

difference. The plants have the same general appearance. They are clearly distinct from *A. falciforme* not only in their more slender habit and smaller flowers, but in having stamens about two-thirds as long as the perianth-segments; whereas in *A. falciforme* the stamens are less than one-half as long as the segments. As unfortunately Prof. Macoun never published a description of *A. vancouverense*, this name must be replaced by *A. Watsoni* Howell.\* Another species is thus added to the short list of plants found in Oregon and Vancouver Island but not in Washington.

*Sisyrinchium idahoense* Bicknell var. *birameum* (Piper) New Comb. Usually taller than the species; branching above the two branches subtended by a leaf, or the stem often strongly geniculate with a leaf at the joint; the bracts, as compared with those of the species, often subequal.

When Prof. Piper first published his *S. birameum* (Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb. vol. xi., pg. 203) he was doubtful whether it was distinct from *S. idahoense*; but in a recent book his doubts have disappeared and it is placed on an equality with that species. That it is, however, a variety appears from the following observations based on Alberni plants: The plants are intimately associated. Straight leafless stems, straight stems with a single leaf above, geniculate stems with a leaf at the joint, and branching stems all grow together. Branching and simple stems may occur in a single tuft. All the forms have the same tendency to darken in drying. While the bracts of the branching forms are often subequal, they may also be very unequal (24 and 44 mm. in one specimen and 23 and 38 mm. in another). The leaves of unbranched plants may be as long as the stem and of branching hardly half as long.

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## CANADA AND UNITED STATES WILL PROTECT BIRDS.

The International Convention for the protection of migratory birds in Canada and the United States, ratified in December last, constitutes the most important and far-reaching measure ever taken in the history of bird protection. It affords the best means of ensuring not only a cessation of the decrease in the numbers of our migratory birds such as the insectivorous birds, the wild-fowl, waders and sea birds, but, in many cases, it assures an increase in their numbers, which have been ruthlessly depleted. It affects over 1,000 species of our chief insect-eating and game birds. It guarantees to the farmer the continued existence of the insect-eating birds, the most powerful

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\*Prof. Sweetser, to whom I sent specimens of the Mt. Arrowsmith plant, writes: "From what we have been able to do with it, should say you are justified in thinking this the same form as *A. Watsoni* Howell."



and active allies he has in the fight against the destroyers of his crops; and it guarantees to the sportsmen a never-failing supply of ducks, geese, and other game birds.

In the fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention, the Canadian Government introduced the Migratory Birds Convention Bill to carry out the provisions of the Convention, and this measure received Royal Assent on August 31st, and is now law. It is expected that the Regulations under the Act will shortly be promulgated.

In the case of insectivorous birds, it will be unlawful to kill them or to take their eggs at any time of the year. The close seasons on ducks and geese will not exceed three and one-half months, and the dates of opening and closing will be fixed in accordance with local conditions and after consultation with the proper authorities in the different provinces. On a number of birds, such as the cranes, swans, curlew and most of the shore-birds, with the exception of woodcock, snipe, certain plover and yellow-legs, which are becoming greatly reduced in numbers, a close season of ten years will be provided. The wood duck and eider duck will also be given special protection. Where they are injurious to agricultural or other interests, provision will be made for the killing of protected birds under special permit. Regulations will also be made to prohibit the shipment of migratory birds or their eggs during the close seasons and generally to govern the traffic in them and their eggs.

While the numbers of the migratory birds in Canada and the United States have been most seriously depleted by various causes, confidence is felt that, with international co-operation, and, particularly, the prohibition of spring shooting, a gradual increase in the abundance of our wild bird life will take place.—C.G.H.

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### THE WIDESPREAD INFLUENCE OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.

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There are indications that men and women of the United States and of several foreign countries are becoming more and more interested in the establishment of Children's Museums. And if the results which in the past have followed similar manifestations of interest can be regarded as indicative of things to come, there is reason to believe that a good many such institutions will be added to the fraternities of Museums within the next ten years.

The Children's Museum of Boston, founded in 1912, had been in the minds of a considerable number of public spirited Bostonians for several years before it became an actual fact. Similarly the Children's Museum which is soon to become a part of the new Cleveland Museum of Art, has been contemplated by the Director of the



Hewitt, C. Gordon. 1917. "Canada and United States will Protect Birds." *The Ottawa naturalist* 31(5-6), 58-59.

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