

**Extinct Species
of Birds**

Our American bird fauna has suffered serious permanent losses; first and foremost, from the islands of the gulf of St. Lawrence, the great auk and the Labrador duck. To-day the passenger pigeon is gone, although at one time, as we all know, it was so tremendously abundant in this country and the United States and such an obstruction to the ordinary operations of the struggling farmers that it called forth the excommunication of the bishops. The wild turkey, sacred to the Puritan harvest feast, is exterminated from Canada; the whooping crane, the trumpeter swan, the golden plover, the Hudsonian godwit, are all nearly extinct; the willet and the dowitcher are also on the same declining path.

Now, so far as our birds contribute to the protection of our commercial assets, in so far as they prevent by many millions of dollars in annual value the destruction of our agricultural crops, our forest and shade trees through the incursions of noxious insects, just in so far there is an imperative reason why they should be safeguarded by every restraint within the power of the people. No argument is needed and no defense is required for the much talked of "restriction of personal liberty" in the destruction of insect-eating birds. We have reached and passed that point. Nothing can so irrevocably restrict personal liberty to hunt and shoot as the entire destruction of game, and this very selfish consideration alone is efficient in the execution of the protective laws; and yet it is questionable whether our restrictive measures have been taken in time to be fully effective.

**Birds in the
Scheme of
Nature**

During my journey to Ottawa, I read a statement in the press relating to the Commission on Industrial Relations which is investigating the finances of some of the foundations such as the Rockefeller foundation. The chairman of that Commission, who is from Missouri, said that he noticed that \$250,000 had been set aside from the fund of the Rockefeller foundation, to provide a safe retreat for migratory birds. It is true that sum was expended to reserve certain islands on the South Atlantic coast for migratory birds. He welcomed the protest that had come to him that this money might better have been expended to establish a safe retreat for the wives and babies of the Colorado coal miners. I happened to have in my pocket at the time, the last number of the *Canadian Forestry Journal* which I had just received. In it, I found a little poem, which I think completely supplied the answer to his argument. The lines, which are by Mr. Ralph Hodgson, one of the younger English poets, are as follows: