

ADVANCE RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Advance Release to the PM's OF MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1946.

The enforcement of Federal conservation laws and regulations by the 68 Game Management Agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working singly or in cooperation with other officers during the past fiscal year, resulted in 2,328 convictions carrying fines of \$80,685.72 and jail sentences of 964 days, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Service, reported today.

In Alaska the Service employs 19 wildlife agents to guard the game, fur, and sport-fishing resources of the Territory. These officers obtained fines of \$4,190 and jail sentences aggregating 370 days.

Seizures under the Alaska Game Law included 10 caribou, 13 quarters of moose, 22 deer, 10 bears, and the skins of 10 sea otters, 164 beavers, 10 martens, 21 mink, 12 foxes and miscellaneous other furs.

The Service's game management agents are assisted by 1,550 United States deputy game wardens and cooperating State game officials. Many of the deputy game wardens are salaried State officers and do not receive additional compensation from the Federal Government.

Game agents apprehend all types of violators. Charges included shooting with unplugged guns, shooting coots and doves from automobiles, and shooting in closed season. Duck bootleggers also were fined, as were hunters who illegally killed or possessed woodcocks, waterfowl, doves, yellowlegs, flickers, egrets, or robins.

The impartial enforcement of Federal conservation laws and regulations continues to be a necessary part of the Service's game management work in order to assure adequate breeding stock for the future and to regulate the taking of any species as it becomes available from year to year.

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