

# Protecting 5,000,000 Birds from Milliners —The Louisiana Audubon Society's Big Undertaking.



Royal Terns on Southwest Harbor Island.



Map Showing Location of Leased Bird Islands.

The most extensive wild bird preserve in the world has just been secured by the Audubon Society of Louisiana. It is located on islands in the Gulf of Mexico.

Unlike the usual game preserve, however, this one is to be a haven of refuge for species of feathered creatures that have, in the past, been slaughtered without mercy to provide adornments for women's hats.

Now they will be permitted to raise their families without molestation. There are twenty-five of these islands, with a total surface of 4,000 acres. It is estimated that from three million to five million young birds can be raised each year.

Among the varieties are laughing gulls, shearwaters, Wilson's terns, Forster's terns, royal terns and Caspian terns. These birds have been in danger of extermination, ruthless hunters slaying millions of them for their wings, and shipping as many as one hundred thousand eggs a season to St. Louis alone.

With the limited machinery at its command, the Louisiana Audubon Society last year protected and raised over forty thousand birds. One island produced 35,000. Paid wardens are now patrolling the islands just secured, and the nests will be carefully guarded during the hatching season. It is expected that over one million terns alone will be saved and permitted to grow to adult life.

Gathering eggs for use in the manufacture of the delicate films on photographic plates and killing the terns and laughing gulls in order to supply large millinery houses in the East with wings and feathers has been a profitable and extensive business along the Gulf coast.

So persistent is the demand for the wing feathers that, it is said, certain New York wholesale millinery establishments only a few weeks ago advanced the price.

They offered \$80 in gold an ounce for the plumage of the white heron, and 15 cents each for the wings of the tern.

It was the constantly increasing slaughter, threatening extinction of the handsome and graceful creatures, that prompted the Audubon Society to make the present efforts at protection. They are the most extensive yet undertaken.

**NO ONE LIVES THERE.**

One of the groups of islands secured is the Breton Island Reservation, owned by the United States Government, the largest of which is Breton Island, six miles in length.

Another comprises seventeen islands secured from the Lake Borgne Levee Board on a ten-year lease at a rental of \$45 a year, and the third consists of Battledore Island and its keys, secured by purchase from the State of Louisiana, embracing about one thousand acres. The society paid 25 cents an acre for this last group.

The best way to reach the bird islands is to take the Louisville and Nashville train from New Orleans to Pass Christian, Miss., a distance of fifty-six miles; then secure a sailboat and sail due south in the Gulf 100 miles.

Only a few feet above the sea do the islands rise. They are covered with sea grass and a species of salt-water

weeds, presenting a barren waste, desolate and dreary. No human being was ever known to live on one of them, although bird hunters have for years frequented the reservations.

On the sand and among the shells along the shore the birds make their simple nests and lay their eggs. While the females sit on them, the sun has as much to do with hatching as anything else.

As soon as the young birds come from the shells, they are fed along the beach, and soon learn to catch small fish.

This peculiar use of the islands has brought about a remarkable invasion of another kind. Thousands of raccoons infest them.

How the first of these animals got there is a mystery, unless they swam from some vessel that stopped there years ago.

Yet raccoons there are, and in almost countless numbers. As there are no trees in which to construct dens, they have learned to burrow in the sand and beneath matted grass.

These animals are as great an enemy of the nesting birds as the human hunters. In order to get rid of them, the Audubon Society has just let exclusive privileges to a number of professional trappers.

**AN AWFUL SLAUGHTER.**

It is expected that fully five thousand raccoons will be trapped this winter, the captures being repeated every winter until the preserves are free from them. The trappers will make considerable money from the fur.

Almost romantic in its interest, especially to bird lovers, is the story of the discovery and reclamation of these natural hatchingeries of the Gulf.

Frank M. Miller, now president of the Audubon Society of Louisiana, has always been a lover of birds and a protector of their haunts. In August, 1893, he was at Pass Christian, Miss., standing on the beach.

"I had a longing to know what was out in the vast space before me," said man with a sailboat, I asked him if he would take me out in the Gulf to the islands supposed to be located somewhere in the distance. He said he would, and we started.

