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MANY VIOLATORS OF TREATY ACT
APPREHENDED BY FEDERAL WARDENS

The past few months have seen a number of noteworthy instances of retribution to violators of the migratory-bird treaty act, through the efforts of Federal game wardens employed by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. These men literally take their lives in their own hands in the performance of their duties and incur the enmity of many a person who has little respect for the law and for what its observance may mean for shooting in the future.

The vigilance of one Federal game warden, assisted by a State fish and game warden, resulted in the apprehension of a gunner of Ocean County, N. J., on November 17, 1925, for shooting after sunset. This man, who had a duck in his possession when apprehended, pleaded guilty and paid \$500, the maximum fine prescribed for a violation of the migratory-bird treaty act.

Hunting wild ducks from airplanes still continues in spite of its illegality, 22 offenders having been apprehended since the passage of the migratory-bird law for hunting from planes. Two persons charged with this means of unlawful hunting were recently apprehended by a Federal game warden in Arkansas and convicted in Federal court. In another infraction of this nature in the eastern district of Missouri, an arrest has been effected but the case as yet has not been called for trial.

Wardens operating on the eastern shore of Virginia recently apprehended four persons who had been trapping ducks in violation of the Federal law. One of the cases has been terminated by a fine of \$100, and the others are pending. Six violators, five charged with hunting wild ducks after sunset and one with killing ducks from a motorboat were recently apprehended on the Potomac River below Washington, D. C. Seven cases arose from hunting swans and shooting after sunset on the marshes adjacent to Chesapeake Bay, in Kent County, Md. Two violators have been taken on Back Bay, Va., for killing grebes; one on Currituck Sound, N. C., for killing swans; and three in Pennsylvania for killing wood ducks.

Charged with hunting migratory waterfowl from a motorboat, one violator of the law in Virginia, two in West Virginia, and three in Michigan were fined \$50 each. For shooting ducks prior to half an hour before sunrise, one offender in Michigan was fined \$50, and for killing wild ducks in close season two persons arraigned in Illinois were fined \$50 each. Several other violators arraigned in Illinois for possessing ducks during the close season were fined from \$100 to \$150 each and costs. Selling and serving a wild duck by a hotel manager resulted in a \$100 fine in one case in Texas.

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