**ANIMALS AND BIRDS PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1933**

**Legislative Council, 15 August 1933, page 602**

Second reading

**The Hon. A. P. BLESING (Northern— Minister of Agriculture**)-—Under the Animals and Birds Protection Act Amendment Act, 1932. it was provided that the close season for ducks and quail of all species throughout the whole State was to be from July 1 until February 13. A recent deputation to the Government consisting of prominent quail shooters stated that the month of July should be a close season for ducks, but not necessarily for quail. It was stated that July was not a breeding season for quail and that protection during that month was unnecessary. This Bill consequently provides that the close season for quail shall be from August 1 to February 13, both dates being included. The close season for ducks is left unaltered. I move the second reading.

The Hon. T. McCALLUM secured the adjournment of the debate.

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Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 15. Pago 602.)

The Hon. W. G. DUNCAN (Midland)—It is generally admitted that July is the main quail shooting period. The birds do not start nesting, until sometime after that month and I commend the Bill to members.

The Hon. T. McCALLUM (Southern)—The close season for quail was fixed so as to synchronise with the period for shooting other game birds. It was felt that if different dates were allotted sporting men would be confused. It was at my instigation last year that this Chamber assented to the alteration of the date for the close season for quail. Even if quail do not breed in July they are given an opportunity, because of the extra month in the close season, to settle down before beginning to breed. Many other opportunities are presented for sportsmen to exercise their skill. They can shoot rabbits, sparrows, and other vermin. The quail is a very valuable bird and the longer it is kept from the attention of sportsmen the better it is for landholders. I hope the Council will not agree to the Bill.

The Hon. W. HANNAEOED (Midland) —In destroying quail sportsmen are killing a valuable asset to people on the land. The birds are harmless and do a great deal of good by destroying insects. What does the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals think of this proposal? I may be tenderhearted in regard to game, but I am forced to conclude that some people are almost savages in their destruction of birds. Why should they desire to decimate these valuable birds and help to destroy the balance of nature? This unnecessary destruction of bird life does not apply only to quail, but to other birds and animals which play a big part in the sustenance of aborigines in Central Australia. That destruction, which has been going on in settled parts of Australia in recent years, is depriving the natives of Central Australia, who are indispensable to the occupation of that country, of sufficient foodstuffs when the birds should immigrate there. I agree with Mr. McCallum that the close season for birds of various kinds should synchronise. Sportsmen are too apt to shoot without taking sufficient notice of dates. If the seasons for various birds synchronised sportsmen would not have the excuse that they did not know the opening date for a particular species. If sportsmen must-have birds to shoot, plenty that are enemies to our welfare are available.

The Hon. W. Morrow—Are they good eating?

The Hon. W. HANNAFOED—I am not objecting to the men who shoot quail for sus­tenance, but most of them, shoot for the sake ,of the sport.

The Hon. W. Morrow—No.

The Hon. W; HANNAFOED—I know they -do. Pigeons and other domestic birds could be shot for food. As a bushman I think quail are beautiful birds. It is impressive to see the way mother quail tend their young. These birds are more faithful than many others. The opening date should not be altered.

The Hon. A. P. BLESING (Northern—Minister of Agriculture)—I hope members will not reject the clause which extends the season. I do not advocate the unnecessary destruction of the birds, but it is only commonsense to allow the season to be opened at a time when the least damage is likely to be done to the birds . In July quail are more lively than at any other part of the year and harder to shoot. I brought the Bill down because the proposed extension of the season would not interfere with the nesting or the breeding of quail and to meet the wishes of those who shoot them.

Bill read a second time and passed.