"We went the first night on Martin Island Key. He asked me if I had seen enough, and I told him 'No.' We sailed another whole day, and that night rested on one of the Southwest Harbor Islands. The third day I was on Breton Island.

"By that time I was so full of the stories of bird slaughter that I could hardly contain myself. We saw it going on.

"Returning to Pass Christian by way of the small keys and islands along the Louisiana coast, which I found afterward were under the jurisdiction of the Lake Borgne Levee Board, we saw that every one was a bird-breeding place.

"The next week I went to Washington and saw the authorities in the Department of Agriculture; then on to New York and saw the president of the National Committee of the Audubon Societies. I made a report to him of what I had found.

"With that information in hand, he wrote President Roosevelt, who came interested, and immediately de-

dictated Breton Reservation of seven islands to this cause."

The order of President Roosevelt was dated October 11, 1903. Since that day the United States Government has been in the bird breeding business, as a secondary party. The Audubon Society is in full charge.

On January 15, 1905, Secretary James Wilson of the Department of Agriculture, sent out the following order:

All persons are hereby warned and ordered not to shoot on the islands or waters of Breton Island Reservation; not to collect eggs or shells therefrom; not to disturb the birds therein in any manner, and not to land on the islands of the said reservation without a permit from the Department of Agriculture.

Permits to land may be obtained directly from the Secretary of Agriculture, or from Frank M. Miller, special inspector, stationed at New Orleans.

Returning from the East, after getting the National Audubon Society and the Federal Government interested, Mr. Miller took up the matter of securing possession of the chain of small islands along the coast.

At first, the Lake Borgne Levee Board would not entertain a proposition either to sell or lease its islands because of the rich oyster beds along the shores.

But, finally, the board was induced to entertain a proposition, and a few weeks ago seventeen of the islands were leased by the society for a period of ten years at a price of one penny each.

These seventeen islands have an area of 3,000 acres. It was then found that the State of Louisiana had one island left, Battledore Island, of 1,000 acres, and negotiations were immediately opened for acquisition of it.

Meanwhile, the National Committee on Bird Protection, of the Audubon Society, had become interested, and authorized the employment of two wardens to watch the preserves.

"Inside of three years," ventured President Miller, "these islands will be the marvel of bird life in the Western Hemisphere. Next year we will have three wardens, and the National Committee propose to provide a naphthalene launch for controlling the islands for three years we will be raising millions of birds every year."

**Curious Tales of General Interest.**

**A SUIT for debt, tried recently in a London court, resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff.**

The amount involved was £100,000, and the man who had sued to recover this was a regular money lender of the metropolis.

Judge Rentoul ordered that the debtor repay this at the rate of one penny a month. In 200 years the debt will be paid.

The lightest of European crowns is the state crown of Great Britain, which was made for Queen Victoria. Although it weighs only two pounds seven ounces, its value is \$1,500,000. One enormous sapphire came from the signet of Edward the Confessor.

A typical South African household described by a visitor to that country had an English father, a half Dutch mother, with a French name; a Scotch governess, a Zulu cook, a Hottentot housemaid, and a Kaffir stable boy, while the little girl who waited at table was a Basuto.

In China an odd way of taking the census prevails. The cities and towns are arranged in groups of ten houses. The oldest man in each group visits the nine houses which, with his own, make up the group, counts the members of every family, and sends his report to the Imperial Census Bureau.

The treasures of the various Russian churches are of fabulous value. St. Isaac's Cathedral, in St. Petersburg, is said to have cost \$50,000,000. Its copper roof is overlaid with pure gold. In the Cathedral of Kazan the name of the Almighty blazes in diamonds from a cloud of beaten gold, under which are solid silver doors, twenty feet high. There are 1,400 churches in Moscow, many of which contain priceless treasures. From the Cathedral of the Assumption Napoleon took

# Can Prove the Transmigration of Souls, He Says

**AS THE result of recent investigations, the success of which, he asserts, is established by tests, a colonel in the French army declares that he has proved the theory of the transmigration of souls to be true.**

Throwing a person selected at random into deep hypnotic sleep, he induces the memory to travel backward through previous periods of the soul's incarnation, relating in each experience by which they can be identified. One young woman, in retrogressive steps, declared that she was a peasant of the time of Napoleon; a soldier under Louis XV., and an old woman of an earlier date.

