

in charge are exercising every means at their command to successfully protect the birds.

**Panama Canal
Zone a
Bird-Reserve**

Before President Taft went out of office we took up with him the question of making the Panama Canal zone a bird-reserve. The request reached him, I believe, the day after election—and he took no action. But President Wilson made the canal zone a reserve when he came in. That is a very important sanctuary, as many of our birds go there in the winter. We have many bird-reserves which we are trying to protect that are not on government territory. These are cared for by agents employed by the National Association of Audubon Societies. The islands along the coast of Maine are great breeding places for sea-fowl of various kinds. There are forty-two islands where they nest, and we have sixteen men in service there in summer. We have wardens guarding islands along the coasts of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and North Carolina; also in Florida and Louisiana. About sixty important colonies of water-birds are protected by the Audubon Society in the southern states. We have not ownership of all these places. Some we have been able to buy and a few we lease. In other cases we obtained the consent of the owners to protect them. The result is that certain water-birds on the Atlantic coast, such as the herring gull and several species of terns, have come back in great numbers.

**Protecting
the Egret**

We are trying to guard the egrets in the south and we know of about ten thousand or twelve thousand of these birds left in the United States. Two of our agents, while on guard, have been shot and killed by plume-hunters, and the colonies have been raided and the plumes sent to New York.

In North America the great nursery for wild ducks and geese is the region between the Great lakes and Hudson bay on the east and the Rocky mountains on the west. We have three great flights of ducks and geese in autumn from that section of the country. Those heading for the Atlantic seaboard chiefly cross the States diagonally, reaching the Atlantic coast about Maryland. In a reactionary migratory movement, many of them go back along the coast at least to Long island and swim back and forth, according to weather conditions. The other end of this movement goes down the coast. There is also the great flight down the Mississippi valley. Under the migratory bird laws, the Mississippi, between Memphis and St. Paul, is a reservation. In the sunken ground of Arkansas we have two large bird-reserves, and on one of these many ducks find