

REPORT OF THE A. O. U. COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

By a resolution duly carried at the last annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, the Committee on Protection of North American Birds was authorized to increase its numbers from members of the Society, and by such vested authority the following named persons were added to the Committee, viz.: Mr. Otto Widmann, Old Orchard, Mo.; Mr. A. W. Anthony, San Diego, Cal.; Mr. E. H. Forbush, Malden, Mass.; Mrs. E. Irene Rood, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Julia Stockton Robins, Philadelphia, Penn.; Miss Florence A. Merriam, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mrs. L. M. Stephenson, Helena, Ark., and Dr. T. S. Palmer, Washington, D. C.

All of the members have been actively engaged during the past year in advancing the work of this Committee in its various channels, and we feel that the very largely-increased interest taken in birds and in their protection has been in great measure the result of these efforts.

While thousands of leaflets have been distributed and column after column has appeared in the public press relative to the frightful cruelty necessitated by the use of wild birds' feathers for millinery ornaments, yet the plea of the great majority of the women who still continue to use feathers is that of ignorance. This is largely due, I think, to an unwillingness to assume an individual responsibility. They are like the Buddhist priest who had been preaching strongly against the use of animal food, although he sometimes ate it himself. In explaining what his religion required in the matter, he said: "I must not have any animal killed that I may eat it, yet if it is served at the table in any house where I am staying, and it is not provided expressly for me, but in the ordinary course of things, then I may eat of it, because then I am not personally responsible for the death of the animal." This certainly is the position that women occupy relative to bird slaughter; most of them know of the cruelty, and not only the cruelty but the injury to agricultural interests, yet they excuse themselves, as did the Buddhist priest, by saying: "The

birds are not killed for me personally; they would be killed at any rate." In other words, unless the wearer has a particular bird killed for her particular use, she will not assume any responsibility. It certainly is a curious inconsistency to visit a church or a lecture room and listen to a discourse on some philanthropic subject and note the extreme sympathy displayed by scores of women, while at the same time their hats are decorated with plumes and feathers that could only have been obtained by acts of the extremest cruelty.

The work is extending so rapidly, and interest is becoming so widespread, that it requires a greater amount of labor and time than the members of the Committee should be called upon to give. In fact, the work has now reached such a stage that, if possible, it should be transferred to some individual who could devote his or her whole time to it. The members of the Committee are all engaged in other pursuits, and therefore find it impossible to devote but a small amount of time to the work, and consequently cannot advance it as rapidly as would otherwise be possible; however, notwithstanding these drawbacks, your Committee feels that the year 1897 closes with an ample reward for the labor bestowed, and sees great cause for congratulation in the very greatly increased interest manifested.

With these few introductory statements, your Committee submits a résumé of the work done in each State.

MAINE.

Miss Edith J. Boardman of Brunswick, Maine, reports: "We are just about making an attempt to organize an Audubon Society. Professor Leslie A. Lee of Bowdoin College will assist, and we hope that we will be able to report a full organization in a few weeks. A systematic study of birds has not been introduced into the schools of the State, so far as I know, but occasional talks on birds have been given in the schools, and attempts have been made to call the scholars' attention to the subject, and an hour is occasionally given for recitations about them. No steps have been taken, however, towards establishing a Bird Day."

MASSACHUSETTS.

Audubon work in Massachusetts has advanced more rapidly and has attained a higher degree of efficiency than in any other portion of the country. The Secretary of the Society, Miss Harriet E. Richards, sends the following interesting statement of the work done by that Society during the past year, and of its present status.

“The Massachusetts Audubon Society began to enroll members February 10, 1896, each person paying one dollar for life-membership, excepting teachers and scholars, who paid twenty-five cents. February 10, 1897, the Directors reduced the membership fee to twenty-five cents, and created two new classes of members, viz., Associates, to pay one dollar annually, and Life Associates, to pay not less than twenty-five dollars at one time. The Associates are to be notified of all meetings and to receive all publications by mail. All the publications are free to members upon application. This plan of membership was inaugurated to induce more people to join as working members, and also to insure a permanent fund. While we realized the need of such a work, we did not know that so much interest would be taken in it by all classes, and so many ways opened to extend it.

“March 15, 1897, the day the new membership fee came into operation, the Society had 1284 members, 358 of which were school members. October 15, 1897, there were 1831 members, 364 associates, and 23 life associates. The Society has 110 local secretaries.

“In response to a Bird Day circular that we issued in March, we received letters from about twenty teachers, telling of the success of the plan in their schools. The past year the Secretary has addressed twenty-two clubs, schools, and societies in the interest of the work.

“We have freely distributed a circular stating the purpose of the society; also the following named leaflets: ‘To the Members’; ‘Hints to Bird Students’; ‘To Save Our Birds’; ‘The Baltimore Oriole’; and a card entitled ‘The Bird’s Christmas.’ Also a Bird Day circular, reprinted from the Journal of Education; Miss Merriam’s ‘How Birds affect the Farm and Garden’; Mr.

Chapman's 'The Wearing of Heron's Plumes or Aigrettes'; 'An Artist's Appeal,' by Abbott Thayer, and many of the Government pamphlets. We have also prepared for sale an Audubon Calendar for 1898.

"In June a law was passed by our legislature to prohibit the use of Massachusetts song birds in millinery. It has been impossible to enforce this law, but its enactment has aroused much interest in the subject, and brought to the Society both friends and enemies.

"We are convinced that there is great need of the work, but are certain that it will take time and much patient, earnest effort to accomplish it, and only by the hearty co-operation of all persons interested in birds can we hope to overcome this long-established but barbarous custom of wearing feathers for ornamentation."

In addition to the work of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Mr. George H. Mackay, of our Committee, has done exceedingly valuable work, which is detailed in his report herewith attached:

"In submitting my report for the year ending November, 1897, I beg leave to state that the number of things calling for experienced attention during the past year has been unusually large.

"After much thought, I formulated a protective bill for our birds in general, based on investigations made in Washington and elsewhere. This bill was presented in the Senate at the beginning of the session (being bill No. 17). After much preliminary work, under adverse conditions — my own senator and the House Chairman and Senate Chairman of the Fish and Game Committee being antagonistic — I succeeded in getting it through the Committee, and afterwards through the Senate, only to meet defeat later on in the House, in consequence of the influence of cold storage and market men, who were strongly opposed to the bill. The work entailed, under the circumstances, having been considerable, the disappointment was commensurate. I shall try it again the coming winter, which will be the third attempt.

"In order to better carry out certain protective work I have had a Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner appointed for the past two years.

"At the hearings given by the Committee on Fisheries and Game on the nineteen bills which were presented, some of them

with adjournments, I was present and spoke at eleven of them as your representative.

“No seriously-objectionable legislation has been enacted during the past year, and the amount of ornithological information which has been imparted to some of our legislators at these hearings has been considerable, and cannot but result in good. Very late in the Session of 1897 a bill prohibiting the wearing of, or having in possession the body or feathers of, any of our birds now protected by law, was enacted. Although making a long argument in its favor, I doubted its efficiency. Complaint having been made to me regarding the killing of certain small birds near Boston, I made application to the Chief of the District Police, who furnished me with two officers in order to make investigations, but no evidence of sufficient strength to convict was obtained.

