



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

BOOTLEGGERS, HUNTERS, TRAPPERS ARE FINED OR JAILED FOR GAME-LAW OFFENSES

Twenty-one bootleggers, trappers, and hunters of migratory waterfowl were haled into Federal courts recently and given sentences ranging from \$25 to \$100 in fines and 10 days to 4 months in jail, the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, announced today.

In Arkansas, two bootleggers apprehended by undercover agents of the Fish and Wildlife Service, were sentenced by Federal Judge Thomas Trimble in Little Rock to a fine of \$75 or 30 days in jail for selling wild ducks. Glenn Capps, a duck guide of De Witt, paid the fine, while Harry Allen, a truck driver from Memphis, Tenn., went to jail.

Judge Trimble sent two other wild duck bootleggers from De Witt to jail at the same time. Robert A. Manis, a mechanic described as a go-between for a bootleg ring in De Witt, was sentenced to 60 days in jail, while Harry Reeves, a duck guide, received a 30-day jail sentence.

"Wild ducks are not to be sold," declared Judge Trimble in passing sentence on the bootleggers. "Duck hunting is one of the assets of Arkansas. Hundreds of hunters come to this State to hunt ducks legally and do not want to buy them.

I want to warn you all that this Court expects to do its part in stopping commercial hunting."

Refuge Trespassers Jailed

Billy Hewitt and Le Roy Adams, fishermen of St. Charles, Ark., also received a reprimand from the Little Rock jurist. Charged with hunting on the White River National Wildlife Refuge in Stuttgart, the defendants pleaded not guilty and asked for a jury trial. Found guilty, Hewitt and Adams were sentenced to 4 months in jail each.

"The Government is spending millions of dollars to protect the wildlife of the Nation," Judge Trimble said before passing sentence, "and you people who live near the wildlife refuge will receive the greatest benefit from its protection, since the overflow of game from the refuge will make excellent hunting and trapping conditions."

The Federal jurist charged the defendants with swearing to false testimony and trying to "make liars of the game agents." He warned that "this is a Federal court and I will not tolerate perjury in it."

In St. Paul, Minn., Federal Judge George F. Sullivan found August Gomell, a retired businessman of Minneapolis, guilty of selling wild ducks at Bowstring Lake. Gomell was fined \$70.

Penalized for Baiting

In Virginia, 14 game-law violators were sentenced by Federal Judge Luther B. Way in Norfolk. Prentice D. Ash, an engineer from Mahwah, N. J., and John L. McCormick, a lawyer from Suffern, N. Y., were fined \$50 each for hunting migratory waterfowl with the aid of bait, while George A. Bonniwell and William T. Bonniwell, their hunting guides, were also fined \$50 each for placing the bait in front of the hunting blinds at a Sand Hill, Va., club.

Other baiting cases included Fred T. Gies, Sr., and Leonard E. Todd, both of Hilton Village, Va., who were fined \$25 each for hunting with the aid of bait and hunting after hours.

James H. Waddell, a banker from Gloucester, Va., was fined \$100 for baiting a blind on the North River.

Chesapeake Bay Area Held in Check

Along the Chesapeake Bay area, where a wholesale roundup of duck bootleggers was made a few years ago, Service agents have kept constant watch on the activities of local trappers. Recently, seven trappers were apprehended by Service game agents.

Fred Jenkins, a 71-year-old farmer of Severn, Va., was fined \$25 for trapping wild ducks. Eddie Williams, a laborer of Accomac County, was sentenced to 10 days in jail for operating waterfowl traps. Other Virginia trappers sentenced from the same area were: Theodore Smith, of Northampton County, 10 days in jail; Willie Stevens, Accomac County, 10 days in jail; S. T. Bowden, Chincoteague, 10 days in jail; Willie (Bill) Zember, Accomac County, 20 days in jail; and Charles B. Justice, Accomac County, \$100 or 10 days in jail.

Justice, a 26-year-old trapper, was to appear before his local draft board for a physical examination. Judge Way ruled that if the violator is inducted into the army the sentence will be imposed when the draftee is discharged. If he is not accepted, Justice's sentence will be imposed at once.