

Bird protection in Canada is a matter of provincial jurisdiction, and in most cases the laws have been fairly adequate. If properly carried out, however, the provisions of the treaty, offering uniform protection thruout the greater part of the continent, should enable North American bird life to thrive and increase as never before.—*Conservation, Oct., 1916.*

### CATS AS BIRD DESTROYERS.

In an address on the protection of bird life, delivered recently before the Commission of Conservation, attention was directed to the fact that the domestic cat is one of the most destructive enemies of wild birds. This contention is supported by the following quotation from a report by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture.

"Most people do not realize how destructive cats are to bird life, because their attention has never been called to the facts and because most feline depre-dations occur at night. In my investigations much evidence has been secured which is convincing. In the year 1903, at the instance of the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, an inquiry was undertaken regarding the decrease of birds in Massachusetts. As a part of this investigation a questionnaire was sent out to some 400 correspondents, which was filled out and returned by more than 200. In response to a question regarding the effect produced on birds by their natural enemies, 82 correspondents reported cats as very destructive to birds. This was a much larger number than those reporting any other natural enemy as destructive. Nearly all who reported on the natural enemies of birds placed the cat first among destructive animals."—*Conservation, Oct., 1916.*

### IS THE COLLEGE "SMOKER" A WORTHY SOCIAL INSTITUTION?

Herschel T. Manuel of Clark College discusses pro and con the above subject in an able article in "School and Society" of New York, 4 Nov. 1916. The following is its conclusion:

Finally *such an institution as the smoker is particularly out of harmony with the best ideals of that for which a college should stand.* If any institutions should lead the way in matters of improvement in social practises, these institutions it would appear are the church and the school. Woe to the church which has lost its pioneering spirit, and woe to the college from which idealism has departed. Society looks to the college man for leadership and rightly so; and the man above all men who should integrate in one personality the best and highest in thought and action is the leader. It is the business of the school not only to develop a knowledge of affairs, but also to bridge the proverbial gap between knowing and doing. The product of the college should illustrate in his life the high principles which may appear to the crowd as impractical ideals. The goal of education is never merely a reproduction of the things which *are*: it is always aimed at the things which *should* be, it is always something higher, better, more truly satisfying, and more efficient.

It is the conclusion of this paper that the college smoker is not a worthy social institution. It is unworthy either of tolerance or of active support. With reference to the larger group smoking is unsocial and antagonistic to good fellowship. Its cost is too great for the returns. Public smoking tends to be unsanitary. Smoking is unhygienic. The college smoker tends to spread and make permanent in the lives of students undesirable practises. And it is out of harmony with the best ideals of that for which a college should stand.

The social occasion of the "smoker" is, of course, to be encouraged; let us have more of the good fellowship, but without the smoke.