



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

June 22, 1936

ACT APPROVED TO PUT
WILDLIFE TREATY WITH
MEXICO INTO EFFECT

New Law Reinforces and Extends
Federal Authority over Birds,
Says Biological Survey

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Federal authority over migratory birds will be reinforced and extended by an Act of Congress approved Saturday (June 20) by President Roosevelt, says the Biological Survey.

The new law is designed to make effective in this country a convention between the United States and Mexico for the protection of migratory birds and game mammals. This convention was signed February 7, 1936, by the Honorable Josephus Daniels, American ambassador to Mexico, and the Honorable Eduardo Hay, Foreign Minister of Mexico. Also active in the negotiations were Major E. A. Goldman, of the Biological Survey, and Senor Ing. Miguel Angel de Quevodo and Senor Juan Zinser of the Mexican Department of Forestry, Game and Fish. The U. S. Senate on April 30 advised and consented to ratification of the treaty. Ratification by Mexico is yet to follow, and the new law will take effect upon proclamation of the exchange of ratifications.

Federal authority over migratory birds has heretofore depended on the Migratory Bird Treaty with Great Britain. The new treaty reinforces this authority by providing for a dual basis for the Federal regulations conserving ducks, geese, and other migrants.

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The Mexican treaty also provides for Federal protection of several species not specified in the agreement with Great Britain. These species include horned larks, blackbirds, grackles, cowbirds, mockingbirds, thrashers, phainopeplas, buntings, finches, and sparrows. Many species that cross the Mexican border do not reach Canada. Provision has also been made in the new treaty for the future inclusion of other migratory species "which the Presidents of the United States of America and Mexico may determine by common agreement".

The treaty with Mexico also provides that game mammals, as well as migratory birds, may not be transported, dead or alive, over the Mexican border without a permit from the government of each country.

Other provisions of the agreement with Mexico include the limitation of migratory-bird hunting to a maximum of 4 months, under permit; closing the season on ducks in both countries from March 10 to September 1; and establishment of refuge zones in which the taking of migratory birds will be prohibited.

Following ratification, by both countries, the new convention "shall remain in force for 15 years and shall be understood to be extended from year to year if the high contracting parties have not indicated 12 months in advance their intention to terminate it."

The Act of Congress approved by the President provides for the amendment of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 to make the law applicable to the treaty with Mexico as well as to that with Great Britain. The amended act also authorizes the appropriation of Federal funds for putting into effect the treaties and acts and regulations ~~thereunder~~, for cooperating with local authorities in the protection of migratory birds, and for making necessary investigations.

Families of birds are specified in the Mexican treaty as follows:

Migratory game birds: Anatidae (swans, ducks, geese); Rallidae (rails, gallinules, and coots); Scolopacidae (woodcock, snipe, and sandpipers); Phalaropodidae (phalaropes); Gruidae (cranes); Charadriidae (plovers, turnstones, and surf-birds); Recurvirostridae (avocets and stilts); Columbidae (pigeons and doves).

Migratory nongame birds: Cuculidae (cuckoos, roadrunners, and anis); Micropodidae (swifts); Picidae (woodpeckers); Alaudidae (lards); Paridae (titmice, verdins, and bush-tits); Troglodytidae (wrens); Mimidae (mocking-birds and thrashers); Motacillidae (wagtails and pipits); Ptilogonatidae (silky flycatchers); Vireonidae (vireos); Ict~~er~~idae (meadow larks, blackbirds, and troupials); Fringillidae (grosbeaks, finches, sparrows, and buntings); Caprimulgidae (goatsuckers); Trochilidae (hummingbirds); Tyrannidae (tyrant flycatchers); Hirundinidae (swallows); Certhiidae (creepers); Turdidae (thrushes, bluebirds, stonechats, and solitaires); Sylviidae (warblers, gnatcatchers, and kinglets); Bombycillidae (waxwings); Laniidae (shrikes); Compothlypidae (wood warblers); Thraupidae (tanagers).