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DUCK SUPPLY LOW, KEEP KILL  
AT MINIMUM, URGES BUREAU



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The ducks that are now winging their way to wintering grounds are representatives of a seriously decreased waterfowl population, says the Bureau of Biological Survey in a statement urging hunters to cooperate in keeping the kill to the minimum this year.

With a program in full swing for the restoration of nesting grounds, the Bureau emphasizes the need for conserving a breeding stock to repopulate these areas and produce birds for future years. This season, it points out, is a crisis in which every effort should be made to preserve as many birds as possible.

Decrease Noted on Breeding Grounds

Cautioning sportsmen against being misled by early flights or local concentrations of ducks, the Biological Survey cites the results of investigations conducted on the breeding grounds. In late spring and early summer this year the bureau naturalists found that drought had made serious inroads into the breeding grounds and that in the more northern regions where water conditions were favorable the birds were too few in number to occupy more than half the available nesting area.

More recent observations have also resulted in reports of a seriously decreased supply of ducks. Late in August, after studying conditions on the delta of the Saskatchewan River, L. J. Goldman of the bureau staff of biologists

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reported, "The region is a duck paradise, but I doubt that I saw more than 2,000 ducks in several days time." In September Mr. Goldman visited the region north of the Saskatchewan River, including Frog Lake, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche, and many smaller lakes, potholes, and sloughs. From this region he reported, "Since 1932 there is much evidence of decrease in the aggregate of all species." On October 2, after completing his check-up on waterfowl conditions in the Prairie Provinces of Canada and covering portions of northern North Dakota Mr. Goldman stated, "There is absolutely nothing encouraging showing up so far."

Volunteer observers have made similar reports, an example of which is quoted by the Biological Survey as follows:

"I have been traveling as a licensed Canadian guide the last ten years, canoeing better than 15,000 miles," writes an Iowa correspondent. "This year I completed another 1,000-mile canoe trip. . . through the very heart of the duck-breeding grounds, starting at Berrens River, on Lake Winnepeg to Norway House, thence to Gods Lake, Gods River, to York Factory on Hudson Bay, up the Nelson River to the railroad. From Gods Lake to the railroad I traveled last year . . . and without exaggeration, I saw 100,000 young ducks. This year over the same route, I did not see a thousand young ducks."

Have Sport But Save Ducks, Is Slogan

Emphasizing thus the need for a reduced kill this year and at the same time recognizing the hunter's delight in the sport of wildfowling, the Biological Survey proposes as a slogan "Have Sport But Save Ducks." The bureau suggests that during the present crisis sportsmen might well be satisfied with a few less days of shooting than formerly and with bags that are not always the limit even when limit bags might be taken, and it urges hunters to take special precautions to retrieve all crippled birds and to cooperate with wardens in the prevention of poaching.

"The reward for restraint now will be a better seed stock for the breeding grounds that are being salvaged in the national program of wildlife restoration, and consequently an improved and lasting sport in the future."