“In my last report I referred to a colony of Terns on Penikese Island, Massachusetts, which were in need of protection. I am happy to state that the owners of the island granted me all the authority asked for, and by the time the birds had commenced laying I had, in conjunction with Capt. W. H. Proctor of the Buzzard’s Bay police boat, prepared and put up a number of signs on the island giving warning notices, printed in Portuguese and English, in parallel columns, against the taking of eggs, killing of birds, and trespassing on the island, Capt. Proctor having the island under surveillance during the breeding season. The result has been satisfactory; no eggs in quantity were taken, as has been the custom heretofore. The following letter from Mr. H. A. Homer, one of the two owners of the island, may prove of interest.

“I know of no attempts to gather eggs in quantities. Several parties have been to the island for a few eggs for curiosities, and some for scientific purposes, and they have taken them for such purposes, but only a few by each party. My man at the island lodged one gentleman who had spent a day at Gull Island and on Penikese Island investigating the Gulls: he was up until 11 o’clock that night making notes. I did not learn his name. He reported many dead Gulls, young and old, on the island, but I have failed to see many. A few have been killed by Hawks;

the sheep have trodden a few to death, and some have been crippled. These latter I have put to death, as they never could fly.

“I should judge, taking the number of old Gulls, that there was a greater percentage of young than for years. Old residents of Cutyhunk and the local fishermen say there are more Gulls than ever. Of course their judgment has little weight with me, but having given the matter some attention, I am willing to state that there are more old and many more young Gulls than last year.

“Two weeks ago, before the young could fly, I saw ten in a space about a yard square, and I counted 500 of the young, large and small, on the northern part of the island in a space of about five acres.

“These Gulls, when they begin to move about, walk in the sheep tracks and rest there and will not stir without being kicked out; they are consequently trodden upon by the sheep, and many get crippled in the wings. I made way with fifteen, last Saturday and Sunday, maimed in this way, and I saw more that I could not get, as they made for the water and swam away out of my reach.

“I have no means of estimating the number of young Gulls already on the wing, but there are enough to satisfy any lover of the creature. . . .

“A few Summer Yellow-legs came into the island Sunday but were driven off again by the Gulls, who pursued them in multitudes. Hawks are now also driven away, so that I think there will be a large increase in the Gulls, large enough to suit the desires of their best friends.’

“No decision having been handed down by the Supreme Court of Massachusetts regarding the status of the town of Nantucket and the owners of an undivided part of Muskeget Island, Massachusetts, until Sept 10, 1897, I found myself at the commencement of the breeding season in quite a quandary, especially as at the last moment the former warden was incapacitated for the situation, and another man (a fisherman), without consulting with me, had himself appointed without remuneration. Being somewhat doubtful of the results of such an appointment,

with the aid of a friend in Washington, I had the matter brought to the attention of the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury, as also of the General Superintendent of the Life Saving Service, who considerably granted permission to the Captain of the Life Saving Station on Muskeget Island to serve in the capacity of warden during the two months of June and July (the breeding season of the Terns and Laughing Gulls), when the life saving crew were off duty. In order that the Captain might have the necessary authority to arrest without warrant in this State, I made application that he be appointed a Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner, which application was most considerably granted by the Hon. E. A. Brackett, Chairman of the Commissioners on Island Fisheries and Game. Under this arrangement the birds breeding there have been cared for during the past season. I personally visited and remained in Muskeget and adjoining islands July 3, 4, and 5, 1897, and made, as has been my custom heretofore, a detailed examination of all the breeding ground. I found to my regret that great changes had taken place, especially on Muskeget Island. All the Laughing Gulls had abandoned their old breeding haunt, as had also pretty nearly all the Terns; of the latter's eggs I did not observe over 100, where on July 8, 1895, I checked off 1280, and where in 1896 I found them too numerous to check off alone. On Gravelly Island, formerly the home of the beautiful Roseates, my especial pleasure and care, I am now compelled to write that this season they are only to be observed in greatly diminished numbers, this island, their particular resort, having been usurped to a large extent by the Common Tern. I find by actual count that the total nests and eggs noted here on July 3, 1897, are below what they were on July 26, 1896. On South Point Island, on July 4, 1897, there were 20 per cent. less nests, and 50 per cent. less eggs than on June 26, 1896. I found about 15 pairs of Laughing Gulls breeding here, and six or eight pairs breeding on Gravelly Island, which are all there are in this neighborhood at the present time.

“ Last autumn the United States Government built a new life saving station (the former one having been burned a number of years ago) in the centre of the breeding resort of the Terns and Laughing Gulls on Muskeget Island proper. The occupants of

this station were on duty prior to, and for one month after the arrival of the birds, and probably as a consequence prevented them from using their old haunt for breeding [purposes. An interesting question is, Where have these Muskeget birds gone? The figures show a decrease this season for all the other breeding grounds in Muskeget waters. I have not before noted fewer birds since the first few years when private protection was extended to them.

“The coming winter in Massachusetts promises to be as prolific of legislative schemes, good, bad and indifferent, as was last winter, and it requires experienced persons to give their time and attention to the same. I would respectfully suggest that whoever represents your Committee should be empowered by vote at the coming meeting of the American Ornithologists’ Union to act for and represent absolutely the society in New England in all matters relating to bird protection and bird legislation. It is clearly impossible to present each matter in detail to the Committee for consideration, for the conditions are constantly changing. I see no other course for the American Ornithologists’ Union, if it desires to maintain its present, and advance its future influence.

“In Massachusetts there has been heretofore two powerful factors in bird legislation, especially that affecting game birds, viz., the Fish and Game Protection Association, and the marketmen and cold storage interests. It seems to be acknowledged that a third interest has been added, viz., the American Ornithologists’ Union.

“Since spring shooting was prohibited in Massachusetts, Black-bellied Plovers, or Beetle Heads, as the young are called, have continued to increase in numbers, both in spring and autumn. This gain was noticeable in 1890, since which time large gains have been observed. I wish to call the attention of our western associates living in the States of Nebraska, Missouri (St. Louis), and Texas (Fort Worth), that parties there have been for a number of years killing and shipping thousands of Golden Plovers, Eskimo Curlews, and Bartramian Sandpipers in the spring, at the period when these birds are passing northward to their breeding grounds, many of them having eggs in the

ovaries at the time. For over two years I have been endeavoring to get our State law repealed which gives the right to sell the above birds during our close season. I have thus far been unsuccessful, one of the arguments of my opponents being that they will be shipped just the same to other States, and that unless the killing and shipping can be stopped it will prove of no avail.

“I called attention to this state of affairs several years ago; from that time to the present we have had none of these birds to speak of in New England, for the best of reasons, as it is unreasonable to expect the old birds and their increase to pass by our shore in the autumn on their return migration, going south, if you kill the old birds on the way north to breed. These birds have long since passed the danger mark, and if anything is ever to be done in their behalf, it should be done now.”

