

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO SEND MORE BIRDS NORTH NEXT YEAR

"Hunters can expect about the same number of ducks and geese as last fall," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Lynn Greenwalt said today, "but hunting will probably be better because the fall flight will include more young birds."

He explained that the breeding population of mallards was down last spring, but good brood success made up for the deficiency.

Director Greenwalt made these observations following the annual meeting of the Waterfowl Advisory Committee held in Washington, D.C., on August 6. The public meeting was attended by representatives of the four flyway councils, the National Waterfowl Council, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and a number of national conservation organizations including the Audubon Society, Wildlife Management Institute, International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the Wildlife Society, Ducks Unlimited, and others.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for those interested in waterfowl management to express their views on hunting regulations for the upcoming season.

The regulations proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service are based upon exhaustive surveys of the breeding grounds plus information from band recoveries, harvest surveys and other sources of statistical data, including information provided by Ducks Unlimited and other conservation organizations. The regulations reflect goals established by the Service to increase duck populations, especially mallards, black ducks, canvasbacks and redheads.

"Our objective," Greenwalt said, "is to increase the number of breeders returning to the Canadian prairies to nest next spring. Habitat conditions are expected to be favorable in 1975 and we want to take advantage of that situation."

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