

AUDUBON SOCIETIES IN RELATION TO THE FARMER.

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Audubon societies are organized for the preservation of native birds. They aim to prevent all wanton and reckless decrease of bird life, whether by indiscriminate or excessive shooting of birds for use as food or for the sake of the plumage, by useless or immoderate egg collecting, or by too much trapping for caging; and also to develop an appreciation of the living birds from an æsthetic standpoint. As in the case of all movements of this kind, individual instances of excessive zeal coupled with ill-balanced judgment may be noted here and there, but the object sought to be accomplished is both worthy and necessary, and should receive the support and cooperation of all rational and thoughtful people, particularly farmers, who are, in some respects, the chief beneficiaries of the societies' efforts.

Wanton destruction of natural resources is always inexcusable. The vicious habit of extravagance thus engendered is certain to be harmful, at least in its incidental effects, and to cause economic losses that sooner or later must be deplored. It is highly desirable, also, to avoid as far as possible the destruction or reduction of the raw material, so to speak, from which is derived that growing knowledge of the character and properties of natural objects and forces that is the basis of all practical progress.

VALUE OF BIRDS.

But apart from general reasons against excessive destruction of bird life, it is desirable that such destruction be checked because of the distinctive value of birds to the nation. It is seldom that a proper estimate is placed on the importance of the large, edible birds that are usually known as game birds. They are generally regarded as chiefly useful in that their pursuit and capture furnish a healthful and fascinating sport, and add a little variety to the accustomed fare. But they have a far more notable function than this. With proper restraint and the adoption of systematic measures to maintain the supply, such as are in vogue in some sections of the country, the United States might easily have a stock of game birds so abundant as to furnish a cheap and readily attainable food supply worth many millions of dollars annually. By preventing all immoderate, unnecessary, and unseasonable killing, and by carefully protecting nests,

eggs, and young, the people of this country could add materially to local and National assets. Some of the game birds, too, such as the quail and wild turkey, are very useful destroyers of insects, and are thus doubly valuable. Dr. Sylvester D. Judd, of the Biological Survey, states of the quail that "as an enemy of insect pests and a destroyer of weed seed it has few equals on the farm."^a

The value of birds as a class to the agriculturist is no longer a matter of speculation, but has reached the point of satisfactory demonstration. Various investigations, particularly those conducted by the Biological Survey, have placed beyond question the importance of the service rendered by birds in keeping down the floods of insects and weeds that assail crops. Without the aid of these natural guardians of garden and orchard the difficulties of successful agriculture would be greatly augmented, if, indeed, they would not become insurmountable. A number of species, it is true, are of little, if any, use to the farmer, and a very few are positively injurious to his interests. But protection is not usually accorded to those species that work injury; and while the preservation of such as are neutral in relation to agriculture is not as important to the farmer as the preservation of those that are instrumental in increasing his profits, yet it is of indirect benefit to him in that the existence and abundance of the less useful birds tend to divert attack from the rest.

Birds also have an æsthetic value that should receive due weight in considering the desirability of their preservation. The inspiration they have offered to poets of all ages and the enjoyment their presence brings to millions who lack capacity or desire to give expression to their pleasurable emotions or sensations have a definite place among nature's contributions to man's happiness. And many who have no positive appreciation of æsthetic enjoyment would become conscious of the loss were such enjoyment withdrawn; just as they would miss the sunshine were the skies to become perennially overcast. A spring ushered in silently and without the stir of active life and bright plumage in tree and field would be so altered in character that the change would be perceptible to the dullest, most indifferent natures. In this way all birds have value, just as all verdure has its charm, though it may be necessary to remove certain plants that are poisonous or interfere with thrifty husbandry.

Thus, as food, as preservers of crops, and as legitimate stimuli to the finer faculties, birds fill a place that is of distinct and definite benefit to man. Their extinction would be an irreparable loss.

DANGER OF EXTINCTION OF BIRDS.

The fundamental reason for the need of active measures protecting our native birds is based on the rapid settlement of the United States,

^a Bulletin No. 17, Biological Survey, Dept. of Agr., p. 85, 1902.

with the accompanying increase and dispersion of population. One hundred years ago the five or six million people that inhabited this country occupied scattered settlements in the East. To the westward stretched an immense unbroken wilderness with resources so vast as to appear inexhaustible. This great tract seemed a reservoir of limitless supplies, and the only problem that presented itself was how to tap it most conveniently. Animal life was abundant and apparently fully able to replenish itself. No inroads could be made by the isolated and unorganized attacks it might sustain that would cause any but the most transitory diminution. During the first half of the following century little occurred to disturb the idea of the inexhaustibility of nature's bounty. The great West was yet beyond all power of reduction to definite limits, and even in the well-settled East no marked indications of exhaustion were manifest.

