

RESUME OF WATERFOWL PANEL DISCUSSION

E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, Moderator

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On 2 November a waterfowl panel discussion was held in the Jung Hotel, New Orleans, as a part of the program of the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners. Panel members were Dr. George Saunders, USFWS; Richard Yancey, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; Yates Barber, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; and E. B. Chamberlain, Jr., Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Moderator.

Dr. Saunders opened the discussion with a report on Pittman-Robertson waterfowl projects being conducted in the Southeast. He and Mr. Addy, USFWS, also discussed the proposed winter banding program for the southeastern states. The states were allotted quotas of birds which it is hoped can be met, based on the average mid-winter inventory figures. Originally it was expected that the northern states might contribute personnel to assist, but such help now appears unlikely.

Mr. Barber described his work during the summer, when he assisted in operating a banding station in the north, and clearly showed the advantages which thus accrue to the southeastern states, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the breeding ground states.

Mr. Yancey excellently discussed the question of what benefits the states get from flyway council participation. On this and on the other subjects there were numerous comments and questions from the floor.

The question of the formulation of waterfowl regulations for the 1954 - 55 season, especially the bonus bag on scaup, was posed by the moderator. Various aspects of the matter were discussed by Mr. Addy, Mr. Finley, and Dr. Saunders, all of the Fish and Wildlife Service. It appeared that the Service felt greater scaup would be harvested if the plan were extended southward. No conclusive data to support this were presented, nor were any data offered to show that lesser scaup should not be more heavily harvested.