

BIRD GUARDIANS OF OUR FORESTS

(Continued from p. 566)

have planted dogwood and elder berry there. I think it was the thrushes. Berry-bearing shrubs and trees provide food for the birds and the birds repay by scattering the stony seeds of these plants far and near. I do not know that many of these are important trees, but certainly

the wild cherries have importance, and the Robins must plant thousands of them. Some birds such as the Downy Woodpecker, and the Crows plant poison ivy for which we can scarcely thank them.

It is said that the Blue Jay plants acorns in the ground, doubtless with a view to returning for them later. Certainly he hides nuts and acorns in all sorts of crannies, and in this way must scatter them over considerable areas. If he really helps to plant forests it would be a good point in his character for it is not of the best otherwise.



JAMES SMART PLANT

Brockville, Canada.

Ducks That Nest in Trees.

The Hooded Merganser, the two species of Golden-eye and the Wood Duck all nest in hollow trees. Sometimes where hollow trees are scarce the Golden-eye will nest in an unused chimney and the Wood Duck will nest in suitable bird boxes. The beautiful Wood Ducks are reported to be increasing in the Ottawa vicinity. They are given special protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty, their rapid decrease in the past having caused fears for the safety of the species.

Bird Boxes in the Woods.

The present winter season will be a good time to plan ways and means for making the woods about the house and even the larger wooded tracts more suitable for birds. One of the first items should be to protect the valuable bird life which finds a home in the shelter of these woods and then perhaps you will want to put up some bird boxes to increase the number of your feather tenants. The response on the part of the birds will certainly be remarkable.

FACTS ABOUT CANADA.

Few people realize that 26,445 Canadian ex-service men have been established on the land and are nearly all making good; that Canada's water-power development represents an investment of \$475,000,000, while the power produced would otherwise require 18,000,000 tons of coal yearly; or that nearly 88 per cent of the world's supply of asbestos comes from the Province of Quebec. The Natural Resources Intelligence Branch of the Department of the Interior, has just issued a revised edition of "Compact Facts," which contains in concise form, information regarding Canada; its area, population, trade and industries; their extent, capital invested, wages paid, values of live stock, principal crops and amounts produced; mineral resources and present production; also forest resources and forest products. Copies of the booklet are available on application to the Superintendent, Natural Resources Intelligence Branch, Department of the Interior, Ottawa.



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