

game and insectivorous birds if its provisions are duly respected by an intelligent public. If the law be deemed "a hass," then purely on the grounds of national or æsthetic sentiment let not our beautiful and interesting feathered friends be molested.

According to *The Argus* of 31st January, 1902, "Constable Neill, on the day previous to the opening of the duck-shooting season, went down to Grasse's Swamp disguised as a sportsman, and found three Teal in the possession of a man named John M'Cauley, who had been out on the swamp in a boat. He at first denied having shot them, but afterwards admitted having done so. He was brought before the local Court to-day and fined 5s., and 5s. for each bird shot; costs 21s. He was then charged by Mr. G. T. Chirnside with trespassing on his land with a gun in pursuit of game, this case arising out of the previous one. For this he was fined 20s. and 23s. costs." The three Teal cost M'Cauley £4 4s. Rather a small but dear bag.

The Geelong Advertiser reports that "at Lake Modewarre Constables Gleeson and Young paid a surprise visit to the lake on Tuesday night, and seized two guns from a well-known shooter there.* The barrels measured 4 ft. 6 in. in length, being one foot over the regulation size. The guns are very weighty weapons, and with them has been forwarded a padded support to receive the recoil when fired from the bottom of a punt. The seizure was made by Constable Gleeson. Constable Young, who was in another portion of the lake, saw a second boat put out with a similar gun in it. He called upon the man to stop, but this he refused to do, and the offender eventually made his escape."

The Shepparton Advertiser, 31st January, 1902, gives prominence (nearly a column) to a Quail-shooting case. At the local Court Michael Halpin and C. G. Hayes were summoned by Sergeant Morris for killing a brace of Quail each during close season. The Bench imposed a fine of £1 upon each offender besides 5s. per bird. W. M. Harper was charged with having in his possession a Quail in the close season, but on technical grounds this case was dismissed.

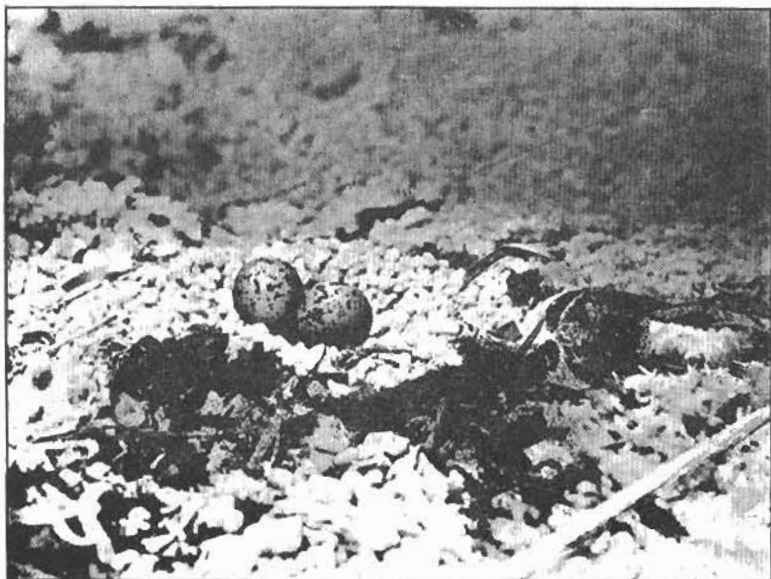
Bird Protection in America.

As mentioned in the first issue of *The Emu*, the American Ornithologists' Union is very active in the matter of protecting bird life and preventing its unnecessary destruction. In vol. xix. of *The Auk* (No. 1, January, 1902, pp. 31-54) accounts are given by Mr. Witmer Stone and Mr. W. Dutcher of the proceedings of the committee appointed for the purpose, recording the work

* Subsequently the offender, whose name is William Wood, was proceeded against by Mr. C. W. Maclean, Chief Inspector of Fisheries. The guns, which cost £21 10s., were forfeited, and in addition Wood was fined £1, with £1 1s. costs.

The Emu.

PLATE VIII.



Red-capped Dottrel's Nest.



Pied Oyster-catcher's Nest.

FROM PHOTOS. BY D. LE SOUEF

done and describing the success achieved. Up to 1901 only five States had satisfactory laws for the protection of non-game birds, but during that year eleven more Legislatures were induced either to amend their old laws in the desired direction or pass new ones on the lines of a bill which had been drafted for the Union by Dr. T. S. Palmer, who (acting for the Biological Survey of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) has so vigorously and efficiently enforced what is known as the *Lacey Act* that a great deal has been done towards suppressing the trade in birds for millinery purposes. This Act is said to have "spread consternation amongst illicit game dealers throughout the country." In the district of Columbia retail dealers who had been served with printed extracts from it refused to keep or sell plumes, and returned them to the New York wholesale houses. In that city, dealers who had protected birds in their possession were prosecuted, and "paid the fines rather than defend the suit."

Along the Atlantic coast wardens visit the various breeding grounds of Gulls, Terns, &c., and keep so keen an eye on illegal shooters and egg-collectors that those birds have greatly increased in number, and in one district the leading supplier said "he guessed shooting birds for hats was over." The work has not been confined to the eastern coast. In Chicago the trade in American cage-birds has been practically suppressed, and from California it is reported that, as far as known, no birds are now collected there for the millinery trade. Over a large area of the States considerable activity in the matter is shown, more particularly when the ladies have been enlisted in the cause. In Atlanta one lady had, "unaided, secured the pledges of over 3,000 of the best women of her State that they would not in the future use the plumage of wild birds as millinery ornaments . . . and through her efforts over 2,500 school children of Atlanta were subscribers to a pledge not to harm or annoy wild birds." Much of the success achieved is due to Mr. Abbot H. Thayer, who alone collected what is known as the "Thayer Fund," used principally for the expenses of wardens and the posting of warning notices in conspicuous places, and still more perhaps to the aid of the various Audubon societies, who seem very earnest in the cause.

That the movement in favour of bird protection is spreading from the new to the old world is evident by the fact that a cablegram has appeared in the newspapers announcing that His Majesty King Edward and Queen Alexandra have strongly deprecated the killing of birds in order to secure their feathers for trimmings for ladies' hats. Their Majesties were prompted to take this action on being informed that a milliner had entered into a contract for 10,000 Seagulls' wings for London and Paris orders. Australasia should lose no time in falling into line in this matter.