

MORE THAN 240 NEW GAME LAWS

Much Legislation to Protect Birds and Big Game; Follow Pennsylvania's Lead

Washington, Nov. 11.—More than 240 new game laws were enacted during 1915—a larger number than in any previous year except 1911, according to Farmers' Bulletin 692, "Game Laws for 1915."

Regular legislative sessions were held in 43 States, and in all of these, except Arizona, Georgia and Nebraska, some changes were made in the statutes protecting game.

The largest number of new game laws passed in any one State was 61, in North Carolina; but in California, Connecticut, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin the number reached 19 or more.

A number of bills were introduced for the purpose of harmonizing the State migratory bird laws with the Federal regulations. In at least nine States changes were made which brought the seasons into substantial agreement.

Uniformity was also secured by provisions in the law of Connecticut, Maine, New Mexico, North Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin, prohibiting hunting between sunset and sunrise.

On the other hand, Delaware adopted a resolution opposing the migratory bird law, and Ohio and Rhode Island, which had harmonized their seasons in 1914, changed the seasons on waterfowl this year.

Follow Pennsylvania's Lead on Aliens As a result of the decision of the supreme court of the United States on January 19, 1914, sustaining the alien hunting law of Pennsylvania, legislation prohibiting aliens from hunting or owning shotguns or rifles was enacted in at least four States.

Close seasons extending for several years were provided for certain kinds of big game and also for game birds. Hunting mountain sheep was suspended in Idaho, Montana and Washington, and goats were protected until 1918 in Montana.

Moose were protected for four years in Maine, the first absolute close season on this species for 25 years—since the suspension of hunting, from 1878 to 1880. Antelope were given indefinite protection in New Mexico and Montana.

In Michigan, New Mexico and Oklahoma, prairie chickens were protected for several years. Michigan extended complete protection also to quail, imported pheasants, grouse and wood ducks for five years.

Methods of hunting were restricted in Michigan by prohibiting the use of automobiles in hunting partridges, and in Indiana by prohibiting the use of searchlights or other artificial lights attached to autos for hunting game on or near a highway.

Several new restrictions on shipments appeared for the first time. Illinois prohibited importation from points outside the State of any game except deer legally killed. Pennsylvania prohibited shipment of game by parcel post, and Wisconsin authorized the commissioners of fisheries and game to grant permits to bring in game lawfully killed outside the State, provided such game is not offered for sale.

Notwithstanding the agitation in favor of protecting quail for several years in some sections, no bills of this kind were passed this year, and 29 States still provide quail shooting. The seasons were shortened six weeks in Oklahoma and two weeks in Nevada. Limits were established for the first time in Arkansas and New Hampshire, reduced in Iowa from 25 to 15 per day, in Oklahoma from 25 to 10, and in Minnesota from 15 to 20. All but 14 of the States which permit quail hunting now have a limit of 20 birds or less per day.

Waterfowl All the States now allow waterfowl hunting, but the wood duck is protected for several years throughout the Northern zone, and in the Southern zone in the States of California, Kansas and West Virginia. Daily bag limits were established for the first time in Arkansas and Connecticut, reduced in Oklahoma from 25 to 10, and increased in Missouri from 10 to 15. Most of the States now have a limit of 25 or less per day.

Open Seasons Open seasons were lengthened in Montana on elk and deer two weeks; in Florida on deer and birds three weeks; in Minnesota on quail 20 days; and in Nevada on sage hens four and a half months, on grouse one month, and on quail two weeks. New Jersey reverted to the former plan of hunting deer on four consecutive Wednesdays, instead of five consecutive days. Seasons were shortened in a number of States. In the case of big game the deer season was curtailed in Arkansas three months, in Oregon and Washington two weeks. In New Mexico the seasons were generally shortened and arranged in two districts divided at latitude 35 degrees. In California the dove season was made later, and in Minnesota shortened 20

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ownership of game is vested in the respective counties; the provision in the California law protecting spike bucks, or deer with unbranched horns, instead of deer with horns of a certain length and the Wyoming experiment of allowing the killing of 50 bull moose under \$100 licenses instead of an indefinite number during a limited season.

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sin. Pennsylvania requires that deer killed shall have horns two inches above the hair. New York and Vermont at least three inches long, and West Virginia four inches long, while California prohibits entirely the killing of spike bucks.

Under present conditions deer hunting is permitted in 35 States, in about one-third of which the hunter is limited to one deer a season, and in most of the others to two. Eighteen States protect deer at all seasons and allow only bucks to be killed—namely, Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Practically every town and village within twenty-five miles of Harrisburg will be represented at the joint concert to be given this evening in Chestnut Street Auditorium by the New York Symphony Orchestra, Walter Damrosch, conductor, and Mischa Elman, the great Russian violinist.

The numbers on to-night's program will be the Fifth Beethoven Symphony. Elman will play his \$10,000 Strad to-night, and has promised to play an encore several of his own compositions and those that have made him loved by all owners of talking machines, who buy his records in numbers sufficient to give Elman \$100,000

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