Mr. Forbush, of the Committee, joined Mr. Mackay in urging the adoption by the legislature of his bill for the protection of birds, and has also given a large amount of information to speakers who have addressed Women's Clubs and other organizations in behalf of the protection of birds; he has also mailed reports and ornithological matter for use in school work. His own work as Ornithologist to the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture lies principally with the agricultural population, and he has spoken at farmers' meetings on the subject of the usefulness of birds, and has always advocated their protection; he also reports that the Massachusetts Fish and Game Committee has supplied him with notices warning against wild bird shooting, and these have been posted on the land of people who have been troubled by boys and gunners; he also reports that the Metropolitan Park Commissioner of Massachusetts has taken several tracts of woodland and set them aside as public parks, in which no gunning is allowed, and for the past three years the birds have been increasing in these parks. In the Middlesex Fells region, comprising thousands of acres, a large part of which has been seized by the Commissioner, Grouse, Quail, Crows, and Jays have greatly increased. The results of the protection of birds in these forest parks will be watched with interest.

NEW YORK.

Miss Emma H. Lockwood, Secretary of the Audubon Society of the State of New York, reports as follows :

“The Audubon Society of the State of New York for the protection of birds was organized February 23, 1897, and works in co-operation with the American Museum of Natural History, the President of the Museum, Mr. Morris K. Jesup, being also President of the Audubon Society.

“The Executive Committee believes that the work is essentially an educative work; therefore, to have any permanent result, the establishment of Bird Day in the schools throughout the State of New York, was made a primary principle of the organization. To attain this end the aid of Mr. Chas. R. Skinner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction was enlisted. He wrote a letter, addressed to the principals and teachers of the State, endorsing the work and aims of the Society; this letter was sent, together with a letter from the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and copies of the Society’s prospectus, to 1167 superintendents and principals of schools throughout the rural districts of the State. Circular No. 10, a ‘poster,’ giving the law of New York on bird protection enacted May 22, 1897, was sent to 3611 postmasters in the State, enclosed with a letter from the Chairman requesting that the ‘poster’ be hung in the post-offices under their charge.

“Circular No. 4, ‘The Wearing of Heron’s Plumes or Aigrettes,’ has been widely distributed by other State Audubon Societies, the Massachusetts society ordering over 1200 copies, and subsequently having 1000 additional copies printed under their own seal and heading. This circular has also been used by the Audubon Societies of New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Wisconsin and Iowa.

“The general literature of the New York Society has also been furnished on order from St. Louis, Baltimore, St. Paul, Tacoma (Wash.) and Redlands (Cal.).

“The Society has at present 241 members. The work of the past few months has been aimed directly at the cause of bird protection rather than towards the mere increase of member-

ship; it is hoped, however, that with the help of an efficient local secretary at all the important cities and towns of the State that this Society may soon be placed in the prosperous condition the work demands and deserves.

“The Society has issued the following circulars and leaflets :

- No. 1. Prospectus of the Society, giving its objects and principles.
- No. 2. A circular letter to 150 editors of newspapers in the State. By William Dutcher.
- No. 3. ‘An Appeal to Boys.’ By Mrs. J. A. Allen.
- No. 4. ‘The Wearing of Heron’s Plumes or Aigrettes.’ By Frank M. Chapman.
- No. 5. ‘An Artist’s Appeal.’ By Abbot H. Thayer.
- No. 6. ‘Bird Day in the School.’ Republished from Circular No. 17, of the United States Department of Agriculture, by permission.
- No. 7. ‘Economic Value of Birds.’ By Frank M. Chapman. Reprinted from ‘Bird Life.’
- No. 8. Circular letter of Charles R. Skinner to Principals and Teachers of New York State.
- No. 9. Circular letter of the Chairman, sent with No. 8.
- No. 10. Poster—Extracts from the Law on Bird Protection.
- No. 11. Circular letter of Chairman to Editors, sent with No. 12.
- No. 12. Notice of Work and Aims of the Society, sent to Editors by the Chairman.
- No. 13. Circular letter of Chairman to the Postmasters of the State, sent with No. 10.
- No. 14. ‘Elsie in Birdland,—An Appeal to Girls.’ By Mrs. J. A. Allen
Of the above circulars 26,767 copies have been distributed.”

In addition to the work done in the State of New York by the Audubon Society, the American Museum of Natural History conducts a department of educational work under the direct charge of Prof. A. S. Bickmore; this is devoted exclusively to the education of teachers in various branches, including the economic and æsthetic value of birds. Large numbers of accurately-colored lantern slides of birds have been prepared for distribution to the public schools throughout the State, thus bringing to the attention of the teachers and scholars, in a most satisfactory and beautiful way, this interesting and popular subject.

The Chairman regrets to report that the large colony of Terns on Great Gull Island, New York, that has been so carefully protected for a number of years, has, during the past season,

been entirely broken up, as the United States Government is now building upon that island extensive fortifications. While no adult birds, so far as learned, have been shot, yet no young birds have been hatched on that island during the past season.

The Chairman, accompanied by the State Game Protector for this district, visited a number of bird dealers in New York City during the past summer to ascertain whether wild birds were being caught and caged; they found a very few in the possession of dealers. Their attention was called to the new law and they were warned that any infraction of the same would be prosecuted.

RHODE ISLAND.

In October an Audubon Society was organized, with Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus of Brown University as President, and Mrs. H. T. Grant, Jr., 187 Bowen St., Providence, R. I., as Secretary. It has about 75 members. While they have thought best not to require any pledge from members, nor to especially mention their objection to the use of birds for millinery purposes, yet they feel that the subject is amply covered in Articles II and III of their By-Laws, which are as follows: "The purposes of the Society are declared to be the promotion of interest in bird life, the encouragement of the study of Ornithology, and the protection of wild birds and their eggs against unnecessary destruction. A declaration of sympathy with the objects of the Society shall be a sufficient requisite for membership therein.

CONNECTICUT.

Up to the time of making this report, an Audubon Society has not been organized, although considerable correspondence has been had on the subject by your Chairman, and there is every probability of one soon being formed.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Mr. Witmer Stone, of our Committee, reports as follows:

"A new game law was passed by the last legislature, which prohibits market gunning or the sale of game shot in the State,

and limits the number of game birds shot by one man in a single day.

“It also forbids the killing, selling, or having in possession any song or wild birds (except English Sparrow, Kingfisher, and some Hawks, Owls, and Herons) as heretofore. In the main, the law is excellent, but as no wardens are provided for, it cannot be as well enforced as it should be.

“The age at which permits for scientific collecting is granted is very properly reduced to 15 years, but the annual fee for the license is raised from one to five dollars, which is a very bad alteration, as many persons who cannot pay this high fee will be induced to collect without a license.

“The Pennsylvania Audubon Society has been active throughout the year, and has enrolled a membership of 2000, besides distributing about 20,000 circulars and pamphlets. The press throughout the State has given the Society cordial support, and has done much to spread its influence.

“Acting upon the suggestion of the United States Department of Agriculture, a bill providing for a Bird Day in the schools was introduced in the last legislature and was passed, only to be vetoed by the Governor.”

NEW JERSEY.