Could a subject stand the prolonged strain, the investigator declares, he could trace a soul's history back to the dawn of time, and thus have revealed to him the whole history of mankind. It is his plan to visit this continent and give an exhibition of his power within the next few months.



The Colonel first Hypnotized Her

**COLONEL ROCHAS, who thus devotes his leisure to experimental psychology, is a retired chief engineer in the French army.**

In his laboratory and library in the Rue Rivoli, Paris, he is constantly carrying on experiments to prove the transmigration of souls.

One of his most recent and successful tests was made with a woman of 30, who, the colonel declared, was a strange old soul. A number of persons, including a physician, made up an interested party of witnesses.

After putting the woman in a hypnotic sleep, Colonel Rochas suggested



As Jean Bourdon She was a Soldier of Louis XV

to her that she was floating back to the days of her maidenhood and childhood.

"After awhile, he asked: 'How old are you, mademoiselle?'"

"Just turning 20," she answered. She gave her maiden name, told of the friends of her youth, amusements and studies, and gave other information. Every word she spoke was taken down in shorthand by Rochas, as well as by several others in the audience, and afterward subjected to strict scrutiny. Some of the details were remarkable, and found to be correct.

Next Rochas made the subject believe herself to be the age of confirmation. Thereupon her voice changed to that of a young girl, while the nature of her talk likewise was reminiscent of the school child.

It was then suggested to the subject that she was but a wee child, hanging to her mother's skirts. There was no production of any unusual phenomena, and his audience was rather disappointed.

"We have had enough of nursery rhymes," suggested several. But Rochas put a quietus on protest and criticism by saying that he meant to find out who the woman was before she entered babyhood in her present incarnation. He continued to put the sleeping woman with questions and suggestions.

Suddenly, she spoke again, this time in a man's deep, gruff voice.

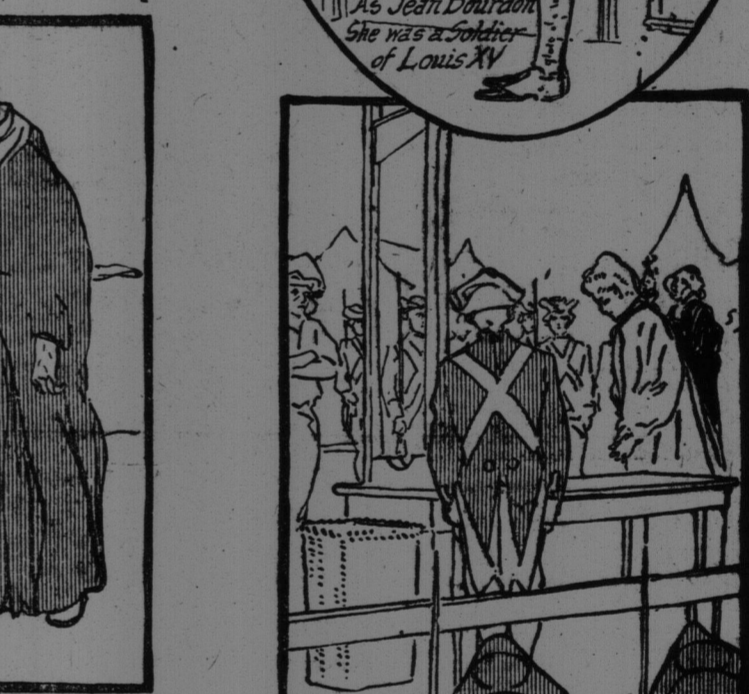
She said she was Jean Bourdon, a peasant, and that her two sons were fighting with the Emperor Napoleon in Russia.

Asked to go backward still further, the subject began to talk of the times of the French Revolution. "Jean" had witnessed the execution of Louis XVI. and later ran behind the tumbrel that bore Marie Antoinette to the scaffold.

