

# FOREST AND BIRD

ISSUED BY

FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND  
(INCORPORATED)



NORTH ISLAND KIWI.

## FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

Invites all those who have respect for our wonderful and unique native forests and birds, all those who realise the great economic and aesthetic value of birds, all those who wish to preserve our unrivalled scenic beauties, to band together with the Society in an earnest endeavour to stimulate public interest and secure efficient preservation, conservation and intelligent utilisation of our great heritage.

With the co-operation, appreciation and assistance of the general public New Zealand can stand unrivalled. Without such help our forests will be hopelessly marred and destroyed by fire, animals and wasteful exploitation.

The subscriptions are:—Life members £5, Endowment members £1 per annum; ordinary subscription, adults 5/-, children 1/-. Endowment members comprise those who desire to contribute in a more helpful manner towards the preservation of our birds and forests. Besides this, we ask for your co-operation in assisting to conserve your own heritage. Is it not worth while?

We aim at issuing only accurate information, all of which is checked by leading authorities. No remuneration is asked by any of our officers. Your contribution goes solely towards better informing others.

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## FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

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OBJECTS—To advocate and obtain the efficient protection and preservation of our native forests and birds, enlisting the natural sympathy of our young, unity of control of all wild life, and the preservation of sanctuaries, scenic reserves, etc., in their native state..

Affiliated with the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the British Empire (of which the Prince of Wales is Patron) and with the International Committee for the Protection of Wild Birds.

## Failure of Field Administration.

IN every community there are from five to ten per cent. of "incorrigibles," who are outside the pale of sport or even decency. Moral appeal is lost on these "unimpressationables." A penalty severe enough to be a deterrent is the only remedy. Ranging is a costly work requiring energy, skill, cunning and other important qualifications. The chances are all on the side of the poacher; therefore the penalty should be severe. It all too frequently happens, however, that the fine is equivalent in shillings to the pounds that it has cost to bring the culprit to meet his dues.

Acclimatisation Societies receive a very large sum for administering the Animals Protection and Game Act 1921-22 in the field, and the brunt of ranging falls upon these bodies. For the whole of New Zealand they furnish some dozen or so paid rangers, who have other duties, such as care of fry and game-distribution. Upon these few wardens rests almost the whole responsibility, and it is, of course, absurd to expect that the work of ranging can be anything more than touched upon.

There are hundreds of honorary rangers, but they cannot be expected to give a large measure of time and money on what is only too often a thankless job. Only some five per cent. of these can be said to do helpful work.

Every member of the highly efficient police force is nominally a ranger, but this force is more than fully occupied round towns and cities. Thus it happens that the proportion of prosecutions to offences (particularly pigeon-shooting) is remarkably small. Acclimatisation Societies are chiefly interested in trout fishing, game birds and opossums from which they derive their revenue. Some of their members are concerned for the welfare of native birds, but it would not be wise to look to these Societies as a whole for effective administration in the wide field of wild life.

What supervision is exercised over persons, for instance, who are granted permits to collect specimens of native birds? Copies of permits are sent to Acclimatisation Societies in the districts concerned, but does one ever hear of an inspection of a collector's bag? The Forest and Bird Protection Society has long held the opinion that the issue of permits has been on a haphazard basis, in that permits are sometimes abused, and has urged that every collector should be accompanied by a representative of the State at the collector's expense.

Similarly, there is need of a keener watch and ward of native forests. Why are opossum-hunters and trampers allowed to mar and kill trees? The annual report of the State Forest Service has a brief mention of "honorary rangers," but gives no details of their work. Did they prevent any vandalism? Did their zeal bring any culprits to court? The

public have the right to full information on the neglect of wild-life administration in the field.

On paper there is protection of certain forests and birds, but in practice there is much mischief, because statutes and regulations are not effectively administered. How much longer is this weakness to persist? The penalty of neglect is already heavy on New Zealand wild life and forests; every day adds to the loss.

