

very scarce. Sixty years of firing by gum-diggers has almost ruined the area. Dry, hard baked hill slopes are to be seen in many directions and there is hardly shelter enough to enable birds to nest. Consequently most of the native birds have vanished.

MAN BANISHES THE BIRDS.

The weka is gone, and only here and there can be found the fern bird, which succumbs easily to fire.

Dotterel are more plentiful, as they keep to the shores of the harbour.

A few pigeons are to be found in a small bush near the North Cape, but they are threatened with extermination by law-breaking pot-hunters.

The native lark (pipit) is scarce, probably owing to the numerous wild-cats which roam over the area in hundreds, the progeny of animals left behind by gum-diggers.

An out-of-the-way place is this Parengarenga Harbour; yet it is becoming easily accessible because of road improvements. Therefore, the hope is fervently expressed that it will be known soon as New Zealand's first sanctuary for godwits.

THE FEATHERED CHOIR.

Dawn comes and with the dawn there comes
the calling

Among the trees of many voices,
As birds proclaim their messages enthralling,
And not the least one but rejoices.

They waken to the joy of recognizing
New life, as morning comes in splendour;
Bright-eyed, alert, each sun-lit moment prizing,
They greet their mates with flutings tender.

Sweetly may come the perfume of the roses,
Their glowing red like dawn-spires showing;
But bird-song more the spring of joy discloses,—
Motion and life with music flowing.

In praise of life's renewal universal
Fulfilling bliss beyond desiring,
Around the earth proceeds the glad rehearsal
As myriads awake to choring.

—W.P.M., in *The Christian Science Monitor*,
June 2, 1937.

LABOUR LENDS A HAND.

THE National Association of Audobon Societies is a powerful combination aiming primarily at bird protection in America, but nevertheless extending their activities to many countries.

Mr. Robert Cushman Murphy, recently elected President, writes as follows in the Association's official publication, "Bird Lore":—

"The conservation movement, ordinarily thought of as wholly altruistic, frequently receives unexpected support from sources motivated by 'enlightened selfishness.' For example, a West Coast labour union has recently delivered an ultimatum that threatens to tie up Japanese ships in American ports unless Japan compels her own fishermen to cease fishing on the high seas for salmon which, at the appointed season, make their spawning runs up North American rivers. The aim is neither unreasonable nor unprecedented, for years ago, as a result of arbitration, Japan, Great Britain and the United States terminated the pelagic fishery for fur seals in the North Pacific. The present protest with regard to salmon is the second instance within a year in which organised labour has attempted to play a role in wild-life conservation. Only last autumn a strike of Scandinavian seamen forced the British anti-arctic whaling fleet to reduce its catch.

"In many parts of the world, the past decade has seen a general expansion of labour influence in public affairs. To a considerable degree, organised labour has concerned itself with urban problems and has maintained an urban point of view. But as knowledge of the inter-relations between man and all other forms of life becomes more widely disseminated, it is inevitable that labour should take a vital interest in the fundamental causes of proper land-use and sea-use. No group of people has a greater stake in wild-life resources than has labour; no group would more promptly and deeply suffer through the exhaustion of such natural wealth."

FOREST AND BIRD SOCIETY BADGES.

Metal badges nicely designed in gilt and nephrite green enamel are now being issued by the Society, at the price of 1/6, or in silver and paua shells at 7/6 each. These latter make handsome brooches.