Early in the year your Chairman visited Plainfield, N. J., at the invitation of some of its leading citizens, and lectured on the subject of bird protection before a large audience. On the 8th of May, 1897, the Audubon Society of the State of New Jersey was organized, with Alexander Gilbert of Plainfield, N. J., as President, and Miss Mary Abigail Mellick of the same place as Secretary; among its large number of Honorary Vice-Presidents is Governor John W. Griggs and Bishop Scarborough, also the President of the New Jersey Fish and Game Association.

Mr. Witmer Stone, of our Committee, who is also much interested in bird protection in lower New Jersey, reports as follows:

“In New Jersey, where no provision whatever is made for scientific collecting, a new bill was introduced during the year with the object of making such provision, and providing protec-

tion for certain birds not now protected. So many amendments were proposed, however, that it was thought, if passed, it would be worse than the present law, and it was dropped.

“The game wardens of New Jersey, under the direction of Mr. Charles A. Shriner, have done excellent work and have made so many arrests that very little illegal gunning is done, and many birds which are not really protected by the law are unmolested from fear that arrest may follow if they are harmed.

“The Gulls and Terns remain in about the same numbers as last year, but the Clapper Rails show clearly the effects of the enormous slaughter of September, 1896, and the high tides at the nesting season last summer, and have been very scarce.”

MICHIGAN.

Mr. L. Whitney Watkins reports as follows: “I am pleased to state that a general feeling of enthusiasm prevails among the ornithologists of Michigan in the observance and enforcement of the laws protecting our native birds from wanton slaughter, and women wear birds upon their hats less than formerly; but here as elsewhere they are the last to think that the poor birds suffer on account of their own selfish vanity. The Michigan Academy of Sciences has appointed Prof. Walter B. Barrows of Lansing, Prof. Dean C. Worcester of Ann Arbor, and L. Whitney Watkins of Manchester, a Committee to advise and formulate better means for the protection of our song and insectivorous birds.

“The Michigan Ornithological Club, through its official quarterly bulletin, to which I have the honor of serving as editor-in-chief, has fearlessly and persistently stood for the protection of birds, and at the next annual meeting of our club we shall, I trust, start a branch of the Audubon Society, regarding which you have already heard from me.

“State Game and Fish Warden, Chas. S. Osborne of Sault Ste. Marie, who, like myself, is a member of both the above-mentioned societies, as well as of the American Ornithologists' Union, has done great good for the cause in the enforcement of the statute respecting our song and insectivorous birds, and in the great

care with which he issues permits for scientific collectors, and bars those who make skins to sell. These permits are usually limited to one or two counties, and to one pair of each species. They run from one month to a year. The Michigan statute reads: 'No person or persons shall at any time or in any manner whatever injure, kill or destroy or attempt to injure, kill or destroy any robin, night hawk, whipporwill, finch, thrush, lark, swallow, yellow bird, blue bird, brown thrasher, cat bird, wren, martin, oriole, sea gull, woodpecker, bobolink or any song or insectivorous bird excepting blackbird, bluejay, English sparrow and butcher bird.' Their nests and eggs are also protected.

"I wish we could get an ornithologist in the legislature., You may depend upon me for anything possible."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

On May 18, 1897, an Audubon Society was organized, with Surgeon-General Geo. M. Sternberg, U. S. Army, as President and Mrs. John Dewhurst Patten as Secretary. In its prospectus particular emphasis is laid upon the fact that if women could only realize the cruelty necessary to obtain wild birds' feathers they would find it impossible to wear any feather to obtain which a bird has been killed; at the present time they have 74 members. The Secretary reports: "We have now in press two good leaflets, and it is proposed to have a circular letter from the Principal of the Public Schools, commending the objects of the Society, and to have a general meeting of the teachers, with a view of arousing their interest in the Society. We desire, if possible, to establish a normal course of ornithology similar to that in botany. I believe there is a growing sentiment in favor of bird protection, and I do not think there is as general use in millinery of wild birds' feathers as there was last season. We have one milliner on our list who has promised not to keep such feathers in stock; the others say they must supply what is demanded. We propose to have a pin for the Society as an especial attraction for children, with whom we feel the greatest work can be done for the future, especially if we succeed in getting a course of bird study in the schools. We do not feel at all discouraged but realize fully that all reforms are very slow."

ILLINOIS.

Mr. Ruthven Deane, of the Committee, reports as follows: "Since my last report, a year ago, affairs with regard to bird protection have assumed, in most particulars, an encouraging aspect, yet a few statements will show that our Committee and Audubon Societies still have plenty of work to accomplish. One of the most important features since my last report has been the organization of the Illinois Audubon Society on April 1, 1897. While the intervening summer months have scattered many of the officers and working committee, yet much good work has been accomplished. Several leaflets have been distributed, schools have been visited, and some already have adopted a Bird Day, and copies of the game laws have been posted in conspicuous places. At the present date the Society has a membership of 500 adults and 2500 children in the public schools, and has established 14 branch societies. On October 28, the first public meeting was held and was well attended. In the past few weeks I have carefully observed the present style of ornamentation for hats and bonnets; I find that not less than 75 per cent. are trimmed with feathers, but only 25 per cent. are those of wild birds, and in no instance did I detect a song bird. The fall fashions here call eagerly for feathers of our game birds and of several species of our Hawks and Owls, yet there are hundreds of styles made up from the feathers of our domestic fowls and pigeons dyed in all colors of the rainbow. Now as to the aigrette, — I am informed by the proprietor of one of our largest wholesale millinery establishments that the demand for these plumes has been greater this fall than for several years, and that the supply was fully equal to the demand, their aigrette sales this fall amounting to \$5,000. It is very discouraging to learn this fact, as more stress has been laid upon this species than any on the list. The general influence of Audubon Societies is, I am sure, having its effect upon the small boy, and many cases are cited where he now loves and respects the bird, when a short time ago, with blow-gun and sling shot, he persecuted them. The heronries on the Kankakee River, which I reported upon last year, have been unmolested the past season, and the birds have been unusually abundant there. Since

bird protection has been so thoroughly brought before the general public, it has awakened an interest in hundreds who previously were but casual observers, but are now true bird lovers, and look at nature's gifts in a different light than ever before. From my correspondence with the secretaries of your various eastern societies, it is delightful to see what extensive progress they are all making. We must all work to increase our memberships, for the more we can enroll, the greater will be the scope of our work."

In addition to the work done by Mr. Deane and the Illinois Audubon Society, I wish to call particular attention to the excellent individual work done by one of the members of the Union, the Rev. George B. Pratt of Chicago; his example could be followed to great advantage by the members of the Union in other portions of the country. He says in a recent letter: "I addressed 75 women and 50 children the other day on bird protection, and next week I go for four days to a girls' school at Kenosha, Wisconsin, to take classes out for observation; I have done this for three years past, and have reaped splendid results in awakening interest. In connection with my sacred church, God gives me magnificent blessings among the kingdom of the blessed birds.

WISCONSIN.

The work in this State has progressed very rapidly and systematically, and is in a more advanced condition than in many of the other States.

Prof. H. Nehrling, an Active member of the Union, reports as follows: "An Audubon Society was founded April 20, 1897, with Mrs. Mary Gifford Peckham of Milwaukee as President, and Miss Madge Anderson of the same city as Secretary. Mrs. Henry F. Whitcomb, one of the Directors, has given bird lectures for three or four years, making protection her main plea, and it is due to her good work, that an Audubon Society could be founded. Like societies have been created in four cities in Wisconsin.

