

NATURE STUDY LESSONS

digious, and must greatly lessen the number of seeds that are left to grow in the tilled soil; and if these birds became still more numerous their benefit in this direction would be much more marked.

The great concern of our people should be, not the destruction of our feathered friends, but the undertaking of methods of enticing them back to populated regions. How can this be done? In a variety of ways: every citizen should feel it a duty to the state to see that the laws for bird protection are rigidly enforced; the cat and the English sparrow are the two chief enemies of birds, particularly in towns and cities, and a ceaseless war should be waged on these two pests of our civilization; nesting places for wrens, flickers, swallows and martins can be set up in the trees, and they are likely soon to be occupied; our wild shrubs and trees having berries on them should be protected so as to supply fruits for robins and other useful birds to eat, so that there will not be the same inducement to do some thieving in the farmer's orchard; a little uncleared land, a creek wooded along the banks, and a scattered tree here and there are bound to attract the birds, as well as to add to the beauty of the landscape, and the land given to such a purpose is bound to yield rich rewards; a drink-trough in the yard will help to slake the thirst of many a little bird, and serve its turn in attracting them to repay you by destroying their quota of injurious insects.