But what a change has been wrought by the enormous influences of the past fifty years! The bison, whose countless herds dotted the vast prairies, reduced to a few hundred head, carefully guarded to prevent absolute extinction of the species; the passenger pigeon, whose passing clouds darkened the sun for hours at a time, now rarely seen and practically confined to two or three States near the Great Lakes, where a few small and scattered flocks replace those that formerly numbered myriads; the antelope and the prairie chicken passing away; the elk in serious danger; and various other mammals and birds, such as the moose, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goat, otter, beaver, ducks and geese, wild turkey, and ruffed grouse, making rapid progress in many localities from abundance to extinction. This has been largely due to the individual work of hunters and sportsmen, but in recent years a new and far more powerful agent has arisen. At the present time a species, no matter how numerous, is at the mercy of the highly organized industrial and commercial system that has superseded the individualistic system of a few decades ago. The wants of the masses are supplied, not by their own individual and necessarily scattered and desultory exertions, but by systematic, specialized, and efficient means. The people, greatly increased in number, have been brought into closer touch with each other, and, in consequence, their tastes have become more uniform. Fashion decrees that aigrettes shall be worn, and in a few years the immense heronries of Florida are exterminated, while the devastating scourge of the plume hunter passes down the coast of Mexico and on into South America as far as the doomed birds are to be found. Where once were acres of snowy plumage, a rare glimpse of a few birds is all that is left. Again, beneath the inexorable mandate of fashion, the tern, or sea swallow, in a few years, is swept from the Atlantic coast; a few isolated, carefully protected colonies the only remnant of what was once one of the most abundant birds of the Eastern seashore. Again, fashion decides that

the wing of the ptarmigan will make an attractive hat decoration, and so thoroughly is its whim gratified that a single shipment from Archangel, Russia, consists of 10 tons of wings.^a No spot is so remote or difficult of access that the purveyors of fashion will not penetrate it in executing these despotic decrees. Whatever species is selected to be "worn" is doomed to practical extinction; for wild birds are not like poultry and beef, the supply of which can be regulated. As soon as one species becomes extinct, or nearly so, another is marked for destruction.

Other agencies also are at work depleting the ranks of the birds. The trolley is rapidly changing rural to suburban life. While there is a marked tide of humanity from the country to the city, at the same time the city is extending tentacles in every direction far into the outlying districts. As a result of this changed condition many small boys, who are embryo sportsmen and ardent egg collectors, and many cats, most destructive enemies of small birds, are carried readily to hitherto inaccessible districts.

Egg collecting, which is not confined to boys, is a source of great destruction of bird life. Periodicals devoted to oology show how extensive is the practice. An idea of the recklessness with which nests are broken up to satisfy this fad is conveyed by an instance quoted by W. T. Hornaday from the *Oologist*. A collection of sets of warblers' eggs was advertised in that journal, which comprised 51 species and 1,274 sets, with a total of 5,433 eggs.^b This, it must be remembered, was the result of the zeal of one collector alone, and represented only a part of his entire collection. In some of the instances of nest robbing, it is probable that other eggs are laid to replace those removed and no decrease in bird life is caused; but in innumerable cases this is prevented and a very serious loss to our avifauna results.

Some degree of destruction of small birds is due to the habit of killing and eating them, which has been brought to this country by certain of our European immigrants. This practice is notably prevalent in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and various Southern States. In the fall and winter the markets of New Orleans are stocked with thousands of song birds which have been shot for the table. This is a source of loss that unless checked is sure to grow as the game birds become less. Already robins, meadowlarks, turtle doves, blackbirds, flickers, and even reedbirds (bobolinks) are on the game lists of some States, and where other song or insectivorous birds are not protected, or where public sentiment does not sustain nominal

^a "A Russian province of the North," by Alexander Platonovich Engelhardt, governor of the province of Archangel, Philadelphia, 1899. The government's record shows a slaughter of nearly 2,000,000 grouse in four years, 1894-1897, in the one province of Archangel.

^b "The destruction of our birds and mammals," extracted from the Second Annual report of the New York Zoological Society, p. 16, New York, March 15, 1898.

protection, it would easily be possible for the growing decrease in what are generally recognized as game birds to cause a serious inroad upon the smaller birds to supply the deficiency.

