

such times, he hits bottom every twenty feet or so, and his head is jerked back in a most comical manner.

The Gull-billed Terns were the only birds which continued to be suspicious of my blind, and the Common Terns accepted it as a necessary evil within a half hour.

During my stay I spent in all about eleven hours in my blind within sight of many Gulls, but they seem to be less rapacious than some of their cousins, for I saw them attempt to steal eggs only once. In this locality and at this time of year the Gulls feed almost exclusively on soft-shelled crabs, which they capture with great dexterity.

Other species of birds observed on the island were:

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), one.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*), one.

Phœbe (*Sayornis phæbe*), one pair breeding.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phæniceus*), several, probably breeding.

Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), one pair.

Seaside Sparrow (*Passerherbulus maritimus*), abundant, chiefly at the northern end of the island.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), common.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*), four pairs breeding.

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## BIRD PROTECTION IN FOREIGN LANDS.

BY G. EIFRIG.

IN MAY, 1910, the "First German Convention for Bird Protection" was held at Charlottenburg, near Berlin, Germany. This representative gathering had assembled at the invitation of four of the largest and most important societies devoted to the study and protection of birds in that country. What impresses one most forcibly when reading of such societies and their deliberations in Germany and England, is the high standard of excellence in the speeches held and lectures delivered, and, what should

probably be mentioned first, the great number of influential people, men and women, who take an *active* interest in these things over there, such as members of government, both national and state, university professors, principals and teachers of high and public schools, foresters, etc. The logical thoroughness and system, for which Germany is well known, also show themselves here, and in consequence the resolutions adopted at such meetings usually find a prompt acceptance on the part of the national or state governments, which make them effective by issuing the necessary orders.

One of the many excellent addresses delivered at the above named convention struck the writer as being particularly interesting and instructive and deserving of being more widely made known. It is entitled "Der Vogelschutz im Auslande," (Bird Protection in Foreign Countries), and was delivered by Staff veterinarian, Dr. Heuss of Paderborn. He takes up the countries in which efforts tending toward bird protection are made in alphabetical order, and we, though by no means making a literal translation of his statements, do the same, with the exception of substituting for his remarks on the United States, which we do not need for our purposes, such on Germany, which naturally are omitted by the speaker over there.

BELGIUM. Although this is one of the backward countries as regards bird protection, even here such a movement is making headway. The first hopeful sign is the founding of the "Société belge contre le port des Plumes" under the energetic leadership of Madame van Hoorde of Brussels. The government also seems to be alive to its duties under the Paris convention, which it had joined. It has forbidden the shooting of gulls, and an order of the agricultural department has put more birds on the protected list, including the Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*). The forestry branch is combating the caterpillar pest by putting up drinking places for birds in dry parts of the country, to thus attract birds to them once more. Otherwise the Belgians are among the worst sinners against birds. Great numbers of finches, larks, even nightingales are caught in nets and otherwise, plucked and put up for sale in cities.

DENMARK. Here the very active propaganda for bird protec-

tion is continued under the leadership of the "Soalen" society, of which Mrs. (Col.) Malvine Mehrn is president. In a circular to all the bishops of the country, entitled "Church and protection of animals," the attention of the reverend gentlemen is drawn to the ethical aspect of the protection of animals in general and that of birds in particular. Many illustrated lectures are held before schools and societies, and the audiences at such are always large and appreciative. In a memorandum sent to the board of directors of the royal railways, it was proposed that the railway embankments should be planted with trees and berry-bearing shrubs, to furnish the birds with nesting sites and winter food.

