

such a license, who uses it as a shield against prosecution for illegal or indiscriminate slaughter of birds for any and all purposes, is successful only to such extent as the ignorance or apathy of the community among which his misdeeds are committed happen to give him immunity. The fault is not in reality chargeable to the law, or the system permitting the granting of certificates for scientific collecting. In this matter, as in all else relating to bird-destruction, all that is necessary to prevent abuses is a proper comprehension of the laws relating to the subject, and a public sentiment not only favorable to their enforcement, but watchful against any infringement of their provisions.

With a desire to bring about more intelligent, uniform, and desirable legislation for the protection everywhere, and at all times, of all birds not properly to be regarded as game-birds, the American ornithologists' union committee on bird-protection have had under careful consideration a draught of a bird-law drawn with special reference to its fitness for general adoption throughout the United States and the British Provinces, and with regard to just what birds should be so protected. It is intended as a guide or model, which may serve as a basis for legislation. From its pertinence in the present connection, it is given below in full. Possibly some additional provisions may still be desirable, relating especially to the designation of certain officers to secure its strict observance, the amount of the fine, and whether or not a part of the fine should go to the complainant, — features, however, that doubtless may be safely left to legislative discretion.

[AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS AND EGGS.]

SECTION 1. — Any person who shall, within the state of —, kill any wild bird other than a game-bird, or purchase, offer, or expose for sale any such wild bird, after it has been killed, shall for each offence be subject to a fine of five dollars, or imprisonment for ten days, or both, at the discretion of the court. For the purposes of this act the following only shall be considered game-birds. The Anatidae, commonly known as swans, geese, brant, and river and sea ducks; the Rallidae, commonly known as rails, coots, mud-hens, and gallinules; the Limicolae, commonly known as shore-birds, plovers, surf-birds, snipe, woodcock, sandpipers, tattlers, and curlews; the Gallinae, commonly known as wild turkeys, grouse, prairie-chickens, pheasants, partridges, and quails.

SECT. 2. — Any person who shall, within the state of —, take or needlessly destroy the nest or the eggs of any wild bird, shall be subject for each offence to a fine of five dollars, or imprisonment for ten days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SECT. 3. — Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall not apply to any person holding a certificate giving the right to take birds, and their nests and eggs, for scientific purposes, as provided for in section 4 of this act.

SECT. 4. — Certificates may be granted by [here follow the names of the persons, if any, duly authorized by this act to grant such certificates], or by any incorporated society of natural history in the state, through such persons or

officers as said society may designate, to any properly accredited person of the age of eighteen years or upward, permitting the holder thereof to collect birds, their nests or eggs, for strictly scientific purposes only. In order to obtain such certificate, the applicant for the same must present to the person or persons having the power to grant said certificate, written testimonials from two well-known scientific men, certifying to the good character and fitness of said applicant to be intrusted with such privilege; must pay to said persons or officers one dollar to defray the necessary expenses attending the granting of such certificates; and must file with said persons or officers a properly executed bond, in the sum of two hundred dollars, signed by two responsible citizens of the state as sureties. This bond shall be forfeited to the state, and the certificate become void, upon proof that the holder of such a certificate has killed any bird, or taken the nest or eggs of any bird, for other than the purposes named in sections 3 and 4 of this act, and shall be further subject for each such offence to the penalties provided therefor in sections 1 and 2 of this act.

SECT. 5. — The certificates authorized by this act shall be in force for one year only from the date of their issue, and shall not be transferable.

SECT. 6. — The English or European house-sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is not included among the birds protected by this act.

SECT. 7. — All acts, or parts of acts, heretofore passed, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

SECT. 8. — This act shall take effect upon its passage.

AN APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF THE COUNTRY IN BEHALF OF THE BIRDS.

THE relation of the women of the country to the present lamentable destruction of bird-life has been several times alluded to in the foregoing pages; but the matter is so important, it demands more formal notice in the present connection. The destruction of millions of birds annually results from the present fashion of wearing birds on hats and bonnets. The women who wear them, and give countenance to the fashion, have doubtless done so thoughtlessly, as regards the serious destruction of bird-life thereby entailed, and without any appreciation of its extent or its results, considered from a practical stand-point. Until recently, very rarely has attention been called to the matter, or the facts in the case been adequately set forth. They have therefore sinned, for the most part, unwittingly, and are thus not seriously chargeable with blame. But the case is now different, and ignorance can no longer be urged in palliation of a barbarous fashion. Obviously it is only necessary to call the attention of intelligent women to the subject, as now presented, to enlist their sympathies and their efforts in suppression of the milliner's traffic in bird-skins. As a recent writer (Mr. E. P. Bicknell, secretary of the A. O. U. committee on bird-protection) in the *Evening post* of this city has not only forcibly appealed to the women in behalf of the birds, but suggested to them certain desirable lines of action, this brief reference to the subject

may well be concluded with a few pertinent extracts from the article in question.

