

beautiful birds to England. He states that he has constantly read remarks about the Birds-of-Paradise which are altogether wrong, and some purely imaginative and needing correction. The cult for the birds commenced in 1904, when Mr. Goodfellow brought over a consignment for Mrs. Johnstone, consisting of one Greater Bird, two Lesser Birds, two Kings, and a pair of Black Manucodes. The importations have proved conclusively that the Birds-of-Paradise are "by no means so delicate as they were at one time supposed to be"—in fact, it may safely be said, Mr. Goodfellow thinks, that they are generally hardy birds. So far, none have bred in captivity.

Mr. Goodfellow intends to confine his notes to those species which he has imported alive, with the Gardener Bower-Bird—a total of 20. He deals in the present paper with the Greater Bird-of-Paradise (*Paradisea apoda*), whose chief home is the Aru Islands, off the south-west coast of New Guinea; but it also inhabits "the mainland in the interior, south of the Charles Louis and the Snow Mountains, which form the dividing line, north and south, between the Greater and Lesser Birds." The Greater Bird-of-Paradise, the author states, is by no means distributed equally over the islands of the Aru group. It is confined to the deepest jungle of the extreme interior, where the trees are tallest. Mr. Goodfellow first visited the Arus in December, 1903, and was at the time the only European in the country. The natives looked upon the birds absolutely as their own property, and the white bird-hunter had to come to an understanding with them before he could make any collections. His description of the first hunting party is interesting, and his field notes on the habits of the Birds-of-Paradise extremely valuable. The nesting season apparently commences in December. The males start to assemble irregularly in the dancing-trees before the moulting season is completely over. Occasionally a recognized dancing-tree is tabooed by the birds for a whole season, or even longer. The Malay trade name for the *Apoda* is "burong mate"—dead bird.

Bird Protection.

DEPUTATION OF THE COUNCIL, A.O.U., TO FEDERAL MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.

THE MINISTER SYMPATHETIC.

A DEPUTATION from the Council of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union waited on the Minister for Customs to-day to ask for the introduction of a bill to prohibit the importation and exportation of the plumage and skins of certain birds, framed on lines similar to the bill now before the House of Commons.

Mr. A. J. Campbell, Col. M. B.O.U., president of the Union, said that a deputation had waited on Mr. Deakin when he was Prime Minister in regard to the subject. Bird protection and other societies in all the States were represented. It was desired that a bill to prohibit the sale or exchange of the plumage and skins of certain wild birds and the importation and exportation of plumes and skins of

species scheduled be introduced in the Federal Legislature: He gave some particulars of the measure desired.

Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., spoke regarding the value of birds to the community. Flocks were interfered with by liver flukes; the intermediate host of the fluke was a species of snail, and this snail was part of the dietary of Herons, Magpie-Larks (*Grallina*), and other kinds of birds. So the birds, by destroying the flukes in the snails, were valuable servants of man. Again, the Ibis was a great enemy of the grasshopper. A single Ibis would destroy 2,000 immature grasshoppers in a single day.

Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., produced four catalogues of one plume sale held in London in December, 1909. They showed that 3,915 skins of Birds-of-Paradise, and hundreds of skins of Australian Rifle-Birds, Emus, &c., had been disposed of.

Mr. H. W. Wilson, hon. secretary of the Union, explained recent legislation for bird protection in New York State.

Mr. Charles Barrett said that there was urgent necessity for action. What was done must be done quickly, as some birds were rapidly nearing extinction. The plume-wearing custom was an abominable one, and there should be some law whereby women who wore the plumes of protected birds could be punished for an offence.

Mr. Tudor, in reply, said that he was absolutely sympathetic with the objects of the deputation, and would be pleased to do all in his power to help the birds, who could not help themselves. At the present time the powers of the department were doubtful, but there were provisions in the *Customs Act Amendment Bill* regarding the necessary power. He referred to Mr. Mattingley's remarkable photographs of Egrets, and the slaughter of birds in the United States. He had no sympathy with persons who decorated themselves with bird plumes; it had been said that women were beautiful enough without borrowing beauty. He deprecated the wholesale murder of birds, and assured the deputation that, not only would its request receive sympathetic consideration, but that he was at one with it.

The deputation thanked the Minister and withdrew. — *The Melbourne Herald*, 29/8/10.

Reviews.

[“A Monograph of the Petrels (Order Tubinares),” by F. Du Cane Godman, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c.]

THIS magnificent work on an exceedingly difficult class of Aves to deal with has been completed by the publication of Part V. The whole sets a high standard in Nature book work, and incidentally Dr. Du Cane Godman has erected to himself, with the assistance of friends (foremost among whom were the late Osbert Salvin and the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe), a monument which will celebrate for all time his term of office as president of the British Ornithologists' Union. He is congratulated accordingly by his ornithological brethren in these “British dominions beyond the seas.”

Part V. opens with the puzzling Prions and the Diving-Petrels (*Pelecanoides*), peculiar to Southern seas, the latter resembling in habit the Little Auk of Northern latitudes. But the bulk of Part