

CONSERVATION NOTES

BY FRANCIS H. ALLEN

A 'Convention' embodying a preliminary agreement for 'the protection of Nature and the preservation of flora and fauna,' drawn up by a committee appointed by the Pan-American Union, was opened for signature at Washington, October 12, 1940, and has been signed by the United States and eighteen of the Latin-American Republics. One of its articles calls for the adoption of measures for 'the protection of migratory birds of economic or aesthetic value or to prevent the extinction of any given species.' It was ratified by the U. S. Senate, April 7, 1941.

IN his address before the Wildlife Conference in Memphis in February, Dr. Gabrielson warned his hearers to be on their guard against the danger of interference with conservation in the interest, real or imagined, of national defense. The Secretary of the Interior has appointed the Chief of the Division of the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid Program, Albert M. Day, as a liaison officer to see that defense activities do not unwittingly interfere with wildlife.

THE Director of the National Audubon Society reports in the March-April number of the 'Audubon Magazine' (formerly 'Bird-Lore') that in Texas some Boy Scouts and their leaders have been found shooting protected birds. There is still work to be done for bird-protection in this admirable organization all over the country, though the work for merit badges in bird-study and conservation is doubtless producing good effects on the whole. Some State Audubon Societies are making profitable contacts with the Scouts.

WE learn from the same number of the 'Audubon Magazine' that certain technicalities as to rights in hypothetical oil deposits are likely to make an Everglades National Park an impossibility for the present but that the area may be made a Federal Wildlife Refuge instead.

FOUR very similar bills have been introduced into Congress providing for a Division of Water Pollution Control in the United States Public Health Service. They are H. R. 1110, introduced by Representative Spence of Kentucky; H. R. 3778, introduced by Representative Mundt of South Dakota, which is virtually the Barkley Bill of the last session with a modification of last year's Mundt amendment written into it; H. R. 4106, introduced by Weiss of Pennsylvania; and S. 1121, introduced by Senator Gillette of Iowa. The Mundt and Gillette bills are identical and are sponsored by the Izaak Walton League. Certain interests are opposing this important legislation.

WILDLIFE Leaflet 179 of the Fish and Wildlife Service, dated March, 1941, gives statistics on 267 Wildlife Refuges administered by the Service with an aggregate of 13,740,304 acres, of which nearly ten million are in the United States and the remainder in the Territories. The acreage ranges all the way from one acre for Purple Martins, gulls, and terns at Mille Lacs, Minnesota, to 2,899,685 in the Aleutian Islands, which harbor bears and caribou as well as countless multitudes of seabirds.

THE Report of the House Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources (January 2, 1941) recommends that permission be granted to hunters to include three Wood Ducks in the daily bag of ten ducks. This would put the Wood Ducks in the same category with the Redhead and the Canvas-back.