

Saving Disappearing Species.

Editor of 'The Auk':

Some little while ago I called the attention of the American Ornithologists' Union to an experiment for preserving in captivity certain species of Parrakeets which are threatened with extinction in a wild state from causes largely beyond human control.

During the past two years my most able helper, Dr. Leon Patrick of Smith Grote Buildings, Orange, California has met with the success that I anticipated, having with one exception, reared young of every species of which he has had acclimatized pairs and having obtained eggs from all. In the case of two species young of the second generation have been raised. In spite of these encouraging results, however, the venture is still being sadly handicapped by lack of interest and lack of adequate financial support for the purchase of the necessary ground and aviary equipment. Dr. Patrick, though an expert aviculturist is not a wealthy man, and having been put to very great expense in obtaining breeding stocks I find my own ability to do more, strictly limited.

I should like therefore once more to urge upon American ornithologists the more serious recognition of the wonderful opportunity that they are neglecting. Every year some species of bird in some part of the world is coming near to extinction and cannot be saved or will not be saved in its natural habitat in a wild state. In many cases, however, the doomed species can be propagated in confinement and if this can be done surely it is a thousand pities not to do it. No one is keener than myself on preserving birds in a natural state and no one is more opposed to the keeping of birds in a captivity which is cruel or irksome, but it is sheer folly to shut one's eyes to the fact that many birds cannot survive in their native habitat and that there are certain methods of keeping certain birds which inflict absolutely no suffering at all either physical or mental. We preserve inanimate treasures for posterity: why neglect to preserve living ones?

Yours truly,
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Henderson's "The Practical Value of Birds."

Editor of 'The Auk':

In reading "The Practical Value of Birds" by Junius Henderson, it is noted that most of the recent contributions to economic ornithology by Canadian authors are neither mentioned in the text nor included in the bibliography. This is particularly unfortunate when it is seen that the author of the book in question considered that he was covering the Canadian field, for he states, "this volume is an effort to analyze and digest the North American Literature of the subject." Many Canadian references, some of considerable importance, are omitted. A list of thirteen references