

*A. S. Talley, Jr., Columbia, S.C., Jan. 27,*

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AUDUBON SOCIETY

OF

South Carolina

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January 1st, 1908

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COLUMBIA, S. C.  
GONZALES AND BRYAN, STATE PRINTERS.  
1908.



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Allen Brooke  
06

Order—ANSERES  
Genus—Aix  
Family—ANSERIDAE  
Species—CAYANA

WOOD DUCK

WOOD DUCK

Order—ANSERES  
Genus—Aix

Family—ANSERIDAE  
Species—CAYANA

## REPORT.

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### ORGANIZATION.

On March 16th, 1907, there went into effect the statute creating the Audubon Society of South Carolina, with powers of a State Game and Fish Commission. On April 9th, the incorporators held a meeting in Columbia, and the following officers were elected:

President, B. F. Taylor.

Vice-president, Dr. H. N. Snyder.

Temporary Secretary, George S. Heyward.

Treasurer, A. R. Heyward, Jr.

The following were elected to constitute the Board of Directors:

Neils Christensen, Beaufort; O. B. Martin, Columbia; Dr. P. H. Mell, Clemson College; C. P. Wray, Ridgeway; D. H. Coker, Hartsville; Mrs. Augustine Smythe, Charleston; A. F. Lever, Lexington, and R. I. Manning, Sumter.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS.

Immediately after this meeting, the President began gathering all information available regarding the exact condition of game and fish protection in the State. He soon ascertained that in many sections but slight attention was paid to any of the game and fish protective laws. Game birds and deer were constantly killed out of season, and in some quarters a large traffic of their dead bodies was carried on for market purposes. Fish were being slaughtered in immense numbers by means of traps and dynamite. Song birds were shot indiscriminately and many were trapped to be shipped North. The beautiful sea-birds, which nest in colonies along the coast, were constantly robbed of their eggs each summer. The license law, which formerly required every non-resident hunter to pay \$25 for shooting license, had been systematically avoided. Under the old law, fourteen county Game Wardens had been appointed. Letters to all these Wardens brought out the fact that, owing to inadequate pay, lack of State supervision, and for other causes, they had been practically inactive, one of them only reporting two convictions for violation of the Game Laws for the year previous. On the other hand, from all over the State, letters began

to pour in, asking for help from the Audubon Society, showing that large numbers of people were interested in bird and fish protection, and hailed with much joy the fact that the State had at length taken an interest in preserving these valuable assets to the commonwealth.

#### LAWS DISTRIBUTED.

One of the first things to claim the attention of the Audubon Society was the publication in pamphlet form of the State Game Law known as the "Audubon Law." Fifteen hundred copies were printed and distributed throughout South Carolina, and the more important features have been printed frequently in the public press of the State. The importance of this work can hardly be underestimated, as there is no doubt that many people violate the Game Laws through ignorance of the statutes. More than five thousand pamphlets, with plates showing the wild birds in their natural colors, have been distributed in the schools, among farmers, and elsewhere. These were furnished by Mr. William Dutcher, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

#### APPOINTMENT OF WARDENS.

The work of revising and enlarging the warden force at once began. Some of the officers who displayed most interest were recommissioned by the government as State Wardens, and a number of additions have been made. The following is a list of the names of the Wardens appointed and serving up to December 15, 1907:

J. E. Rutledge, Lancaster.  
 George A. Malloy, Cheraw.  
 W. L. Samson, Cross keys.  
 George W. Hazzard, Cat Island.  
 William Elliott, Yemassee.  
 D. J. Salley, Orangeburg.  
 William Lykes, Lykesland.  
 S. M. Rice, Jr., (E. U.) Union.  
 John N. Bates, Spartanburg.  
 John D. W. Watts, Laurens.  
 J. H. Robinson, Greenville.  
 John Weiking, Charleston.  
 Kajitan E. Kremser, South Island.  
 Victor E. Thelming, McClellanville.

