

Certain birds are held in respect because of their supposed omen-giving significance.

If a newly-married man dreamt of tattooed heads decorated with huia feathers, that was regarded as an indication that his wife had conceived a daughter; whereas if the plumes be those of the kotuku (or heron) that was an omen that a son may be expected.

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### KAIBAB RESERVE.

[The following extracts, culled from "Bird Lore," with reference to the Kaibab Reserve in Arizona, make interesting reading when our own deer meance is considered. It will be noticed that the special committee set up to report recommends that the natural enemies be preserved lest the vegetation is completely destroyed. In New Zealand the natural enemy is, of course, absent. What will become of our forests?]

One of the most peculiar and difficult problems in connection with the management of game-animals is that which has developed in the Kaibab Game Preserve, of Northern Arizona, established by Act of Congress in 1906. For a number of years all hunting of deer was prohibited. Several hundred cougars, thousand of coyotes, as well as many wildcats and a few gray wolves of the region were destroyed.

The deer, relieved of the destructive effect of their wild and human enemies, quickly began to show a marked increase in numbers, and soon the officials of the United States Forest Service, who have charge of the preserve, became conscious of the alarming decrease of available food-supply. Since the autumn of 1924 restricted hunting has been permitted with a view to trying, if possible, to save the range. Despite this action, tesimony on all sides indicates that great numbers of deer have died of starvation, and the range has steadily deteriorated.

The Kaibab area is a forested plateau on the north rim of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. It is approximately 1,052,000 acres in extent, something more than two-thirds of the area being within the Game Preserve, the rest being included in the Grand Canyon National Park. Roughly, we may say it is bounded on three sides by cliffs which almost everywhere are inaccessible, and on the remaining side by deserts. The region, therefore, so far as the deer are concerned, is about as isolated as if they were on an island.

At an altitude of from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, the deer pass the summer, dropping down in winter on the west and east sides to altitudes of from 4,000 to 5,000 feet.