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A COMPARISON OF THE GAME LAWS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

The growing scarcity of many of our game birds and quadrupeds is a matter of great interest to sportsmen, all of whom should unite in their efforts to prevent this diminution. That the extension of the period of our close seasons would be of great benefit, we do not think will be denied, and no true sportsman should object to a curtailment of his privileges, in this respect, when the object to be attained will ultimately be the means of providing him with increased pleasure. There is a marked difference in the protection afforded by the Game Laws of Ontario and Quebec, and the assimilation of some of the close seasons could not fail to be of benefit to this Province.

A synopsis of the Game Laws of the two Provinces shows the close seasons to be as follows:—

	ONTARIO.	QUEBEC.
Deer and Caribou..	15 Dec. to 1 Oct.	1 Feb. to 1 Sept.
Moose.....	do	do
Grouse (Partridge), &c. }	1 Jan. to 1 Sept.	1 March to 1 Sept.
Wild Turkey and Quail }	1 Jan. to 1 Oct.	
Woodcock.....	1 Jan. to 1 Aug.	1 March to 1 Sept.
Snipe.....	1 Jan. to 15 Aug.	1 March to 1 Sept.
Mallard, Gray Duck } Black Duck, Wood } Duck }	1 Jan. to 15 Aug.	West of Three Rivers 1 May to 1 Sept. East of Three Rivers
Other Ducks.....	1 May to 15 Aug.	do
Swans and Geese...	do	15 May to 1 Sept.

Thus, in Ontario, Virginian deer and Moose are protected from 15th December, although the open season is one month later than in Quebec, the wisdom of this is apparent from the fact that these animals fall an easy prey to the hunter in winter, especially in the month of January, when the deep snow and the crust formed by the frost and sun, prevent their escape; the Caribou, however, from its lighter weight and the peculiar

formation of its hoofs is enabled to move very rapidly through deep snow, and is seldom run down by the hunter. Ruffed Grouse are protected from 1st of January in Ontario, while our open season extends until 1st March; the long winter affording the *habitant* an opportunity to try his hand at snaring, as he has seldom anything else to occupy him at this time of year. It is well known that the greater number of these birds with which our markets are supplied, are procured by this means, and it is hardly possible to obviate this, except by making winter a close season. Ruffed Grouse are very easily snared, and to the depredations of the market hunters alone, must the scarcity of these birds be attributed. The Fish and Game Societies of the Province of Quebec have been endeavouring to obtain an amendment to the Act for the Protection of Game, prohibiting the spring shooting of ducks. This is a much needed reform, as from a statement submitted by the Secretary of the Montreal Club, no less a number than 1000 brace of Black Duck were exposed for sale in the Montreal markets last spring. These birds, as well as Mallard, Wood Duck, &c., are protected during the spring in Ontario, and we cannot understand how our Government should tolerate such a destruction in the breeding season. If our legislators are not sportsmen, they should, at least, have a slight knowledge of political economy, and recognize that game is one of the resources of the country, which should be conserved like any other product. A bill to abolish spring shooting was presented last session, but owing to the opposition which it received, was withdrawn; we trust, however, it will not be abandoned and that when again presented, both parties in the House may unite in passing this much needed amendment. The great difficulty with all game laws is to secure their proper observance, especially in remote sections of the