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PROTECT FISH HATCHERIES FROM BIRDS.

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Washington, D. C. The Secretary of Agriculture has issued an order, effective October 24, 1919, permitting the shooting or trapping of grebes, loons, gulls and terns, mergansers and certain species of the heron family, including the bittern, great blue heron, little blue heron, green heron, and black-crowned night heron, by owners, superintendents, and bona fide employees of public or private fish hatcheries throughout the United States and Alaska where these birds are injurious to and destructive of fishes at the hatcheries. All of the above-named birds are given protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, approved by the President July 3, 1918, but the Secretary of Agriculture may permit them to be killed when, upon investigation, they are found to be seriously injurious to agricultural or other interests. After thorough investigations at a number of fish hatcheries in various sections of the country, it was concluded that protection against these birds was necessary for the preservation of the fishes at the hatcheries.

The order is very definite and provides that every bird killed or trapped pursuant to the permission contained therein and every part of such bird, including the plumage and feathers, shall be totally destroyed as promptly as possible, and shall not be possessed, transported, or shipped in any manner outside of the grounds and waters of the hatchery where killed or trapped, except for the purpose of destruction, provided that such birds or parts thereof may be shipped or transported as a gift to public museums and public scientific and educational institutions. Provision is made that all packages containing such birds or parts thereof so shipped or transported shall be clearly marked, so that the name and address of the shipper and the nature of the contents may be readily ascertained on an inspection of the outside thereof.

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