Through these various instrumentalities the birds of the United States would soon go the way of the buffalo and passenger pigeon were there no active interest manifested in their preservation. For it must be remembered that there is no stopping place in the work of destruction, but that on the contrary it is constantly increasing in effectiveness as civilization embraces more people, covers more territory, produces greater unification, and brings a higher degree of mastery over nature; moreover, the rarer the object of demand, the keener its pursuit. It is important, therefore, that Audubon societies should continue their work of bird protection and that they should be supported in this work. And the question of just what these associations are and how they are accomplishing their chosen task is one of more than passing concern to all who are mindful of the best interests of their country.

ACCOUNT OF AUDUBON SOCIETIES.

The first National movement in favor of protection of the nongame birds of the United States was originated in February, 1886, by Dr. George Bird Grinnell, editor of *Forest and Stream*. An association called "The Audubon Society" was formed on the 13th of that month with headquarters in New York City, but with local secretaries and members scattered throughout the country. Its purpose was "the protection of American birds, not used for food, from destruction for mercantile purposes," and it was called into existence by the sudden onslaught made on American birds to supply the demands of the millinery trade of America and Europe. Its growth was rapid: in three years it had attained a membership of nearly 50,000, drawn from every State and Territory of the United States except Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Arizona; and from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the West Indies, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Turkey, India, and Japan. It was represented in the periodical world by a publication called *The Audubon Magazine*, issued monthly by the *Forest and Stream* Publishing Company. In 1889 the publication of this magazine was discontinued because of lack of support; and as the society seemed to have accomplished the object for which it was established the movement died out.

A subsequent revival of the demand for birds for millinery purposes led to a reawakening of sentiment on the subject, and in January, 1896, a State Audubon Society was organized in Massachusetts. In October of the same year a similar society was established in Pennsylvania. The following year, 1897, brought the organization of State Audubon societies in New York, Illinois, New Hampshire, Wisconsin,

