

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Hon. Editor:

Sir,

CAGING OF BIRDS

Banning of the blood sport of live-bird trap-shooting some years ago by the Government could lead to wiping out those other sorts of cruelty by which dumb animals are exploited for pleasure.

I suggest a new Act that would include complete freedom of birds, that is, no caging, chaining or wing-clipping; abolition of the blood sport of coursing; prohibition of wild animals in circuses, or performing acts by

any dumb creatures; no use of spurs, whips or flank ropes in rodeos.

The best care of birds cannot compensate for denial of the natural life, or the exhilarating freedom of flight.

Strong enough public opinion can move a Government on any question. Can the South Australian Ornithological Association immediately set up a comprehensive and emphatic demand for these reforms?

H. TOSSELL,

22 Richman Ave., Prospect.

August 22, 1960.

To the Hon. Editor:

Sir,

FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVES,
EYRE PENINSULA, S.A.

The purpose of this note is to place on record some facts concerning the reserves in the Hundreds of Nicholls, Hincks, Murlong, Hambidge, and land out of hundreds, County of Jervis, which were mentioned in the *S.A. Ornithologist*, June, 1960, page 36."

Two large reserves were gazetted on August 28, 1941, the northern one (Hundred of Hambidge and land to the east out of the hundreds), with an approximate area of 166 sq. miles, and a larger reserve, 11 miles to the south, with an approximate area of 290 sq. miles (Hundreds of Murlong, Hincks, Nicholls, and land out of hundreds). The southern reserve is about 25 miles west of Arno Bay.

On Feb. 11, 1954, a small triangular piece of land (approximately three-eighths square mile) was resumed from the north-east corner of the northern reserve, and on Dec. 5, 1957, a further 20 sq. miles was alienated from the south-west corner of the same reserve.

Recently (March 31, 1960) approximately 35 sq. miles of the southern reserve were resumed, and of this about 26 sq. miles has been allotted on Perpetual Lease. The balance of 9 sq. miles, separated from the reserve, remains Crown Land (not as a Flora and Fauna reserve), and presumably this will shortly be opened to application.

Summarising, the facts are that in less

than three years, more than 55 sq. miles, or 12 per cent., of a reserve not 20 years old have been resumed.

In view of the increased development of land in South Australia the alarming features of this case are

- (1) that land set aside as Flora and Fauna reserves can be resumed, with apparent ease, and used for entirely different purposes;
- (2) that no public protest was raised by any Natural History organisation before the land was resumed.

Although the Premier has stated "It is not proposed to alienate any further areas from this Reserve," it is obvious that the present system by which reserves are created and maintained in South Australia is in urgent need of revision.

K. A. PREISS.

Erindale, Sept. 24, 1960.