The Department of Internal Affairs deserves the country's thanks for its war on deer, but, alas, the operations are on far too small a scale. The natural increase of the pests greatly exceeds the tally of kills. These well-organised operations require ten-fold increase to be anything like effective.

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### NORTH ISLAND KIWI. (*Apteryx Mantelli*.)

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Kiwis are different from all other birds in that they have no tails, only the merest traces of wings, and the nostrils placed near the tip of the bill instead of near the base. Then, no other bird lays an egg so large in proportion to its size. In spite of the absence of flight the kiwi, in primeval New Zealand, had no difficulty in obtaining a living, because it made full use of its wonderful bill and feet. In some measure it is compensated for the lack of wings by speed on foot. It can move in the darkness, too, as silently as a rat, aided no doubt in finding its way by the long hair-like feathers near the base of the bill.

It usually hides in the daytime in a burrow or in a hole beneath the roots of a tree or in a hollow log, and it is then that it may fall a victim to dogs which would have little chance of catching it at night. Once dusk falls it moves freely about, uttering the shrill call which has given it the name kiwi. The tip of the bill, in addition to bearing the nostrils, is very sensitive to touch, and a combination of smell and touch seems to be used for locating food. As it rambles through the dense beds of fern, making the while a continual snuffling sound, it uses the strongly clawed feet to scratch away litter. The long flexible bill is then driven into the soft ground or rotten log to search for worm or grub.

In extracting a worm from the soil it displays much intelligence and ingenuity. "The hunt opened with the usual tapping with the bill," wrote one observer. "When by this means the bird discovered the burrow of a worm it set to work at once to enlarge the opening, using its bill as a workman uses a crowbar. When it had formed a funnel-like depression, it inserted its bill and took hold of the worm. With a steady pull it often succeeded in bringing the victim to the surface. When it was not able to do so, it ceased pulling, as continuing to do so would have re-

sulted in tearing the worm and losing the greater part; so, leaning well back, it remained in the same position, waiting without the faintest movement of any part of its body, until the worm, tired out by its exertion, momentarily relaxed its hold. Then, with another steady pull, the worm was drawn out of its burrow." Other food consists of snails, insects, and berries picked from various low shrubs or from the ground.

The nest is found in holes in banks or beneath the roots of large trees. Little is known about the breeding habits, but usually one egg is laid, occasionally two, and very rarely three. It would appear that, like its South Island relative, the male carries out the duties of incubation. The chicks are covered with soft, fluffy, dark brown plumage.

As the world has no more remarkable bird, it should be rigidly protected because of its scientific uniqueness alone. But, in addition, it is one of the most important members of the police force of the forest floor to which the weka, robin, and tomtit also belong. In addition to spreading the seeds of trees by eating berries, it eats injurious insects, many of them the grubs of borer beetles which would otherwise develop into destroyers of timber. It is all the more unfortunate, then, that the North Island kiwi should have so suffered from the effects of civilisation with its dogs, stoats, and opossum traps that it is now mainly confined to more extensive forest areas north of 40 degrees latitude. Still, it is occasionally reported near our larger towns, showing that with proper protection there is no reason why it should become extinct.

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## PROTECTION OF NATURE.

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The Dutch and French Governments have now officially recognised the International Office for the Protection of Nature and have appointed the following delegates to be their representatives to the General Council of the Office:—

Delegates for Netherlands and Dutch East Indies: Dr. P. G. van Tienhovén, President of the Society for Nature Protection in Netherlands; Dr. W. A. J. M. van Waterschoot van der Gracht, Chief Engineer of Mines; Professor Dr. L. Ph. le Cosquino de Bussy, Director of the Colonial Institute, Amsterdam; Dr. J. C. Koningsberger, former Minister of Colonies.

Delegates for France and Colonies: Mr. M. Bolle, Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Paris; Professor Dr. A. Gruvel, General Secretary of the National Committee for the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in the Colonies; Mr. Raoul de Clérmont, President of the Section for Nature Protection of the Société Nationale d'Acclimatation de France.

