

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Biological Survey

FOR DIVISION OF INFORMATION

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Pacific Coast Duck Bootleggers  
Caught in Biological Survey Dragnet

The opening gun in a war to smash a large ring of Pacific Coast wildfowl bootleggers has been fired by the Bureau of Biological Survey. Twenty-one hotel, restaurant, and poultry company proprietors and employees have been brought into California Federal courts and fined a total of \$2,190 as a result. Two men received maximum fines of \$500 each and two were fined \$250 each.

At the same time cooperating State game wardens arrested 4 market hunters near Willows, Calif. In the Federal Court at Sacramento, these violators were sentenced to jail for 90, 60, 30 and 30 days each.

Describing these cases as the first of a series of illegal dealers arrested for trafficking in wild birds, the Biological Survey reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes that evidence in many more cases has been gathered by a corps of game management agents working on the Pacific Coast.

The first dragnet in the drive against bootleggers was thrown in San Francisco. Fined in court were: George Firmignan, of Ripley's French Restaurant, \$500; Fred Solari, of Fred Solari's Cafe, \$250; and John Zidich, of Polk Sutter Oyster House, \$100.

Paul Damlos, of Paul's Place, and the Charles Poultry Market, \$50 each; Don Easterly, of Pierre Cafe, Paul Redenger, of Jack's Cafe, and Eloi Couderc, of Hotel de France, \$25 each; and Leo Martini, of Hilltop Inn, Joseph Manfredi, of Pacific National Poultry Company, F. Raffani, of Mario's Cafe, and Albert Novex, of Jack's Cafe, \$10 each.

A second group of violators appearing in Federal court at San Francisco received the following fines: Dominic Tarantino, \$500; John Sobroto, \$250; Nick Bertoli; \$175; Francis Scarpula, Christopher Rivera, and Andrew Scurich, \$50 each; Galliano Matteucci, and William Coombes, \$25 each; and Harlow Mezzania, \$5.

West Coast duck bootleggers have been under surveillance for some time, Biological Survey officials said, but no attempt was made to arrest violators until the Survey's game management agents had enough evidence to apprehend ringleaders.

The raids in San Francisco took the Golden Gate night spots by surprise, since it was assumed that the crack game agents were still on the Atlantic Coast cleaning up the Eastern Shore area, where a wholesale drive against Eastern bootleggers resulted in almost 55 convictions last June.

The Survey declared that it has declared a war to the finish against the illicit traffic in migratory waterfowl, and the drive is moving fast. The few areas where wild ducks, geese, and other birds are still being sold will be cleaned out one by one, officials said.

Other cases against alleged market hunters, bootleggers, and duck sellers are being filed, and the defendants will appear in court during January.