

Annual Report of the National Association of Audubon Societies for 1907.¹—As usual, the annual report of the President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, Mr. William Dutcher, is an important document, ornithologically as well as from the standpoint of bird protection. It consists of four parts, the Report of the President (pp. 285-300), in which he gives a general summary of the work of the year, with recommendations for future lines of action; the Report of the Secretary (pp. 300-303), in reference to his own personal work in the South and elsewhere as an official representative of the Association. Reports of Special Agents (pp. 303-327),—of Edward Howe Forbush on his work in the New England States; of H. H. Kopman, in the Gulf States; of William L. Finley, in Oregon and Washington; of John B. Watson, on the condition of the Noddy and Sooty Tern Colony on Bird Key, Tortugas, Florida; of A. C. Bent, on the condition of bird colonies on Cobb's Island, Va.; of Arthur H. Norton, on the protected bird colonies of the coast of Maine. The Reports of State Societies (pp. 328-361), in alphabetic sequence, relate to the work done by local societies in 30 States and the District of Columbia. Then follow a list of Members and Contributors, and the Treasurer's report.

The President, in his summary of 'Results Achieved' during the year thus refers to the subject of animal refuges or reservations: "One of the most important results secured by this Association since its organization has been the large number of reservations set aside as bird refuges and breeding homes by President Roosevelt. During the present year six have been added, all of which are the ancestral homes of birds, and they will, in the future, be under the direct supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture. It is our function to investigate and discover bird-breeding islands, rocks and keys; the locality and number and species of birds is reported to the Department of the Interior, at Washington, and, if the property still belongs to the Federal Government, an order is prepared for the signature of the Chief Executive. This Society then selects a suitable person to act as a guard, who is recommended for appointment as warden. He is then officially commissioned by the Department of Agriculture at a nominal salary, which is supplemented by additional compensation from this Association. . . .

"The plan of bird and animal refuges is destined to be a great factor in the future in the preservation of the wild life of the country. However good the laws are and however well they may be enforced, killing will go on, and there should therefore be refuges established in all parts of the country where shooting is absolutely prohibited. It is astonishing how soon birds and animals learn to know where they are undisturbed, and how little fear of man they display within such bounds. The reservations we are securing are the beginning of the plan of refuges, but the Federal Government owns no land in any of the thirteen original States, nor does it

¹Bird Lore, Vol. IX, 1907, pp. 285-372, with full page half-tone plates and text illustrations.

own any in Texas. In these fourteen States, the proposed system of refuges can be secured only by purchase, or by a legislative act.

"It is very much to the credit of the authorities in Pennsylvania that the game-refuge plan has been adopted. The authorities of New York should adopt the plan at once, and establish a large number of bird and game refuges in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. The setting aside of land for a refuge does not necessarily mean that it cannot be occupied by man, it simply means that when a bird or animal reaches these sacred precincts its life is safe.

"The refuge plan must necessarily in the future be largely by purchase or lease or donation from individuals or societies. The Louisiana Audubon Society has been very active in this work, and now owns or leases a large number of islands. . . .

"Thousands of memorial dollars are contributed annually to educational or philanthropic institutions. We suggest that a beautiful and appropriate memorial would be an island or tract of land dedicated in perpetuity as a bird refuge in charge of this Association. It would be a lasting and fitting monument."

Besides the important work of searching out the breeding resorts of wild birds on the keys and islets of the Gulf of Mexico, of the southern Atlantic coast, and of the coast of Oregon and Washington, and elsewhere, and securing their permanent reservation as protected breeding resorts of species that would otherwise soon disappear, much effort is expended in securing better legislation for the protection of birds, and in defending from repeal that which has already been obtained; in educational work in publishing and sending out hundreds of thousands of specially prepared leaflets; in warden work, and in aiding and guiding the work of local societies.

Although the Association has a large endowment, its income is far short of its needs, which, as its work broadens, necessarily steadily increase. The work already accomplished in the short period of its existence is astonishing; the activities of its President, his resourcefulness in discovering new lines of usefulness, his promptness in action in cases of emergency, and his unselfish devotion to the great cause he has thus far so successfully promoted, are a sufficient warrant for a most urgent appeal that his hands be further strengthened by additional financial aid for the work that must necessarily devolve upon the Association from year to year as its work advances. The provision for wardens for the rapidly increasing number of reservations is alone a strong draft upon its resources, which fact should appeal to the philanthropically disposed who have means at their command for the aid of a work of the highest importance to the welfare of man, both economically and esthetically.— J. A. A.