



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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HATCH CONTROL TO PROTECT  
LOCAL BIRDS FROM GULLS

That certain species of gulls sometimes become so abundant as to disturb the balance of nature, and are destructive to other birds, particularly along the North Atlantic Coast, is revealed by investigations conducted by the Bureau of Biological Survey.

The herring gulls and the great black-backed gulls occasionally increase to a point where they break up the nests of eider ducks, terns, smaller gulls, and other local birds. In the future, whenever investigation by the Government experts shows that gulls have become too numerous for the welfare of other species, the Survey announced that its policy would be to employ scientific, humane methods to reduce their numbers. Such control operations, which require only the destruction of the gulls' eggs, will be conducted by Federal game-management agents and will be limited to the localities in which the depredations are occurring.

Gulls, it is pointed out, are migratory and are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. They may not be destroyed except when destruction is authorized by the Federal Government.