

The Desirability of the Protection and Encouragement of Birds in and around Chatham.

"Oh Nature! thou Goddess whom we worship
For in thee we catch a glimpse of the Divine
Though interwoven so intricately
That just where it lies we cannot define.

As our eyes feast upon thy many beauties
Our ears list to the notes raised in thy praise:
Voices of birds singing in tree tops, and
The insects humming along the byways

But many dangers beset thee Oh Nature;
And we must lend to thee a helping hand
If we would ever preserve thee as thou art
In truth so perfect, so beautiful, so grand."

Birds may be studied from three points of view:—The scientific, the sentimental and the economic. The first includes their origin, development, structure and relationship to the other forms of life past and present. As regards the structure of birds it is rather of interest to note in an age when aerial locomotion so engrosses the scientific world that most of the speedier planes are modelled upon diagrams of such birds as Eagles, Larks, Martins, Swallows, Gulls etc., when soaring during flight. Man's desire to fly led him to carefully observe bird structure and the result is the monoplane. Sentiment enters largely into the interest of many. Children watch with interest a Robin tugging at a worm. The building of the nests excites our admiration for their ingenuity and facile adaptation to circumstances. Nearly everybody loves to hear the song of birds. The hum of insect life mingled with bird notes is to most natures soothing. Thus "Nature does not provide delight for the eye only. The other senses are not forgotten. A thousand sounds, many delightful, seem to fill the air." The individual who has studied Nature and felt its potent charm is