## **PROTECTION FORESTS.**

### **Neglect in New Zealand.**

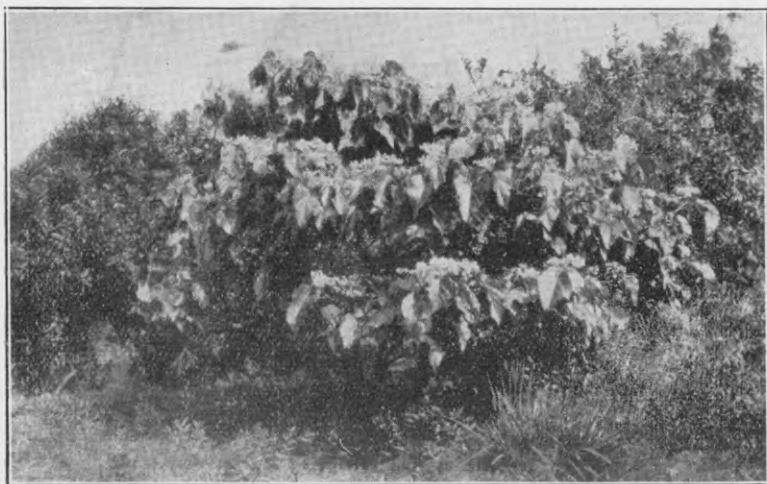
### **Dominion's Future in Peril.**

(By Captain E. V. Sanderson.)

One of the first acts of a new Forest Service is usually to demarcate as "Protection Forests" certain forests which, because of their situation, are necessary as safeguards for farm-lands, hydro-electric works, etc., against floods, erosion, and other evils which inevitably follow the destruction of forests on watersheds. This vitally important matter has not received effective attention in New Zealand.

### **Supremacy of Milling.**

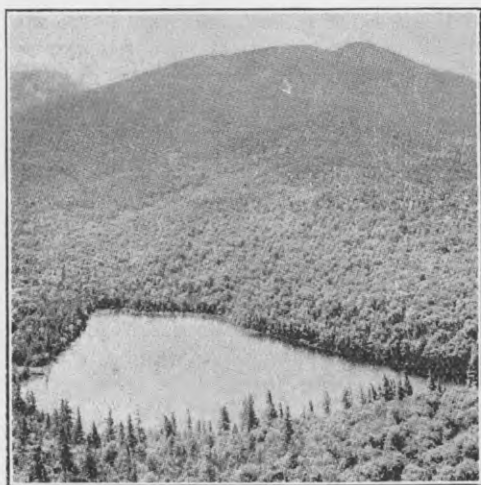
Unfortunately forestry in this country has been almost entirely associated with the milling of timber and the growing of exotic timber trees. Our Forest Service was entrusted with very large areas of native forest, but it can be most emphatically stated that it has never risen to a full responsibility of the charge entrusted to it. Rather our native forests have been decried.



Nature restoring native forest on a cleared area of Mayor Island,  
Bay of Plenty.

Similar regeneration would occur in many other localities (unsuitable for farming) if man would allow Nature to have her own way.



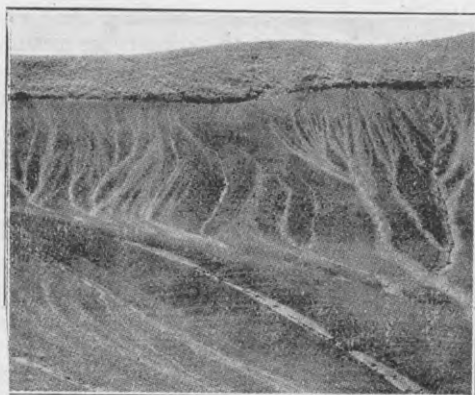


When forest was allowed to stay on a watershed.

First of all, they were stated to be too slow in growth. Later they were stated to be over mature and decaying. All such assertions have been made in the absence of any thorough research or experiment. Bodies, however, which are not connected with the Forest Service are now planning to make experiments while the Service is contemplating assistance of regeneration in North Auckland.

