

**GAME PRESERVERS AND
BIRD PRESERVERS: WHICH
ARE OUR FRIENDS?**

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Game Preservers and Bird Preservers: Which Are Our Friends? by George Francis Morant

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GEORGE FRANCIS MORANT

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WHICH ARE OUR FRIENDS?

BY

GEORGE FRANCIS MORANT

LATE CAPTAIN 12TH ROYAL LANCERS: MAJOR THE CAPE MOUNTED INFANTRY

LONDON
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
1875

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Bial

Lily

TO

SIR THOMAS MILLES RIDDELL, BART.

OF STRONTIAN, ARGYLSHIRE

LATE OF THE 7TH DRAGOON GUARDS

A KIND FRIEND AND A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

The Author dedicates this little Book

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PLEASANT YEARS SPENT AMONG CHARMING

SCENES WITH WHICH SIR T. M. RIDDELL HAS BEEN

FAMILIAR FROM CHILDHOOD

JUNIOR UNITED SERVICE CLUB, LONDON

June 17, 1875

M351853

PREFACE.

IN whatever part of the world the author has found himself, Birds have furnished an endless source of amusement to him.

It was therefore with great pleasure that he heard that the subject of their preservation was to be brought before Parliament, and he read with interest the Report of the Evidence given before the Select Committee appointed in 1873, to enquire into the advisability of extending the protection of a close season to certain wild birds.

But no one can read this evidence without noticing how little the subject of the preserva-

tion of birds is understood, nor, we should think, without wondering whether some of the naturalists, who appear as witnesses, are not wolves in sheep's clothing, who, far from really wishing to see all beautiful and useful birds protected by law and increasing in numbers, care little if they are nearly exterminated, provided they can carry out certain theories of their own.

The Report of the proceedings of this Committee is printed in a folio volume, and in every case in this little book, where the author has quoted the opinion of any of the witnesses, he has cited the very words used in the printed Report.

While we know that the rent which our estates return, and the pleasure of living on them to many people, depend on the numbers of certain birds, and the productiveness of our farms and gardens on the presence of others, the inhabitants even of civilised countries, with

few exceptions, have, up to the present time, killed their birds, or allowed them to be killed in their breeding season; just as the Indian and Kaffir boys who are idling about the villages in Asia and Africa kill all they can, on every day in the year; and it seems to be only now dawning upon some of us that this is not much more rational than to allow our cattle and sheep to be treated in the same manner.

The author's own opinions are formed from pursuing and collecting birds over a great part of India, and for some years in South Africa. He has resided of late years in the wildest part of the Highlands of Scotland; and having had the sole right of shooting over more than 100 square miles of country, he has, with the greatest satisfaction, watched the increase in return for the protection bestowed upon them, of all the birds whose presence upon our property adds most to its value.

If this little book should induce a single

reader, who now neglects his birds, to extend to them this protection which they so much require, the author will be well repaid for the trouble of writing it.

THE JUNIOR UNITED SERVICE CLUB,
LONDON: *June* 1875.

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