

made a rich living for the birds, and when the fall came, that farmer had the satisfaction of gathering twenty-three bushels of corn from the three rows that grew next to the fence, right where there was no corn at all the year before. With corn selling at fifty-five cents per bushel, it represented a saving of \$12.65 for that year

alone, and with the same insurance for the following year with no outlay at all. Does it pay? Boys, get busy. Get your fathers to figure with you how much corn growing next to a fence row is destroyed by insects, and then see if your fathers will let you put up bird-houses and pay you the difference for the first year.

The Case for The Woodpecker!

"What good is the woodpecker?"

Letters reach the Canadian Forestry Journal asking this question and in many cases proceeding to answer it with threats of extermination for all woodpeckers seen about the correspondent's property.

It would appear that only the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker should be regarded as detrimental to tree life, and that all other varieties are to be encouraged. The following article by Dr. Gordon Hewitt, Dominion Entomologist, will be found of value:

Woodpeckers as Insect Destroyers

A Canadian bank manager recently boasted that he had shot seven woodpeckers in succession in his orchard, evidently under the impression that he was performing an exceedingly meritorious service to the community. He was destroying one of our most active insectivorous birds and, though keenly interested in the conservation of his trees and of our forests, he was destroying a most useful ally in their preservation. Boring insects are deadly pests of trees, and woodpeckers are their special enemies, as they are able to reach these pests so secure from other enemies. No birds are more useful in the protection of our forests.

With the exception of the Sapsuckers, our woodpeckers rarely attack healthy trees and are among the most beneficial of our insect-destroying birds. The Yellow-bellied

Sapsucker has a black patch on its breast, while the top of the head from the base of the bill is red. These marks distinguish it from all other woodpeckers. It girdles the trees with holes in securing the sap which forms part of its food.

The different species of woodpeckers are the most important enemies of the bark-beetles and timber-boring beetles, these being the chief enemies of our forest and other trees. About seventy-five per cent of their total food is animal food and this consists chiefly of insects, among which the wood-boring beetles predominate. The Common Flicker is a great destroyer of ants, particularly on lawns, as many as 5,000 ants having been found in the stomach of a single bird. The little Downy Woodpecker and Flicker should be encouraged to come into gardens. They will readily accept nesting-boxes and the encouragement of these birds is the best insurance policy that the tree-lover can take out.

PENNSYLVANIA FIRE LOSSES

The report covering the spring and fall forest fire seasons of 1916, issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry, shows that while almost as many forest fires burned in Pennsylvania in 1916 as in 1915, the area burned over was less than half that of 1915, and the timber loss was only a trifle over one-fourth as large.