

coys. Ducks hatched from eggs taken from the wild mallard's nest and raised among the domestic ducks and chickens show few or no indications of wildness in their behavior. The second and succeeding generations are even less wild. As a precaution against flight, clipping of the wings frequently is resorted to, but instances are common of the birds making no attempt at flight even though the wings remain unclipped. At McCook lake, S. D., in the spring of 1919, wild ducks were decoyed into a farmer's dooryard by a flock of domesticated mallards and took their departure without any of the home grown birds accompanying them.

The incident of the Massachusetts mallard shows that under the proper conditions of temptation and environment the species hatched and reared in captivity will heed the call of the wild and return to the ways of its kind.

A. F. ALLEN.

Sioux City, Ia., Nov. 14, 1919.

ORDER PERMITTING THE KILLING OR TRAPPING OF CERTAIN BIRDS, AT FISH HATCHERIES, FOUND TO BE INJURIOUS TO VALUABLE FISH LIFE.

Information having been furnished the Secretary of Agriculture that grebes, loons, gulls and terns, mergansers and certain species of the heron have become, under extraordinary conditions, seriously injurious to and destructive of fishes at fish hatcheries in the United States and Alaska, and an investigation having been made to determine the nature and the extent of the injury complained of, and whether the birds alleged to be doing the damage should be killed, and, if so, during what times and by what means, and it having been determined by the Secretary of Agriculture that the birds above mentioned have become, under extraordinary conditions, seriously injurious to and destructive of fishes at fish hatcheries in the United States and Alaska, and that such birds found committing the damage should be destroyed:

Now, therefore, I, D. F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to authority in me vested by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918, and agreeably to Regulation 10 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Regulations approved and proclaimed July 31, 1918, do hereby order that the owner or superintendent, or a bona fide employee of a public or private fish hatchery in the United States or in Alaska, for the purpose of protecting the fishes at such hatchery, may shoot or trap the following birds at any time on the grounds and waters of such hatchery:

Grebes (*Colymbidæ*), locally also called water-witches or hell-divers.

Loons (*Gaviidæ*).

Gulls and Terns (*Laridæ*), the latter commonly also called sea swallows.

Mergansers (*Merginæ*), commonly also called sheldrakes or fish-ducks, and the following species of the heron family (*Ardeidæ*):

Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), locally also called shitepoke, stake-driver, thunder-pump, etc.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), locally also called blue crane, Poor Joe, cranky, etc.

Little Blue Heron (*Florida carulea*), locally also called scoggins.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), locally also called shitepoke, fly-up-the-creek, scouck, etc.

Black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*), also known as gros bec, quawk, qua-bird, etc.

Every bird killed or trapped pursuant to the permission contained in this order, and every part thereof, including the plumage and feathers, shall be totally destroyed as promptly as possible, and shall not be possessed, transported or shipped in any manner outside of the grounds and waters of the hatchery where killed or trapped, except for the purpose of destruction as herein directed; *provided*, however, that such birds or parts thereof may be shipped or transported, as a gift but not for sale, to public museums and public scientific and educational institutions, and all packages containing such birds or parts thereof so shipped or transported shall be plainly and clearly marked so that the name and address of the shipper and the nature of the contents may be readily ascertained on an inspection of the outside thereof.

(Signed) D. F. HOUSTON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

October 24, 1919.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL AT TOPEKA, KANS.

There have been an unusual number of American Crossbills here this winter, both on the campus of Washburn College, and along the wooded streams in this region. Probably associated with these, although not seen in the immediate vicinity of the flock, Mrs. Gunthorp was so fortunate as to observe a single male of the White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) on the campus, about one hundred feet from the Ladies' dormitory in a cedar tree, on the afternoon of January 15, last, and on the following afternoon she saw both the male and female within a short distance of the place where the first observation was made, this time in a cedar tree also. Both days Mrs. Gunthorp studied them for some time through opera glasses and the male sang repeatedly. I know of