Theo. S. Johansen, Frogmore.  
 Charles Anderson, Port Royal.  
 Richard Stonebridge, Savannah, Ga.  
 E. Y. Ferguson, Enoree.  
 E. A. Sessions, Ridgeway.  
 J. W. Wilson, Conway.  
 Frank E. Johnstone, South Island.  
 W. S. McKaskill, Conway.  
 W. Fletcher Smith, Gaffney.  
 C. W. Boykin, St. Stephens.  
 S. P. Holliday, Pineville.  
 W. S. McClelland, Pineville, N. C.  
 H. Warren Richardson, Garnett.  
 Thomas B. Earle, Anderson.  
 Halvor S. Svendsen, Charleston.  
 Charles Johnson, South Island.  
 James E. Swan, Mt. Pleasant.  
 Frederick H. Bruggeman, Hilton Head.  
 Robert Sisson, Savannah, Ga.  
 K. S. Villepigue, Camden.  
 W. H. Wylie, Rock Hill.  
 J. H. Hook, Clemson College.  
 Dr. L. H. Russell, Greenwood.

The warden force is being enlarged as rapidly as funds will permit, and it is expected that before long there will be two or more active officers in every county. It has been found hard to get wardens in a number of the counties, because they are required to work, and because, in some instances, they do not wish to make cases against their friends.

#### WARDENS' DUTY AND PAY.

It is the duty of a Game Warden to acquaint the people of his territory with the character of the laws for the preservation of the wild game and fish; to see that the \$10 non-resident hunter's license, now required by law, is paid, and to arrest and prosecute all persons found guilty of infractions of the game laws. Wardens work under the direction and control of the State Audubon Society, and are required to make reports of their activities to the Columbia office. It is hoped that soon arrangements can be made to put a number of these officers on a regular salary, but at the present their

remuneration consists of fees for work actually accomplished, viz.: \$10 for each conviction which they secure, and \$2.50 for each non-resident license they may be the means of collecting.

### WORK OF WARDENS.

Although the law has been in operation but a short time, its efficiency has already been demonstrated. In addition to an immense amount of educational work, the Wardens have found it necessary to bring prosecutions in a number of instances. As a result of their activities, convictions have been secured in the following cases:

Killing quail out of season.....	4
Dynamiting fish.....	1
Hunting without licenses.....	4
Killing non-game birds.....	2

Eight cases are now pending in the courts. One Warden has destroyed over thirty traps in one stream which were illegally set for catching fish. The dynamiting of fish has already been stopped in many places, and hundreds of irresponsible people have been taught that the Fish and Game Protective Laws must be respected. On the faithfulness and activity of these officers must depend much of the lasting good for which the Audubon Society is working. Many of the Wardens have but recently been appointed and as yet have not had sufficient opportunity to show their abilities.

### SECRETARY RICE.

The secretary, James Henry Rice, Jr., has been in the field a large part of the time since May 1st, soliciting members for the Society, selecting Wardens, and performing other duties of similar character. He has already visited over half the counties in the State. Mr. Rice has, however, been forced to give his attention to other duties than those of the Society, as his pay is not sufficient from this source alone to maintain him. We hope the income for the coming year will warrant the appointment of a man to give his whole time and attention to this work. His services in the field have been satisfactory, but with more funds with which to keep him active, much more of the territory could have been covered. He finds in his visits throughout the State that the unanimous opinion of the people is that the Society is greatly needed and that the Game Protective Laws should be made more adequate by

amendments in a number of instances. These changes are suggested later in this report.

### GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATION.

By direction of the National Government, the lighthouse keepers on the coast have been instructed to protect the sea-birds and to cooperate with the Audubon Society. We have had all the eight keepers appointed Game Wardens, with the understanding that their duties as Wardens must not interfere with their duties as light keepers. Already we have obtained from these gentlemen much valuable information regarding breeding colonies, and their constant trips from their stations to Charleston, Georgetown, Beaufort, and Savannah, will enable us to prevent many depredations on islands during the breeding season. The United States Department of Agriculture has also furnished the Society with several hundred copies of their publications of "Game Laws" and the "Value of Birds to Agriculture." These have all been distributed in the State.