"To Mrs. J. J. Upham, the wife of a former governor, is due the passage of a law for Bird Day, now celebrated in our State, together with Arbor Day.

“The bad small boy still continues to kill birds with his sling shot, and as a rule the police do not stop it; several letters have been written to the Chief of Police in reference to the matter, and also to the Game Warden, asking protection for the birds, but so far without any result.

“A few weeks since the Audubon Society had an exhibition of millinery without birds, except feathers of ostriches and game birds; shortly after this display one of the largest firms in the city announced that they would sell only feathers that were not objectionable. Several of our clergymen have complied with the wishes of our Society and have spoken on the subject of Bird Protection.

“Since my taking charge of the Public Museum, I have made it my special object to interest the schools in our birds and in bird protection; the teachers call upon me frequently in order to obtain information about our more common species. During the last few years 50 sets of birds, comprising nine familiar species, have been mounted and are now used in nature study in the public schools.

“Our present Superintendent of schools is especially interested in this bird work, and he does all he can to make it valuable and pleasant to the children.”

A law establishing a Bird Day was passed in 1889, and was amended in 1897, authorizing the Governor to designate and set apart a day each year for its observance. In conformity with the law, Governor Edward Scofield issued the following proclamation:

“I do hereby designate and set apart Friday, April 30 next, as Arbor and Bird Day, and recommend that all public schools, colleges and other educational institutions of the State and citizens generally do observe the same in a proper manner.

“I recommend that the day be devoted to the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers in school grounds and public parks, to the end that these public grounds may be permanently beautified; and I also recommend that in all school and other public exercises held upon that day special attention be paid to our native birds, in order that the children of the State may learn to find pleasure in a knowledge of the habits and characteristics especially of the various song birds, and that there may be cultivated a higher regard for bird life.

" *In Testimony Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol, in the City of Madison, this 24th day of March, in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-seven.

[Seal]

EDWARD SCOFIELD.

By the Governor:

HENRY CASSON, Secretary of State,"

Mr. George A. Morrison, of Fox Lake, gives a very interesting account of the influence of Bird Day on the boys of his town: "Bird Day was observed here this year April 30, in connection with Arbor Day. This was in compliance with an act passed by our last legislature, setting aside a day for the special study of birds and trees in the schools of the State.

"The exercises were held in the college chapel, and all departments of the public school participated. At the close of the program I gave a little talk on birds, their habits, and need of protection.

"For some time previous there had seemed to be a growing interest manifested on the part of a number of the boys in the characteristics and habits of several of our more common birds. This program seemed to awaken them still more, for, in the succeeding weeks, during the spring migration, they often came to my store, asking about the song of some bird they had undoubtedly frequently heard before, but now it was heard in a different way; it had a meaning, and they learned to recognize the songs of several birds. One species with which they became acquainted last winter was the Evening Grosbeak, a little flock of which remained with us from February 13 to April 20, so the boys had ample opportunity to observe the habits of this winter visitor.

"During the nesting season I think there were but few nests robbed, and fewer birds killed just for fun, which goes to show that the small boy, however malicious, can be taught to respect and love the friends of the air, if the right course be taken.

"In the near future I hope to see a society formed here for the study and protection of our birds. This may be accomplished this winter, as several have indicated a willingness to lend their assistance in this movement. I hope to be able to give you a more complete report next year."

MINNESOTA.

Mr. T. A. Abbott, Secretary of the Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Cruelty, writes: "An Audubon Society has been started and partly organized here, but a full list of officers has not as yet been named, but will be chosen at the November meeting.

"The Local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty has about 400 members, and has had printed and posted in conspicuous places throughout the city and suburbs notices warning all persons against killing wild birds. The study of birds has been taken up in some of the schools in connection with humane societies established among the children, but this is the work of individual teachers and has not as yet been generally taken up, though I hope it will be. No formal or organized effort has been made towards establishing Bird Day in the schools, though certain teachers have attempted to add something in the way of instruction in the exercises of Arbor Day."

Miss Bertha L. Wilson, Supervisor of Nature lessons in Minneapolis, writes: "During the past year we have introduced the study of birds into our public school system; indeed, the primary grades have studied them for several years. Although we have no regular Bird Day, I may say that all the spring days, from Easter on, are Bird Day; then also in the fall. Although we pay more attention to insects, we refer to the migration of birds and speak of them often. I can safely say that many of the teachers, as well as the children, are really interested in this subject. The State law is generally enforced in regard to game birds on their breeding ground, but I think very little attention is paid to the protection of small birds, and I think many useful ones with their nests are destroyed by boys and would-be collectors."

IOWA.

A great deal of good work has been done in Iowa, principally, however, by individuals, as no State Audubon Society has as yet been formed. Mr. M. H. Leitner of Sioux City, Iowa, wrote in August for the literature of the Audubon Societies, and said: "I am very much interested in the bird questions of to-day. I am

teaching in the schools of Sioux City, and at a meeting of the N. W. Iowa Teachers' Association I will be able to reach one-fourth of the entire State; there were over 1000 teachers in attendance last year. Through the public schools on Bird Day we ought to be able to turn public opinion against the wearing of feathers, wherein death or cruelty is necessary to obtain them."

One of the members of the Union, Mr. Wm. E. Praeger of Keokuk, has done a large amount of excellent work, especially in lecturing in his locality, and also in contributing matter on bird protection to the public press of Iowa. He summarizes the work as follows: "I do not know that an Audubon Society has been started, but I have heard that the subject of bird protection is being agitated in a number of large cities in the State. Fort Madison has the honor of being the first city in Iowa to establish a Bird Day in its public schools; this was in 1896; last May an afternoon was devoted to birds in our Keokuk schools; the observance was a success, and Bird Day will probably be an annual institution here and in other cities of our State. I had the pleasure of speaking twice in public on the subject of bird protection last spring, and I am glad to know that my efforts have been rewarded, not only by the observance of Bird Day, but by the awakening of considerable interest in and sympathy for the birds. This shows itself in many ways. I may mention that a few days since a leading milliner in the town told me that the reduction in the demand for feathers was very noticeable in his business, many ladies refusing to wear them. He also said that if he could only get rid of his present stock he would not be sorry for this, as ribbons and flowers were more easily and profitably handled than feathers."

Miss J. E. Hamand, a member of our Union, of Schaller, Iowa, has also done excellent individual work; she writes: "A local Audubon Society was founded in June of the present year; we have had four regular meetings, and have a membership of 104; we have secured the co-operation of our teachers, who are taking up the work in our schools. *Our milliners gave no bird orders this fall.* I have talked at two County teachers' meetings when 60 or 70 were present; also distributed the United States Department of Agriculture Circular No. 17, with bird leaflets.

“At a District Convention, representing 32 clubs, held at Cherokee, a paper prepared by our President was read and discussed. I then made a plea for our fellow citizens of the air and told of the work of our Society; this was followed by the reading of a poem — ‘A Robin Pie,’ the story was called, as this prompted the poem — and it was found it would make an excellent leaflet, which will soon be published. The following resolution was unanimously carried: ‘Resolved: That this Association is in thorough sympathy with the work of the Audubon Society, discouraging the use of aigrettes and birds for ornamentation, and condemning the cruel destruction of bird life to supply the demands of fashion.’

