

CONSERVATION NOTES

EDITED BY FRANCIS H. ALLEN

THE movement for bird protection initiated by the American Ornithologists' Union in 1884-85 has widened its scope of recent years and is now integrated with the larger movement for the conservation of all our replaceable natural resources. We now realize that the welfare of our wild birds depends most of all on food and cover, and that these in turn depend on soil and water. This is the line taken by the National Wildlife Federation under the leadership of the dynamic 'Ding' Darling and his able and energetic successor, David A. Aylward. Regarding the education of the rising generation in conservation principles and practice as of prime importance, the Directors of the Federation have been studying the approach to a practical program. A good beginning is indicated in the report of a 'Conference on Education in Conservation' held in Detroit last February.

THE Massachusetts branch of the Wildlife Federation was organized under the leadership of the late John C. Phillips as a Massachusetts Conservation Council composed of delegates of fifteen State-wide organizations. The Council, usurping the functions of none of the member organizations, unites all of them where united action is desirable. One of its chief activities this year has been equipping a 'Conservation Van' and sending it out on a missionary tour of the State in the charge of two well-trained young men who preached conservation in all its branches to Boy and Girl Scouts and other groups in camps, on fair-grounds, and elsewhere.

THE latest reports of the wildfowl situation give hope for the future. We must watch the results of the extension of the open season this year. The outlook for the preservation of the endangered species of our birds seems to be encouraging in the main. The National Association of Audubon Societies reports a new colony of Roseate Spoonbills in Florida and an estimated total population for the State of about three hundred birds, while in Texas the nests of this species actually counted numbered 794—a climb from zero in less than twenty years. There was also a very satisfactory increase of Reddish Egrets in Texas, nearly a thousand more having been brought to light by the discovery of three new colonies this year. And the Biological Survey announces that there are now at least 199 Trumpeter Swans in the United States—an increase of 51 since August of last year.

GREAT efforts are being made by the Biological Survey, the National Association of Audubon Societies, and other agencies to save the California Condor and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and we can still hope for their success. Hopes for the resurrection of the Carolina Paroquet seem to have been premature, but continued sporadic reports of the Eskimo Curlew fan the dying hopes for that perhaps extinct species. Perhaps the visit of Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson to South America this fall may have a good effect on the fortunes of other rare shorebirds if not on this one.

THE Pittman-Robertson Act, one of the most important achievements of the National Wildlife Federation, provided this year for the distribution of \$1,380,000 among the States. The apportionment is based partly on area and partly on the number of hunting licenses issued and is contingent on the appropriation by the State of an amount equal to at least one third of the Federal allocation.

FROM the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, the Biological Survey has operated as a bureau of the Department of the Interior after many years in the Department of Agriculture. This transfer was effected by the reorganization act passed by Congress early in the year. The organization and personnel of the bureau remain unchanged.