

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

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EASTERN SHORE DUCK
SELLER GETS 20 DAYS

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It took a jury only eight minutes to decide that Stanley J. Hoffman, of Wenona, Md., was guilty of selling migratory waterfowl in violation of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, reports the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of the Interior. Judge William C. Coleman, presiding in the Federal Court at Baltimore, on June 30, sentenced Hoffman to 20 days in jail, the first jail sentence ever given a migratory-waterfowl law violator in a Maryland Federal Court.

Hoffman, described by a Biological Survey game agent as one of the biggest duck bootleggers in the Eastern Shore area, was said to have employed several trappers to supply him with wild ducks and geese, which he sold to individuals, clubs, and night spots in cities along along the Atlantic seaboard.

"This case is one of real importance," said Assistant U.S. District Attorney C. Ross McKendrick in his opening statement to the jury. McKendrick pointed out the asset to the State of Maryland of the presence of waterfowl and emphasized that protective regulations must be obeyed to maintain the resource.

"The attitude of these men who trade in the illicit waterfowl market is a detriment to other residents of Maryland, as well as to the country as a whole," he asserted.

Hoffman's conviction is the fifty-second recent successful prosecution against Eastern Shore trappers, buyers, and bottleggers of migratory waterfowl. Other violators had previously been convicted in Federal courts at Norfolk, Va.; Wilmington, Del.; and Baltimore, Md.

Before passing sentence, Judge Coleman delivered a severe reprimand to Hoffman, directing it also to certain other residents in the Eastern Shore area who have flouted the law.

"Laws are enforced impartially," he said. "There has been a great deal of law violation in your part of the State. It is the duty of this Court to break up traffic of this sort."

Parts of the Eastern Shore area, the Biological Survey explains, have been notorious sources of supply for wild fowl sold to certain clubs and restaurants in Norfolk, Richmond, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. Last year Federal agents destroyed nearly 500 traps in the Eastern Shore area of Maryland and Virginia.

Undercover agents trailed Hoffman and other suspected violators for almost a year before making arrests. One agent testified that he trailed Hoffman in a high-powered speed boat, overtook him, and found no wild ducks. The next day, he stated, an oysterman found two bags full of wild fowl floating on the water. Apparently, the agent said, Hoffman had thrown out the evidence as his boat rounded a bend in the bay. Later Hoffman sold wild ducks to another agent.

"This insidious practice of earning easy money by selling valuable migratory waterfowl must stop," declares Chester A. Leichardt, assistant chief game management agent in the Biological Survey. "The Federal Government is spending millions to save the country's waterfowl, and the Biological Survey will relentlessly pursue these trappers, buyers, and bootleggers who steal this valuable natural resource that belongs to all the people."