Such experiments have long been advocated by the Forest and Bird Protection Society, but up to the moment the appeal has always fallen on deaf ears. The paramount idea appears to have been to cash in the assets of our native forests and use the proceeds to maintain the Service and plant exotics, mostly *Pinus radiata* (commonly known as insignis)—a policy which has on more than one occasion been condemned by visiting foresters of note. One is even credited with an emphatic statement that all these insignis pine forests would fail because they are foreign to the forest conditions of this country.

In its 1935 report our Forest Service announces the setting aside of 850,000 acres of native forests as protection forests, but this is merely a paper transaction and does not add one tree to our native forests, as this area has merely been transferred from provisional forests to



Sheet erosion when forest was cleared away.

permanent forests. It is still apt to be milled, and may be, if the timber is worth while, should the exigencies of the Service or some politician scheme for such cutting in fulfilment of election promises.

As showing how our native forests have been exploited without any effort at replacement in kind, the figures given by the Government Statistician of the foot-board measure each year can be converted into acres by dividing them by 10,000, which is the recognised average number of feet cut per acre in New Zealand. Such a calculation gives the following results:—In 1931, 21,000 acres were cut; in 1932, 14,000; in 1933, 15,000; in 1934, 17,000. In 1935 the Forest Service estimates that milling has excelled itself in that a total area of 25,000 acres has been cut and replaced with 12,000 acres of exotic seedlings.

Add to all this timber-cutting the destruction done by plant-eating animals in our forests, the damage done by fire, opossum trappers, and other less destructive agents, then one may perhaps be pardoned on coming to the conclusion that our native forests are doomed, unless our Forest Service is compelled to handle its charge under modern forestry methods, which have been so conspicuous by their absence in the past.

### **Short-sighted Exploitation.**

The exploiting of the national heritage is not forestry. In New Zealand a Forest Service should be concerned with many matters besides milling timber—matters such as erosion and flood protection—but the value of the standing tree has apparently not occurred to our Service. Indeed it has been said that our Forest Service cannot look at a tree without estimating the number of millable feet it contains.

Other countries are bending their energies and spending vast sums to counteract the disastrous results of past forest destruction. We here are paving, and have paved, the way for similar great expenditure while our primary industries—the sources of our food supplies and other necessities—are menaced by excessive floods and devastation as a result of the past neglect to demarcate protection forests.

### **Revenue from Destruction.**

What then are the results of the attempt to establish a Forest Service in New Zealand? A Service has existed by drawing revenue from the destruction of our native forests and thereby passing the cost on to the timber consumer such as the house-builder. At the same time large insignis pine plantations have been established which are of little or no value as protection forests, and are nearly all situated where they are of



no value as protection forests. What their timber value is has yet to be proved.

The urge for all this is most probably the political desire to balance an ever-hungry budget, no matter at what cost to our future prosperity, nay, existence, as a nation, because no nation can prosper without adequate protection forests, especially one so dependent on land products as New Zealand is.

The time is long overdue for an adequate overhaul of our forestry operations by some outside expert authority, absolutely unbiased and reliable.



Rage of a mountain stream, Nature's vengeance for the slaughter of forest on steep watersheds. That flooded torrent destroyed 400 homes in La Crescenta, California, in 1934.

Similar revenge has been taken by Nature in New Zealand.

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### GERMAN OWL OUTLAWED.

The good example of the North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society in offering a shilling a head for German owls has been followed by the Ashburton Acclimatisation Society. Similar action against these enemies of small native birds has been taken by the Waitaki and Southland Societies, which all deserve the gratitude of New Zealand for their effort to check a horrible pest.

## THE WAR ON DEER.

### Adventures of Hunters.

(By "One of Them.")

