

EQUIPMENT.

After taking an inventory of the equipment for carrying on the warden service we found that much was lacking in the facilities for wardens in covering their respective territories. Eight of the wardens owned automobiles which they were using under a per diem system. Two owned horses and were receiving pay in like manner. The balance had no way of covering their territory except as they hired livery, travelled by train or on foot. After auditing the expense accounts for a few months, we found that a large part of their expense accounts were for transportation, and they were by no means covering their territories adequately. It was up to us to furnish some means of transportation for our men if we were to expect efficient service. We informed ourselves as to what other states were doing for equipment and found them all in about the same condition as we were. We did find, however, that Massachusetts was using motorcycles in its forestry department for its rangers. They reported to us that they were a great success in both efficiency and economy. After gathering all of the information available, we concluded to purchase either motorcycles or Ford cars, and proceeded to advertise for bids for furnishing 25 motorcycles. We took the matter up with the Ford people and they sent their field man to Madison to confer with us. His best offer was their list price, as he said under the company's rules, they were obliged to protect their agents and could not make an inside price even if we took 25 cars.

Our best bid for 25 motorcycles was \$4,975, offered by the Excelsior Motorcycle Company, of Chicago. Our next best bid was \$5,490, offered by the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Company, of Milwaukee. One other bid was offered by the Indian Motorcycle Company, of Springfield, Mass., their bid being \$5,668.75. We placed our order with the Excelsior people, as they were the lowest bidders and offered a machine equal to any of the others, as pronounced by motorcycle experts. We put these motorcycles in use on May 20 of this year, and we believe they have paid their cost in saving of expenses. Besides, they have materially facilitated the service. Our contract with the Excelsior people covers the overhauling of every machine this winter, putting on new tires, reënamelling, overhauling the engine, replacing all worn parts with new and making the machines as nearly as possible as good as new. The price for this overhauling is \$30 for each machine.

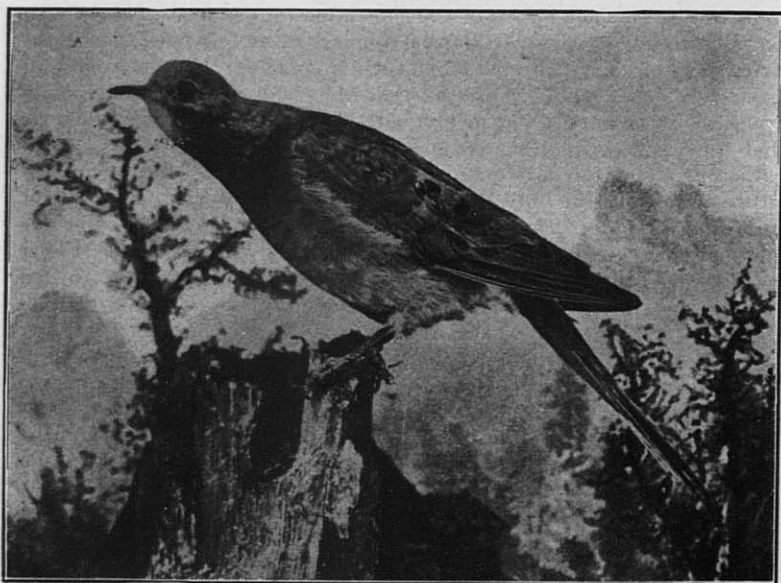
Wardens who own automobiles we are allowing ~~five~~ cents per mile for the miles actually travelled while in the service of the state. Automobiles are an expensive method of travel as compared with the motorcycle, but there is a large part of Wisconsin where motorcycles are not practical, as they are not a success on sandy roads.

We found the department lacking in sufficient boats to properly patrol the waters that come under our supervision, and have purchased six additional boats and Evinrude motors, and one large boat for lake patrol. We are still lacking in equipment for our wardens if we are to expect efficiency and we will add from time to time until this necessity is supplied. We believe that the State should own sufficient equipment for carrying on

this work in an efficient manner without paying wardens for the use of equipment which they can ill afford to supply.

RUFFED GROUSE, PHEASANT AND PARTRIDGE.

Under the name of ruffed grouse, pheasant and partridge, this bird is well known to all sportsmen as the king of all game birds. It is not only the gamest of all game birds, but is the most palatable when served. This fine bird is in much need of protection or its name will be inscribed with those that have suffered extermination. Not many years ago these birds were plentiful in Wisconsin, inhabiting every grove and woodland through-



MOURNING DOVE

out the state, and no thought was given to their protection until their scattered numbers gave warning to the sportsmen that something must be done.

It was then that the first remedial law was passed, and that simply prescribed a shorter open season for hunting them and a reduced bag limit. The law protecting these birds is so promiscuously localized that a hunter travelling through three counties will find the same number of different laws. In other words, there are too many laws that apply only to separate counties.

It was a mistake that the last legislature did not prescribe a closed season for partridge, for the past two seasons have been disastrous in that the sleet, rain and ice during the winter months covered the forage, destroying many of them. The cold rainy weather during the hatching