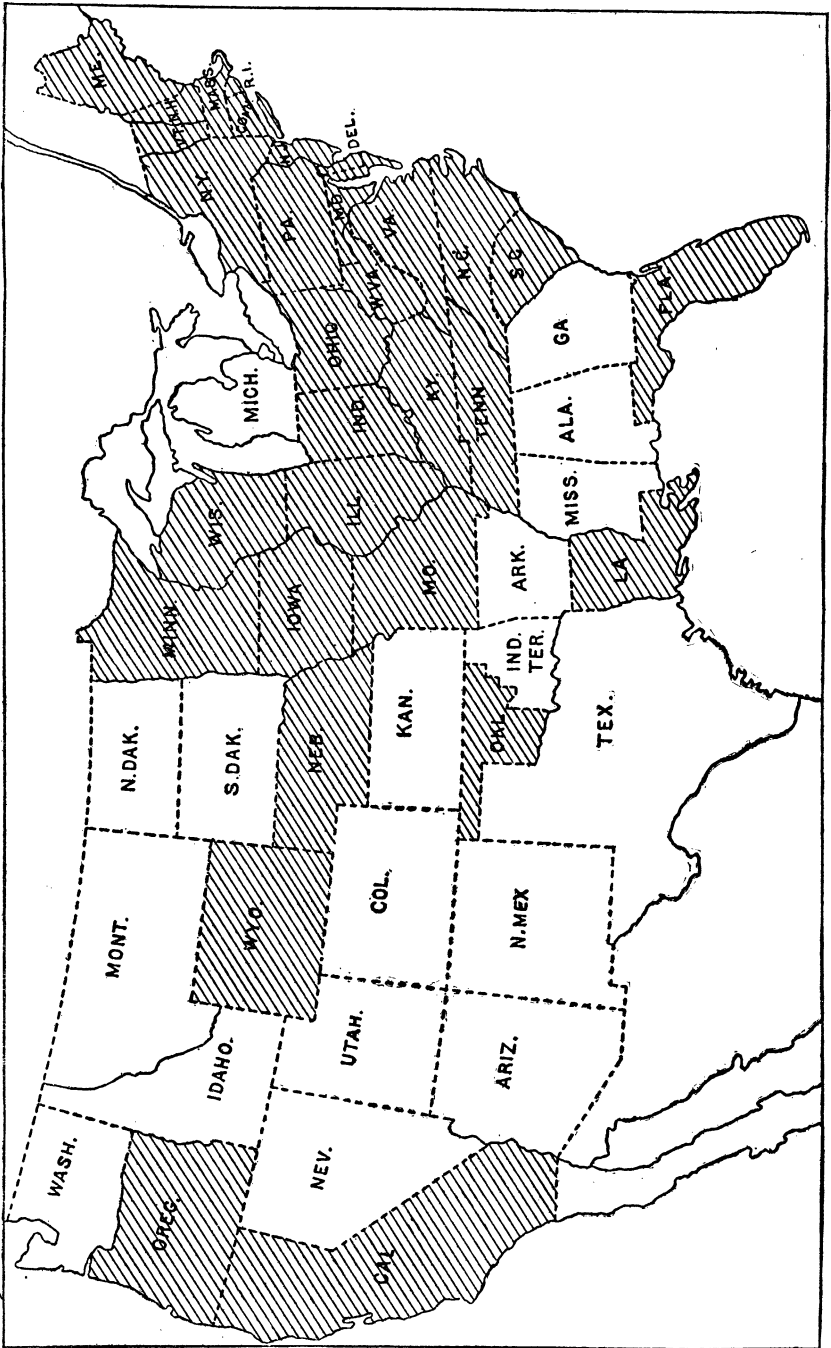


Fig. 11.—States (shaded) that have Audubon societies. The District of Columbia, which does not appear on the map, should be added to the list.

the District of Columbia, New Jersey, Iowa (the Schaller Audubon Society), Minnesota, West Virginia (as a branch of the Pennsylvania society), and Rhode Island. Four more societies were established in 1898; five in 1899; four in 1900; four in 1901; and five in 1902. All of the States east of the Mississippi are now represented except Michigan, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, and nine of the twenty-three States and Territories west of the Mississippi. (See fig. 11.) The total membership is about 65,000. The committee on bird protection of the American Ornithologists' Union has worked in cooperation with both these movements and connected them, as by a slender thread. This committee and the various State associations are all independent organizations, but are brought into close touch with each other through *Bird Lore*, a bimonthly magazine established in February, 1899, to serve as the organ of the Audubon societies. A still closer understanding has been brought about by the creation, in 1901, of a National committee in which each society is invited to be represented.

METHODS OF AUDUBON SOCIETIES.

The various lines of activity exhibited by Audubon societies divide themselves naturally into two categories: (1) Awakening of public sentiment, and (2) securing adequate legislation and enforcement of the same.

AWAKENING OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

The attainment of the first and most important of these lines of action, the awakening of favorable public sentiment regarding bird protection, is sought by means of branch societies or local secretaries, libraries of bird literature, lectures, exhibits of hats with other decorations than wild-bird plumage, work in the schools, distribution of literature, calendars, and bird charts, and spring outings for observation of birds. Each of these methods will receive a brief consideration.

BRANCH SOCIETIES OR LOCAL SECRETARIES.—At least 16 of the State societies have extended the influence of their organizations throughout their respective States by establishing subsocieties or appointing local secretaries at widely scattered points, thus securing little centers of interest from which to spread the principles of bird protection. These auxiliary societies are sometimes organized among school children, as in Wisconsin, which has 787 such local branches, with a membership of 21,108; and sometimes wholly or partly among adults, as in Minnesota, which has about 60, in addition to many school organizations and children's bird clubs.

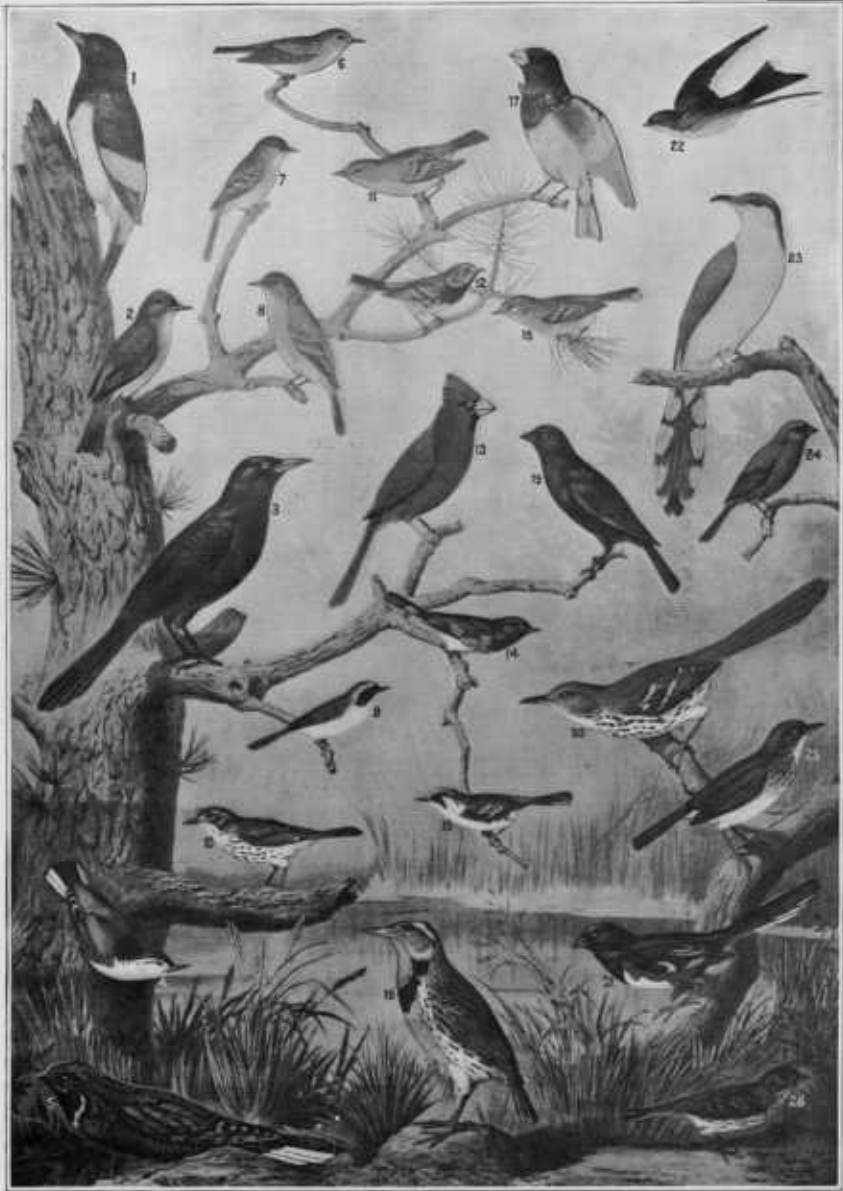
LIBRARIES.—In this class of bird-protective work two methods have been followed: (1) Sections devoted to bird literature have been established and maintained in some public library by means of Audubon society influence and contributions, and (2) traveling libraries have been instituted. The first of these methods is particularly useful in

