



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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STATE, FEDERAL GAME OFFICIALS COOPERATE IN ROUNDING UP DUCK BOOTLEGGERS, HUNTERS

Duck bootleggers and game-law violators in four States recently were given jail terms and heavy fines after being apprehended by cooperating State and Federal game-management agents, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Federal Judge Marion Speed Boyd fined Jack Winsett, of Obion County, Tenn., \$500 and sentenced him to 5 months in jail on three counts--hunting, killing, and possessing wild ducks out of season. Dallas Little, also of Obion County, was fined \$250 and sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Undercover agents in Arkansas concluded an intensive drive against bootleggers of migratory waterfowl by apprehending Frank O'Rourke and Lawrence A. Church, both of De Valls Bluff, Ark., for selling wild ducks. O'Rourke, a hunting guide, was fined \$100 and sentenced to 30 days in jail by Federal Judge Harry Lemley in Little Rock. Church, a tavern proprietor, was sentenced to 5 months in jail.

George T. Bieber, of Jasper, Minn., was apprehended by State and U. S. game agents while hunting migratory birds during closed season in South Dakota. Federal Judge A. Lee Wyman imposed a fine of \$250.

In Baltimore, Md., Federal Judge William C. Coleman sentenced five Maryland violators for possessing or hunting and killing wild ducks and geese. William Clayton, of Smith Island, was fined \$100 and \$38.70 in costs for possessing Canada geese. George M. Esham and Elmer C. Gray, of Bishop, were each sentenced to \$100 fines and \$20 costs. Manfred Phillips, of Fishing Creek, was fined \$35 and \$36.35 costs, and William Tolley, of Fishing Creek, \$100 fine and \$72.69 costs.

Considerable interest, the Service reported, was created in the Tennessee cases because Winsett allegedly fired two shots at State Conservation Agent J. R. Brinkley who was aiding a U. S. game agent and other State officials in making the arrest.

Brinkley was struck in the right eye and left foot. It is alleged Brinkley identified himself and asked Winsett and Little to halt while the agents inspected the hunters' boat on the bank of a slough. The agents said they arrested Winsett when he shot Brinkley.

When Winsett completes his 5 months jail term for the Federal violations, State officials plan to arrest him for assault. Physicians reported that Brinkley will probably not lose the sight of his eye but that the foot injury may prove serious.

Other State officers aiding the U. S. game agent in the Tennessee arrests were Joe Fuqua, Jewel D. Pate, and Martin Jacobs.

Undercover Agents in Arkansas

Undercover agents have been operating in Arkansas for the part year, Service officials revealed. The O'Rourke-Church cases were the first to be brought to trial in what officials described as a roundup of a bootleg ring in the Arkansas area.

Arkansas State agents aided Service officials in obtaining information during the undercover investigations.

In Minnesota, Claer H. Detmers, a State conservation officer, assisted a U. S. game agent in apprehending Bieber, who was hunting migratory birds out of season. In presenting the case before the court, Assistant United States Attorney John P. McQuillen declared that the defendant is a "chronic violator." Bieber was tried and fined 2 days after his arrest.

Service officials praised the cooperation of the State conservation officers who aided the U. S. agents in apprehending game-law violators and in conducting undercover operations.

"These cases should serve to warn duck bootleggers and out-of-season hunters that in effect we have a Nation-wide staff of thousands of enforcement officers at our disposal," declared W. E. Crouch, chief of the Service's Division of Game Management. "State officers keep strict watch on their local affairs and lend important assistance whenever their services are needed by Federal officers."

The Federal officers, being bound by no State lines, can trail wild duck bootleggers and other interstate violators across the boundaries when necessary, he continued.

Highlight of this year's cooperation between State and Federal Officials was a recent Tri-State roundup when more than 100 sellers and buyers of wild ducks in the Memphis area of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi, were fined in State and Federal Courts.

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