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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## CALLS ATTENTION TO OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

"Wildlife must have a place to live and be given the things it needs for survival and production if the American tradition of public hunting and fishing is to survive," Albert M. Day, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, stated today in calling attention to the observance this week of National Wildlife Restoration Week, sponsored annually by the National Wildlife Federation.

In emphasizing the fact that Wildlife Week is a good time to devote some special thought to wildlife-conservation problems in the United States, Mr. Day particularly stressed the danger to wildlife populations through the large harvests taken by the ever-growing army of hunters and fishermen. He pointed out that during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1947, licensed hunters had increased their numbers to 12,066,703 and fishermen to 12,620,464. "We cannot keep pace with such recreational demands unless we spend more time and money on the business of conserving and restoring our wildlife resources."

Federal and State agencies entrusted with the responsibility for preserving the wildlife resources of this country must see that places are provided primarily for fish and game because sustained production must rely on adequate habitat and environment, according to Mr. Day. "There are many areas so marginal for agriculture and so high in value for wildlife production that we could well convert them to wildlife use and see that they remain in that status from now on."

In addition to acquiring areas that are devoted solely to wildlife, the wildlife restoration program can be accelerated in many other ways, Director Day stated. Wildlife administrators can cooperate with private landowners by aiding them in the improvement of their lands through soil conservation practices. "The building of farm ponds, the planting of food-producing shrubs on eroded areas, the improvement of streams all contribute to the building up of wildlife populations."

Speaking specifically of waterfowl needs, Mr. Day said, "Today there are more hunters, less birds, and less living space for the ducks and geese. The essential habitat that produces ducks and geese must be preserved at a rate greater than it is destroyed. The waterfowl program is in competition with a host of other uses of land and water and if the resource is to be preserved, conservationists must be willing to pay competitive prices."

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