large cities where classes in bird study have been formed among the school-teachers. The second, which consists of sending a small collection of books relating to birds from point to point throughout the State, to remain at each place a stated time, is an excellent means of arousing in rural districts interest in birds and their protection. At least ten States have such libraries circulating within their borders; and two of these, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, keep eighteen and twelve libraries, respectively, in circulation.

LECTURES.—Lectures, like libraries, may be divided into two categories. Either lecturers are secured to deliver addresses before the society and its friends, or lectures are prepared, with typewritten manuscript and numerous lantern slides, and sent out to different rural points, to be read by some local resident. More than a dozen of these traveling lectures have been prepared and are in frequent use. Connecticut has three and Massachusetts two in constant readiness to meet the numerous demands for them.

MILLINERY EXHIBITS.—Millinery exhibits, or “hat shows” as they are often called, are arranged by Audubon societies conjointly with local milliners. Hats are submitted by various dealers, each trimmed without using anything objectionable to the principles of the society. To this display the public is invited, the object, of course, being to show how attractive hats and bonnets can be made without involving the destruction of bird life. Ostrich plumes and the feathers of barnyard fowls are the only plumage permitted in these displays. To one, however, who is not familiar with modern methods of treating the feathers of common barnyard fowls such exhibits are a revelation. Five or six States have held these displays at intervals and with excellent results. After one in Philadelphia several of the leading milliners established “Audubon departments” in their shops.

SCHOOL WORK.—Great attention is paid by Audubon societies to work in the schools. Not only are small boys very destructive of birds and their eggs, but the boy and the girl represent the future man and woman, and with a well-established acquaintance with birds acquired in youth, there is not apt to be thoughtless destruction of bird life at maturity. Numerous means are employed to arouse the children’s interest in the study and observation of birds. Lectures and libraries play their part here as elsewhere. Bird charts are prepared and furnished to the schools by means of which pupils can identify the wild birds observed (see Pl. XXI). Prizes are offered for the best compositions or essays on birds. Outings are arranged for the scholars, which are devoted to observation of the birds. When it is possible the study of birds is added to the curriculum; but this is not often expedient. In many States a “bird day” is established, either by law or by arrangement with teachers. This consists in setting aside one day each year to be devoted to birds. Sometimes a “bird day” is held in combination with “arbor day,” when birds



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BIRD CHART ISSUED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY.

[Greatly reduced.]