"So long as demand continues, the supply will come. Law of itself can be of little, perhaps of no ultimate, avail. It may give check; but this tide of destruction it is powerless to stay. The demand will be met; the offenders will find it worth while to dare the law. One thing only will stop this cruelty, — the disapprobation of fashion. It is our women who hold this great power. Let our women say the word, and hundreds of thousands of bird-lives every year will be preserved. And, until woman does use her influence, it is vain to hope that this nameless sacrifice will cease until it has worked out its own end, and the birds are gone. . . . It is earnestly hoped that the ladies of this city can be led to see this matter in its true light, and to take some pronounced stand in behalf of the birds, and against the prevailing fashions.

"It is known that even now birds are not worn by some, on grounds of humanity. Yet little is to be expected from individuals challenging the fashion: concert of action is needed. The sentiment of humanity once widely aroused, the birds are safe. Surely those who unthinkingly have been the sustaining cause of a great cruelty will not refuse their influence in abating it, now that they are awakened to the truth. Already word comes from London, that women are taking up the work there. Can we do less? It needs only united action, sustained by resolution and sincerity of purpose, to crush a painful wrong, — truly a barbarism, — and to achieve a humane work so far-reaching in its effects as to outswEEP the span of our own generation, and promise a blessing to those who will come after."

There are already in England, it may be added, two societies organized expressly in aid of the preservation of birds 'in Great Britain and all other parts of the world.' The Selborne society, originated by George Arthur Musgrave of London, appeals to Englishwomen "to forswear the present fashion of wearing foreign or English bird-skins. Our countrywomen are asked to inaugurate a return to a mode which, though half forgotten now, is assuredly more becoming to the wearer than trophies of robins and sandpipers." Lady Mount Temple is not only a member of the plumage section of the Selborne society, but has written a vigorous protest against the fashion of wearing dead birds on dresses, bonnets, and hats. The section is under the patronage of her Royal Highness the Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and numbers among its membership twenty ladies of title, and also Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Sir Frederick Leighton, and Rev. F. O. Morris.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION COMMITTEE ON BIRD-PROTECTION.

THE American ornithologists' union committee was recently organized in New York city with the following membership: Mr. George B. Sennett, chairman; Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell, secretary; Mr. William Dutcher, treasurer; Mr. J. A. Allen, Dr. J. B. Holder, Dr. George Bird Grinnell, and Mr. L. S. Foster, all of New York city; Mr. William Brewster, Cambridge, Mass.; Mr. Montague Chamberlain, St. John, N.B.; Col. N. S. Goss, Topeka, Kan.

The committee is desirous of collecting facts and statistics bearing upon the subject of the destruction of our birds, and will welcome information from any source. It also extends the promise of its hearty co-operation to all persons or societies who may be interested in the protection of birds.

The headquarters of the committee are at the American museum of natural history, Central Park, New York city, where the officers or any of the members may be addressed.

THE Third report of the Cornell university experiment-station, 1883-84 and 1884-85 (Ithaca, N. Y., *Andrus & Church*, 1885, 39 p., 8°), contains an account of work done in the years 1882-85 chiefly by Professors Roberts and Caldwell. Although the experiments are comparatively simple, and show plainly that they were made in the intervals of other duties, they still show a degree of insight and accuracy in plan and execution, and are reported with a clearness of statement which we sometimes look for in vain in more pretentious reports. We may mention particularly Professor Roberts's determinations of the value of stable-manure, and Professor Caldwell's comparisons of the chemical composition and nutritive effect of certain rations for cattle. The subject of the first-named experiment is one which has usually been treated deductively, and hence these experiments are of interest not only in their direct application to farm practice, but because they serve to a certain extent to justify the deductions of science. The feeding-experiments show the uncertainty attaching to the use of the so-called 'feeding-standards' or 'standard rations' which have been somewhat widely recommended by writers on agricultural science. Evidence seems to be accumulating that these standards, in their present form, are very uncertain guides, and that, even if not based on false premises, they require great modifications before they can be made of much use to those most needing the information.