

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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## INTERIOR ANNOUNCES STUDY OF MIGRATORY BIRD BAITING REGULATIONS

A special study group is examining the possible need for revisions in federal baiting regulations on hunting of migratory birds, the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today.

The group is headed by W. Darlington Denit of Cambridge, Md., a retired official of the Interior Department, who formerly headed the Department's Office of Survey and Review.

Baiting--the use of feed to lure migratory birds to an area where they may be shot--has been illegal for 34 years. The regulations have been a source of discontent to hunters, many of whom are uncertain about what constitutes baiting.

The only grains or other feed over which it is presently legal to hunt are those scattered by normal agricultural planting or harvesting. But changed methods of corn picking and other new agricultural technologies have made a precise and uniform definition of "normal" farming operations difficult.

In describing the study, Bureau Director John S. Gottschalk said: "We must have adequate protection for migratory game birds, and we hope that regulations accomplishing this goal can be made more easily understandable while at the same time being equally fair to all areas."

He said the study group will focus attention on this dual objective and report its recommendations in the next six months.

Serving with Chairman Denit are:

Walter L. Mims, Birmingham, Alabama, vice president of the National Wildlife Federation.

Arthur L. Darnsteadt, West Lake, Louisiana, president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

William E. Rollow, Washington, D. C., attorney.

John A. Biggs, Olympia, Washington, director of the Washington Department of Game.

Hon. Thomas J. McBride, Sacramento, California, chief federal judge, Eastern District of California.

Lawrence R. Jahn, Horicon, Wisconsin, field representative for the Wildlife Management Institute.

Walter Rush, Naples, Florida, trustee for Ducks Unlimited.

W. Mason Lawrence, Albany, New York, president of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

Anthony Higgins, Wilmington, Delaware, associate editor, News-Journal papers.

Frank E. Masland, Jr., Carlisle, Pennsylvania, manufacturer and conservationist.

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