



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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SPORTSMEN ASKED TO COOPERATE IN UPHOLDING
SHOOTING RESTRICTIONS IN WESTERN STATES

To safeguard the future supply of wild ducks, geese, and other migratory wild fowl of the Western States requires that increased restrictions be placed on hunting privileges. This statement was made recently by Dr. E. W. Nelson, chief of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, in discussing the probable nature of the amendments to the migratory bird treaty act regulations that may soon be submitted by the department to the President for promulgation.

In making this statement, Doctor Nelson calls upon all sportsmen to cooperate with the department in any action that it may take in restricting the annual number of wild ducks and other migratory game birds that may be taken by hunters. He stresses the seriousness of the wild-fowl situation in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast States, one that may continue with no permanent improvement until conditions can be remedied in the Bear River Marshes, Utah, the Lower Klamath Lake, California, and Malheur Lake, Oregon. This must be done to give the birds sufficient fresh water to combat the alkali poisoning resulting from their congregating in very limited areas. Until these areas can be restored as healthful wild fowl feeding and resting grounds the birds will have difficulty in holding their own. Temporarily improved conditions coming from a wet winter like the present, said Doctor Nelson, can not immediately bring back the birds to normal numbers. Only by building up the breeding stock and providing the essentials for the welfare of the birds can the badly depleted ranks be restored sufficiently to allow again the good shooting formerly enjoyed by sportsmen in many parts of the range of these birds.

It is for this reason that sportsmen are urged to cooperate with the Department of Agriculture in the observance of any restrictions that it may feel it necessary to place temporarily in their former shooting privileges. Doctor Nelson makes it clear that administration of the Federal bird law and any changes in the regulations are purely for the purpose of trying to maintain and build up our supply of wild fowl against increasingly adverse conditions, and that once this is accomplished the regulations are subject to changes in accordance with improved conditions. The cooperation of sportsmen is greatly desired as the success to be gained in restoring our wild fowl in the West will depend largely upon the willingness of sportsmen to cooperate in the task.

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