

VIII.

*From GREGORY M. MATHEWS, Esq., Council of British  
Ornithologists' Union.*

I certainly will support any scheme that will encourage private collecting. All will admit that without this our museums would be in a bad way. All, or nearly all, private collections find their way into public property sooner or later, and they also serve the excellent purpose of making men keen on their science. Without my collection I certainly could not have written twelve volumes of the "Birds of Australia," and it will now be available for all future workers who come to London. To put restriction on the private collector will certainly be harmful to future workers. No bird in Australia has been exterminated by him; that is certain. The birds that have been reduced in numbers have certainly not been so reduced by the collector, but by the changing conditions owing to progress in farming and increase of population, etc. . . .