### THE OUTLOOK.

The outlook for the Audubon Society work in South Carolina is very promising. Already a very substantial membership has been enrolled and this will increase as the objects and purposes of the Society become more widely known. There are hundreds of people in the State who enjoy the sport of hunting or angling; these should all be interested in its work. The owners of private game preserves, whether residents or non-residents of the State, will doubtless gladly co-operate with the Society, as, indeed, some of them have already signified their willingness of doing. Every farmer in South Carolina should be a loyal friend of the Society, which is laboring to preserve the valuable insect-eating and weed-destroying birds, by whose efforts in field and grove his lands are enabled to produce their annual yield. And then the outlook is bright because the movement is a good one and is founded on good, sensible principles. In thirty-seven States in the Union, Audubon Societies exist, and everywhere they are having an enormous influence for good.

B. F. TAYLOR,  
President.

## Treasurer's Report.

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December 19, 1907.

His Excellency M. F. Ansel, Governor of South Carolina.

Sir: I beg to report the following as my receipts and disbursements to date, as treasurer of this Society:

### RECEIPTS.

Membership dues:

113 at \$6 00.....	\$678 00
4 at \$5 00.....	20 00
16 at \$1 00.....	16 00
	\$714 00

Advanced by B. F. Taylor..... 141 35

Advanced by National Association..... 200 00

\$1,055 35

### DISBURSEMENTS.

Secretary's salary from April 23.....\$255 19

Secretary's traveling expenses..... 604 69

Exchange on checks..... 1 00

Game Wardens' expenses..... 65 10

Stationery and printing..... 24 30

Compiling Audubon Law..... 10 00

Badges ..... 19 50

Express ..... 90

Payment on typewriter by secretary..... 22 50

\$1,003 18

Balance on hand.....\$ 52 17

Yours very truly,

A. R. HEYWARD, JR.

Treasurer Audubon Society of South Carolina.

## List of Members of Audubon Society of South Carolina.

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E. P. Alexander.....	South Island, S. C.
P. N. Buckingham.....	Barnwell, S. C.
C. N. Burkhalter.....	Barnwell, S. C.
C. J. S. Brooker.....	Bamberg, S. C.
M. O. Dantzler.....	Orangeburg, S. C.
R. L. Montague.....	Charleston, S. C.
R. P. Tucker.....	Charleston, S. C.
A. S. Winslow.....	Inman, S. C.
A. L. White.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
Fred Bryant.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
R. H. Nesbit.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
Arthur Irwin.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
Warren DuPre.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
H. T. Crigler.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
T. E. Screven.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
Dr. DeFoix Wilson.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
C. E. Fleming.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
A. M. Law.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
J. B. Lee.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
J. F. Floyd.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
G. F. Heidt.....	Charleston, S. C.
J. A. Wyman.....	Bamberg, S. C.
J. F. Bamberg.....	Bamberg, S. C.
E. G. Seibels.....	Columbia, S. C.
J. J. Seibels.....	Columbia, S. C.
C. W. McCreery.....	Columbia, S. C.
G. A. Guignard.....	Columbia, S. C.
John Ambler.....	Timmons ville, S. C.
Otranto Club.....	Charleston, S. C.
W. D. Gaillard.....	Charleston, S. C.
C. C. Twitty.....	Hartsville, S. C.
C. E. Danner, Jr.....	Beaufort, S. C.
W. R. Hale.....	Greenville, S. C.
T. P. Cothran.....	Greenville, S. C.
J. A. McCullough.....	Greenville, S. C.
Dr. H. M. Perry.....	Greenville, S. C.
J. J. Cowart.....	Greenville, S. C.
Lewis & Hartzog.....	Greenville, S. C.

