

providing for: (1) a close season on migratory game birds from March 10th to September 1st, with the exception given; (2) an open season of three and one half months; and (3) a close season throughout the year on insectivorous birds. The open season of three and one-half months may be fixed anywhere between September 1 and March 10 to suit the local conditions. The restriction of the open season on wild-fowl to three and one-half months will involve in some provinces a shortening of the present open season, but in view of the objects of the treaty and the experience that such restriction in the United States is increasing the supply of birds, this change will undoubtedly meet with the support of sportsmen desirous of preventing the continued decrease in the numbers of wild fowl.

The conclusion of this convention constitutes the most important and far-reaching measure ever taken in the history of bird protection. Some years ago efforts were made to secure

the international protection of birds in Europe, but while the general movement towards better protection for insectivorous birds was thereby furthered, the requisite co-operation on the part of all the countries interested was hampered by inactivity on the part of some of the governments and a considerable diversity of interests and opinion. Fortunately many of these difficulties do not exist in North America, and in the United States and Canada there is an ever-growing sentiment in favour of preserving what is left of our former wealth of wild life which has been so seriously depleted by improvidence in the past. This international measure will affect over one thousand species and subspecies of birds from the Gulf of Mexico to the north pole, and we may confidently look forward to not merely a cessation of the decrease, but to an increase of our migratory birds which are so valuable a national asset.