The most adventurous calling in New Zealand to-day probably is that of the select band of fewer than one hundred deer hunters who for six months of every year strive in the wildest and remotest regions. Winter forces even these hardy men to give up the chase. They are engaged then in repairing their equipment, discussing market prices for the skins they were able to save and telling tales of new discoveries by mountains, forests and streams—tales of marksmanship and the thudding of deer feet flying from death.

Early settlers aimed to Anglicise this land of lonely beauty by introducing red deer in various areas from the 'seventies onwards. In increasing numbers the deer spread out and penetrated the remotest country. They return to the margins of farms periodically, but shooting there has driven them to the wilds, and hundreds of thousands are killing vegetation of all kinds. In the past five years 120,000 deer have been killed.



On the trail of Deer in South Westland.

### **National Crusaders.**

The deer-hunters are proud men. They have the feeling that they are crusaders, performing a national service. Most of them have been engaged for from four to seven seasons in succession. Few men would be likely to suffer willingly, even eagerly, as deer-hunters do, the hardships season after season when they might obtain other work, unless they were crusaders, keen to save their native land from deadly enemies.

These hunters are probably the fittest men in New Zealand and their craft has been sharpened by experience until it is a match in real life for that of a "Deerfoot" in fiction.

### **Various Parties.**

Deer-hunting is being done in three ways. Official parties operate mainly in the South Island, in addition to numbers of smaller bands of private professionals. The third class consists of part-time professionals, amateurs on week-end excursions, and settlers who carry rifles about the borders of their farms. Ammunition at special rates is supplied to private professional hunters. The Department of Internal Affairs undertakes to sell skins through its own organisation, built up during the past four years.

Deer skins have been converted from waste into wealth. Over 40,000 skins, worth over £12,000, have been won. That



Solitude on Fettes Glacier, South Westland.

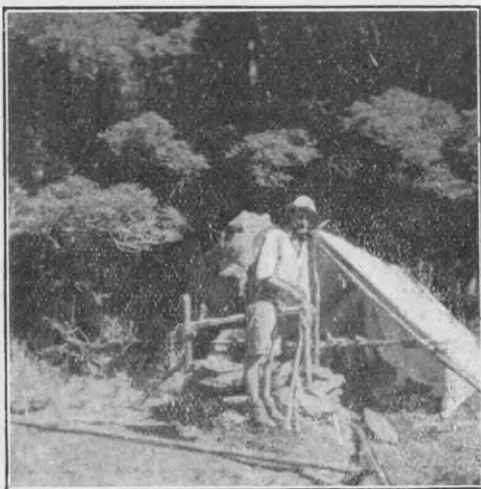
provides a living for hunters and revenue for the Department to maintain its war. Buckskin jerkins, celebrated in Old World story, and many other articles are being made out of the skins. The demand in New Zealand, Australia, U.S.A., Germany, and England exceeds the supply. Soft and pliable as babies' shawls are the skins cured in New Zealand. Strong men cannot break deerskin bootlaces or thongs.

Country where deer congregate is wild and perilous of access. Official hunting parties have operated throughout the whole of the main divides of the South Island, in Stewart Island, in the Tararuas, and, several years ago, in the Waikaremoana district. Private hunters operate in the Westland area and at the heads of Lakes Hawea, Wanaka, and Ohau. That gives relief to farms and less remote areas, but forces the Government to enter the back country, where commercial hunters could not operate economically because fewer skins can be saved. Shooting about the margins of the wild country could go on indefinitely without lessening the number of deer in the remotest areas.

Many attributes must be possessed by hunters—enthusiasm, fitness, energy, bushcraft, markmanship, knowledge of deer, skill in skinning the animals and stretching and packing skins. They must be naturalists in their way, interested in more than the mere chase.

### **“Flying Camps.”**

One of the most effective ways of working in remote country is for men to set out on what are called “flying camp” trips, carrying with them all equipment, food, and ammunition necessary to last four or five days. Experience and research have led to a special technique being shaped. All things used must be as light as efficiency permits. Silk alpine tents are carried, but in fine weather hunters sleep in the open or under a bivouac of waterproof sheeting. Some trek without bedding or tents and use deerskins in place of blankets or



**A Start from a Flying Camp.**



Lake Barra (South Westland), which bears the name of its discoverer, a deer-hunter.

for shelter in conjunction with sleeping bags.