"I'd go to a greater retrogression of memory," "Jean" said he had been a soldier under Louis XV. and had had guard in Versailles before the apartment of Du Barry.

He related stories and incidents such as no chronicler of those times has put down. Other facts mentioned were recorded by contemporaneous writers.

At this point the physician among the spectators intervened, telling the Colonel that the spell had lasted three quarters of an hour and that it was time to end the séance, lest the subject's health would suffer.



Before that She Remembered being an Old French Woman

of the deceased must continue to dwell on earth, transition from one body to another being a mere matter of chance.

"What wide range of speculation may be supplied by knowledge; how very much that is mysterious may be revealed, when one can trace the journeys of a human soul through the ages and the experiences of its many incarnations."

**AN HONORABLE DEATH.**

Two burglars on Saturday night were slowly prowling about in the auditorium of a wealthy church. Unmolested and with great dexterity, they were appropriating valuable ornaments, when of a sudden one whispered warningly:

"Look out, Bill, here's the water tank. If you fall into it, you'll drown like a rat."

"Perhaps," muttered Bill, as he slid a rich silver plate into a sack and readjusted his mask, "I might drown like a rat, but at least, I'd die like a Christian."

**ODDS AND ENDS.**

Many theories seek to account for influenza. One is that the bodies of the 7,000,000 Chinese drowned when the Yellow River burst its banks seventeen years ago gave off into the atmosphere a vast burden of the world. The explanation of the epidemic is that there lurks some living poison in certain climatic conditions. The necessary conditions are a hot summer, followed by a cold winter and a rainy spring. During the time of drought the earth is cracked and fissured and in time receives into these terrestrial water which lies stagnant and corrupt, to give off, when the hot weather returns, poisonous exhalations which make malarial general. Once infected, man wherever they go, carry it with them.

According to the annual report on births, deaths and marriages in Ireland during 1904, the natural increase of population recorded, or the excess of births over deaths, was 24,238. The loss by emigration amounted to 26,262. A decrease of 13,024 in the population would thus appear to have taken place during the year, but against this there is a set-off in immigration, of which no official record has been obtained. The estimated population is the middle of the year was 4,602,182.

One of the new Atlantic turbine liners will carry a heavier chain than any vessel ever carried before. Each link weighs 100 pounds, being three-quarters of an inch thick in the smallest part. When three links were sent to be tested to the point of destruction they withstood the full strength of the powerful testing machine, a tension of over 270 tons.

She was proceeding to tell of the hardships of her life and the death of her children, when the physician ordered the test to be terminated.

It was ascertained later that a man named Jean Bourdon had lived, until 1812, in the native village of the hypnotized woman.

Church registers there also record the existence of a Madeline Carterot early in the period of Louis XV. After her death the name did not appear again, either on the church records or the tax rolls.

"I consider that the test proves my contention," remarked Colonel Rochas. "This young woman is of energetic almost harsh character. The present incarnation took place in 1870, when the soul of the man who died in 1812 took possession of her body, doubtless after dwelling in another body during the interim."

"Jean Bourdon's soul also had a previous incarnation as the person of Madeline Carterot."

"Could I but keep a subject under hypnotic spell for a day or week, I could go much further into the past; perhaps, we might learn the whole history of mankind."

"Like a true Hindu Brahmin, Colonel Rochas believes that all souls have existed from the beginning of things, inhabiting many bodies through a succession of incarnations."

"The soul, he thinks, is not necessarily identical with the body occupied by it. Difference of sex in succeeding incarnations is, therefore, no bar to his theory."

His best subjects for experiment are women. These journey backward into the past more readily than men when under hypnotic suggestion.

The cynical theory has been advanced that this is because women like to be thought younger than they are, and any backward turn of the wheel of time meets prompt approval, even in an unconscious state.

"Americans should be especially interested in this theory of the transmigration of souls," remarked Colonel Rochas, in discussing the subject.

"The American aborigines were among the first to give utterance to the belief that the soul, immediately after death, seeks a new habitation. Consequently, they buried their dead near the homes of relatives, in order to enable the dispossessed soul to locate readily in the body of a new-born infant of the clan or family. Their assumption was that the souls