

good they do. The aim of the Act, of course, is to protect the birds not only from those to whom all wild life is game, but from the farmer who owing to lack of knowledge of the habits of the birds, supposes that in killing them he is getting rid of pests.

#### Birds as Crop Savers.

Abundant evidence that cannot be questioned, to show the value of birds as crop savers, is available. Examination of bird stomachs by biologists of the United States Department of Agriculture showed that insects made up 100 per cent of the summer food of four common species of swallows, 100 per cent of the night-hawk's food, 98 per cent of the phoebe's, 94 per cent of that of the Baltimore Oriole, 98 per cent of the huse wren's, 80 per cent of the common crow's, 80 per cent of the kingbird's, 74 per cent of the meadowlark's, 68 per cent of the black-capped chickadee's, 80 per cent of that of four common species of woodpecker, 64 per cent of the brown thrasher's, 68 per cent of the bluebird's, 42 per cent of the robin's, and from one-half to one-third of the food of many other familiar species. This data was obtained from the examination of from over one thousand to not less than several hundred stomachs of each species. In winter, when insects disappear, many of the birds that remain during the cold weather consume large quantities of weed seeds, thus lessening the growth of noxious weeds during the following summer.

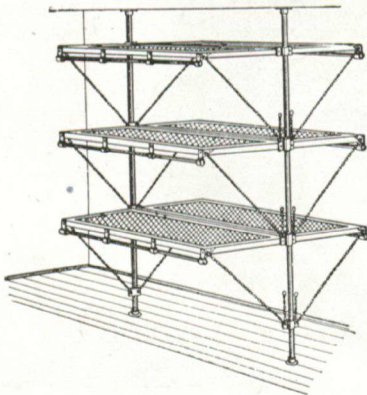
Mosquitos, flies, and others insects spread disease. The mosquito would be a much greater pest than it is but for nighthawks, whippoorwills, swallows, swifts, and flycatchers, which devour myriads of these troublesome insects. Ducks

and other birds that inhabit ponds, lakes, and marshes consume enormous numbers of mosquito larvae. Flies are eaten by almost all species of birds.

#### Even Hawks and Crows.

Rats and field mice are a source of considerable damage to crops and stored grain, and frequently injure fruit trees by gnawing the bark from trunk and larger roots. Hawks, owls, and crows render a useful service by preying upon these rodents.

The Act establishes a continuous close season on the following migratory insectivorous birds: bobolinks, catbirds, chickadees, cuckoos, flickers, flycatchers, grosbeaks, humming birds, kinglets, martins, meadowlarks, nighthawks, nuthatches, orioles, robins, shrikes, swallows, swifts, tanagers, titmice, thrushes, vireos, warblers, waxwings, whippoorwills, woodpeckers and wrens, and all other perching birds which feed entirely or chiefly on insects. The Act provides that the close season on other migratory non-game birds shall continue throughout the year, except that Eskimos and Indians may take at any season auks, auklets, guillemots, murres, and puffins, and their eggs for food and their skins for clothing. Migratory game birds included in the terms of the Act are waterfowl, including brant, wild ducks, geese, and swans; cranes, including little brown, sandhill, and whooping cranes; rails, including coots, gallinules, sora, and other rails; shorebirds, including avocets, curlew, dowitchers, godwits, knots, oyster catchers, phalaropes, plovers, sandpipers, snipe, stilts, surf birds, turnstones, willet, woodcock, and yellow-legs; and pigeons, including doves and wild pigeons.



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