

# Conservation of Our Great Heritage— Birds and Forests

*It is incumbent upon all the people of New Zealand to show active interest in their heritage—our forests and birds. If the people wickedly and apathetically allow this priceless heritage to be destroyed, then will we richly deserve what we will get—an almost birdless, insect-ridden, devastated and eroded land. No good citizen can afford to stand idly by.*

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## BIRD PROTECTION VIEWED IMPERIALLY AND NATIONALLY

One of the great assets of the British Empire lies in its bird life. In this respect it is singularly rich. Since its flag flies over temperate, semi-Arctic, and tropical regions, the avi-fauna embraces species peculiar to all latitudes. England herself is especially the home of songbirds, the land where green fields and sappy woodlands ring with the melody of nightingale and warblers, and where the skylark pours out his lay from soft blue skies. In the New World lies Canada, with its myriads of water-fowl, its kingbirds, flickers, bluebirds, vireos, song sparrows, and plovers; Labrador, with rare Esquimaux curlew and yellowlegs; and Newfoundland with birds of the snow-field and summer visitors. At the other side of the globe, Australia has unique glories such as the lyrebird and the bower-bird, together with wattle-birds, emu, laughing jackass, and brilliant finches and cockatoos; and New Zealand the strange flightless rails and kiwi. Under the Union Jack, again, is British India, with herons, egrets, peacocks, jungle-fowls, rollers, and orioles; British New Guinea, part of the island habitat of the birds of paradise and the crowned pigeon; the West Indies, with glittering humming-birds; and the vast regions of Africa, the natural home of the ostrich, guinea-fowl, secretary-bird, and grey parrot, and also of hornbill, anvil-bird, paradise-fly-catcher, and rhonocerus-bird.

These names but suggest a few characteristic birds of the British Empire. In all their variety and beauty the thousands of species comprised form so magnificent a treasury that the bird-