

Dr. Wetmore's report¹ is discouraging. He finds that in the settled regions birds of all sorts are hunted extensively during the winter and hunters in small numbers are about constantly while on holidays, they spread all over the fields and marshes. Ducks, Tinamous, Snipe, Stilts, Sandpipers, Thrushes, and apparently anything with feathers is regarded as game.

Some far-seeing men have interested themselves in having protective legislation enacted but these laws are not enforced and the public has not been educated as to the importance of birds and their protection, although efforts are now being made in this direction. In other words Argentina is about thirty years behind the United States in the matter of bird conservation. Moreover the same process of improvement of marsh land is in progress as in this country, and former feeding grounds of the waders are being converted for building or cultivation. Immigrants, too, from the south of Europe slaughter all birds as they were accustomed to do at home.

The Eskimo Curlew has been, practically, if not absolutely, exterminated and the Field Plover is rapidly following, being eagerly sought after as a table delicacy and a substitute for the Curlew. Formerly abundant it is now found only with difficulty, and is definitely rare.

The Hudsonian Godwit which occurred in the eighties in flocks of thousands has been so reduced that Dr. Wetmore saw only two flocks of four birds in three weeks time. Birds are sold regularly during the hunting season and the hotels and cafes manage to furnish game to their guests throughout the year.

While Dr. Wetmore considers that the smaller species are not in serious danger of extermination and that the wide range of the Yellow-legs will help them in maintaining their existence, the chances of the other birds mentioned above as well as larger species are very slim.

It seems deplorable that all of our efforts in behalf of the Shorebirds in the north are to be thwarted to a great extent by our neighbors in the south, but when we consider how difficult it is to educate even our educated classes in this country as to the general value of certain birds which seem to affect their personal needs—as the question of the Hawks and the sportsmen, we realize that it will be a long time before conservation education will make much headway in South America.

Dr. Wetmore has done an admirable service in gathering and placing before us this authentic information regarding a condition that we have been speculating on for many years past.—W. S.

Annual Report of the Audubon Societies.—The twenty-third annual report² of the National Association of Audubon Societies is, as always,

¹ Our Migrant Shorebirds in Southern South America. By Alexander Wetmore. Technical Bulletin, No. 26, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, October, 1927. pp. 1-24. Price 5 cents. Sup't of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

² Twenty-third Annual Report of the National Association of Audubon Societies pp. 463-532. (The report is an excerpt from 'Bird Lore' although not so indicated on the cover.)

replete with interest. The president, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, discusses bird sanctuaries which are steadily increasing in number from year to year, as well as his legislative work in behalf of the Brown Pelican in Florida and Texas and for the Game Refuge Bill in Congress while he has visited Alaska to secure first hand information regarding the slaughter of the Bald Eagles. See also 'Bird Lore' Jan. 1928.

The various field agents of the Association report their activities and there are reports from no less than sixty-six state and local Audubon societies and bird clubs. The Junior Audubon Clubs, the great hope of the future, now number 8,697 with a combined membership of 355,486. Then there is the treasurer's report showing nearly a million dollars of investments.

The report is most encouraging and the officers deserve great credit, and yet there are certain phases of bird protection that would seem to be almost hopeless although perhaps something could be done in this connection if all agencies realize the importance of immediate action.

Just as we begin to see a satisfactory return of breeding Sea-birds and Shore-birds along our eastern coast, where they had been all but exterminated, the craze for real estate development threatens to drain all of the marshes and ruin the beaches so that there will be no place left for the birds. Island reservations are excellent but there are but few islands available. There are still some available "points" of beach which could be made into sanctuaries but if not done at once it will be too late.

Quite as serious is the extermination of Hawks and Owls. In the effort to maintain our upland game, the breeding of game birds has been undertaken and on the game farms the ill-advised enthusiasm of the keepers and the encouragement of ammunition manufacturers everywhere is rapidly reducing our noble "birds of prey" until they are becoming rare in many sections of the country. It seems to us that a strenuous campaign of publicity in behalf of Hawks and Owls must be made at once if they are to be saved. Why too cannot the National Association and the State and local Audubon Societies voice a claim for the appointment of ornithologists on all state game commissions? The protection of all birds is delegated to the game commission in most states, and all legislation is referred to it. As there are far more citizens today interested in song birds than in game birds, and far more interested in preserving birds to watch and study than for shooting, why should they not have equal representation? We are in no way opposed to hunting but all birds should have a square deal and both classes of citizens should be represented on "game" commissions.
—W. S.

Lincoln on Returns from Banded Birds.—This paper¹ records returns obtained from banded birds by the U. S. Biological Survey, from

¹ Returns from Banded Birds 1923-1926. By Frederick C. Lincoln. Technical Bulletin No. 32, December, 1927. pp. 1-96. Price 20 cents. Sup't Documents, Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D. C.