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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MEXICAN GAME CHIEF JOINS WATERFOWL SURVEY

Ing. Luis Macias A., chief of the Mexican Game Department, has joined U. S. biologist Robert Smith and pilot John Ball on a waterfowl survey covering the important waterfowl areas of Mexico, Albert M. Day, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service informed Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman today.

The aerial survey in Mexico is part of the 16th annual inventory of the North American waterfowl resources which is now under-way. Important wintering grounds from Alaska to Guatemala, including the large West Indies islands, are covered by the annual population estimate. International treaties with Mexico and Canada facilitate the management of migratory waterfowl.

Senor Macias joined the inventory crew at Tampico, January 10. From there, the twin-engined Beechcraft plane left to survey the waterfowl wintering areas— principally along the coast.

Director Day commented that the interest shown by Senor Macias was "further evidence of the progress made in cooperation between the Mexican Game Department and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to solve our mutual waterfowl management problems."

Senor Macias was a guest of the Fish and Wildlife Service last year while spending three months in the United States. He inspected the operation at Service refuges and hatcheries, principally on the West Coast and in the North Central States.

Last year, Director Day visited Mexico in connection with joint U. S. and Mexican problems on conservation. Upon his return, he stated that although Mexican citizens shot no more than 5 percent as many ducks and geese as were taken in the U. S., the Mexican wildlife officials were showing interest and efficiency in solving waterfowl management problems. Most of Mexico's best waterfowl wintering grounds are so inaccessible to hunters, he said, that they constitute excellent natural refuges for the birds.

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