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From A. S. LE SOUEF, Esq., Director, Taronga Zoological Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W.

. . . I am afraid that we do not yet look at the subject of the protection of our fauna—birds and animals—in proper perspective. In my opinion, the great majority of our birds are quite safe and in their normal numbers, and can be kept so with a little intelligent care. As an instance, there are as many wild birds in Sydney itself as in any virgin district ("The Emu," Vol. 20, p. 22). Regarding the collecting of skins and eggs, two points seem to have been missed by people who are against this. They are—firstly, that if an egg is taken the bird lays again, up to four times in many instances; secondly, the normal mortality in the wild is 100 per cent. per annum, the main limiting factor being food supply, and in some cases nesting facilities. As I see it, if a clutch is taken it is replaced: if a bird or birds are taken the succeeding broods find room to live to that extent—the loss is automatically made good, and the average maintained. There are a few birds, subject to special limiting factors or enemies, that are not holding their own; these can be counted on one's fingers. . . .