

Deneys Reitz introduces a Bill in Parliament in January 1935.

This is an extract from the book **Adrift on the Open Veld**, the Deneys Reitz trilogy, edited and introduced by T. S. Emsile. The chapter "No Outspan" page 481.

Deneys Reitz was a member of Parliament for the South African Party.

"The 1935 Parliamentary Session opened in January. I introduced a Bill that I count unto righteousness. I had long been watching the export of our smaller wild birds to Japan and the East. They were mostly snared in the Transvaal Low Country and I found that nearly eithy per cent of them died from the terror or heartbreak before they reached the ships. Even the railway porters cried out at the shame of it.

I brought the Bill to end this cruel traffic. The farmers opposed me. They said the birds would increase under the protection of my Bill and endanger their crops, but I fought through the House and today the whole of South Africa is a sanctuary in which no wild bird may be captured or caged; a matter wherein we stand ahead of the rest of the world."

(The point being made, has to be seen in context for the times of where South Africa and the rest of the world found itself.

In the early 1930's there were severe droughts across southern Africa and it was the time of the huge Western World financial and economic depression.

Has he received the recognition and acknowledgement for his role he played in the conservation of all animals in South Africa? - Gavin Lawson.)