

distributed by our wardens and members of the associations, and the birds survived with very few perishing.

The farmers generally are very choice of the covies that are located on their premises, as they have proven their value to the agriculturist in



BOB WHITE

destroying potato bugs and other destructive insects. Consequently the quail have a generous friend in the farmer and a thrifty spirit of coöperation is redounding greatly to the benefit of the quail.

DUCKS.

We view with optimism the future of all of our waterfowl. The Federal Migratory Bird law has thrown around them that degree of protection that in its scope guarantees their protection throughout the United States. The few years that this law has been in effect has proven the wisdom of its passage in a large increase in the number of birds coming to Wisconsin. Our wardens report that it has been many years since the influx

of birds has been as great as this year, and many are making the lake regions of the northern part of the state their nesting grounds. Since the enactment of the proper kind of state and Federal laws for their protection, there has been noted everywhere a marked increase compared to the decline noted when unregulated hunting was allowed.

In our judgment it should not be the purpose of any restrictive law to make it so unreasonable as to preclude the possibility of the sportsmen bagging a legitimate limit. And in discussing this question we do not want to be understood as favoring a law that will open up the way for wholesale slaughter, but we do believe that the present law restricting the hours to a "sunrise and sunset" schedule is drawing the line a little too close. In our judgment this law could be extended to 20 minutes before sunrise and 20 minutes after sunset without infringing upon the safety in proper protection. Our very best sportsmen who are as strongly in favor of proper protection as any member of this commission and who are giving us most valuable assistance in the enforcement of the game laws, contend that our present law is too restrictive and should be changed as suggested above.

Wood duck are responding to the closed season provided for them six years ago and are coming back in large numbers. Our wardens report large flocks of them in every part of the state where a few years ago they were seldom seen. Mallards, teal, canvasbacks, redhead, pintail and coots are found in large numbers throughout the watered districts of the state.

So we feel safe in saying that our waterfowl are on the increase and they will continue to be a great source of pleasure and profit to all that enjoy the sport of hunting.

GEESE.

Geese have never been considered much of an asset to the sportsmen of Wisconsin. This is easily accounted for, as geese only light in a wide open space of country where their vision is not restricted. Their instinct of avoiding danger is much more keen than that of the other species. They adhere assiduously to nature's warning that self preservation is the first law of nature, and they take no chances. The only places in Wisconsin where any shooting of geese is reported is in Jefferson, Dane, Rock and Walworth counties. They frequently, while on their flight south, light in the open fields of these counties and some of our sportsmen usually wait their coming and occasionally bag a few of them; but these instances are rare.

THE FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD LAW.

The Federal Migratory Bird law which directs the Department of Agriculture to adopt suitable regulations and prescribe a fixed open and closed season for migratory birds has done more to conserve the migratory birds than all the laws ever passed by any of the states since the necessity for passing protective game laws was conceived. The game laws which