

timents of a civilised people, it is most harmful to agriculture, as the birds—especially in the nesting season—feed their young on larvae and insects injurious to plants. Parents should remember that the law holds them responsible for offences committed by children under age.”

So there is something to be learned from Italy, from a people which, starting in superstition and in a poverty that made the taking of bird-life more excusable than the shooting of non-game birds for “sport,” has evolved in a few years a useful body of animal-protective laws, and a new and truly cultural attitude to human relationship with wild life.

“PROTECTION OF ANIMALS IN ITALY.”

“There reigns in Creation an admirable harmony and a perfection of order whereby all creatures are subject to man so that they may serve him as a sovereign in the attainment of his ultimate ends and under the guidance of his intelligence.

But man upsets this admirable order when on the one hand he casts down his royal crown of superiority before the feet of inferior beings, devoting to them senseless affection, or when on the other hand he exercises over them a tyrannical rule subjecting them to acts of barbarous cruelty and destruction. Among the various inferior beings, the Church has always given a special place of honour to the birds of the air, which are so useful to agriculture, and at the same time appear the best comforters to man wandering through this vale of tears, and which more than all other beings raise him to the thought of God the Creator, by teaching him to detach himself from earthly burdens and to reflect on their flight as suggestive of the coming flight to Heaven.”—Giuseppe Orlando.

“Consideration for the life of animals is one of the noblest characteristics of a country.”

—Sig. Mussolini.

PUKEKO JUST HATCHED

Photo courtesy Auckland Memorial Museum

