

DUCK DECLINE CONTINUES

The continued decline in the number of ducks on the Prairies has resulted in a further reduction in bag and possession limits in the Prairie Provinces, according to the 1962 Migratory Bird Regulations, just released by the Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Elsewhere, generally speaking, the limits remain about the same as in 1961.

Although prairie water conditions are now slightly better than during the summer of 1961, the improvement came too late to materially affect brood production on the nesting grounds.

BAG LIMITS

In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, the daily bag limit for ducks has been reduced from 5 to 4 and the possession limit from 10 to 8. The limits for geese have been reduced in Alberta from 5 and 10 to 4 and 8. The daily bag limit for geese may not contain more than 3 white-fronts and not more than 6 may be possessed. The bag limit for rails, coots, and gallinules has been reduced in the Prairie Provinces from 5 to 4 and the possession limit from 10 to 8.

Populations of canvasback and redhead ducks remain dangerously low. For this reason there will be no open season this year for those species in five of the provinces where they occur - the three Prairie Provinces, Ontario, and Quebec. The Canadian Wildlife Service has indicated that, even with an immediate and continued improvement in nesting conditions, it would require several years for duck populations to reach a level where hunting would not seriously affect the breeding stock.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, with the cooperation of provincial game departments, is supplying hunting-licence vendors with descriptive folders on canvasbacks and redheads, and hunters are being urged through press, television and radio to be particularly careful not to shoot the two species.

DECOY PROHIBITION

Anyone who has a permit to possess migratory birds must not keep or allow the birds to approach within a quarter of a mile of any waterfowl-hunting area during the open season. If migratory birds held under permit are found within that limit, it is assumed under the law that they are being used as live decoys.

Hunters in New Brunswick may now use a powerboat to recover a dead or injured migratory bird within 200 yards of the spot from which it was shot. As in Quebec, it is now legal in New Brunswick for hunters to possess loaded firearms when recovering ducks within this 200-yard limit.

Hunters in Quebec and British Columbia may now possess an additional 12 ducks besides the regular possession limit, provided they are stored at home or in cold-storage lockers.

The regulations contain further good news for waterfowl hunters in Quebec and Ontario. Improved wood-duck conditions have made possible an increase in limits in those provinces. The daily bag limit

remains at 2 but the possession limit has been increased to 4. Hunters in Ontario and Quebec will also be able to increase their daily bag limit on and after October 27 by taking 2 additional scaup or goldeneye ducks. After that date, the possession limit is increased by 4 of either species.

ESTIMATED POPULATION

The estimated population of Canada at the beginning of the third quarter of 1962 was 18,600,000, an increase of 331,000 or 1.8 per cent since July 1, 1961, and 362,000 or 2.0 per cent since the Census of July 1, 1961. The largest quarterly increase was 94,000 between April 1 and July 1 of this year. The other quarterly increases were 88,000 between July 1 and October 1, 1961, 77,000 between October 1, 1961, and January 1, 1962, and the smallest, 74,000, between January 1 and April 1 this year.

Quebec had the largest increase since July 1, 1961, at 109,000. Ontario was second, with an increase of 104,000. Alberta was third with a 38,000 increase. However, this was the highest percentage increase at 2.9 per cent, compared to 2.1 per cent for Quebec and 1.7 per cent for Ontario. British Columbia increased 31,000 or 1.9 per cent in the year ending July 1, 1962. Manitoba increased by 13,000 or 1.4 per cent, Newfoundland by 12,000 or 2.6 per cent, New Brunswick by 9,000 or 1.5 per cent, Nova Scotia by 8,000 or 1.0 per cent, Saskatchewan by 5,000 or 0.5 per cent, and Prince Edward Island by 1,000 or 0.9 per cent.

JAPANESE LIVESTOCK MISSION

A Japanese livestock mission visited Canada as guests of the Canadian Government from August 20 to September 2. The six-man mission was composed of Japanese governmental livestock experts, officials of livestock associations in Japan and an agricultural journalist.

The decision to invite this mission to Canada was based on the knowledge that the Japanese Government was endeavouring to develop the Japanese livestock and poultry industries by the importation of high-quality breeding stock. Mission members were shown the quality of livestock and poultry available in Canada. It is expected that, as a result of their reports, the Japanese Government and livestock industry will look to Canada as an ideal source of supply for livestock and poultry.

TOUR DETAILS

The mission began its tour on August 20 at Ottawa, where discussions were held with the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. James A. Roberts, and officials of the Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Commerce. From August 21 to August 25, visits were made to dairy and beef cattle herds, to poultry-breeding establishments and to an artificial-insemination unit in Southwestern Ontario. August 22 and 23 were spent at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, where the mission members saw some of Canada's finest livestock as well as other agricultural exhibits.

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