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Red-headed Woodpecker. | 10. Ovenbird. | 18. Pine Warbler. |
| 2. Phoebe. | 11. Yellow-throated Vireo. | 19. Cowbird. |
| 3. Bronzed Grackle. | 12. Black-throated Green Warbler. | 20. Brown Thrasher. |
| 4. White-bellied Nuthatch. | 13. Cardinal. | 21. Towhee. |
| 5. Whip-poor-will. | 14. Redstart. | 22. Tree Swallow. |
| 6. Warbling Vireo. | 15. Chestnut-sided Warbler. | 23. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. |
| 7. Least Flycatcher. | 16. Meadowlark. | 24. Indigo Bunting. |
| 8. Wood Pewee. | 17. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. | 25. Wilson's Thrush. |
| 9. Maryland Yellow-throat. | | 26. Vesper Sparrow. |

JULY

SUNDAY		5	12	19	26
MONDAY		6	13	20	27
TUESDAY		7	14	21	28
WEDNESDAY	1	8	15	22	29
THURSDAY	2	9	16	23	30
FRIDAY	3	10	17	24	31
SATURDAY	4	11	18	25	

AUGUST

SUNDAY		2	9	16	23	30
MONDAY		3	10	17	24	31
TUESDAY		4	11	18	25	
WEDNESDAY		5	12	19	26	
THURSDAY		6	13	20	27	
FRIDAY		7	14	21	28	
SATURDAY	1	8	15	22	29	



Wood Thrush.

Illustration by Mr. Wm. Brewster, Boston, Mass.

SPECIMEN PAGE OF CALENDAR FOR 1903.

ISSUED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY.

share attention with trees. Clubs, societies, and orders are established among the children, and pins and badges are distributed. In these and many other ways the various societies seek to excite the interest of the children in the wild birds and their preservation.

The main object of this work is, of course, the beneficial effect upon the children, but it may have value of another kind. A great deal is yet to be learned of the habits of birds. Many details are wanting concerning their movements while nesting, the period of incubation, the time the young are in the nest, the frequency of feeding, and other characteristic habits, and much light can be thrown on these subjects by children trained to observe carefully and accurately. And this fact may be used effectively in furthering school work. To a bright, observant child, the knowledge that a composition, based on actual observation, may be an important contribution to ornithological information is a great incentive to study. Such work as this is especially useful in country schools, for country boys have better opportunity both for destroying birds and, when once their interest has been aroused, for observing and enjoying them.

In addition to the work among the children direct, classes are held and lectures given for the purpose of instructing the teachers, in order that they may be properly fitted to impart correct information to the pupils in their charge. The District of Columbia society has been particularly assiduous in this work, and, in consequence, many of the teachers of Washington are unusually well qualified to teach ornithology to their scholars.

This is a phase of the work that should appeal particularly to the farmer; for birds that are directly employed in keeping down insects and weeds are destroyed in great numbers by schoolboys. Enlisting the interest of the boy in the living birds and their broods is the surest way to make him their friend instead of their enemy, and thus convert him from their destroyer to their protector.

LITERATURE.—An immense amount of literature relating to bird protection has been distributed by the various societies. Brief pamphlets showing the economic value of birds, or the destruction of certain species, or setting forth other facts pertinent to the work of the societies, are scattered broadcast. With these should, perhaps, be included the bird calendars issued by several societies, which contain pictures of various common birds and descriptions of the birds or the months, usually quoted from the works of well-known writers on nature (see Pl. XXII). This is an important feature of the educational work of Audubon societies.

FIELD MEETINGS.—A few of the societies have instituted regular spring outings, which the general public is invited to attend. Favorable localities are visited and studies of the birds in their haunts are pursued under the direction of experienced ornithologists.

