



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1927.

WATERFOWL CENSUS PLANNED BY THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

A monthly census of waterfowl at selected points throughout the United States is being planned by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. It will be an aid in administering the Federal migratory-bird treaty act and the regulations thereunder, for the protection of birds that migrate between the United States and Canada. The undertaking is for the purpose of obtaining accurate information regarding the numbers, distribution, and migration of waterfowl throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The project is important not only to the country as a whole and to each of the States, but also to all organizations that are primarily concerned with the conservation of game, all sportsmen, and all others interested in wild fowl or their conservation.

In carrying out this projected work the Biological Survey plans to establish as many volunteer observation stations as possible, particularly in areas where there is great concentration of waterfowl in winter or during migration. In addition, it is desired to gather all possible information regarding the numbers and distribution of our waterfowl during the breeding season. On the selected areas accurate counts or estimates of ducks, geese, swans, and coots are to be made throughout the country each month on the same

designated dates. When the numbers of birds are small enough actual counts will be made, and otherwise, estimates of their numbers. Accuracy in these counts and estimates is insisted upon as of prime importance to the purpose of the work. It is hoped by these censuses to learn not only more than has ever before been possible to know of the numbers of the ducks, geese, swans, and coots, but also additional facts regarding their distribution and their migration routes. By repeating the observations during succeeding years it will be possible to determine whether these birds, so important to the sportsmen and to the country at large, are actually increasing or decreasing. It will also throw light on the causes of local fluctuations that often are puzzling. Each census taker is urged to select the area of greatest concentration in his locality and one that can be conveniently covered in a single day or a portion of a day.

This project will be inaugurated during the coming August. Cooperation is assured from various agencies of the United States Government, including the National Park Service, Lighthouse Service, Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries, Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Education, and the Forest Service, Weather Bureau, and Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Cooperation has been invited from sportsmen's organizations, conservation societies, State departments, sportsmen, ornithologists, and other interested organizations and individuals.

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