Will Schade.....	Greenville, S. C.
W. G. Serrine.....	Greenville, S. C.
W. M. Fishburne.....	Columbia, S. C.
Dr. H. E. Heinitsh.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
Frank Gilliland.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
S. J. Nichols.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
Isaac Andrews.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
Geo. W. Gage.....	Chester, S. C.
W. A. Neal.....	Atlanta, Ga.
W. H. Andrews.....	Georgetown, S. C.
J. B. Johnson.....	Georgetown, S. C.
N. H. Blitch.....	Charleston, S. C.
L. W. Boykin.....	Boykins, S. C.
J. D. Going.....	Union, S. C.
S. M. Rice, Jr.....	Union, S. C.
Allan Nicholson.....	Union, S. C.
W. Fletcher Smith.....	Gaffney, S. C.
W. J. Roddey.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
J. T. Roddey.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
W. H. Wylie.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
W. W. Boyce.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
J. B. Johnson.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
Pride Ratteree.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
B. M. Fewell.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
Dr. W. W. Fennell.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
Jno. G. Anderson.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
C. W. F. Spencer.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
G. H. Greene.....	Lancaster, S. C.
A. R. Craig.....	Marion, S. C.
W. J. Montgomery.....	Marion, S. C.
E. A. Gasque.....	Marion, S. C.
W. F. Stackhouse.....	Marion, S. C.
E. T. Wilcox.....	Marion, S. C.
C. A. Woods.....	Marion, S. C.
Will Stackhouse.....	Marion, S. C.
D. F. Miles.....	Marion, S. C.
D. K. Davis.....	Marion, S. C.
E. B. Wheeler.....	Marion, S. C.
Henry Mullins.....	Marion, S. C.
Henry Buck.....	Marion, S. C.
J. M. Johnson.....	Marion, S. C.

W. S. Foxworth.....	Marion, S. C.
R. J. Blackwell.....	Marion, S. C.
C. L. Pace.....	Marion, S. C.
J. D. McLucas.....	Marion, S. C.
H. W. McLucas.....	Marion, S. C.
J. W. Johnson.....	Marion, S. C.
T. J. Lipscomb.....	Columbia, S. C.
S. J. Simpson.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
John Bolt.....	Laurens, S. C.
J. D. W. Watts.....	Laurens, S. C.
Mr. Anderson.....	Laurens, S. C.
P. H. Mell.....	Clemson College, S. C.
J. N. Harper.....	Clemson College, S. C.
C. Lewis Newman.....	Clemson College, S. C.
B. H. Johnstone.....	Clemson College, S. C.
Dr. Redfearn.....	Clemson College, S. C.
B. C. Hard.....	Clemson College, S. C.
J. H. Hook.....	Clemson College, S. C.
W. W. Klugh.....	Clemson College, S. C.
A. G. Shanklin.....	Clemson College, S. C.
J. C. Minus.....	Clemson College, S. C.
H. W. Barre.....	Clemson College, S. C.
Chas. M. Furman.....	Clemson College, S. C.
Kenneth Baker.....	Greenwood, S. C.
Rev. R. R. Jeter.....	Anderson, S. C.
Rev. J. E. James.....	Anderson, S. C.
F. B. Grier.....	Greenwood, S. C.
Capt F. S. Evans.....	Greenwood, S. C.
F. H. Calhoun.....	Clemson College, S. C.
Frank K. Spratt.....	Laurens, S. C.
M. F. Ansel.....	Columbia, S. C.
G. Heyward Mahon.....	Greenville, S. C.
Earle Sloan.....	Charleston, S. C.

The above members paid \$6.00 each.

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T. F. Parker.....	Greenville, S. C.
Frank Hampton.....	Charleston, S. C.
John Gary Evans.....	Spartanburg, S. C.
H. E. Ravenel.....	Spartanburg, S. C.

