bays, and lakes. Many birds find and swallow these leaden pellets while searching for food and become seriously affected by the poison thus taken. The mallard, canvas-back, and pintail ducks and whistling swans have suffered most. It is believed that the trouble is generally prevalent throughout the country.

Sportsmen and others interested in this condition among wild ducks will find further details in the United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin 793, Lead Poisoning in Waterfowl, by Alexander Wetmore of the Biological Survey. The bulletin may be had while the supply lasts by addressing the Division of Publications, United States Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C.