“Several ladies expressed their determination to organize Audubon Societies in their various towns.

“Permission was obtained from the Superintendent of the Northern Iowa Division of the Chicago and Northwestern R. R. to post the literature of the Audubon Society in the depot; the Chapman aigrette leaflet was framed, and a large number of other leaflets were hung from corners like almanacs. We hope to get a bill through the legislature this coming winter establishing Bird Day in the schools. I also hope to address the County Farmers’ Institute in January, realizing that many farmers have destroyed, through ignorance, their best friends, Hawks and Owls. At that time we hope to have enough of Miss Merriam’s pamphlets to distribute with the Circular No. 54 of the Agricultural Department. We have had cards printed, with sections of the bird laws on them, which were posted in our parks and elsewhere. I am hoping another year we will have a State Society. We feel greatly indebted to the secretaries of the various State Societies for their timely and prompt responses, their suggestions and leaflets and their many encouraging words.”

ARKANSAS.

Mrs. Louise McGowen Stephenson of Helena, a member of our Committee, has by her own unaided efforts, aroused a sentiment for bird protection, by her continuous and emphatic appeals through the public press, sufficiently strong to carry successfully

through the legislature a bill which was subsequently signed by the Governor and made a statute March 12, 1897. It is as follows:

“It shall be unlawful for any person within the State of Arkansas to kill, wound or injure any wild bird other than the game birds, or to destroy, disturb or rob the nest of any such bird, or to sell or expose for sale, either dead or alive, any such bird, and it shall be unlawful for any railroad company, express company, steamboat company or other company or corporation, or private person, their agents, employes or servants to have in possession or receive for transportation or carriage or for any other purpose whatever, any such birds or eggs; but this section shall not only apply to English sparrows, crows, blackbirds, hawks, owls, eagles and other bird of prey, nor shall it prohibit any person from killing any such birds on his own premises, when in the act of destroying fruit or other crop.”

In justice to Mrs. Stephenson's excellent work I cannot do better than to give in full the two reports she has made to your Committee. She writes: “How to protect the birds has been with me the subject of grave consideration for many years, and although willing and anxious to render service, I did not see how to go about it until Circular 17, U. S. Agricultural Department, came to me. The plan there suggested seemed a feasible method of popularizing bird protection. Fifty-six of them were sent out September, 1896, with the following circular of my own:

“DEAR SIR:—I enclose a circular with the plea that its subject matter be given careful attention.

“If you recall the fact that there are very few Mockingbirds left in this country to day, you will not only agree something should be done to protect this small remnant, but that the surest way to accomplish that something is to teach the young people to spare the lives of all birds.

“Believing that with your aid, and that of other progressive teachers, we can make Arkansas the Banner State in this line, I beg you will permit me to add your name to the list of those willing to cooperate with Messrs. Palmer and Babcock in their noble work.’

“But two replies were received to these, so from that date personal letters were enclosed, and more circulars were asked for

from time to time. Altogether 114 letters have been sent to residents of 65 Counties on the subject of Bird Day in schools. In about half of these it was announced that an effort would be made to secure favorable legislation during the winter, and those addressed were asked to interest the members from their district in the subject of bird protection. As a result of the interest awakened, in March, 1897, the amendment to the game law was passed. Since that time I have been in communication with the Hunters' Clubs in Arkansas, urging them to join with other friends of the song birds in having the law printed in large type and posted in every post office in the State. Thus far polite answers have been received promising cooperation.

"As to Bird Day in the schools, much interest has been aroused and I trust will result in good. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction called attention to the matter through the public print, and also arranged interesting programs for five consecutive Fridays, beginning with March 26 and ending April 23, which, at my request, he designated Bird Day proper.

"So far as the legislation is concerned, I am aware that little can be hoped for in the way of bird protection unless the law is reinforced by healthy public sentiment. This, in my opinion, can be aroused in no better way than through the medium of schools."

Later Mrs. Stephenson writes: "There are some experiences which are so hopeful in their promise for the future that I venture to send them. Late in September I received a letter from a friend who is the principal of a female seminary in Tacoma, Washington, which ran thus: 'I see in the last report of the National Science Club that you have succeeded in getting Bird Day inaugurated as a regular thing in the public schools in Arkansas. Is it asking too much for you to tell me just what is done on this day and just how it is carried out? I am down for a paper on birds in our club, and as I have no personal observations to report I am trying to get what information I can on the subject that may be of interest?'

"You would smile if you could see the list of questions which she added, since they covered two pages of her letter, but the above is all that seems pertinent. Of course, I answered at once,

and made as many suggestions as I could, as well as enclosing a very comprehensive plan suggested by our State Superintendent.

“The next experience had to do with the articles I am preparing every week, and as you already have copies up to date of the papers which contain them, you will be able to judge how very effectual my clippings may prove. After the first article I met an acquaintance who did not wait to greet me, but exclaimed impulsively: ‘Oh, Mrs. Stephenson, I read your article, and am so glad you wrote it. I never felt like wearing a bird, but did not realize how cruel it was before.’

“The past week, after the appearance of ‘The Cruel Through Ignorance’ article, a fashionable acquaintance said: ‘Those articles you are writing are doing a great deal of good, I know. Why, I took out my last winter’s hat, with its aigrettes and birds, and I could not think of wearing it again after the “As Others See Us” appeared.’

“A friend in a neighboring village told of his boy’s reading it at their Friday exercises in their schools, and that as soon as they had finished, the principal gave the school a genuinely fine lecture on the subject of cruelty toward birds.

“These are little straws, but they help to show how small a wind sets them in motion, do they not?

“These last quotations from a letter would not be made if it were not that the position of the writer makes its promise mean very much; she is a wealthy young lady who supports, as well as teaches in, a Kindergarten in Leavenworth, Kansas, among the poorest class of miners; she knew nothing whatever of birds, but in her anxiety to instill her poor little barbarians with some ideas of mercy, sought to learn about the birds so that she might interest them through her personal observations. She sent for Chapman’s ‘Hand-Book’ and, with opera glasses to aid us, we had many a lovely day with the birds. She said, ‘How I did enjoy my summer, and how much you did for me. But your reward will not come here, unless you count it reward to enthuse one more to bird study.’

“These are all the crumbs which have come back, but I know there must be more, and shall do all I can in every way possible. My efforts to unite with the Hunters’ Clubs for the enforcing of

the law have not resulted in anything save some promises of aid and have helped in interesting other clubs; that was last spring. After a few weeks I shall begin again to claim their attention."

MISSOURI.

In Missouri no organized effort has been made, although some individual work has been done. Mr. O. Widmann, of our Committee, reports: "No Bird Day has been established in Missouri, neither do I think that, unassisted by regular teaching, it would be of much more good than creating another half-holiday for the teachers and pupils, something like Arbor Day. Mr. Baskett made some effort in its behalf in the Missouri 'School Journal' last June, and he says that the press of the State took it up for a little while, but nothing came of it. The introduction of the study of birds in schools has never been discussed anywhere in our State, which does not yet seem to be ripe for such accomplishments. There is no zoölogy taught in our schools, not even in the high schools.