The above members paid \$5.00 each.

Mrs. H. E. Ravenel.....	Charleston, S. C.
C. P. Wray.....	Ridgeway, S. C.
P. H. Mell.....	Clemson College, S. C.
D. R. Coker.....	Hartsville, S. C.
S. H. Hay.....	Clover, S. C.
R. I. Manning.....	Sumter, S. C.
R. B. Herbert.....	Columbia, S. C.
A. F. Lever.....	Peake, S. C.
Neils Christensen, Jr.....	Beaufort, S. C.
R. A. Lancaster.....	Columbia, S. C.
Z. Carwile.....	Ridge Spring, S. C.
F. G. Asbill.....	Ridge Spring, S. C.
J. J. McSwain.....	Greenville, S. C.
T. L. Parker.....	Greenville, S. C.
Frank Owens.....	Rock Hill, S. C.
W. E. Johnson.....	Camden, S. C.

The above members paid \$1.00 each.

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We have a large list of members from whom dues have not been collected which is not included in this report. Some of these members have paid their dues since the date of the Treasurer's report.

## Secretary's Report.

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Work began for the Society on April 23, last, and I have visited nearly every county in the State. In most places there was interest, more or less active. The result of the work may be seen partly in the President's and Treasurer's reports; but this will give hardly more than a general notion of the field covered and of the work done.

### TWO IMPORTANT POINTS.

Two things impressed me from the outset, and with understanding and emphasis of these two, the rest ought to be fairly easy. The first is that the game of the State is being exterminated and that extermination is going on very rapidly. An old hunter, who is perfectly reliable, told me that, up to a few years ago, he killed about a thousand summer ducks every year. For several years past he has not killed more than a hundred a season and frequently less. From a great many rivers the summer duck has disappeared; this duck is on the verge of extinction. The statement is equally true of the woodcock. Over wide areas partridges (quail) have ceased to exist in quantities sufficient to furnish a day's shooting. Turkeys alone appear to be increasing. What is true of game is equally true of fish in the rivers, such destruction having been made among them, especially among bream and redbreast perch, as to warrant the belief that these fish will disappear from the streams of South Carolina within a comparatively short time, unless rigorous measures are undertaken for their protection.

These statements are based on actual observation and on testimony of men known to me to be reliable and to have first-hand knowledge of the subject.

The second fact that impressed me was that negroes and other vagrant hunters are responsible in large measure for the disappearance of game. A case is known where thousands of ducks have been killed in one day by rice field negroes and these ducks were sold to markets and shipped. Around many towns are negro pot-hunters, who supply town patrons with game in return for ammunition and other supplies furnished. This goes on to an extent that no one would suspect that had not investigated the subject as the Audubon Society has done.

It has been a subject of serious inquiry and discussion on the part of the South Carolina Audubon Society to learn how to meet this case, for manifestly, owing to the great number of idle field hands in the fall and winter and their wide dispersion over the State, it would be impracticable to reach them in the ordinary way. I suggest, for consideration, the laying of an annual tax of one dollar (\$1.00) on every shotgun in the State, exempting rifles from taxation; as these might be needed for protection in many cases. Such a tax would add a fund to the schools or roads, over and above anything that might be required for enforcing the law, of several thousand dollars in each county. The tax on the shotgun would be better than a hunter's license, as the evasion of it would not be easy.

These irresponsible gunners shoot song and insect birds indiscriminately at all seasons, and create especial havoc with summer ducks, when the old duck is caring for her brood along the rivers. If the condition of affairs is only considered and the rapid extinction of game viewed in the true light, then some such tax will be laid, and the Society can look after its enforcement.

