

ment. Late fall plowing helps to destroy late broods of the fly.

Helpful Insects. All insects are not injurious. Many are helpful or even necessary. Bees, both tame and wild, do the work of pollination for plants with pistil and stamens in different flowers. The dragon fly destroys large numbers of mosquitoes, both adult and as larvae. The ladybug devours great numbers of plant lice. Some insects are parasites in relation to other insects. Certain flies lay their eggs beneath the skin of plant lice. Ichneumon flies do similar injury to moths.

Birds and Insects. If it were not for the birds, crop-growing would be impossible. Insects make up part of the diet of nearly all birds, and almost the whole diet of some of them. The large number of insects they destroy leaves a big balance in their favor against the little they may use of our field and garden crops. Robins use a little fruit, but their chief diet is of grubs and worms. Crows take a little corn and other grain, but they also eat insects and destroy carrion. They are not numerous in Western Canada. Wild ducks, chickens, and geese sometimes make inroads in the grain fields, but, on the other hand, they furnish finely flavored meat. English sparrows eat some grain, but vary their diet with weed seeds and insects. Some of the hawks, such as the goshawks, steal an occasional chicken, but their steady diet is the