

Game Birds Increase under Migratory Birds Convention Act

WITH FEW exceptions migratory game fowl have increased to a marked degree in Canada during the past season according to reports received by Commissioner J. B. Harkin, of the Canadian National Parks, from migratory bird officers and wardens all over the Dominion. In the East owing to the heavy rainfall and late breeding season certain species did not hatch with as great success as in previous years, but the Western provinces report increases in practically all species.

A remarkable feature of the census being taken of the increase of bird life under the Migratory Birds Convention Act is the widespread increase in Black ducks. All over the Dominion there appear to be unprecedented numbers of these birds and in some sections of New Brunswick especially they are reported to have appeared in exceptional flocks on the rivers and inland retreats. Cormorants, gulls, terns, cranes, Canada geese, brant and plovers have also shown marked increases while in certain sections Eider duck have returned to breeding grounds heretofore abandoned.

Nova Scotia also reports an increase in its waterfowl although the heavy rains in certain sections caused the loss of many eggs and young. However, in other parts large broods were successfully reared, one duck being noticed with as many as twenty-four ducklings. A similar increase is reported from Prince Edward Island.

In Quebec the Eider ducks did not do as well, in many localities no broods being raised owing to the unseasonable weather. However, all other species of waterfowl hatched successfully.

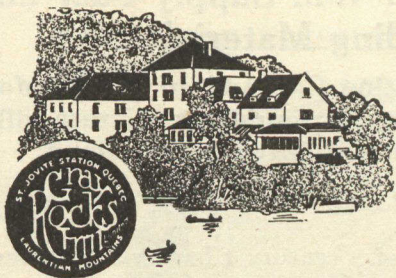
In Ontario as well as in the other Eastern provinces shorebirds are scarce. Black ducks, mallards, Green-winged teals, mergansers, loons and wood ducks have been seen in large numbers.

All through the West migratory birds show an increase, with the waterfowl leading the way. In Manitoba mallards and Black duck are abundant, while in Saskatchewan geese have been seen in large numbers. Alberta's wild fowl is also doing well, while British Columbia is expected to report a good season.

GEORGIA LOSING ITS BEST LAND

The State geologist of Georgia has been writing about the conditions of deforestation and erosion in his country. He says that the farm land is now "going to sea" in consequence of the land being cleared of wood. Great areas of land that fifty years ago were fertile cotton fields are now huge barren gullies. Thousands of acres, he says, have been made worthless for agricultural purposes. Data has been collected during the last twenty years, and it is stated on the basis of that information that every day the Savannah river is carrying to the sea more than 135 car loads of soil-wash.

There is another consideration. Domestic water supply comes largely from the rains that sink into the ground and are there stored for the use of man. Deforestation and the resulting flow of rain in eroding rivers over the land surface mean a reduction in the storage of water underneath the surface. For this reason also it is bad policy to cut all the wood; and it is good policy to practice reforestation.



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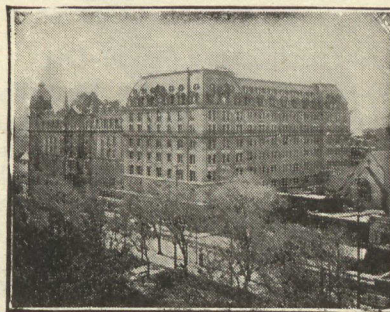
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