

which is the most fortunate road you would be grateful if on that morning you should find all the others blocked by signs of "Street closed. Detour". You would be glad to be forced into good fortune if you could not find your own way. Nobody wants freedom of choice except in those cases where choice would lead him toward his goal, whatever that may be.

Nobody has a right to do wrong. Nobody but a congenial idiot would claim such a right and nobody but an incorrigible criminal would want to exercise it.

Every sane man wants to do what is for his best interests and every good man wants to do what is for the best interests of others as well.

There can be no two opinions about this. The only thing we disagree about is as to what is for the best interests of ourselves and society. This is due solely to our ignorance for if we all knew always what was best to do, we should of course all want to do it. But because we don't and can't always know, we have to allow considerable latitude as to thought and action, the more latitude in those fields where there is the more uncertainty. There is obviously but one course that ought to be pursued or would be pursued if we could know in advance the outcome of all our options.

STORKS, BLIVVERS OF AIR, MAKE LONG FLIGHTS

Though a slow flier the stork of European housetops is a patient one, and makes long journeys, according to Frederick C. Lincoln of Washington, who addressed the American Ornithologists' Union. The normal summer home of the European white stork is in Holland and north Germany; its winter quarters are in South Africa for the most part, although many of them remain in the lower Nile valley as well.

Birds bearing northern European identification bands on their legs have been reported in one or two isolated instances from Central Africa. This has led some bird students to believe that they cross the Sahara desert in a non-stop flight, or rest only in the oases; but Mr. Lincoln is inclined to discount this theory and to hold that these scattered cases represent wanderers from the regular route down the eastern side of the dark continent.

Storks, Mr. Lincoln said, are apparently the "flivvers" among birds, averaging only about thirty-five miles a day, a distance that a blue-winged teal covers in forty minutes.

STUDY GAME BIRDS OF ALASKAN TUNDRAS

The work of a scientific expedition that crossed Alaska to study birds on the shores of the Arctic Ocean was recently related by Herbert W. Brandt of Cleveland to the American Ornithologists' Union at Pittsburgh.

The party went from Seward, their port of entry into Alaska, to Fairbanks by rail, and then struck out overland by dog sledge to Hooper Bay. They traveled 850 miles in forty days, twenty of which were very stormy, and encountered temperatures as severe as 30 degrees below zero. Hooper Bay, their base for the study of water birds, can be reached by boat only during July and August.

The principal object of the expedition was the study of migratory water birds on their summer pastures. Many of these species are important game and economic species whose habits are of considerable practical interest. However, some observations were made on the few species of birds that live in the interior, during the long sledge journey. Perhaps the most interesting of these is the Alaskan blue-jay, which lays and hatches its eggs during March, when the mercury frequently drops to 40 or 50 degrees below zero.

The country along the seashore consists largely of low sand dunes and tundra where the birds are literally countless. Why they go so far north is no mystery, for during the crowded days of the short Arctic summer the tundra is spread with food like a table. Mr. Brandt stated that birds feeding on these northern plains pick up seed, berries and insects just as rapidly as hens in a prosperous farm-yard pick up grains at feeding time; and that all the birds he killed for food or specimens were heavy and fat.

The tundra also supports a large population of small animals allied to the field mice, which supply provender for snowy owls and other flesh-eating birds.

The expedition enlisted the services of the primitive Eskimos of the region. Part of them located the nests of desired species, and showed themselves to be patient and skilled searchers, finding nests that eluded even the eyes of the scientists. Others were taught to blow eggs and to prepare bird skins. In this latter work the girls were especially successful, for they have had much practice in making birdskin garments for themselves.

Among the most abundant of the birds of the region is the eider duck. Flocks averaging over a thousand specimens flew over, twelve or fifteen of them in succession. Ducks of other species, four kinds of geese, and numerous wading birds, also abounded.

One of the most difficult of the birds, from a collector's standpoint, was the snowy owl. It lays from nine to a dozen eggs, but begins sitting from the first. Consequently when the collector undertakes to blow a nest of eggs, he finds them in all conditions, from quite fresh to nearly ready to hatch. Mr. Brandt added that he did not undertake the preparation of more owls' eggs than were really needed.

CANADIANS TO EXPLORE BAFFIN LAND INTERIOR

The vast expanse of Baffin Land, north of Labrador, 200,000 square miles of icy desolation, is about to yield its secrets. The Canadian government steamer "Artic" has landed a party of engineers in command of J. D. Soper with the object of making a complete survey of the mineral resources of this practically unknown interior. They will remain eighteen months.

F. D. Henderson of the Canadian Department of the Interior, who has returned after leaving the party, says there are indications that vast amounts of coal, iron and possibly other valuable minerals will be found.

The rainfall of the south and middle west consists of water from the Gulf of Mexico.
