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FEDERAL BAG LIMITS
ON DUCKS EXPLAINED

For the relief of waterfowl hunters who have been puzzling over the legal phraseology of the Federal regulation on duck bag limits, and in response to numerous inquiries, the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has made the following statement:

"The Federal bag limit on wild ducks is 12, but eider ducks, canvasbacks, redheads, greater scaups, lesser scaups, ringnecks, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, shovelers, and gadwalls included in the 12 may not total more than 5. These 5 may all be of one species, or they may represent different species of the restricted class -- but in no case may the total number of ducks belonging to these 11 species exceed 5. The number of ducks representing other species that may be hunted is limited only by the provision that the total bag of all ducks taken may not exceed 12.

"Thus, the duck hunter may take a dozen mallards, or he may take a dozen pintails -- or 6 mallards and 6 pintails, or 8 mallards and 4 pintails, or any combination of these birds that does not total more than 12. But if he takes the maximum and includes in his dozen the species for which the limit is further restricted he will have bags like the following: 7 mallards plus 5 canvasbacks; or 4 mallards and 3 pintails plus 1 eider duck, 1 canvasback, 1 redhead, 1 scaup, and 1 ringneck; or 5 pintails and 2 mallards plus 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, and 1 ringneck. In no case may he take more than 12 ducks in one day.

"Shooting wood ducks, ruddy ducks, or buffleheads is prohibited.

"Any State may reduce the bag limit below that provided by the Federal regulation."