

SAVING BIRDS AND BEASTS

OUR VANISHING WILD LIFE. By William T. Hornaday. Illustrated. Charles Scribner's Sons.

If anything could bring the indifferent American public to a realization of its happy-go-lucky attitude on the question of the wild life of the country and the sinister results that are bound to come, surely Mr. Hornaday's fervent book will have effect. Its four hundred pages are solid with incisive argument, bristling with facts and figures, and glowing with impassioned appeal. His attack is directed in particular against defective laws for the preservation of our furred and feathered "friends." His investigation of just how far these laws protect has convinced him that "we are exterminating our finest species of mammals, birds, and fishes according to law."

He devotes several chapters to accounts of these birds and mammals that have become extinct, or are rapidly on the road to extinction, and tells what and who are their foes, seen and unseen. The chapters which take up the immense commercial losses caused by insects, and shows how these will become so overwhelming as to be a serious menace to the population if the slaughter of the birds which prey upon these insects is not stopped, ought to open the eyes of legislators and their constituents to the serious economic problem involved. Four chapters recount what has been done by the several States, and tell what new laws are needed. The book ought to be read by every one who is interested in any way in the wild life of the country.

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