#### GAME SEASON.

In making recommendations as to close and open seasons for game, the Society is especially solicitous that uniform laws be enacted. One of the greatest embarrassments now facing operations is the multiplicity of laws. There is no real reason why laws for shooting partridges should differ in different parts of the State. The pairing and nesting time is the same on the seashore and in the mountains. This is true of all kinds of game considered in these recommendations. The Society is of the opinion that the laws should aim rather at the protection and preservation of the game than at the convenience of the sportsman.

With this in view, the following recommendations have been made:

#### OPEN SEASON FOR GAME.

- Deer—November 1 to January 1.
- Partridges and turkeys—November 1 to April 1.
- Doves—August 1 to January 15.
- Woodcock—August 1 to February 1.
- Summer duck—September 1 to February 1.

Marsh hens and rails—September 1 to March 1.

Willetts—November 1 to March 1.

Blackbirds—October 1 to March 1.

Squirrel—September 1 to April 1.

All classes of edible ducks should be listed as game birds, as should snipe, plover and curlew.

The Society's experience is convincing that if there were sufficient funds with which to pay Wardens there would be no difficulty in enforcing the laws. With the machinery once set in motion, the non-resident license and other licenses laid would be sufficient to carry on the work, but until provision is made for this, the Society can operate only under great difficulty and embarrassment.

Our observation is, that as a rule there is but little disposition to kill the non-game birds except through ignorance, and we hope to inform the people as to their value and in this way put a stop to such useless destruction. The most usual violations seem to be the killing of nighthawks or bull bats and of smaller birds by negro boys and ignorant persons.

#### STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY.

In making the recommendations embodied in the report as to seasons for various kinds of game. President Taylor and myself have tried to ascertain the facts as to the habits of game in South Carolina. In addition to long personal experience in the field in every part of the State, I have consulted hunters in every county visited, some of them men of thirty years' experience, and even more. Difference of opinion was to be expected in a matter where opportunity for observation varied with individual experience. But on one point there was remarkable unanimity among all classes of sportsmen. They agreed as to the rapid disappearance of game from areas once teeming with birds and animals. It is true some attributed the fact to different causes; but not one disputed the fact that the game was going fast, and that, unless immediate action were taken, some classes of game would disappear entirely. Among the classes threatened with extinction are the summer duck and the woodcock, both among the finest game birds and formerly found in great numbers in their natural habitat.

The destruction of woodcock takes place usually during February and March and is due to the flights of these birds during hard freezes. The swamps becoming frozen, woodcock fly down the

rivers seeking warmer latitudes. They are weakened and emaciated by their flight and fast, hence they are easily slaughtered, and in many cases they are killed with sticks. Such birds are useless for the table for the most part, but they furnish something to shoot at and are sacrificed to this insane spirit of slaughter. What makes the case worse is the fact that woodcock are nesting at this season, or have finished nesting and have their young with them. For which reason, since woodcock lay in February, the killing of them ought to be prohibited after the first day of that month. Thus a double purpose will be served. Slaughter will cease and the birds will receive protection during the nesting season.

In the case of the dove the greatest destruction comes during the months of February and March, since at this season the doves are half starved for lack of food and will draw easily to bait. Fields are baited, sometimes for a week, with peas or corn and the field surrounded by a number of fine wing shots. In one case I noted the killing of 1,180 doves in a single day by one party of about twenty men. As many birds fly on and fall dead, where they are not retrieved, it follows that the actual number slain far exceeded the total bagged. The dove has finished nesting by August and is ready to be shot and eaten. It is impossible at this season of the year to kill doves in great quantities, and hence the season has been set out as from August 1 to January 1. If this recommendation is carried out there will be an increase in the number of doves in a short while, as they raise several pair of young during the early months of the year.

