

concluded that the commercial cherry grower needs to plant the firmer varieties, which are not subject to their ravages.

"I question," said Mr. W. N. Hutt, "the wisdom of shooting those waxwings, indeed the legality of it. I believe they are insectivorous birds, and friends of the fruit grower, and should be protected. Surely some other means of protecting the cherries could be adopted, and the lives of these birds preserved."

"I have always read", said Mr. Orr, "that cherries succeed best on sandy loam; but that is contrary to my experience. I have planted Early Purple and Windsor on both sand and clay, and I have found the trees much more productive on clay, healthier and longer lived."

#### FEEDING BIRDS ON CHERRIES

**M**R. GEORGE F. POWELL says he plants a quantity of the early varieties, sweet cherries, purposely for the birds to eat, especially such varieties as Coe's Transparent, Gov. Wood and May Duke. These trees, he says in Rural New Yorker, are given up entirely to the birds.

I have made it a practice in planting cherry orchards to put in a quantity of trees

of the early varieties of sweet cherries, such as Coe's Transparent, Gov. Wood and May Duke. We never pick them and never allow a bird to be frightened from the trees. They live upon these, and by the time our more valuable cherries, such as Black Tartarian, Black Eagle, Napoleon and Windsor are ripe we have no trouble from the robins. There will not be even two per cent. of these fine cherries picked or damaged by the birds. If every one would make it a point to put in a few extra trees of these early, juicy, sweet cherries, they would have little trouble with their more valuable varieties. Rather than kill off the birds I would plant cherries and give them the entire crop. It is one of the great drawbacks that we have so few birds inhabiting our orchards, in consequence of which we are forced to carry out the expensive process of spraying, without which comparatively little fruit of value could be produced. It is a great mistake on the part of fruit growers to kill off the birds, and I find that it not only economical to plant cherry trees for them, but I find that it brings larger numbers to my place, and they are very helpful in keeping down many insects that are not destroyed by spraying.

### THE MAPLE AS A SHADE TREE

A LETTER FROM ALEX. McNEIL, OF WALKERVILLE

**S**IR,—I have on several occasions when speaking to our Societies in different towns and cities, regretted the fact that our people plant the maple so exclusively as a shade tree. The maple is indeed a beautiful tree, and I hope the time may never come when it will not be extensively planted; but a recent visit which I made to the city of Burlington, Vt., would have convinced me had I not already been convinced, that the American Elm is superior in every respect. It is comparatively free from attacks of insects, has a most graceful form,

and endures the hardships of street and park life quite as well as any tree that is planted. The streets and parks of Burlington have many notable examples of the great beauty of the American elm as a shade tree; and there is no reason why our towns and cities should not use a greater variety of shade trees than they do, and when a selection is made there should always be a large proportion of that "forest on a single tree"—the elm. This tree grows nowhere in greater perfection than it does in Ontario.