

## "BIRD SANCTUARY" SUGGESTIONS.<sup>1</sup>

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"Bird Sanctuary," as intended in the management of Parks, Estates, Cemeteries, or Golf Grounds, really means the conservation of wild life of all kinds, birds, mammals, wild flowers, and all the other interesting things in nature.

This needs to be carefully distinguished from the "shooting grounds," or "pheasant raising" idea of sportsmen whose chief aim is to kill. We believe, then, in the least possible destruction of wild life in a Bird Sanctuary, and that means that coons, possums, and skunks may live there safely and undisturbed. These animals, and especially the skunks, are of great value, where there are lawns, because of their destruction of insects injurious to lawns.

Hawks are mostly useful and valuable, except one or two species, as they are great destroyers of insects and rats and mice. All the wild creatures live and survive and find their place in nature, except as man upsets the balance.

Sanctuary then, to all wild life in order that we may enjoy seeing and knowing them.

Kill? Kill all cats as the worst enemies of all forms of wild life; we must appreciate that, under the protection of civilized life, cats prosper beyond control and become wild and enormously destructive. Do not shoot a cat! It disturbs the neighbors. But cats may be easily trapped. Use traps that do not kill when sprung; this because the traps may catch other forms of life which should be released unharmed.

English Sparrows may be very abundant and consume the grain intended for more desirable native birds. Do not allow English Sparrows to be trapped unless by a person who knows our native sparrows very thoroughly. Our native sparrows closely resemble the English Sparrow, in appearance, but are, in fact, most desirable and attractive birds to cultivate. Consult an expert if you need trap English Sparrows. Red Squirrels

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<sup>1</sup>Contribution No. 20 of the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory.

do seem destructive to birds and should be trapped and destroyed if they become abundant.

Do not destroy any other wild life unless, in special cases, where some serious damage is done.

"Bird Sanctuary"—a popular idea of it is that a limited area be set aside, only a few acres sometimes, and that this be left to the birds, and without habitation of man.

This idea of a bird sanctuary is based upon two mistaken notions:

(1) That the birds will concentrate in such an area for their nesting; this completely ignores the fact that, with the exception of a few colony nesting birds like the martins, or certain sea birds, most of our common birds have a strong claim to territory. A book written about "Territory in Bird Life," by Howard, an Englishman, has made us all realize that each pair takes possession of and holds, during nesting, a feeding territory, and the birds will not concentrate or crowd into a limited area. It is nature's provision to keep them spread out over wide areas for feeding.

(2) That birds thrive better away from human habitation and activities, the fact being that few birds mind in the least the usual activities of human life, about them, and indeed, except for cats, the proximity of human life is a protection to them.

Coming now to more definite suggestions:

- (a) A program for a Bird Sanctuary should cost very little in time, labor or money.
- (b) The area may be large, full size of park, cemetery, estate, or, indeed, an entire community or village or suburb.
- (c) One prime need is some person in charge who is interested and loves the wild life, who can give for an estate or cemetery, two or three half days per week in winter. In selecting the person, find one who will not be tempted to take advantage of the position to trap for pelts.
- (d) All year, but especially in spring, operate a few cat traps now and then. *Get rid of cats*; when in trap they may be treated with a spoonful of chloroform, or of carbon disulphide poured in the trap, but be sure the cat is dead, not just asleep before burying, and *Caution*, the gases are poisonous to breathe and very inflammable. Cats may come from a mile or more about, and usually at night, so do not think the wild life is safe just because you do not see cats about in daytime.
- (e) During the spring and summer no feeding need be done, but it is very desirable that some nest places be provided; also good cover of living shrubs, and brush and evergreens.
- (f) Nest Places: Where there are trees in the natural state of some being rotten or broken, and bored by woodpeckers, it is usually not necessary to provide artificial nest boxes. But

the modern tree surgery, where thoroughly done, results in closing up or cutting out every possible nest site for the birds nesting in holes or boxes. Nest boxes may then be provided in any of the simple forms, not too many, not more than four to the acre; and all boxes must be so made that the top or side may be opened for cleaning out.

- (g) Winter Feed Shelters: Suitable to attract and protect quail and all the other birds.



FIG. I. An Effective Form of Food Shelter.

