

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

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NINE MARYLAND DOVE HUNTERS
CAUGHT FIRST DAY OF SEASON
SHOOTING OVER BAITED FIELD

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Nine residents of Anne Arundel County, Md., were apprehended September 1, the first day of the mourning-dove hunting season in Maryland for alleged violation of the Federal regulation that makes it illegal to take doves by means of bait, reports the U. S. Biological Survey.

A squad of State and Federal game agents, led by Richard T. Norris, chief deputy game warden of Maryland, found wheat scattered in the field in which the men were hunting. Forty-seven doves that had been shot were seized and donated to the Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D. C. Four members of the hunting party are also alleged to have used guns that were not plugged to limit the capacity to three shells as required by Federal migratory-bird hunting regulations.

The dove season in Maryland runs to September 30, and then reopens November 15 and closes December 31.

During the first day of the dove season, the Federal agents also assisted Mr. Norris and his men in arresting four other residents of Anne Arundel County for violation of State game laws. Three of the men brought into State court that night were each fined \$25 and costs. Two of them were charged with hunting squirrels in close season, and the third with hunting upland game with a gun not properly plugged. The fourth hunter also brought into court at the same time was fined \$5 and costs for failure to have a hunting license in his possession.

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