

never friendless for all creation greets him wherever he may turn in some of its multitude of forms and thus is mankind ennobled. Possibly the word inquisitiveness would more clearly define our attitude than sentiment for man is a scrutinizing animal and Nature furnishes him with no form of life, plant or animal, so wonderfully fashioned and gifted with powers of adaption to man-created conditions as birds, even although they are by no means as high in the scale of creation as many of our mammals.

In this short article I shall endeavor to lay before you in but a very imperfect and condensed form data which I trust will convince you of the economic importance of birds and that their protection and encouragement is not only necessary but highly desirable.

Many people will recall that some five or six years ago conditions were such that an overabundance of insect life was the result. Trees were infested in many cases to such an extent as to seriously menace their life.

Elm Park in particular suffered, and only last year after a shower the walks in the Park and many of the sidewalks were carpeted with moths carried earthwards and stunned by the impact of the rain drops.

As you are aware plants and trees breathe through stomata or pores in the leaves and that under the influence of sunlight assimilation of a large portion of the plants' and trees' food is performed by the chlorophyl of the leaves. A very large number of insect pests prey upon leaves which they devour in amazing quantities thus robbing the plant or tree of its main digestive organs. This necessarily retards growth and may cause them to die.

That insect pests destroy vast quantities of agricultural and forest products yearly is indisputable. I do not exactly recall to what Carlyle referred when he said: "There are no trifles, for out of trifles come tragedies." Had he had in his mind's eye some devastated forest or agricultural area he