



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



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MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT REGULATIONS AMENDED

Amendments to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Regulations, changing the classification of gallinules, the open seasons in a number of States, and the sinkbox regulation, have been adopted by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine and approved by the President. Gallinules are no longer classified under the open season for wild ducks and geese, being now included in the open season for rails. In Illinois the season on waterfowl will open next fall on September 16 and close December 31, this being in lieu of the former period from October 1 to January 15. In Massachusetts the season on rails and gallinules (except coot) is changed from the period September 1 to November 30 to the period September 16 to December 15.

In South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi the open season on mourning doves has been changed from the period October 16 to January 31 to two periods covering the month of September and from November 20 to January 31.

The provision prohibiting the use of sinkboxes in strictly inland waters in the hunting of migratory waterfowl was not changed, but the restriction having application to the distance between sinkboxes, and between sinkboxes and shore lines or islands, has been eliminated. Under the regulations of last season it was required that sinkboxes (batteries) used in the taking of waterfowl in coastal sounds and bays and other coastal waters be placed not less than 700 yards from the shore line of the mainland at ordinary high tide and not less than 700 yards from any island at ordinary high tide and not less than 700 yards from any other sinkbox.

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