



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

FINES, JAIL TERMS GIVEN GAME-LAW VIOLATORS IN STATE, FEDERAL COURTS

State and Federal game-law enforcement agents are not relaxing their efforts to apprehend illegal wildfowl hunters and duck bootleggers, officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today.

Biggest roundup in recent weeks was the arrest of more than 25 wildfowl hunters at the St. Germain and Wheeler Island duck clubs in Solano County, California. According to W. E. Crouch, chief of the U. S. game management agents of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal agents apprehended hunters at both clubs with over 10 wild ducks in possession.

Abuses of Possession Limit Foiled

"Since the migratory waterfowl regulations permit a hunter to take 10 wildfowl a day and have 20 in possession, it might appear that these hunters were not violating the Federal regulations," Crouch said. The hunters filed affidavits saying the birds were taken on the day before and the same day the agents inspected the clubs.

What the hunters didn't know was that the agents previously had obtained affidavits from other witnesses who swore that no hunting had taken place at either club on the first day.

Confronted with this evidence in Federal Court at Sacramento, 23 violators pleaded guilty before Judge Harold Louderbach to shooting more than 10 wildfowl in 1 day.

Judge Louderbach fined each violator \$100, an aggregate of \$2,300. Other alleged violators will appear at a later session of the court. In passing sentence, Judge Louderbach made a plea for conservation and sportsmanship. One California columnist said the jurist's remarks "should have been recorded for posterity."

The cases were made by cooperating California wardens and Fish and Wildlife Service game agents.

In Texas, four men paid \$111 each in fines and costs for possessing 80 ducks that Federal agents proved were taken in 1 day. Again agents thwarted violators who intended to claim their bag represented 2 days' hunting by obtaining witnesses who swore the four men were not hunting on the day before their arrest.

State Judge Felix McReynolds, presiding at Beaumont, handed down the fines of \$100 and costs of \$11 each, and ordered each violator to give up his hunting license for 1 year.

State game wardens Jack Tanner and Delbert Conner assisted U. S. game agents in the arrest.

Pay Heavily for Illegal Hunting

One thousand dollars was the approximate cost of a hunting trip for a Corpus Christi man and his wife who illegally hunted in Idaho on a resident license and shipped deer and elk meat to Texas. Tried in a Texas court on the elk charge, the husband pleaded guilty and was fined \$200 and costs of \$11. In Idaho, both man and wife were found guilty and paid an aggregate of \$506 in fines and costs. The man also forfeited a \$20 deposit he had made with an Idaho taxidermist.

The seized meat was donated to charitable institutions. The case was made by cooperating Texas, Idaho, and Federal game-law officials.

A wild duck bootlegger in Macomb County, Mich., apprehended by Earl Goff, Michigan conservation officer, and a U. S. game agent, was tried before Federal Judge Edward J. Moinet at Detroit. The bootlegger was fined \$100 and sentenced to 90 days in jail.

A miner of Beach, N. Dak., used a shack at a strip coal mine in the Bad Lands as headquarters for illegal muskrat trapping activities. Apprehended by E. M. Lee, chief game warden in North Dakota, Deputy State Warden John Burke, and a U. S. game agent, the violator was tried by Justice Henry Tornow and fined \$50.

When a Chicago businessman hunting in South Dakota used up his coupons required for out-of-state shipment of pheasants, he resorted to what he thought was a fool-proof device to ship home more than his legal limit of birds. Hunting with South Dakota residents, the violator persuaded his guests to purchase resident coupons. These coupons were turned over to the Chicago hunter who used them to ship more pheasants home.

Informed of the illegal practice, U. S. game agents called on postal inspectors in Aberdeen, S. Dak., and Chicago, Ill., to trace the packages. Tried before Municipal Judge George Crane at Aberdeen, the violator was fined \$80.

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