

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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DUCK SEASON WILL BE  
CHANGED IN 3 STATES

To Be Made Later in Illinois, Missouri,  
Kansas to Avoid Discrimination,  
Secretary Hyde Announces

The open season on ducks, geese, brant, and  
coot in Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas will be changed to a later date by  
further amendment to the migratory-bird treaty act regulations, the Secretary  
of Agriculture announced to-day (September 5).

Information brought forward by sportsmen and verified by investigations  
made by the Department of Agriculture indicates, <sup>however,</sup> says the Secretary, that the  
open season of October 1 to October 31 does not give residents of these States  
hunting opportunities comparable with those given in nearby States. In this  
area, therefore, the Secretary has decided to change the open season to a  
later period, and states that in the near future he will adopt the necessary  
amendment to the migratory-bird treaty act regulations.

In prescribing an open season of one month in the various States the  
department desired primarily to select periods that would conserve the birds, *and*  
At the same time it endeavored to avoid undue hardship on legitimate interests  
and discrimination against any State.

In other sections of the country, with a few local exceptions, the action taken last month with regard to open seasons has met general approval. It has aroused the American sportsmen and conservationists to a realization of the extent of losses suffered by these birds as a result of the disastrous droughts on the principal breeding grounds in the northwestern United States, and in the Prairie Provinces of Canada. Extensive shooting by a constantly increasing number of gunners during recent years has served still further to decrease the waterfowl.

Since announcement of the reduction of shooting seasons to one month as a relief measure to enable an adequate stock of birds to survive the emergency, a mass of comment and correspondence has poured into the department. Nearly all these communications have come from the sportsmen themselves, and officials of the department state that these letters indicate a favorable reaction on the part of gunners, most of whom show a disposition to lend their support to the department in conserving their sport for the future.

The adoption of the short-season amendment, the Secretary explains, was based on reports of investigations carefully conducted on the principal breeding grounds by experienced observers of the governments of the United States and Canada. Their conclusions, the department has found, are amply supported by the mass of opinion now being presented by sportsmen and others interested in the situation.

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