"No attempt has been made toward establishing an Audubon Society, but in the show-windows of the St. Louis milliners, more birds are to be seen on the hats than ever before, and in their advertisements they boast of an immense stock and very low prices. We have certainly bird laws in the State of Missouri, but who ever heard of them? They are good enough as far as they go, though they make bad blunders, as for instance placing the Meadow-larks among the game birds. These bird laws have never been enforced, and nobody pays the least attention to them. In some Counties they try to stop Sabbath shooting; that is about as far as they can hope to get. The hunting itself, and the slaughtering of innocent birds, is such a sacred privilege of the son of this 'land of the free' that nobody dares to interfere. Our colored brothers are especially prominent in the enjoyment of this privilege, and with many of our white as well as colored citizens the right to slaughter is the ideal prerogative of the American and the true exponent of liberty. The acknowledgment of this right to hunt and shoot seems to be universal. Only a few weeks ago a five year old girl was killed by

a negro shooting Meadow-larks on a vacant lot in the city of Kirkwood, a suburb of St. Louis. Nobody thought of prosecuting the negro; it was simply an accident. The negro saw the children, but his excuse was, that he did not know his gun would carry that far.

“What will you do with Bird Days and Audubon Societies among a population which allows negroes to shoot Meadow-larks on city lots, and does not even think of punishing those who carelessly destroy precious human life.

“Finally you ask for suggestions: here is one of a radical nature. Get Congress to put enough taxes on the manufacture and sale of gunpowder to raise its price to at least two dollars a pound, and put a revenue stamp on every shell and cartridge. If the government can control the liquor traffic why not also gunpowder? The one is as bad as the other.”

COLORADO.

Early in the year the Chairman addressed a letter to the President of the Woman's Club, Denver, Colorado, asking for the cooperation of that Club to create a sentiment against the use of feathers of all wild birds for millinery purpose. The matter seems to have been taken up by the Colorado Humane Society.

Mrs. Francis B. Hill, the Secretary of the El Paso branch, writes: “The subject of Mr. Dutcher's letter is one that has engaged the earnest attention of this society for several years past; literature on the subject has been generously distributed, and the sympathy of the local press enlisted, which has helped the cause by frequent articles. It has been brought to the notice of the superintendents of all the schools, and this year our society was instrumental in organizing an Audubon Society, of which Mr. F. O. Wood of Colorado Springs is President.”

Mr. Whitehead, the General Secretary of the State Society, writes: “In Denver we have done about what has been done in Colorado Springs except that we have no organized Audubon Society. Two ordinances, copies of which are attached, we had passed last spring, and they are read occasionally in all the city schools with remarkable results.

"Ordinance No. 29. Series of 1897.

"Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Denver :

Section 1.—It shall be unlawful for any person within the corporate limits of the city of Denver to have in possession or to make, use, sell or offer for sale, any instrument, toy or weapon commonly known as a pea-shooter, sling or beany, made for the purpose of throwing projectiles by means of elastic rubber cords or bands, or other india rubber parts, by means of springs, or any air gun, whether such instrument is called by any name above set forth or by any other name; and every person convicted of a violation of this ordinance shall be fined in a sum not less than one dollar nor more than twenty dollars for each offense.

"Ordinance No. 30. Series of 1897.

"Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Denver :

Section 1.—It shall be unlawful for any person at any time within the corporate limits of the city of Denver to frighten, shoot at, wound, kill, capture, ensnare, net, trap, or in any other manner molest or injure any robin, lark, whip-poor-will, finch, sparrow, thrush, wren, martin, swallow, snow-bird, bobolink, red-winged blackbird, crow, raven, oriole, kingbird, mocking bird, song sparrow, or other song or insectivorous bird; or in any manner molest or injure the nest, eggs, or young of any such bird, or to have in possession the nest, eggs, young, or body of any such bird.

Section 2.—Any person violating the provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance, upon conviction, shall be fined in a sum not less than one dollar nor more than fifty dollars for each offense.

"The daily press will publish anything asked relative to bird protection which is furnished them."

CALIFORNIA.

In this State we have two members of the Committee, Mr. A. W. Anthony and Mr. Leverett M. Loomis. Mr. Anthony reports as follows: "A few shipments of plumes have been sent to this port (San Diego), from western Mexico, but I have been unable to learn the extent or nature of the consignment. The milliner who received them denies that any were received; nearly all who handle plumes seem ashamed of the business and anxious to cover their guilt.

"I did not visit the region of any Heron rookeries last summer,

so I could not learn of any parties who might be killing plume birds. One boat with two men has been in the Gulf of California for two seasons ; I cannot learn the full extent of their slaughter until their return."

Mr. Loomis reports : " The California Academy of Sciences' bill for the protection of birds, before the last legislature, did not reach the stage of final consideration. I was absent at the East, and therefore could not press the matter ; the bill will be introduced again at the next session, over a year hence. Some protection, however, was secured through another bill that was in advance of the Academy's. Fewer Murre's eggs were offered for sale last season than usual ; one large dealer in poultry and eggs, in the Union Square market, told me that he had ceased to handle Gulls' eggs since the Government had prohibited their collection on South Farallon Island, for those obtained from other localities were generally stale when they reached the market. With the passage of a State law prohibiting the sale of wild birds' eggs, the sea birds on this coast will be comparatively free from molestation, except where rookeries are easy of access. I am not aware that any special effort is being made to introduce the study of birds into the schools, or that there is any movement towards forming Audubon Societies other than the one at Redlands."

Your Chairman, in his report of 1896, referred to an appeal that had been made to the Lighthouse Board to prohibit the collection of eggs on the South Farallon Islands by the lighthouse keepers stationed there. I am pleased to state that the Board, in response to our appeal, prohibited in the most positive manner the collecting of eggs by the following order : " The Board directs that all egg and bird business of the kind in question on the Farallon Islands, California, so far as outside parties are concerned, be prohibited ; as to the collection of eggs and birds by the lighthouse employes, you are also directed to take steps for the proper regulation of this matter, subject to the Boards' approval." Signed, Geo. F. F. Wilde, Commander, U. S. Navy, Naval Secretary.

By a further order, dated December 10, 1896, directed to Commander Frank Courtis, U. S. Navy, Inspector, 12th Lighthouse District, the lighthouse keepers themselves were debarred from

collecting eggs under the following order: "The Board desires that the lighthouse keepers shall be prohibited from engaging in the business of collecting or selling wild birds' eggs on these islands, in any form." Signed, Geo. F. F. Wilde, Commander, etc.

At the suggestion of Mr. Anthony, your Chairman addressed a letter to Porfirio Diaz, President of the Republic of Mexico, calling his attention to the fact that white and Indian hunters from the United States were visiting Mexico for the purpose of plume hunting. It was called particularly to his attention that Mexico derived no benefit from the traffic, but suffered a direct loss. No response to this appeal was received, but as it was quite detailed, it no doubt had its effect.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Mr. T. K. Bruner, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, attempted in the last session of the legislature to have an act for the preservation of birds passed. The penalties were a little too severe for the temper of the people, so the passage was lost. The next session of the legislature is not held until January, 1899.

