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MARKET GUNNERS IN MEMPHIS AREA FIND GAME LAW VIOLATIONS EXPENSIVE

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Two women and 50 men, arrested in a three-State area centering around Memphis, have been arraigned before U.S. Commissioners and in State courts in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee for game law violations involving killing, transporting, and selling waterfowl and other game birds. Minor cases, prosecuted in the State courts against 18 men and the 2 women, resulted in fines and costs totaling \$1,065. The courts suspended three 60-day jail sentences and \$125 in fines. Three of the offenders are serving time in lieu of payment.

The 32 men, brought before U.S. Commissioners in Mississippi and Arkansas, were charged with violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and also the Lacey Act covering illegal interstate transportation. The Commissioners placed the men under bonds totaling \$21,850. They will be tried at the next term of Federal court.

For nearly two years game management agents of the U. S. Biological Survey, backed by the Tri-State Game and Fish Association of Memphis, a group of interested sportsmen, worked on the case. On the final stages of the work, State game wardens from Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee aided in gathering information on the traffic. Now the wholesale slaughter and sale of wildlife, which was considered profitable, has suddenly proved expensive.

"These cases have been of particular interest to the Biological Survey," says Ira N. Gabrielson, Bureau Chief. "The cooperation of State authorities, sportsmen's associations, and interested individuals with the Federal game management agents, has made it possible to crack this market gunning racket which causes serious inroads on State and National wildlife resources. Unrelenting pursuit and vigorous prosecution will make it hazardous and expensive, not only for the sellers but also for the buyers of wild game birds and waterfowl. It is significant that every case tried in the State courts was successfully concluded."