

water, produce indescribable confusion of sound.

We pass around 10 miles of diking that return to our starting-point. During the trip we see myriads of birds: Pelicans, Geese, Ducks of many kinds, Swans, many varieties of the Snipe and Plover families;; Coots, Cranes, Egrets, Grebes, and others, interesting and uninteresting. Most of these birds are now nesting here, breaking the habits of many generations. A few varieties stay only to rest and feed. Islands are being thrown up in the more isolated places for the use of the more timid birds who will not nest where there is possibility of danger. There are thousands of Pelicans but they still rear their grotesque young on distant islands in Great Salt Lake. There they transport the mud fish, which is their diet, for a hundred miles or more from fresh-water lakes partially digested in their gullets.

Many of the species represented in increasing numbers have been threatened with extinction. Egrets, whose beauty of plumage has been the means of great loss in numbers through gentle woman's love of ornamentation, have secured a new lease of life through the interest of hard-hearted congressmen and senators.

Many game-birds, now well endowed with the self-protective instinct, are increasing by Government benefit. Avocet, Curlew, and the like are reproducing here in thousands. A few specimens of Jack-snipe were seen. The same is true of numerous others.

The interesting thing of the refuge is the tameness of nearly all the bird-life there. The knowledge of safety gives the birds an entirely

new aspect. Even the familiar trick of simulating a broken wing or leg to draw attention from the nest is almost lacking. Once or twice a half-hearted attempt at such cajolery is made for our benefit but is soon given up as not worth the effort. Mostly the little fellows sit quietly on their nests, or walk away a few feet, scolding us mildly.

One could watch for hours the different bird characteristics. The Grebe children out for a ride on the parent bird's back; the well-studied pose of the Heron representing himself as a harmless post or bunch of grass to the unwary fish or frog until the lightning-like stroke ends a career; the number of species showing traits not usually ascribed, as the maternal instincts of different males who sit upon the eggs after the female has laid them, and even the rearing of the family by dad while mother gads about, interests us by the unfairness of it all. The idea might spread!

We see a representative part of this great project, and we are impressed how much wild life is worth preserving. There is evidence of considerable outlay, but the benefit appears great and maintenance will be negligible. We are glad to learn that several such organisations are projected throughout the nation or are already in operation.

Visitors to this refuge have not been encouraged in the past, partly on account of the great amount of construction, and in greater part to preserve its usefulness as a refuge. It is hoped that it will be possible, upon the completion of proper facilities, to grant privileges as well as to furnish guides to all who care to take this "scenic trip."

Grey
Duck.