ENGLAND, with her colonies, affords a very gratifying example of systematic and earnest endeavors in bird protection, successfully directed and carried out. The bill which Lord Avebury introduced into Parliament, designed to combat the evils arising out of the sale of birds' skins and feathers, found a ready response in many circles, and Mr. James Buckland of the Royal Colonial Institute, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are leaving no stone unturned to bring the matter to a successful finish. In the meantime Lord Crewe, Minister of State for the Colonies, has called together a commission of experts of the Colonial Office and of the National Museum of Natural History to devise ways and means how the wholesale destruction of birds in the interest of fashion may best be stopped in the different parts of the empire. The above named society also merits praise for issuing, under the English title 'How to Attract and Protect Wild Birds', the well known book by Hiesemann, the appropriate foreword of which having been written by the skilful pen of the Duchess of Bedford. At the same time a sales agency for the food and nesting appliances designed by Baron von Berlepsch has been opened. A noticeable resolution was adopted by the British Ornithologists' Union, at a special general meeting, namely this, that a member who is found guilty of having killed or having aided and abetted the killing of certain birds, is to be suspended from membership.

[In CANADA the status of bird protection is, generally speaking, satisfactory. Most provinces have bird laws upon their statute books which are nearly or entirely like the Audubon model law.

Spring shooting of ducks and shorebirds is prohibited in most Provinces, which is more than can be said of some States in the Union. Restrictions on the shipping of game are in force, where it is not entirely forbidden, as well as hunters' licenses. From personal interviews the writer knows that Sir Wilfred Laurier is heartily in accord with the idea of bird protection, he is in fact a great lover of nature and close observer of birds. Not so much can be said of the present Minister of the Interior, but even he was willing to set aside islands in the lakes of the great northwest as bird reservations. If the A. O. U. or the National Audubon Society would send one or two well posted people to Ottawa, when the political waves do not run as high as now, no doubt something could be done to help in establishing bird refuges on what is practically worthless land, to have parts of the shore of the oceans put under the surveillance of the light house tenders and life savers, etc. Meanwhile birds are fully protected at all times in the extensive national and provincial parks and forest reservations.]

In FRANCE, unfortunately, conditions are not so favorable, they, in fact, being more like those of Belgium and Italy. While the cause of ornithology and bird protection has recruited a powerful protagonist in the "Revue française d'Ornithologie scientifique et pratique," published monthly by Henri Tressier in Orléans and ably edited by M. Louis Denise, librarian of the National Library, and Dr. A. Menegaux, assistant curator at the National Museum in Paris, strong complaints continue to be voiced regarding the wholesale killing of small insectivorous and song birds in southern France. M. Perier, a deputy from that part of the country, has calculated that in his election district alone no less than 700,000 birds had been caught and killed in five months!

[In GERMANY the idea of bird protection is probably most thoroughly and systematically carried out. The birds always had a better chance there — except in the districts where netting was formerly carried on, a practice which has now been stopped by an act of the Reichstag — because the gun "toting" habit, so prevalent here, was always unknown, especially on the part of boys. But now, since the Reichstag passed the famous law just alluded to, followed by the legislatures of the different states,

a veritable flood of measures, designed to protect birds and increase their numbers, are being enacted by cities, villages, park boards, land owners, etc., to aid in this movement. The nesting boxes and feeding apparatus for birds, designed by von Berlepsch, are installed wholesale in many places, and the other ways and means tried out and perfected by him on his model bird station are introduced. Vagabond cats are caught and destroyed. Waste land is planted with shrubbery, the ministries of the several state railways direct that this be done also along the railway embankments; farmers, laborers, school children, students are led to take an active part in the work, until it has become a national movement. The summer resorts at the sea coasts have tended to drive away sea birds; this is overcome by establishing reservations along the coast, much as in this country, with gratifying results. The best known of these are along the coast of the North Sea: Jordsand, Ellenbogen, Norderoog and Memmert, and Langenwerder in the Baltic Sea. State boards of forests and private forest owners also help in this work, and the result is a surprisingly large bird population, which was forcibly brought home to the writer, when on a trip to Europe in 1908.]

