

# SENATE . . . . No. 146

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To accompany the petition of the Middlesex County League of Sportsmen's Clubs Inc., by Harold W. Morrill, legislative agent, that provision be made for a closed season on all birds and mammals during certain periods. Conservation.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight.

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### AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A CLOSED SEASON ON ALL BIRDS AND MAMMALS DURING CERTAIN PERIODS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 131 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 chapter 599 of the acts of 1941, is hereby amended  
3 by inserting after section 53 a new section which shall  
4 read as follows:—

5 *Section 53A.* The period between September first  
6 and twelve o'clock noon on October twentieth inclusive  
7 of each year shall be a close season on all birds and  
8 mammals; and during this period no person shall  
9 hunt or take any bird or mammal nor shall he carry  
10 on his person any firearm adapted to hunting, in-  
11 cluding an air rifle, in any place where birds or mam-  
12 mals might be found; provided, that this section  
13 shall not prohibit an owner or occupant of land from  
14 protecting his property as provided in this chapter

15 nor to prohibit the possession or use of said firearms  
16 at recognized rifle range, skeet or trap field or the  
17 transporting of said firearms to and from, if the  
18 firearms are dismantled or in a carrying case while  
19 passing through brushland, woods or fields. This  
20 section shall not prohibit the hunting of scoter ducks  
21 (commonly called sea coot) on open coastal waters  
22 during and in accordance with the prescribed open  
23 season, nor the carrying of shotguns for same, to and  
24 from a boat if taken apart or enclosed in carrying  
25 case, nor the hunting of raccoons and opossums dur-  
26 ing and in accordance with the prescribed open season  
27 between the hours of one half hour after sunset to  
28 one half hour before sunrise by the aid or use of dog  
29 or dogs, provided that no firearm other than a re-  
30 volver or pistol not larger than thirty-eight calibre  
31 is used or possessed.