

# Preservation of Native Birds

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## Progress of Movement

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ADDRESS.

December, 1924.

To Members, from your Committee.—

This society wishes to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by many in furthering the objects wished to be achieved.

The Press, several Government Departments, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen have lent much valuable help.

It is necessary, however, that the scope of the movement amongst the public should be greatly extended, and with this aim in view we are appointing local representatives in many districts, and anticipate undertaking much more in the illustrated lecture line. Some lectures have already been given by ladies and gentlemen in various centres, all of which have been much appreciated and productive of great good.

We find that all right-thinking people come on to the side of the movement when the matter is explained. Therefore you can help by forwarding a list of likely names and addresses even without subscription. We will do the rest.

Nearly every individual has at least the spark of love of Nature in him, which is shown in his desire to get out into the open. This spark, often hidden through ignorance, can without much difficulty be fanned into flame.

New Zealand's present conservation methods, especially as regards administration, require vastly improving; and we are sure all will be glad when a better scheme can be formed. In the meantime, the question is much involved with Department jealousies, politics, in-

terference by laymen, individual interests, non-appreciation of scientific facts, and thoughtlessness, but we hope that in time all will work for the common good.

In the meantime, our immediate aim is to get most of our outlying island-sanctuaries efficiently protected. Forgetting them is only courting disaster. Greater attempted inroads from foreign and local collectors are anticipated as a result of the exhibition of birds at Wembley, and for other reasons; therefore it behoves us to get our house in order. The shooting of pigeons is still rife in many districts, especially in outlying parts, where the birds are most plentiful, and the present system of control is hopelessly inadequate to deal with the conservation of our native birds, game birds, and fish, or to hold in check the many imported pests which threaten to destroy our forests and be a very serious menace to our well-being.

Owing to its position and other advantages, New Zealand should conserve its wild life as well as any other country in the world, and to do this would be a lasting credit and a future benefaction. The cost would be infinitesimal in comparison with the value of the result, and it can and will be done if New Zealanders say they wish it; and if those who know will all help to influence the less well-informed, then New Zealanders will surely give the word. Let us, therefore, push onwards with the work. So far the results have been beyond anticipations. The road is certainly hard, long, and beset with difficulties, but an increased momentum will follow every individual effort, no matter how seemingly small. Please help to influence others.