

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Biological Survey

DIVISION OF INFORMATION

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Virginia Duck Bootlegger  
Gets Maximum Fine of \$500

When a Virginia Judge meets a duck bootlegger, it's too bad--for the bootlegger. Jesse Newton, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, learned this fact recently when Judge Robert N. Pollard, presiding in the United States District Court at Richmond, imposed the maximum fine of \$500 for the sale of two wild ducks. Newton paid the fine.

Newton was apprehended for selling wild ducks in the presence of a Virginia State game warden on December 29, 1938, according to a Bureau of Biological Survey report to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The evidence was turned over to a United States game management agent, but the arrest was postponed until the birds could be correctly determined to be wild fowl. The head, feet, and feathers had been removed.

The United States game agent, however, shipped the birds to Washington where a Biological Survey expert skeletonized the specimens and by comparison of bone structures identified the birds as pintail ducks.

In court, Assistant United States District Attorney Russell Bradford asked that Newton be given a severe fine and jail sentence because, he said, the defendant was an habitual violator of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Before imposing the maximum fine, Judge Pollard investigated Newton's record.

In passing sentence, the Judge warned Newton that if he ever appeared in his court again for a game-law violation he could expect to be sent to jail for the maximum time fixed by law.

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