

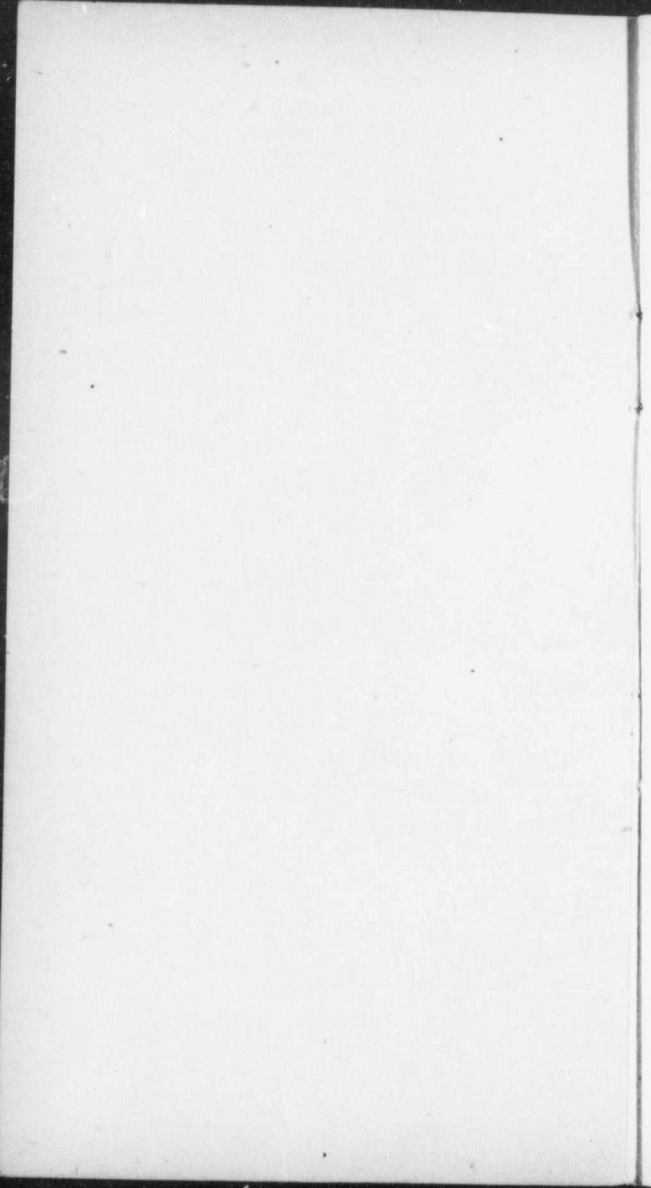


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*The*  
*Message*  
*of the*  
*Rossignol*