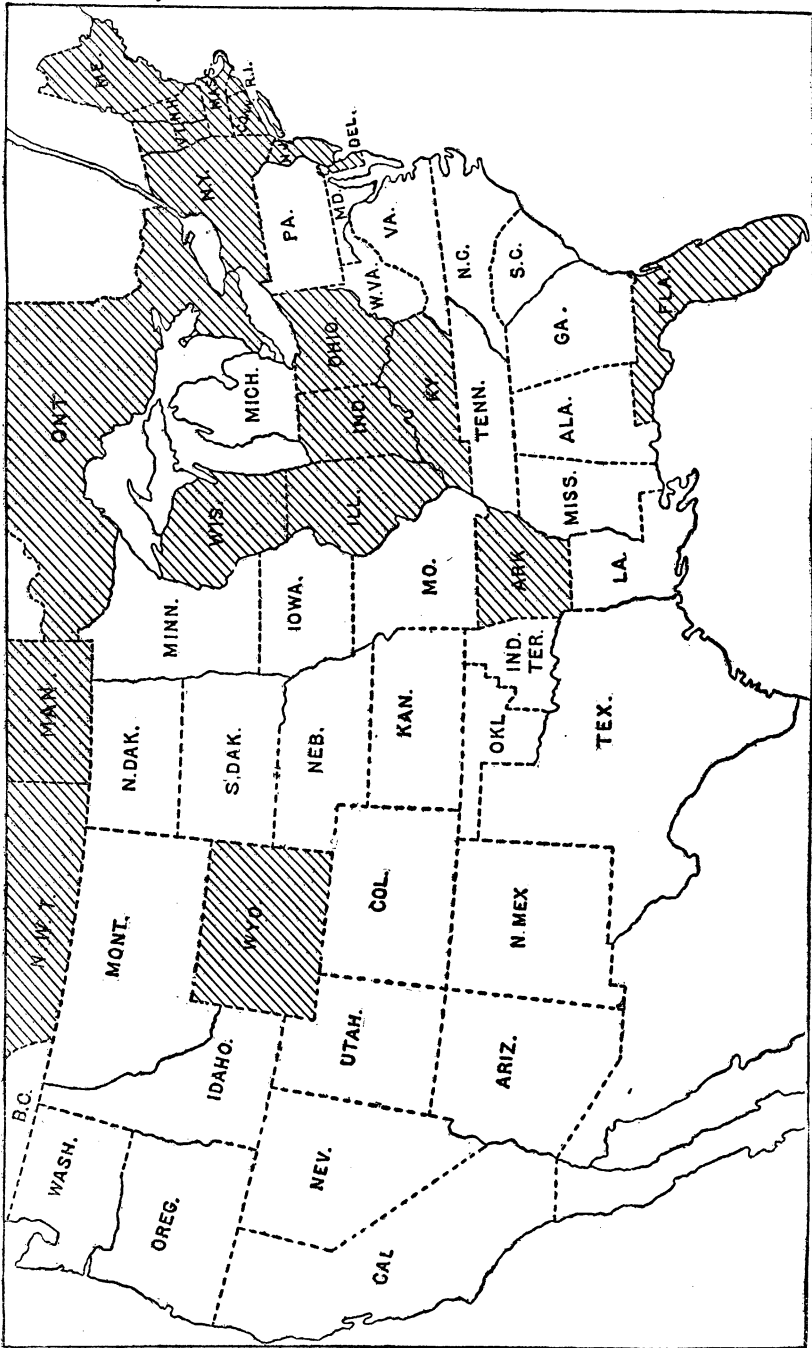


FIG. 12.—States (shaded) that have adopted the model bird-protective law proposed by the American Ornithologists' Union. Alaska and the District of Columbia, which do not appear on the map, should be added to the list.

SECURING AND ENFORCING LEGISLATION.

Educational work is of prime importance and will undoubtedly show increasing results as the years pass. But to secure immediate effects and to reach some that are impervious to milder means it is desirable that laws be passed making reckless or wanton destruction of birds illegal, and that such laws be properly enforced after they have been placed on the statute books. To this end Audubon societies have been actively engaged in securing in their respective States the adoption of suitable laws, usually based on the model law of the American Ornithologists' Union. This law protects practically all nongame birds and their nests and eggs. It is now in force in 18 States and 2 Provinces of Canada (see fig. 12), besides Alaska and the Northwest Territories of Canada, and earnest endeavors to extend its field are made each year.

The protection of game birds is generally left by Audubon societies to the League of American Sportsmen and the numerous other State and National organizations of sportsmen. Even those who deprecate the taking of any life for sport and not from necessity recognize the futility of attempting to abolish this ingrained habit. Hence, inconsistent though it may be, the combination is frequently witnessed of those who wish to preserve birds from unnecessary killing and those who wish to preserve them for unnecessary killing. Copies of the State laws are freely distributed throughout the State by Audubon societies, either in circular form or as posters. And occasionally infractions have been reported to the authorities and active steps taken to secure convictions, in order that the laws may not become dead letters through lack of interest in their enforcement.

RESULTS.

Active and enthusiastic work in a worthy cause can not fail to bring results, and the State Audubon societies, greatly benefited by the labors of the former Audubon Society with its official organ, the Audubon Magazine, and by the hearty cooperation of the bird-protection committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and game-protective organizations, have, during the seven years that have elapsed since they began to spring into existence, accomplished much in furtherance of their object.

The traffic in native birds for millinery purposes has been almost entirely suppressed. Ostrich plumes, the skillfully treated feathers of barnyard fowls, and the skins and plumes of foreign birds now compose all but a small percentage of the bird material used for hat decoration. The first two of these classes of millinery goods do not involve in their use sacrifice of life or decrease of species; the third is very destructive of the bird life of the world, but can not be reached

except by international cooperation. Steps looking to such cooperation have been taken, however, and it is hoped that before long this waste will be checked.

Nearly all the breeding colonies of sea birds on the Eastern coast are now protected. This has been mainly through the efforts of Mr. Abbott H. Thayer, of New Hampshire, with the cooperation of some of the Audubon societies.

Nongame birds have been largely eliminated from the food market.