### **Planning the Campaigns.**

Much scrutiny of maps is done before the season's work is decided. Areas where deer are known to be numerous are studied according to the topography. Watersheds are most favourable and work is so schemed that, working up the rivers towards the sources, two parties help each other. Deer disturbed are caught in cul-de-sacs, but some escape over the mountain pass to be contacted by parties in neighbouring valleys. The hunting in no case is haphazard, but planned to be cumulative.

South Island conditions are favourable for the increase of deer. Spending winter in the bush on mountain slopes, deer climb above the bush in spring when melting snow leaves exposed vast areas of mountain "meadow" or tussock. Females there have abundance of food when the young are born and the progress of the young is assured. In the autumn the deer concentrate in the lower bush and browse intensively upon edible shrubs. Later in winter, moved by great hunger, they eat any green thing.

### **Winter Shooting.**

Winter hunting is rare. Some localities, however, lend themselves to winter shooting and they have been worked with marked success. Marlborough is one such area. The ground in shady parts is frozen almost continuously and makes work extremely dangerous.

Where the road or lake ends base camps usually are established. Horses or launches are used to the farthest limit. A party usually consists of two or more pairs which might separate for weeks at a time. The pairs work separately, but at some times during the season gather for grand drives.

Heavy loads are carried by the men. As much as 80lb. is borne on the outward journey, increased on the inward journey by

skins and sometimes antlers. Food is light and nourishing. It includes rice, barley, oatmeal, lima beans, hard biscuits, honey, dried fruit, soup cubes, pemmican, tea and cocoa, condensed milk and plenty of sugar.

Venison is the only meat used. Hunters never tire of it. On return to the towns ordinary meat does not satisfy them. At nightfall fires are lighted and venison is cooked immediately. It does not need to be hung; it is tender and very satisfying when warm. Cold snaps in the inland mountain regions are frequent during summer and that forces the men to use woollen undergarments. Woollen trousers are never worn, however, because they are heavy when wet and are difficult to dry. Stalkers frequently get wet above the knees and a change is carried for comfort at night. Some men carry cameras and make records of bird life, deer destruction and new country entered.

### **Call for Quick Firing.**

Quick shooting until the rifle iron is wavering hot depends for success upon the native talent of the shooter, but needs first-hand experience also. There is not much time between the sighting of a herd of deer and their disappearance. Shots are not fired until the maximum effect can be obtained. The standard of shooting may be judged by the fact that hunters use fewer than three rounds for each beast killed. One hunter used only 1.8 rounds for all the deer he killed during a season—a wonderful record. An example of remarkably rapid shooting is that of a man who came on a mob of deer, got into position and fired 42 shots to kill 35 deer without moving from his stone. After 20 rounds have been fired rapidly the rifle iron sizzles and shimmers.

### **A Test of Nerve.**

An amazing exhibition of nerve and marksmanship was given by a deer-hunter last summer when he was confronted suddenly by an "insane" stag. He stood on a narrow shoulder; a big bluff rose giddily behind him and a precipice was below him, a few feet off. Round a rock on the same ledge came the stag, a big 14-pointer. Twelve yards off the stag stood, and man and beast were face to face. The stag immediately lowered its head, belled furiously and charged at the hunter. Twelve yards is not a great distance for a charging stag to cover, but luckily the halfway point was lower than the two extremes that separated the combatants. There was no retreat and nowhere to scramble to safety. Between the time the hunter sighted the stag and the beginning of its scramble up the gut, three shots were fired. The first two failed to stop the charge and only a few feet remained when the stag stumbled in the stones, lost its momentum, poised



a moment, and rolled over the ledge. The hunter suffered very badly from shock. Only one marksman in a thousand could have accomplished such a feat, his companions agreed, when they inspected the scene.

