As early as mid-November, the number of ducks in Louisiana revealed that wintering flights would be above the 10-year average. This in itself shows that Louisiana's waterfowlers again have been unnecessarily deprived of enjoying one of the State's great traditional outdoor sports.

Massive concentrations of ducks in Louisiana alone indicate that a serious underestimation of waterfowl populations was again made by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as was the case in determining the 1962 duck hunting season.

Had the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service followed the advice of the Mississippi Flyway Council which requested a 40-day season, with a daily bag limit of four ducks and a possession limit of eight, hunters would have had a reasonable season without endangering brood stock necessary to maintain and perpetuate the sport of duck hunting.

On the contrary, the federal service ignored the recommendations of the Mississippi Flyway Council which were endorsed by the other Flyway Councils and the National Waterfowl Advisory Council. This resulted in the most curtailed duck hunting season in the history of waterfowling. It is anticipated that this has brought about another decrease in the sale of duck stamps; and seriously cut down public support for programs directed toward preserving and improving waterfowl habitat in both wintering and nesting grounds.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission submitted a formal protest to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the drastically curtailed 1962 waterfowl hunting season. The resolution of protest was adopted September 25th at the regularly-scheduled open meeting of the Commission.

AN ABUNDANCE — Wintering waterfowl concentrations of this type can be found in hundreds of places throughout the coastal marshes of Louisiana. This photograph was taken in southwest Louisiana November 14, 1962. Additional migrations of ducks were reported moving south from the nesting areas at that time to swell the already great concentrations of waterfowl.

Ducks in Louisiana — 1962

(Editors Note: Because of the duck hunting usually enjoyed in Vermilion parish, this article from the Louisiana Conservationist, is reproduced to help spread its information.)

Concentrations of ducks in Louisiana throughout the fall and early winter months indicate that another serious mistake was made by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in formulating duck hunting regulations for 1962-63. The large numbers of ducks present in the state indicate that the regulations established were entirely too restrictive.

Passage of the resolution of protest was made when it became obvious that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service had again made a grave error in estimating the number of ducks making up the continental populations.