

that their disappearance would mean the loss to us of one of the most valuable and essential benefits provided by Nature their preservation becomes a duty requiring our every attention and effort. Sad to say, any energy put forth in the endeavor to protect wild life is too often looked upon as little more than the worthy agitation of a few biased enthusiasts; but the matter of the protection of game (and with it that of all beneficial species of animals) means far more to the state than the mere curtailing and lengthening of the open seasons for shooting, subject to the whims of a few present-day sportsmen.

VALUE OF GAME PRESERVATION TO AGRICULTURE.

In the United States the preservation of game is now being looked upon almost wholly from an agricultural point of view. Large appropriations of money have enabled the Department of Agriculture to make the fullest scientific enquiry as to the value of all wild life; and this has proven in the most conclusive manner that the whole question is one of the greatest economic value. The work achieved in their Bureau of Biological Survey has been of marked assistance in providing information that applies to this country also, and is well worthy of adoption by our own government. It has been shown that "weeds and insects cost the farmers of Canada millions of dollars annually, both in direct losses and in expenditures for labor and material necessary to protect their crops. Anything, therefore, which tends to reduce the number of weeds or to check the ravages of injurious insects is a direct benefit. Among the most useful natural agents in checking such losses are insectivorous and seed-eating birds (many of which are game birds); and the importance of their preservation, while difficult to measure in dollars and cents, is self-evident, since it may mean the difference between large profits and heavy losses." The fecundity of insect pests, to say nothing of rodents, is amazing and appalling; and it has been oft repeated by those who have given the subject the most earnest study, that without birds human life could not long exist upon the earth. An estimate of the present damage to agriculture in the United States from insects and rodents alone places the loss at

eight hundred millions of dollars. With such facts as these before us it is possible to grasp some idea of the importance to our national interests that birds should not be needlessly destroyed, and that they should be given every opportunity to remain and increase in our midst.

REVENUE TO THE STATE FROM GAME.

That the systematic protection of game may be the means, both directly and indirectly, of developing the pecuniary resources of a country is an assured fact. In our game supply we possess an asset of the greatest commercial value, and one from which a very considerable source of revenue may be derived. As an instance, not much more than a score of years ago, the wild game in the State of Maine had been depleted to an extent almost bordering on extermination. A few intelligent, far-seeing men took it upon themselves to reclaim this lost heritage, under government patronage, with the result that to-day the State possesses not only a bountiful supply of game, but derives therefrom one of its most substantial revenues. In 1904 the license fees from non-residents who visited the State to hunt game amounted to over \$25,000, and a fair estimate of the money spent in employing guides alone amounted to \$307,000. This revenue, which may safely be said to be a permanent one, has thus been summarized by Senator Frye: "In all times of business depression and distress, financial panics and consequent unemployment of labor, so seriously affecting the country, the State of Maine has suffered much less than any other state in the American Union; and this is mostly, if not entirely, due to the large amount of money left with us by the fishermen, the summer tourist, and the fall hunter—the seeker after change, rest and recreation."

NECESSITY FOR GAME REFUGES.

The question arises, how are we to solve the future preservation of our wild animals and birds? All expedients and devices of late years in the form of restrictive laws must in the end prove to be inadequate. Sooner or later the development of the country will reach a point when there will be no room, under existing conditions, for our larger mammals and many of our birds. How