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## THE PROBLEM OF BIRD ENCOURAGEMENT.

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The question is, *How* to increase the number of our birds. Hardly anyone doubts the statement that "More birds would be a benefit to mankind," and the popularity of the efforts being made in that direction speaks volumes for the state of public sentiment; but "*How*" are we to do it?

The people to whom such encouragement will mean the greatest financial return are the farmers, and not only have they the best opportunity of producing an increase in bird numbers, but all the expense called for is the rental of an acre or two of ground, and the labor of fencing and planting it with the proper trees, shrubs and vines. From such an outlay, the revenue returned should be a good one, and the results are liable to be better if the planting is of the most attractive character than if it is done in a haphazard manner.

In a general way, the principle may be stated that most of our insectivorous birds like a little fruit at times, and the best way to provide this for them is to plant little shrubs bearing the native fruits in their little jungle, rather than to attract them to the orchard and there feed them with high-class grapes, English cherries, etc.

The size and location of such a bird reserve will vary according to the enthusiasm and ability of the owner. An acre or two would make a splendid jungle, and in southern Ontario would probably be used even by the quail, which is one of the most useful of all insect eaters.

In the bulletin on the chinch bug recently issued by the Division of Entomology, at Ottawa, the quail is given credit for being the only bird that is specially useful in fighting this particularly injurious insect. Those farmers near London, whose crops suffered so severely, in 1913, from this insect, would probably be willing to give serious consideration to the question