

"Popular opinion and scientific research often differ markedly. The feeding habits of our hawks are among the things which recent investigations have revealed as at odds with common beliefs.

"Many self-styled 'practical' people demand to be shown whether hawks add to or subtract from man's income, and they are all too prone to condemn upon slight or hearsay evidence, and to refuse to accept the testimony of sincere bird students as to the beneficial actions of these birds. It is axiomatic with the liberty-loving American people that a person on trial is innocent until he is proved guilty, but we do not apparently carry this principle into our consideration of the birds of prey."

That request of fair play for hawks will be supported by many accurate observers of such birds' habits in New Zealand. For example, Mr. E. T. Frost, representative of the Forest and Bird Protection Society in North Auckland, has produced definite proof of the harrier's usefulness as a killer of rats and other destructive rodents.

New Zealanders can rest assured that the National Association of Audubon Societies would not have championed the cause of hawks unless the birds deserved this defence.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE.

By Royal Decree the Belgian Government has officially recognised the International Office for the Protection of Nature, and has appointed the following delegates to be its representatives to the General Council of the Office:—

Delegates from Belgium: Baron E. de Cartier de Marchienne (Belgian Ambassador in London) and Count Henry Carton de Wiart (former Prime Minister).

Delegates for the Belgian Congo and the Mandated Territory of Ruanda-Urundi: P. Charles (Minister of Colonies) and Professor Dr. V. Van Straelen (Director of the Royal Belgian Museum of Natural History and President of the Institute for National Parks in the Belgian Congo).