

TRAFFIC IN WILD BIRDS.

The spring number of *Bird Notes and News*, the journal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, tells of recent efforts in England to abate the extensive traffic in wild birds by the passage of a bill which was given consideration at the Society's annual meeting in March, 1932.

The bill in question was introduced in the House of Lords on February 7, 1933, by Lord Buckmaster, and a Second Reading was moved on February 14 by the introducer of the measure. The bill is not designed to cover birds already in captivity, or canaries and foreign birds in general. "Its aim is to put an end to the exploitation of the country's Wild Birds for profit and gain, by prohibiting the taking and possession of them for sale, exhibition, and barter."

It is stated that Lord Buckmaster ardently championed the measure, which he had introduced, in an eloquent and moving speech. In addition, the British press gave widespread support to the bill in many stirring editorial comments.

It is our earnest hope that our British bird-protectionist friends may soon have the satisfaction of seeing the measure they are sponsoring enacted into law.—*Bird Lore*.

HELP THE BIRDS TO BRAVE THE WINTERS.

People are beginning to realise that the wholesale poisoning of small birds is a mistake. The fact about bird population is that a country can only maintain what it can carry through the winter and early spring. Birds are very hard pressed in New Zealand in August and September, and there are times when birds concentrating on some odd food supplies, do some damage. The remedy is feeding the birds, not poisoning them, because with the latter remedy we lose the activities of the birds in our fight against insect pests. The wholesale poisoning of birds is invariably followed by great destruction through insect pests. Last year the farmers raised a cry about grubs and appealed to the Government for assistance. This year caterpillars in some districts are cleaning up the crops. All this sort of thing has happened before in New Zealand. It is evident that all warnings about what will happen if birds are killed in a wholesale manner are useless. The only convincing argument is the reality. The time when the caterpillars increase is exactly the time when the birds, their natural enemies, can increase and will increase if they are encouraged. If they are discouraged and poisoned, the way is cleared for the caterpillars and the crops suffer. Save the birds by winter feeding and the onslaught on the caterpillars is increased and the crops saved.