**BIRDS’ PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1903**

**House of Assembly, 19 August 1903, page 272**

Second reading

**Mr. HERBERT**, in moving the second reading, said the first section dealt with the whole of the state, while the remaining sections applied to the Northern Territory only. The Birds’ Protection Act of 1900 referred to the whole of South Australia, including the Northern Territory, although there was no doubt that the Northern Territory was not meant to be included in the Act. It was well known that for tropical and sub tropical Australia the times fixed in the schedule to protect birds had no proper application. In that part birds nested in the rainy season, from the beginning of December to the end of April. Scientists said that in Central Australia birds did not breed unless there was rain during the season. The second schedule provided a period from Jume until December for a close period for birds. This was essential during the dry season in the Northern Territory. The Bill provided for power being given to the Governor to alter the periods for the protection of birds in any district to make it more applicable. (Mr. Coneybeer—“Does this Bill apply to all the birds in the old Act?”) No, only to birds in the second schedule of the old Act. Sections 3, 4, and 5 provided for the licensing of birdcatchers. It was wise to make provisions to prevent the selling and export in vast quantities of native birds in the Territory to-day. Last year the value of the exports in birds alone amounted to £2,000. And that was no criterion of the value or number of birds caught during the year, because unfortunately the birds were not protected in the proper season, and many died after they were caught. Consequently, not more than two-thirds of the captures were exported. They should prevent as much as possible the desolation of native birds. Otherwise they would soon have to follow the example of Queensland and stop the catching of some birds altogether. He was anxious not to interfere with the Act of 1900, but to strengthen it if possible. Some time ago the Attorney-General had the temerity to say he would introduce a Bill to prohibit ladies from wearing birds’ feathers in their hats. He did not think, however, that the Attorney-General would have the courage to run against the ladies. He gave notice of an amendment to make the Bill read; together with the original Act. He also proposed to add a new clause giving power of appeal in all cases tried in the Northern Territory to the nearest Court of Full Jurisdiction.

On the motion of Mr. LIVINGSTON the debate was adjourned until Wednesday. September 9.