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### **OPOSSUM NUISANCE.**

A game ranger recently stated that it was difficult to say which did the most forest damage—opossums or opossum trappers. The alien animals do not feed on air. There is no doubt about their doing extensive forest damage, not to say anything about many offences against native bird life. Opossums are kept more or less under control by the whim or caprice of fashion. If the wearing of furs go out of fashion there will be another big trouble in wild life affairs.

The trappers with their deadly and cruel steel traps play sad havoc amongst kiwi, weka, and other native birds. The trappers themselves are apparently under little control in regard to native forests.

The bark of a tree is its natural protection against fungoid disease, borer, and other pests, but this does not interest the average trapper, who will make a great blaze to mark each trap, then make a smaller one to write the trap number on; or, if he is so minded, he may make a number of blazes to denote the number of each trap. Having caught an opossum, a careless trapper will slash the top of a tree at a convenient height in order to hang a five-shilling opossum on it while the body cools. Verily forest "management" is sadly missing in the field.

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### **FOR BIRD-LOVERS.**

Bird baths, concrete, 26 inches diameter, of a design appreciated by birds. Price 25/-, f.o.b., Wellington.

Bird feeders, 7/6 and 20/-.

Christmas cards depicting weka, tui, tomtit or morepork in colours, from original copyright designs. Price 1/- each, in envelope.

Bird Albums depicting 24 forest-inhabiting birds, on 9 x 6 coloured plates, with description of each bird. A handsome Christmas present. Price, in handsome paper cover, 12/6; de luxe leather bound, 20/-.

Enquiries to be addressed to the Supply Department, Forest and Bird Protection Society, Box 631, Wellington, C.1.

## GIVE THE DUCKS A CHANCE!

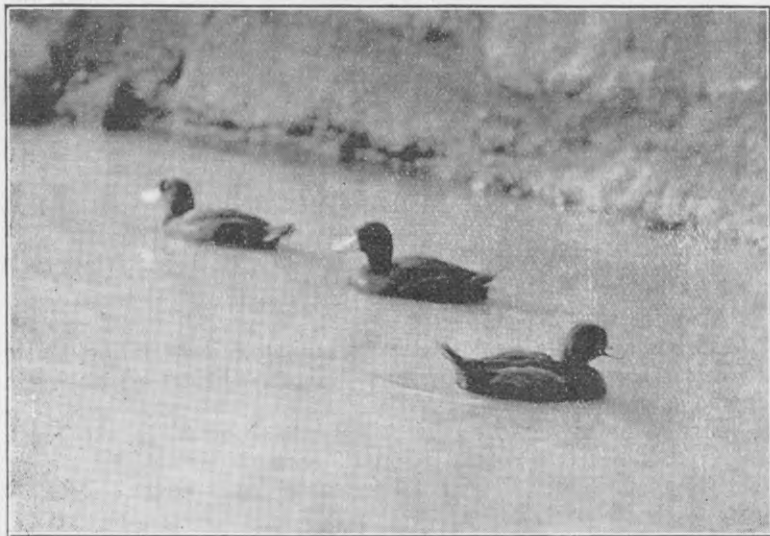
At last, the "baiting" of waterfowl and the use of live decoys by pitiless shootists has been prohibited in U.S.A. Treacherous "baiting" should be also forbidden in New Zealand, and there should be a ban on all kinds of decoys. The term "sport" cannot be fairly applied to a practice which lures useful, beautiful birds to death.

The annual report of the Department of Internal Affairs (which administers the Animals Protection and Game Act) has the following statement:—

"Concern is being expressed at the decrease in numbers of grey duck and the question of declaring periodical close seasons for these birds is to be considered shortly. It is evident that a policy of conservation of the grey duck has to be faced."

The plight of these birds and other waterfowl needs earnest attention before it is too late. There has been too much "facing of positions" and not nearly enough action.

