

the æsthetic motives, the practical value of the encouragement of birds in both these places is of inestimable importance, as they constitute the most efficient protective agencies of the trees that can be secured, and the cost of their assistance—the cost of the nesting boxes, etc.—regarded in the light of an insurance premium against insect depredations, is at the lowest rate imaginable.

The existence of two such bird sanctuaries will undoubtedly tend to prevent the gradual disappearance from the Ottawa district of a number of birds which are becoming less abundant than formerly. Further, it is reasonable to expect that when the northerly migrations are taking place in the spring, the encouragement we are arranging to offer will meet with a response, and birds which otherwise would have passed on will stay with us through the season to our profit in every way. The scheme will afford the best check that we can adopt in preventing, so far as is possible, the gradual departure of a number of our native birds from the Ottawa district.

The successful carrying out of this scheme will require the sympathy and willing co-operation of all. The Field-Naturalists' Club is honoured by having as its patron H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, who has requested me to express his warm sympathy and interest in this proposal. Mr. Borden, the Prime Minister, to whom I explained the scheme wrote: "It is needless to say that the proposal which you have in hand commands my entire sympathy." Sir Wilfrid Laurier has for some time urged the adoption of such a scheme. The Field-Naturalists' Club feels that it can rely upon the assistance of all those who have the preservation of the beauty and charm of our city and its surroundings at heart. With a view to assisting in the suppression of the wanton destruction of nests by robbing and birds by small rifle shooting on the part of boys in and around the city, the assistance of the Boy Scouts is being secured. Col. A. P. Sherwood, Commissioner of Dominion Police, writes: "I assure you that you could not have appealed to anybody more sympathetic in regard to the protection of our native birds, and I will certainly have this matter taken up at once by the Local Council of Boy Scouts". It seemed to me that as protectors of bird life and as policemen, the Boy Scouts would furnish an unrivalled auxiliary in this work. The idea is in accord with the spirit of the Boy Scout movement and the influence of such boys upon their more wayward and less enlightened brothers would undoubtedly be beneficial.

Finally, we must remember that the results of our action along the lines I have indicated will not influence Ottawa alone.