

etc.), others amidst the leaves (whiteheads, silver eyes, etc.), and yet again others destroying the various moths and beetles in the air (fantails, warblers, etc.). Insect life unchecked increases with stupendous rapidity, and forests have in other lands been totally destroyed by insect plagues, and in this country the inroads of insects and disease are apparent in many places, while nurserymen report increasing non-fertility in many forest tree seeds. The native birds are thus required as effectual guardians of our forests.

Then for the sake of these forests, let alone because they are unique and wonderful, our birds are looked upon by many with at least great regard; and it behoves every New Zealander who has any respect for his country and its beauties to assist in protecting this heritage of ours from vandals, collectors and imported enemies. The deforestation of the land, imported bird diseases, against which our birds are non-immune, have taken a heavy toll in the past, but now with awakening public interest and the establishment of greater immunity from disease, some species have increased quite wonderfully, to wit, the makomako, or bellbird, popokotea or white-headed canary, tui and pigeon, grey warbler, and several other species. Therefore the outlook is at least hopeful. All that is required is such skill in conservation as is exercised in some other countries with marked success. But good conservation cannot be attained without public backing and sympathy.

The New Zealand Native Bird Protection Society appeals to New Zealanders to fully interest themselves in their great heritage, their birds and forests, and think what New Zealand would be without them.

NO NATIVE FORESTS MEANS NO NATIVE BIRDS

THE TRAGEDY OF THE KAURI.

By CAPT. E. V. SANDERSON.

Before the great kauri log goes hurtling down the chute to the dam on its way to the receiving booms in Hokianga Harbour, measurements are taken and it is branded with a number and with the owner's mark for the purpose of identification.

The next course is to make the logs into rafts at the receiving booms and tow them to the mill to be there converted into sawn timber.

But things in the kauri log line do not always run as ordered; sometimes booms break, logs get away. Last winter the booms broke and released a great number of logs, valued from £15 to £30 each, into the harbour, many miles from the sea, and hundreds of logs could be seen floating about. Only two launches