

Probably free trapping, all the year round, with all protection removed, is the only possible way to clear the bush and save the birds. A very few more years and the mischief will be irreparable.

AS IN NEW ZEALAND.

From the following remarks by Dr. Wm. T. Hornaday of The Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund, it appears that game birds are in a similarly precarious condition in the United States of America to that in New Zealand, and owing to much the same causes—over-shooting, etc.

“Our studies have convinced us that state by state our upland game birds are reaching the vanishing point; that the often claimed ‘abundance’ of killable game is usually false; that all North American game birds are being killed much faster than they are breeding; that ‘the sportsmen’ are NOT ‘saving the game,’ and *never have done so*; that now nearly all state game commissions are afraid to further stop shooting; that the decent and game-saving sportsmen are only a powerless minority; that it is this year impossible for the conserving sportsmen to organize and function; that the non-migratory upland game birds will be the first to become extinct; and finally that nothing save bold and drastic work by the Federal Government, through the Department of Agriculture and strongly backed by the President, ever can or ever will SAVE the waterfowl and marsh birds on a basis of low-limit shooting confined to the annual increase.

“During the past thirty-three years, the greatest measures initiated for wild life salvage have been put over by Congress and the Federal Government. It would be a pleasure to enumerate the various Acts and Regulations—but it is unnecessary. It is enough to say that every one of those nation-wide and wholesale measures has been amply approved and sustained by the American people—even though certain drastic reforms were forced upon certain states that were too mean to make them by their own initiative.

“You have observed, in 1930 and in 1931, how two great and necessary measures were driven through desperate situations by the overwhelming force of the President, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and about 25 supporting states. In the matter of the 30-day waterfowl open season of 1931, while 27 states registered their support in advance, four states opposed that measure, and 17 maintained stony silence regarding it. Now, it seems that no one denies the fact that that emergency movement saved some millions of birds for breeding that otherwise would have been SHOT by sportsmen!