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WHERE BIRDS SPEND THEIR WINTERS

Investigations on the status of birds in their winter homes have been undertaken by the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, in connection with administration of the treaty with Great Britain for the protection of birds migrating between the United States and Canada. That many of these birds winter in South America may be surprising to some, but it is known to be the case. Valuable material collected by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, of the survey, who recently returned after a year's absence in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, during which he studied the status of our migratory birds in those countries, will throw much light on the subject.

Among our more familiar birds that Dr. Wetmore observed in South America was the well-known barn swallow that ranges with flocks of native swallows in open country. Many of the species encountered were shore birds found through the marshy pampas or on the coastal mud flats; some were found to winter well north in the Tropics and others to travel as far south as the Straits of Magellan. Among our game birds seen in Argentina and elsewhere were the golden plover and pectoral sandpiper.

That Federal protection of migratory birds is proving a success is recognized by the majority of sportsmen and nature lovers. Ducks, geese, and other migratory game birds have not only increased in number, but have reappeared in sections where they had not been seen for many years. Recently there have been a number of inquiries as to the possibility of arranging treaties with countries in Latin America for protecting migratory birds, similar to that with Great Britain. One of the objects of Dr. Wetmore's trip was to secure information as to the feasibility of such action.