Square simple wood frames, four corner posts, and waterproof roof; rough sides, especially on north and west, one side on the east or south entirely open, but, on at least two sides, boards must be off at the base so birds may escape if an enemy suddenly appears at the open side. Feed may be thrown on the ground under the shelter; and a second feeding place provided by constructing a floor, or platform, two feet above the ground.

The best protection requires that coarse brush be piled about and in the shelter to prevent the possible sudden rush or attack by enemies, and give the birds a chance to escape, in case of such attack.

Supply here constantly, fine gravel, sunflower, buckwheat, cracked grain, or poultry scratch feed, and some minor portion of finest baby chick food for the smallest birds, suet, fruits, apples, or dried fruits, water if it is very far to water. Not too much grain at a time or it will sour.

- (h) Planting to provide shelter and feed: Cover is most important, thickets, shrubs, and wherever possible let the thickets become dense and tangled, and where possible let the weeds grow in wild abandon; the thickets provide shelter from enemies, shelter from sun, and shelter for nests; the weeds provide winter feed that will stand above the snow, however deep. Ravine banks planted to evergreens provide warm shelter for winter.
- (i) Water is most important. Sometimes, along a brook, walls are built with much care and expense; these walls may completely prevent not only small mammals but even birds from access to water. Allow gaps or breaks every hundred feet to allow access.

#### PLANTING FOR FOOD SUPPLY:

For summer:

Mulberry	Thorn
Bird Cherry (Prunus)	Bush Honeysuckle
Elder	Shad Bush

For autumn and winter:

Thorn	Alder
Mountain Ash	Viburnums
Crab Apples	Wild Grapes
Barberry	

#### BOOKS DEVOTED ESPECIALLY TO THIS SUBJECT:

"Bird Friends," by Gilbert H. Trafton, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916. A very complete handbook on attracting and protecting birds.

"Wild Bird Guests," by Ernest Harold Baynes; E. P. Dutton & Co.

Now out of print, but may be picked up from dealers in second-hand books. Several other interesting little books by Baynes. Apply to Audubon Birdhouse Co., Meriden, N. H.

The "Book of Bird Life," by Dr. A. A. Allen, of Cornell; D. Van Nostrand Co., N. Y., 1930.

"Golf Clubs as Bird Sanctuaries," by A. A. Allen. Apply to National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, New York City.

"How to Make a Cat Trap," Leaflet No. 50. For sale by Superintendent of Public Documents, Washington, D. C.; 5 cents.

For traps, write to: A. W. Higgins, Rock, Mass., or Russell S. Davis, Clayton, Ill. (Both will supply bird and cat traps.)

For bird homes, write to: Audubon Birdhouse Company, Meriden, N. H.

For books to identify birds:

Birds of New York, 106 plates, \$1.00 and postage. New York State Museum, Albany, N. Y.

Birds of New York, two large volumes, same plates, \$10.00. New York State Museum, Albany, N. Y.

Birds of Massachusetts, by Forbush; three volumes finely illustrated; \$15.00. Apply to State Ornithologist, State House, Boston, Mass.

Birds of Pennsylvania, by Sutton; small hand book, \$1.25. J. Horace McFarland Co., Harrisburg, Pa.

Hand Book of Birds of Eastern North America, by Frank H. Chapman. D. Appleton & Co. The standard hand book.

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#### BOOK REVIEW.

HISTORY OF APPLIED ENTOMOLOGY. L. O. HOWARD. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., 1930.

Entomologists who have been waiting expectantly for Doctor Howard's "History" will be delighted with the appearance of this fine volume filled with anecdotes and reminiscences of the author's fifty years participation in the growth of entomology. The sub-title, "somewhat anecdotal," indicates well the nature of the contents, as the work consists very largely of accounts of Doctor Howard's personal associations with entomologists during the past fifty years. For many of the incidents related one would look in vain in any official report or publication. Quite naturally the space devoted to early American entomology deals very largely with the growth of the Federal entomological service, in which Doctor Howard had so prominent a part. His treatment of the growth of entomology in the several states and especially in the Experiment Stations is relatively brief and, as he states, no attempt is made at completeness. A particularly fine feature of the work is the inclusion of some 250 portraits of American and foreign entomologists. The omission of some well known American workers is explained by the statement that portraits were not included for men under fifty-five years of age.

H. O.