



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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UNDERCOVER AGENTS GET EVIDENCE ON GAME SELLERS, WHO GET FINED

Undercover agents of the Fish and Wildlife Service were recently responsible for the apprehension of three game-law violators who wound up in State and Federal Courts paying stiff fines, it was reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today.

Charles (Panama) Daily, of High Island, Tex., was found guilty on each of 10 separate charges for having 10 wild ducks in possession in closed season and was fined \$25 and \$11 costs on each count, a total of \$360, by Justice Andrew Johnson, of Port Bolivar.

Caesar Martinelli, proprietor of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," a night club in San Bruno, Calif., was fined \$300 for selling wild ducks and for possessing 26 wild ducks in closed season. John Kuhaviza, a waiter in the San Bruno restaurant, was fined \$100 for selling the game birds. Both cases were tried by Judge Harold Louderback in Federal Court at San Francisco.

A Service undercover agent who had been operating in the Texas area learned that Daily was allegedly offering wild ducks for sale. Upon investigation, he turned his information over to other Service agents who, accompanied by State Game Warden Ben F. Gaddy, appeared at the Daily residence with a search warrant.

As soon as the 10 wild ducks were seized, the agents arrested Daily in a High Island cafe. He was tried and sentenced the same day. Justice Johnson ruled that Daily must pay half his fine (\$180) by April 7 and the balance by May 7. If he fails to meet payments, Daily will be remanded to jail "working out" his fine at \$3 a day.

Martinelli was apprehended after State and Federal undercover agents had visited the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" restaurant and purchased wild duck dinners. In a raid later in the week, the agents confiscated 26 wild ducks that had been stored in a secret ice-box.

Both Martinelli and Kuhaviza pleaded guilty to the charges.

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