

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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MARKET GUNNERS IN THREE STATES ARRESTED BY FEDERAL OFFICERS

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More than forty market gunners scattered through Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, were apprehended over the week end by Federal game agents for alleged illegal slaughter, transportation and sale of wild ducks, quail and woodcock. The men are charged, in the Federal courts at Memphis, Tenn., Little Rock, Ark., and Jonesboro, Ark., with offenses under the Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Evidence obtained by enforcement officers of the U. S. Biological Survey, involves more than a thousand birds including waterfowl.

Most of the market gunners arrested are old offenders. They hunted the marshes and quail country of the three States and sold their bags to individuals, restaurants, hotels, and night clubs over a wide area.

The Federal game agents are turning over much evidence obtained to the three cooperating State game departments. Twenty State cases, in addition, will be filed against market gunners.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, under which many of the Federal violators have been arraigned, provides that the buyer as well as the seller of migratory birds may be prosecuted.

Birds sold out of their native States were transported across State lines by train, car, and truck. Interstate violators are arraigned under the Lacey Act.

Under cover work against market gunners has been going on for more than eighteen months, W. E. Crouch, head of the Game Management Division of the Biological Survey, stated.

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Complaints have been made of continued and open violation of Federal and State game laws in the three States. The Tri-State Game and Fish Association, with headquarters at Memphis, Tenn., and the three State game departments cooperated with the Federal game agents.

"Such assistance from all interested individuals and agencies", says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, "will make wholesale slaughter, endangering our wildlife restoration program, a hazardous occupation."

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