It is my personal opinion that partridges ought not to be shot before December 1, as there are many young birds during the month of November, but inasmuch as the Society is cultivating a sentiment which it is hoped will fruit in a more enlightened public opinion, and many sportsmen are opposed to the change, it has been recommended that the season begin November 15 for the present and end April 1. It can not be too strongly urged that this law ought to be uniform throughout the State. There should be no exceptions, for one of the greatest difficulties in enforcing a law lies in confusion as to its terms. The partridge stands at the head of the world's game birds. None other surpasses it, either in the sport furnished or in the delicate flavor of its flesh, justly esteemed wherever known. Not very long ago any part of South Carolina could furnish abundant partridge shooting, but this has become a thing of the past except where lands have been preserved or in the

large areas of the coastal region. It is merely a question of whether the partridge shall be preserved or destroyed. He is going fast. This is due to lack of enforcing the laws, to multiplication of hunters and especially of market hunters, who know no compunction as to how birds are killed nor in what numbers. Last fall great numbers of partridges spoiled in refrigerators in the city of Charleston, so great was the supply brought in from surrounding regions. The difficulty is to make the public realize how much of this goes on. If the real condition were known there would, we are sure, be speedy action.

With respect to deer, I have no hesitancy in saying that, taking the State as a whole, deer are rapidly diminishing. In some small areas, sedulously protected by paid Wardens there is said to be increase. But for several seasons past a species of murrain, called black tongue, has raged among the deer and they have died in great numbers. I have seen many of them dead in the woods. At the same time the numerous lumber companies along the coast have been cutting out the swamps, and opening up areas, hitherto inaccessible, with railroads and tram-roads. This has driven deer from their natural fastnesses into the open woods, where they fall victims to the all-devouring hunter. The slaughter is especially heavy when the rivers are in freshet, and the does, great with young, lie along the shore to rest. Here they are shot down ruthlessly, with no regard to the humanity which ought to be called forth by their condition. The laws should forbid, under heavy penalty, the killing of does at any season of the year. One month is long enough in the present condition of the deer and more ought not to be allowed until they have regained ground lost during the last decade.

The season for the summer duck has been set down as from September 1 to February 1, and this might even go further and prohibit their killing at all for two or three years, until they have had opportunity to replenish their sadly depleted numbers.

In order not to make this report too long, it may be concluded here with a few general observations.

The game of the State is the natural heritage of the people of the State, and all wild birds, whether resident or migratory, are held to belong to the State and not to the individual. This is an all-important point and is sufficient answer to the claim by many land-owners that they can do what they please on their own lands. Such sentiments are not worthy of a civilized country. In conceding a man's right to keep any and all parties off his lands, even without

previous notice, the State has gone a great way toward securing the land-owner in the enjoyment of his possession. That the State should go further and permit the land-owner to violate the criminal statutes at will is preposterous; yet it is widely maintained in South Carolina.

#### HUNTING CLUBS.

There are many hunting preserves along the coast, held, in the main, by Northern sportsmen. Some of these clubs own their lands; other hold them under lease, and still others simply buy the shooting privileges. The gentlemen composing the clubs are anxious to comply with State laws and have assured me that they stand ready to co-operate in any way in the enforcement of law.

Among the more prominent clubs may be mentioned the following: Hollins and Chelsea Clubs in Beaufort county; the Okatie Club in Beaufort and Hampton counties; the Pallachucola, Pineland and Belmont Clubs in Hampton county. These clubs together hold about one hundred thousand acres of land, the largest holder being the Okatie Club, with sixty thousand (60,000) acres.

The Oakland Club, west of St. Stephens, in Berkeley county, has a holding of sixty thousand (60,000) acres. Then in Georgetown county are the Santee Gun Club, with ten thousand (10,000) acres and the Annandale that controls the duck shooting in the marshes of North Inlet. This latter club had a twenty-year lease that expires with this year, and their holding will be taken over by the present owner of the property, Mr. B. M. Baruch, of New York. These comprise the principal hunting clubs of the interior; there are others on Hilton Head island, and some on smaller islands around Beaufort, and in addition to the clubs there are private preserves held by non-residents. In all, there are certainly at least several hundred thousand acres of land held in this way.