ITALY [still is the *bete noire* of European bird protection. After having long ago nearly depleted the country of resident birds, the Italians now lay in wait for the hordes of migrant birds from central and northern Europe and net and kill them by the thousands. The strings of even the smallest dead song and insect-eating birds for sale in the Italian cities are well known to all travelers there and are objects of repugnance to them.] But more and more influences are setting themselves to work against this slaughter of the innocents and the cruelties perpetrated in connection with it. Anticruelty and bird protective societies, as well as individuals, are competing to bring the agriculturists to a sense of the harm they are doing themselves and the country at large by their wanton destruction and to show them the benefits conferred upon them by birds. This is done by leaflets, pamphlets, and newspaper articles. Especially praiseworthy in this respect is the literary activity displayed by Dr. Casoli, physician at Cevoli near Pisa, and by L. Riccabone of Turin in his journal 'Il mondo animale,' the 'Animal World.' Another step in the

right direction is the prohibition of using live pigeons in shooting contests, which has hitherto been a prominent source of popular enjoyment.

[In AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, strange to say, the preponderance in respect to bird protection is with the second partner in the dual monarchy. We, in America, generally speaking, usually have no very high opinion of Hungary and things Hungarian, but as regards this movement, we must take off our hats to them. Hungary is nearly, if not quite, at the top of the ladder in bird protection. What is being introduced and tried out in this respect in other countries for the last five years, has been known and established in Hungary for many years past.] This is owing to the energetic and devoted and practical leadership the movement has found here early, in the person of the venerable Otto Herman, who with youthful energy, is still keeping it at the height of perfection. Owing to the initiation of the Royal Hungarian "Zentrale" for bird protection, the International Agricultural Congress at Rome in 1909 passed several noteworthy resolutions aiming at the better protection of birds in the various countries represented. Surely, a gratifying achievement.

In Austria itself, the other part of the dual monarchy, the council of Vienna, the capital, leads in putting ordinances on the statute books, which aim at protecting and attracting birds. Permits to trap birds for cage purposes are no longer issued in Vienna. Lower Austria has also recently passed a bird law, in which all birds are divided into three kinds, useful, harmful and indifferent. The first may not be caught or killed throughout the year; the harmful ones may be taken at any time, subject, however, to the limitations placed on this by the game and fish police; for the indifferent ones a close season lasting from February 1 to September 15 is established.

In NORWAY it is especially the Christiania society for the protection of animals, under the excellent leadership of the royal equerry Sverdrup, that is doing telling work. In a circular addressed to all the town and village councils in the country, these were made acquainted with the leading principles of bird protection. The monthly journal of the society, 'Dyrenesven,' in each number contains essays and news concerning bird protection.

In SWEDEN a similar activity is shown by the "Ladies' Society for the Protection of Animals," whose president is the Countess Anna Runth. This society is lately organizing the young people of the country for its purposes and this will, no doubt, lead to better protection for birds.

SWITZERLAND. The little model republic, naturally takes no back seat also in this matter. It is fully abreast with other countries. Here too the women are just now doing good work for the cause. Thus the 'Ligue féminine romande contre la destruction des oiseaux pour la parure' has lately issued a brochure entitled 'Le massacre des oiseaux et les crimes de la mode,' in which the pernicious results of the wholesale slaughter of birds to satisfy the whims of fashion are pointed out. This agitation is also carried into the daily papers and into the schools.

[For the UNITED STATES, the great work carried on by the Audubon Society, under the excellent and self-sacrificing leadership of Mr. W. Dutcher, is highly commended.]

VENEZUELA, even, has fallen in line and has determined upon a generous and, as is to be hoped, efficient policy to avert the threatened extinction of the beautiful egrets which are to be found there. On the 18th of April, 1910, a special law was passed, in which all killing of the egret is forbidden. This has sent a cold shudder down the spines of the Parisian feather dealers, who thereupon got a bogus "naturaliste-explorateur" to write a pamphlet in which he bravely lied that when the plumes of the egrets were taken not a single bird was killed, etc. [How much this falsehood is one "of whole cloth," was recently shown in 'The Auk' and in 'Bird-Lore.']

And finally BRAZIL has taken its place among the enlightened nations. On the 15th of January, 1909, a law was passed which protects all birds that are beneficial to agriculture and also prohibits the killing of rheas, gulls, terns, storks and herons, as also the taking of eggs and destroying of nests and the taking away of the nestlings. It is made incumbent upon the municipal councils to make this decree known as widely as possible and to enforce its provisions.

N. B. The matter in brackets has been added by the translator.