



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



Release - Immediate.

August 25, 1927.

REEDBIRD SEASON CLOSED

Bobolinks, known in the Southeast as reed-birds and ricebirds, can not be hunted legally during the coming fall. In 1919, owing to the depredations of reedbirds on rice crops in the South, permission was granted by the Secretary of Agriculture, under authority of the migratory-bird treaty act, administered by the Biological Survey, to kill these birds in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida for the protection of rice growers. This permission has been revoked. The penalty provided for violation of the law is a fine of not to exceed \$500, or imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both.

Under a revised order, a person or members of his immediate family or bona-fide employees, owning or leasing lands in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, or Florida on which rice is being grown, may shoot reed-birds only when authorized by a special permit issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and countersigned by the chief official in charge of the enforcement of the fish and game laws of the State in which the permit is effective, and only during the period from August 16 to November 15, inclusive, on rice-fields where such birds are seriously injuring the crops. The birds so killed may be consumed as food but may not be sold.

###

153-28