

## INTRODUCTION TO THE J. ROSS ROBERTSON ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTION.

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After years of prosperity and wastefulness our country became aroused—and even then only partially—to the necessity for conservation of its resources. Then Conservation Commissions were appointed and the country settled back to the customary attitude of complacency that the subject had been recognized and settled. They were **material** needs that moved our people to this consideration, and these seem to be the only impelling forces which can move governments. It is left private individuals to conserve and make available and useful the resources of our country which make for enjoyment, happiness and larger education. In Toronto this is especially true, and perhaps one of the most noteworthy illustrations is the Collection of Historical Pictures (now 3,500 in number) which show the evolution of our Dominion. These, presented by Mr. J. Ross Robertson to the people of Canada through the Public Library Board of Toronto, have awakened interest in the early history of our country and given genuine pleasure to thousands of people. It is now nearly five years since this Historical Collection was opened, and during that time it has been visited by over 50,000 people.

The interest shown by the boys and girls in this historical work was so pleasing to Mr. Robertson that when he had the opportunity of purchasing a wonderful Collection of Illustrations of Early Bird Life of our Province he undertook it, partly on account of its historical interest, which is ever present in his mind, and partly because he believed that a sympathetic acquaintance with birds and their habits would interest boys and girls and lead to the preservation of this interesting and beautiful part of our life, which has been too often injured and sometimes entirely destroyed by a thoughtless and even cruel mankind. We cannot do much with adults, but we can develop in boys and girls a sympathetic attitude towards the birds, and in no way better than with an historical background.

This is, therefore, a decided step towards the Conservation of the Bird Life of our Province, and it is intended to be a nucleus of a Provincial Ornithological Collection housed in the great public building which is the community centre, as far as there can be such a thing in a large city.

GEORGE H. LOCKE.