

were given to such birds during the time that they are in United States territory. In other words, our migratory birds cannot be adequately protected from continued decrease without co-operative protection in Canada and the United States.

It is a well-known fact that while some of the states of the Union had excellent laws, which they enforced, others failed to protect their birds. In some states the shooting of wild fowl in the spring was permitted; this involved the killing of birds, usually mated at that time of the year, on their way to their breeding grounds in the north. This discouraged many Canadians, who naturally asked why they should protect their wild-fowl for the market gunners in the south. The existence of such market gunners, who annually killed enormous quantities of Canadian-bred ducks and geese for the markets of the big cities in the United States, constituted one of the greatest causes of reduction and one of the chief obstacles to any rational attempt to prevent such reduction and to maintain our stock of wild-fowl. Not only were game birds affected, but insectivorous birds were likewise killed by thousands during their winter sojourn in the south; this destruction has been particularly serious in the case of the robin, one of our important cutworm destroyers.

As a result of the efforts of sportsmen, game protective associations and other organizations interested in the conservation of the wild fowl and other migratory birds in the United States, the Federal Migratory Bird Law was enacted in 1913 for the purpose of securing more adequate protection for migratory birds which by reason of their migratory habits could not be successfully protected by the efforts of individual states so long as other states were derelict in the matter. The objects of the Federal regulations were: To reduce the open

seasons, which varied greatly in different states; to secure a more uniform open season, not exceeding three and one-half months, fixed in accordance with local conditions, so that the sportsmen would have shooting at the best time of the year; and to prevent the shooting of migratory birds in the spring. A close season for a period of years was given to certain birds, particularly shorebirds, and the shooting of insectivorous birds was entirely forbidden. The majority of the states amended their laws to conform with the Federal regulations, and although certain states, in which the influence of the market hunter and gunners with no thought of the future appeared to predominate, objected to Federal interference, the outcome of this increased protection and elimination of spring shooting has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of wild fowl. This increase has also been observed by Canadian sportsmen.

The results of the Federal Migratory Bird Law in the United States indicated the possibilities and served to emphasize the need of international co-operation. The question of international co-operation was first informally discussed by the writer with the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington in January, 1914. Later in the same month the subject was discussed in Ottawa at the annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation and the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved, that the Provincial Governments of Canada be urged to solicit the good offices of the Dominion Government in obtaining the negotiation of a convention for a treaty between Great Britain and the United States, for the purpose of securing more effective protection for the birds which pass from one country to another."

In the following month (February, 1914) the United States Government submitted to the Canadian government for its consideration the draft of a convention between Great