The trapping and shipment of native birds for use as cage birds has been greatly reduced. As it was conducted, this business was making serious inroads upon certain native species, particularly mockingbirds and cardinals.

A great interest in nature study has been aroused in recent years, largely through the work of Audubon societies, and has exerted a most beneficent influence on the people, particularly the youth of the country. The camera is to some extent superseding the gun, and many are realizing for the first time the interest and pleasure attached to closer contact with nature.

THE FARMER'S INTEREST IN BIRD PROTECTION.

In spite of the active work of thousands of earnest men and women the depletion of bird life continues. How rapid would be the destruction without these efforts it is not difficult to conceive. On the other hand, a much more general interest in bird protection would soon fill the land with birds. Bright plumage and song would abound. Lawn trees and hedges, pasture and grove, would be replete with nests. Each nest, it must be remembered, has a definite economic value. When it is robbed of eggs or young, or when the parent birds are captured or shot, a large number of insects are saved from destruction to continue their depredations on crops; for the young in the nest are fed almost exclusively on insects and consume them in immense quantities. Let the farmer remember that every bird destroyed, and particularly every nest robbed, is equivalent to a definite increase in insects with which he already has to struggle hard, and he will soon appreciate the fact that he has a personal interest and a strong one in the preservation of the birds. Robert Kennicott, a most careful and reliable observer, ascertained that a single pair of house wrens carried to their young about 1,000 insects in a day.^a At this rate a young brood of wrens probably destroys, before leaving the nest, as many as 10,000 insects. According to the usual proportion in the food of young wrens about 6,000 of these are insects that devastate crops, including nearly 600 cutworms.

The æsthetic aspect of bird life appeals less strongly to the average farmer, but he should reflect that many, perhaps some of his family or

^aBaird, Brewer, and Ridgway, "North American birds: Land birds," Vol. I, p. 151.

neighbors, find distinct pleasure in the presence of birds, purely as regards song, beauty, and general interest; and to these the absence of bird life would make an important difference in the enjoyment of the homestead. An abundance of birds about the dwelling, like a profusion of flowers, gives much added value in the eyes of all who properly appreciate the charms of nature. A home where robins, bluebirds, hummingbirds, wrens, chipping sparrows, catbirds, and orioles form an animated and friendly throng on bush and tree and sunny lawn or pour their notes from familiar vantage points, and where roses, honeysuckle, violets, jasmine, spirea, lilies of the valley, and morning-glories abound and fill the scene with beauty and the warm air with fragrance that floats in at the open windows, is far more attractive and of greater commercial value than one that is silent and bare. Birds will return year after year to the same spot to build their nests and rear their young, and when some spring fails to bring the bluebird to the apple tree or the oriole to the elm it is perhaps because lax laws and untrained character at some point to the southward have destroyed the life that seemed a part of the farmstead. Strengthening the law and developing a love for nature will save many such losses. Furthermore, friendly acquaintance with the living birds is an unfailling source of enjoyment to one whose interest has once been aroused, and should be encouraged, particularly in the youth of the country. Such acquaintance opens up new avenues of pleasure and new lines of thought, and brings a more intimate contact with nature. The influences it exerts are a good corrective in this perhaps too materialistic day. Its pleasures are refining in tendency. The boy that can enjoy the singing of a thrush or the nest-building of a robin is less apt to indulge in pursuits that lead to the formation of vicious traits of character, and will be likely, in consequence, to develop into a better member of society.

Every farmer should, therefore, cooperate heartily with those who are endeavoring to save the birds. Energetic measures are necessary, for the danger is great. Our centralized industrial system is an immense machine, the power of which is scarcely yet appreciated. A whim of a leader of fashion sets in operation a movement that with speed and certainty practically exterminates an abundant species. The rapid absorption of the wilderness carries destructive agencies everywhere and leaves no haven of refuge to the birds. Men and boys, paid or unpaid, professional or amateur killers, are waging a war of extermination wherever birds are found on which human desire has fastened its gaze. Earnest efforts to check this reckless and unwarrantable sacrifice of bird life have had an appreciable effect; but extraordinary means are required to insure complete success; and these can be had only through the support of the public, particularly in rural districts, where the destruction occurs and where the greatest injury

results. The movement can be aided by various means—establishing local societies, either as branches of the State society, where such exists, or as independent organizations; encouraging, in every way, study or observation of the birds by boys and girls, in school or out; posting lands and prohibiting trespass for the purpose of shooting or capturing birds; discouraging the use of firearms by boys; and recognizing at all times and in all things that whatever right man may have to destroy life for legitimate use, such right is founded on a regrettable necessity, and does not justify reckless extravagance or wanton cruelty.