

in its thousands even in 1882 is manifest on reference to Thompson Seton's "Birds of Manitoba." Still, as we said before the grouse survived. Surely the inference is obvious. It was not the crow but man who upset the balance nature had provided.

It is impossible here to go into details as to the crow's actual economic standing and also unnecessary when the work has been done so thoroughly by the U.S. Biological Survey. See Bulletin No. 621 "The Crow and its Relations to Man." This is a work that all should possess who wish to gain the real facts. It is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C., at 15 cents. This work is one of very wide application, and is the result of a very comprehensive weighing of evidence, both from the examination of stomachs and field observations. The evidence provided includes many crow

stomachs collected by my brother Stuart, in Manitoba, a single one of which contained no less than 45 white grubs, an insect recognized as extremely noxious. However, my object is to call attention to this work not to quote it. I think when it has been read impartially that the reader will conclude that the crow is not quite such a malefactor as you have described it and that while it unquestionably does some harm by destroying eggs and young birds, its value to the farmer, as a consumer of noxious insects, is also worth considering.

Personally, I am still of opinion that an effective carrying out of the law, as it is at present, would in itself be sufficient to re-stock our preserves with the birds which man, with his automobile, has been the chief factor in diminishing.

NORMAN CRIDDLE.

Teesbank, Man., Nov. 23, 1918.

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