In its report for 1896 your Committee stated that it firmly believed that the true solution of the problem would be the education of the children of our schools in every grade from the kindergarten to the college, not only in the æsthetic but the economic value of our birds. They are more firmly convinced that this is the true solution than ever before. Everything points to it as the only means through which the desired end may be attained. It is found to be extremely difficult to convince the great bulk of the adults of the present day of the economic value of birds, and that they should not be destroyed. In a generation it will be possible to so change this sentiment that every adult will recognize the importance of birds as aids in preserving the economic balance of nature.

Miss Merriam, of our Committee, who unfortunately is not able to be present at this meeting, very forcibly expressed her sentiments on this subject in the following letter; it is so earnestly and clearly expressed that I submit it in detail:

“In the days of the old original Audubon Society, I did quite a little work up here [Lewis Co., N. Y.], and got two or three local secretaries for the neighboring villages who secured goodly membership lists.

“With the revival of the work I have tried to bring the people back into line, and in that attempt have had my eyes opened to the value of local work such as we did in those days. In our village nearly *all the members have broken their pledges* and are so utterly indifferent to the matter that the former secretary thinks she could not get them back on the membership list even if the fee were only twenty-five cents. She says they were *never* very much interested, and now care nothing about the subject.

“Now we don’t want to repeat this history, and as Chairman of the Protection Committee I look to you to warn our workers from the past and help them to work more wisely in this new movement that promises to go from coast to coast.

“We do not want it to be a passing enthusiasm, but a vital growth. Bird protection must be the outgrowth of *public intelligence* rather than sentiment; this intelligence can be secured by lectures and the wide distribution of *economic* statistics such as the New York Society is sending out, and such as every society should disseminate; and it can also be secured by teaching the school children the interest and value of birds. Make the adults intelligent; interest the children in birds. Bird protection should be like vaccination; as soon as people understood the value of that there was no further question. When people are taught the economic value of birds — that bird destruction is a matter of dollars and cents to them — bird protection will be assured; and when children are interested in birds they will not want to shoot them with sling shots.

“Just here we have a mission, an opportunity which I hope very earnestly you will point out to all the newly formed and forming societies — an opportunity to make our movement *Audubon* in very fact as in name — to spread the true spirit of Audubon, to implant the love of nature in our children’s hearts. Let our Audubon societies be not only for the Protection, but the *Study of Birds*. *Let us work to introduce bird study into the schools along with botany.*

“There is a new and wide-spread interest in Nature Study as a means of observation, etc., in our schools, and in our country schools at least there is every opportunity for bird work. But while bird songs are coming in through the windows, the children’s attention is concentrated upon a *crab*, which inland children may know only through books.

“Country children are peculiarly in need of this bird work. Boys need the guidance of a teacher to give names and point to their own discoveries, to change their egg collecting interest to a *naturalist’s* interest. And girls need the teaching to give them an out-door interest in Nature: they are our future farmers’ wives; more farmers’ wives go insane than any other class — from dearth of interests. Here we have an opportunity to give them something that will lend value and meaning to woods and fields — that will widen their horizons and lighten their drudgery.

“A man was lecturing in Albany this summer on nature work, going from place to place in the State with the avowed purpose of interesting country people in the life about them in order to prevent their exodus to the cities. This is certainly a wise sociological movement, and we have it in our power to help enormously.

“In fact, this Audubon movement in the United States may be an ephemeral enthusiasm, or it may do most important humanitarian work. It may mean nothing, or it may mean great things.

“I would urge wise, broad, philanthropic work by every society that is formed. Specifically, I would say: 1. Let us disseminate economic literature. 2. Let us establish bird work in the schools on a footing with botany.

“To make this bird work possible, we must teach the teachers, and so must aim to establish bird courses in the normal and high schools, have bird examinations part of the Regent’s examinations; every teacher who gets a certificate should have enough knowledge of the subject to teach the children the common birds; field work, of course, should be the basis in every possible case.”

Your Committee has the following recommendations to make to the members of the American Ornithologists’ Union:

1. — That it is the duty of each member to instruct himself as to the economic value of birds by reading all the publications on

the subject, that he or she may be prepared to instruct and interest anyone with whom they may be thrown in contact.

2. — Members should also be prepared and willing at all times to address farmers' institutes, women's clubs, and any other gathering of people where the subject of bird protection and the value of birds to the people can be urged.

3. — Another duty is for members of the Union to urge upon their representatives in their State legislatures the advisability of passing proper laws for the protection of birds, including the so-called birds of prey; this can be done on the ground of their economic value to the agricultural districts if for no other reason.

4. — Members should take every opportunity to talk to educators urging them to teach the children about bird life, and to that end should prevail upon as many teachers as possible to join this society. Could the Union have four or five thousand members scattered throughout the country, largely among the teachers, it would be financially able to have a department devoted exclusively to the furthering of this special work.

5. — Your committee find that the bird laws of the various States are so unlike in their provisions, and in most cases so worthless, that it urgently recommends that it would be advisable to have made a complete compilation of the laws relative to birds throughout the United States.

6. — After such compilation, the Committee further recommends that a draft of a uniform law be made that can be safely recommended for enacting in all portions of North America. This law should, if possible, prevent the transportation by public carriers or individuals from one State to another.

7. — It is further recommended that a uniform law establishing Bird Day in conjunction with Arbor Day be urged for passage in all the States where such a law does not now exist. The very simple but clear law now on the statute books of Wisconsin is recommended as a model. It has been urged that two holidays are objectionable, therefore, as Arbor Day and Bird Day are allied in purpose a law making both observable on the same day is advisable. The following is recommended.

ARBOR AND BIRD DAY LAW.

Section 1. The governor is hereby authorized to set apart each year by proclamation, one day, to be designated an Arbor and Bird Day, and to request its observance by all public schools, private schools, colleges and other institutions, by the planting of trees, the adornment of school and public grounds, and by suitable exercises having for their object the advancement of the study of arboriculture, the promotion of a spirit of protection to birds and trees, and the cultivation of an appreciative sentiment concerning them.

Section 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

8. — Your Committee further recommends that as far as possible uniform circulars and leaflets should be issued by the Audubon Societies; to that end a clearing house should be established and the leaflets and circulars be printed from stereotyped plates, thus securing published matter at the minimum of cost.

9. — Your Committee further recommends that an Audubon badge be adopted and issued instead of certificates of membership. These might be worn and thus serve to remind the Audubon member of his or her pledge, and they would also excite interest in others and thus spread the good influence of the work.

10. — Your Committee further urgently recommends that all permits issued by the proper authorities for collecting birds and their eggs should be absolutely confined to scientific purposes, and that in no sense should they be construed to permit collecting for commercial purposes. And further, it is the duty of all members of the American Ornithologists' Union and members of Audubon Societies to urge this matter upon the authorities issuing such licenses.

Finally, your Committee finds itself in great need of aid in many parts of the United States and calls for volunteers for the work from members of the Union. Such members would be expected to assume the direction of the work in the manner outlined above in territory assigned to them.

Very respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM DUTCHER,
Chairman.