

people who live along the coast and the fishermen who come from a distance have always been in the habit of taking eggs and killing the birds for food. They regard it as their right, and although some of them will admit that the wasteful methods used are fast destroying the birds, they are not willing to refrain from these methods. They say with reason that if they do not take these eggs or young gulls, or shoot these setting ducks, someone else will. It is each man for himself and the devil take the hindermost. Annihilation is the fate of the birds; the eider and the murre will go the way of the Labrador duck and the great auk. Birds that nest in crevices in the rocks, like black guillemots and razor-billed auks, will last longer, but the end is in sight for all.

It is a truism that laws out of sympathy with the feeling of the people will not be kept. Laws against egging or shooting out of season can not be enforced on the long and intricate coast of Labrador. Wardens who intend to do their duty and arrest and prosecute offenders will be looked upon as enemies to be avoided and cheated, and this by an otherwise law-abiding people.

There is one very simple means which would help in enforcing the present laws in Canadian Labrador. Newfoundland fishermen, who are the most reckless offenders, are obliged to obtain licenses to fish in Canadian waters. The law requires that they not only obey the game laws, but that they also take out at some expense licenses to carry guns and shoot. If the presence of an unlicensed gun on a fishing schooner or the detection in egging be made a sufficient reason for cancelling the fishing license, one of the great sources of bird destruction will be diminished but not by any means stopped. It is easy to conceal guns and elude wardens on this long and intricate coast.

The open season for shooting should be intelligently planned for different parts of the coast, and should be strictly limited to the periods when the birds are migrating. It is of course illogical to have the same open season at Blanc Sablon as at Nain, where the birds nest several weeks later.

These suggestions, if adopted, may be of some value, and may delay for a little the rapid progress towards annihilation of water-bird life in Labrador. That these or any similar measures will prevent this dreaded consummation I do not believe.

What then is to be done? Is there no hope for the birds and for the people to whom the birds are such a valuable asset? I think there is. I believe that the whole problem can be solved most rationally and satisfactorily for all concerned by the immediate establishment of *bird reservations*. These should be islands or groups of islands or suitable portions of the main coast that can be watched by guardians. Here the birds should be undisturbed and allowed to rest, feed and breed in peace. The people should be made to understand that these reservations are not established to cut down their hunting, and thereby invite poaching and violation of the laws, but for the purpose of preserving and increasing the birds so that there shall be better shooting for everybody on the coast.