

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Illinois Wildlife Arrests. Federal and State law enforcement officers arrested 28 people and cited 37 others for more than 600 wildlife hunting law violations last week in the Illinois River area near Springfield.

Arrests centered on the Illinois towns of Beardstown, Rushville, Browning, and Frederick in the middle of the heavily-hunted Mississippi Flyway. They included charges of illegal shooting and sale of migratory waterfowl, violation of bag and possession limits, hunting over baited fields, and possession of migratory non-game birds.

Under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the sale of wild waterfowl is a felony, punishable by a maximum fine of \$2,000 and up to 2 years in jail. In one instance, Federal Government undercover agents said they had purchased as evidence 345 wood ducks and green-winged teal from two defendants.

One person was charged with illegal trespassing and deer hunting on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge near Havana, Illinois.

After serving Federal search warrants, Service and Illinois Department of Conservation law officers seized over 100 ducks and eight deer as evidence, in addition to a variety of non-game species, such as bobcats, owls, and a bald eagle mount. They also seized a number of guns and vehicles as evidence and recovered several stolen outboard motors in the raid.

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1980-1981 Exports Approved for Five Species. The export of bobcat, lynx, river otter, brown bear, and gray wolf taken during the 1980-1981 season has been approved from the following States, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in the December 4, 1980, Federal Register:

BOBCAT: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the Navajo Nation.

LYNX: Alaska, Minnesota, and Montana. (Idaho and Washington, for which export had been approved in previous years, did not meet the criteria for the 1980-1981 season.)

over

RIVER OTTER: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

BROWN BEAR, GRAY WOLF: Alaska.

A December 12, 1979, U.S. District Court Order, barring bobcat exports for the 1979-1980 season from Florida, Massachusetts, New Mexico, North Dakota, Wisconsin, eastern Oregon, and parts of Texas, remains in effect. The court order does not apply to the 1980-1981 season.

Export of the five species is regulated under the 61-country treaty, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is administered in this country by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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New Pamphlet Tells the "Why and How" of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations.

What factors determine hunting seasons and bag limits, and what good do post-hunting surveys do? What is the relationship between nesting surveys and waterfowl hunting? What do images from satellites tell biologists about goose habitat? Is banding still an important tool of waterfowl management? These and many other topics are covered in a newly printed folder, "Waterfowl Regulations: Why and How?" The publication is available free in single copies from the Publications Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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