

## STUPIDITY STREET

I saw with open eyes  
 Singing birds sweet,  
 Sold in the shops  
 For the people to eat—  
 Sold in the shops of  
 Stupidity Street.

I saw in vision  
 The worm in the wheat,  
 And in the shops nothing  
 For people to eat—  
 Nothing for sale in  
 Stupidity Street.

Protective  
Legislation

There is a fundamental principle here upon which the effectiveness of game laws and general protective methods must be estimated, and it is the sole criterion by which we can be guided. No system of protection can be efficient if, under it, the native birds or animals are still diminishing from year to year. Such a condition would be of itself proof that we are destroying more than the annual increase and using up both interest and capital ; and it is to my mind an open question whether our present laws have up to this time been effective in this regard. So much they have effected, that the falling off of the native races is less rapid, but there is an actual annual diminution, even though, in some instances, small, and progressive diminution spells extinction. I cannot undertake to speak of the relative merits of general laws of protection, but incidentally may observe that in my own state the inefficiency of the general protective laws, outstanding for some years past, has led to later very severe and stringent regulations in virtue of which it has become an offence to destroy any of the native races of birds, with discriminations against an exceedingly small number regarded as reckless in their disregard of agricultural and fishing interests. I refer to this law without any special reference to open and close game seasons.

I would like to say another word regarding the existing system of protective laws in respect to its failing to meet the requirements of adequate bird protection. If we can not through legislation sufficiently reduce the destructive agencies acting upon species which are actually vanishing, particularly a considerable number of our game species whose fate now hangs in the balance ; if we can not