The game of the State should receive equal consideration with the shellfish and migratory fish interests, as many times as many people are interested and the area affected is too much larger to institute any comparison. The Audubon society needs help to perfect its organization and to get its machinery going. Once established it should be, and we believe would be, not only self-supporting, but would return a considerable revenue to the State.

We find that most of the laws directed towards the protection of non-migratory fish apply only to certain localities and that there is

absolutely no protection afforded in many of the counties. In these very counties where there is no protection the best of the fish have become almost extinct, but we believe that with adequate protection the streams in the upper and middle counties will soon be populated again with these valuable species. In addition, we would suggest that by application to the government for fry the streams could be stocked and kept stocked if protected. The President of the Society has, with the recommendations of Mr. A. F. Lever, secured quite a number of fry of different kinds for distribution around Columbia, and any citizen can do the same by application to his Congressman if the government has the fry to supply and if the conditions justify the plant of fish.

We think that a bill covering the protection of fish should be passed, and with this in view we have carefully studied the laws of quite a number of States on this subject and have prepared a bill which we think will cover the points discussed.

Yours very truly,

JAMES HENRY RICE,  
Secretary.

REPORTS RECEIVED FROM GAME WARDENS THAT HELD COMMISSIONS PRIOR TO MARCH, 1907.

Name of Warden.	Postoffice.	Licenses Collected	Cases made for violation.	Disposition.
D. J. Salley . . .	Orangeburg . . . . .	None	4	Dismissed.
T. S. Evans . . .	Bennettsville . . . . .	None	None	
J. J. Robertson . . . . .	Blythewood . . . . .			No report.
H. W. Richardson . . . . .	Barnwell . . . . .			
W. S. Neil . . . . .	Yorkville . . . . .	3	2	Fined by court.
Geo. A. Douglass . . . . .	Charleston . . . . .	None	1	Dismissed.
J. W. Gibbon . . . . .	New Zion . . . . .	None	None	
S. T. Moore . . . . .	Roland, N. C. . . . .	None	2	No bill by Grand Jury.
W. R. Fishburne . . . . .	Columbia . . . . .			No report.
W. J. Curson . . . . .	Monck's Corner . . . . .			No report.
G. A. Malloy . . . . .	Cheraw . . . . .	None	None	
A. T. Baird . . . . .	Darlington . . . . .			No report.
J. A. Zeigler . . . . .	Summerville . . . . .	4	None	
J. E. Rutledge . . . . .	Lancaster . . . . .	None	None	
	Total . . . . .	7	11	
	Convictions . . . . .		2	

REPORT OF GAME WARDENS WORKING UNDER THE AUDUBON SOCIETY TO DECEMBER 15, 1907.

Name of Warden.	Postoffice.	Violations bird and game laws	Violations fish and dynamite laws.	No. of cases made.	No. of convictions secured.	No. of licenses caused to be taken out.	Disposition
B. F. Taylor . . . . .	Columbia, S. C. . . . .	1	1	1	...	2	Paid non-resident license. Fined costs.
W. A. Sparks . . . . .	Sumter . . . . .	1	50	1	1	...	Fish traps destroyed.
W. H. Wylie . . . . .	Rock Hill . . . . .	8	...	2	1	1	Fined \$15; 1 case pending.
S. M. Rice, Jr. E. V. . . . .	Union . . . . .	2	...	2	1	...	Fined \$10; 1 case pending.
H. W. Richardson . . . . .	Garnett . . . . .	1	...	...	...	...	No evidence.
H. S. Svendsen . . . . .	Bull Island . . . . .	1	...	...	...	...	No evidence.
John N. Bates . . . . .	Spartanburg . . . . .	4	1	3	1	...	Fined \$5; 2 cases pending.
J. H. Robinson . . . . .	Greenville . . . . .	3	...	3	2	...	One case pending.
	Total reported.	21	52	12	6	3	
	Cases pending.	...	...	4	...	...	

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