"Killing for Fun" is the heading of an editorial note in "Nature Magazine." "Sportsmen attempt to deride genuine conservationists by calling them sentimentalists," the writer states, "but there is no sentimentalism more maudlin than their own when they assert that they love what they kill. The lack of humour that permits them to make such remarks may be epitomised in the following toast:—



Native Black Teal, now so scarce that they have been granted protection.

"The gamest bird I ever shot.  
The most toothsome morsel I ever ate.  
My friend! the bobwhite" (Virginian quail).

"Man alone makes a practice of killing wantonly. With all the advantages his superior mental equipment has brought him he remains the most inexcusably savage of all living things. The form of savagery known as sport becomes intensified in proportion to the so-called civilisation attained. Civilisation, however, will never deserve its name until it realises and acts upon the principle that killing for fun is not a legitimate activity of a civilised being."

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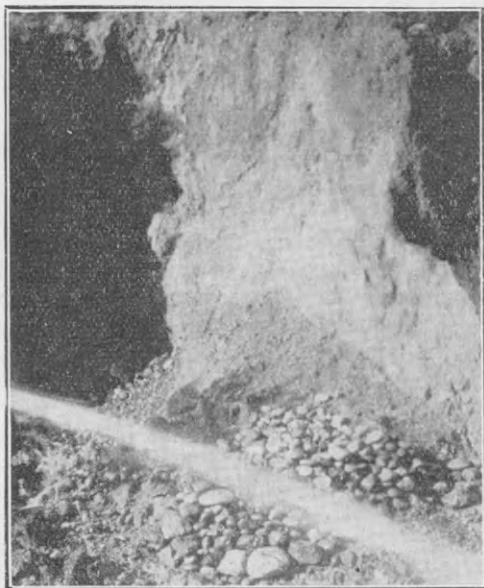
### HUGE LOSS ON GOLD-WINNING.

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On many occasions New Zealanders have acted against the line—"save the surface and you save the lot," used as a slogan by American paint-makers. Many thousands of acres of soil have been sluiced away by gold-fossickers. Country which would have been a real wealth-yielding asset in perpetuity has been lost. What a lop-sided exchange! What a presentation for posterity!

It seems impossible to convince some persons that it is infinitely more important to conserve soil which yields materials for food, clothing and housing than to swish it away in the search for one haul—an immediate cash return of gold.

The picture shows the high-pressure jet from a pipe, scouring soil away.



## REALISTIC ACTING OF PIED STILTS.

### Practical Jokes on Dogs.



New Zealand's pied stilt, which is really a species of long-legged plover, is fairly numerous in and about riverbeds, the shores of lakes and lagoons or on the marshy fringes of estuaries. Worthy mention of this protected wader is made by Edgar Stead in his "Life Histories of New Zealand Birds."

Despite the fact that stilts are of proportions that are somewhat unusual among birds (he writes), their movements at all times are exceedingly graceful. When walking slowly in shallow water, they raise each foot above the surface as they proceed, putting it down again very daintily, giving the effect of a consciously elegant, if not mincing, gait. During flight, which is strong and swift, the legs are trailed behind.

Stilts make a great fuss if anyone goes near their nest, made on the ground. They fly to a height, and then dash at the intruder, giving a harsh cry as they pass close overhead and turn upwards again. If intimidation fails, they try to divert attention to themselves by simulating injury, shamming broken legs or wings in a most realistic manner. I have often watched one flying along, when suddenly it would give a loud cry of pain, and flutter to the ground in a lop-sided manner as if one wing was broken. There it would flop along for a yard or so, and then lie down, flapping its wings and calling as if in agony. Perhaps it may stagger to its feet again, and then collapse with a drawn-out cry of anguish and a last flick of the wings and lie still. For a few moments it will remain motionless, but its general effect is marred by the fact that it holds up its head a little while it keeps a close watch on the intruder.

Dogs are, at first, completely deceived by stilts' antics, and chase the birds with every expectation of catching them; and when at last they realise that they are not going to do so, the chase has taken them well away from the nest.

# FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.).

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