

Lecturing staffs are maintained by the game commissions of various States. The lecturers travel about the State equipped with interesting films and slides which explain better than words what is being done. Their views on conservation are also got to the public through articles printed in local newspapers or in pamphlet form; and some States issue regular monthly magazines setting forth the doctrines of conservation. The educational results of this work have proved far beyond what was hoped or expected.

Again, much of the teaching has been undertaken by the National Association of Audubon Societies* and similar organizations. Small Audubon societies are scattered thickly all over the country wherever there happen to be a number of bird lovers living in one community. The object of these societies is not only to study birds, but locally and nationally to arouse public interest in them, to wage war against the human enemies of birds, and to seek legislation for their benefit. The national association maintains a staff of lecturers, as well as a large number of special game wardens for bird refuges.

National bird refuges thus far established have been mainly for water-birds or as resting places for migratory species on their way north and south. The land set apart has with few exceptions consisted of rocky islands or ledges, or tracts of marsh of no agricultural value, which would always have been waste land. These reservations have proved of immense value to bird life, providing homes free from molestation for millions of water-fowl and herons, which otherwise would now be extinct.

And, following the example set by the Federal Government, many States have purchased or otherwise acquired waste lands which they term game preserves, refuges, sanctuaries, or State parks, on which no further shooting is permitted. These lands, however, must not be confused with the sometimes gigantic State forest preserves where shooting, under certain conditions, is generally allowed.

Game refuges or sanctuaries are tracts ranging from a few acres up to several thousand. They are carefully guarded by wardens, sometimes heavily stocked from State game-farms, and serve as oases for game which gradually filters out beyond their boundaries to replenish the dwindling stock of the surrounding territories. Some refuges are actually owned by the State; others are merely held for a term of years under a lease; and still others may be protected for specific periods of time upon request of the owners.

*Bird Protection Societies.