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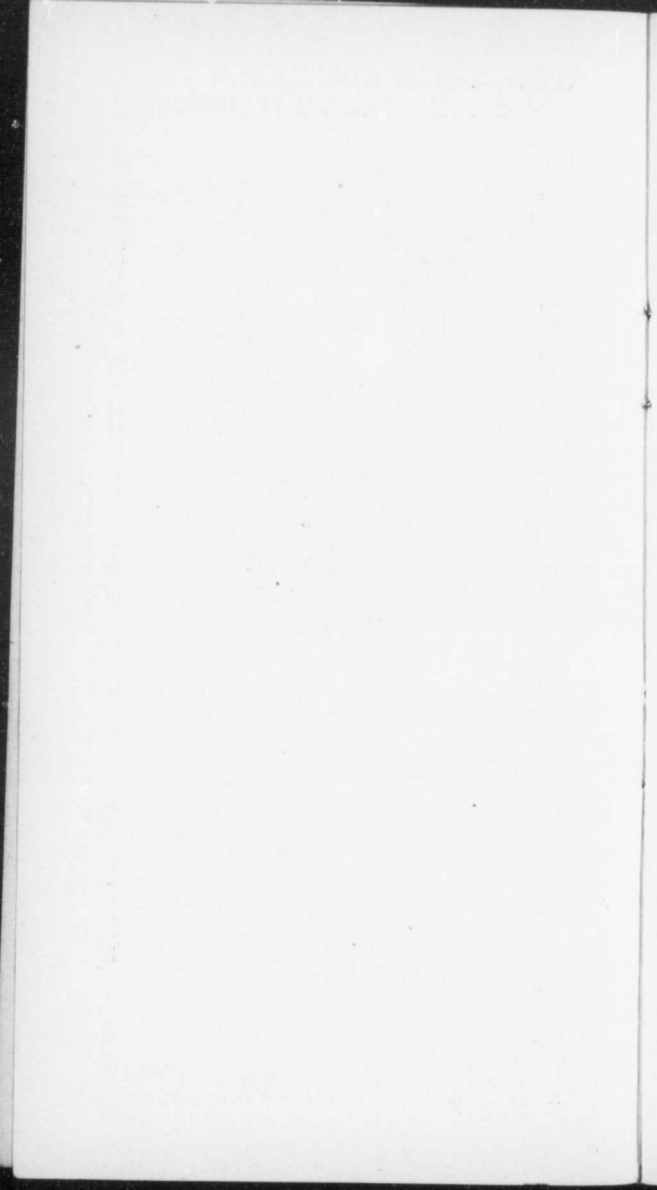
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Province *of* Quebec  
Society for  
the Protection  
of Birds



FOUNDED  
JANUARY FOURTH  
NINETEEN  
SEVENTEEN



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## *Objects of the Society*



**P**ROTECTION by competent laws throughout the Province for all song and insectivorous birds.

The teaching of practical ornithology in all public and private schools.

The regulation, but not persecution, of cats, and all enemies of beneficial birds.

The establishment of bird sanctuaries in every city, town, and village.

The planting of trees, shrubs and vines that will attract and feed our birds.

The putting up of safe and artistic bird houses, drinking pools, and the feeding of our winter birds.

To instruct the public regarding the importance of protecting bird life, by holding meetings, lectures, and exhibitions.

To publish and distribute literature relating to birds, and to co-operate with the Federal and Provincial Governments and natural history societies in this respect.

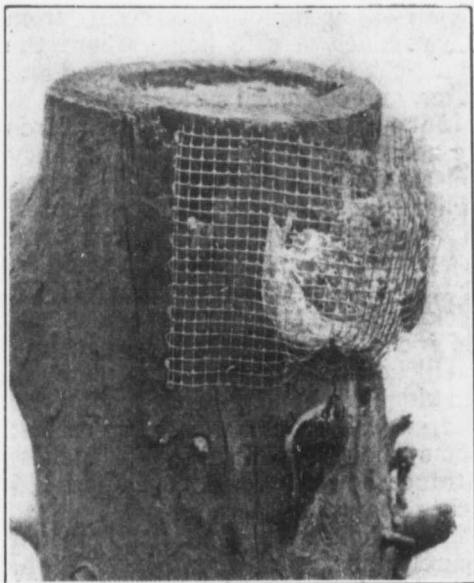
Annual fees: One dollar (due January 1st).

Children under fifteen are enrolled without fee on signing the Society's Pledge Card.

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*The Message of the Rossignol*

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BROWN CREEPER AT THE SUET-LOG

The wire screen protects the suet from Crows and Squirrels, which might carry it away in one or two visits

## ***Attracting Feathered Friends***

**A**BIRD requires protection from enemies, a safe home where the young can be raised, sufficient food and water, and congenial surroundings.

Make or buy nesting houses. Birds are not particularly attracted to fancy houses, but want safety and comfort. Hollow limbs make excellent houses, and some can be found on every farm. For wrens, the entrance hole should be from  $\frac{7}{8}$  to 1 inch in diameter; for chickadees,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches; for bluebirds,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; tree swallows,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; and flickers  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Robins, phoebes, and kingbirds build only in open houses. Martins want houses with many rooms; rooms should be 6 x 6 x 6 inches; entrance holes  $1\frac{3}{4}$  x 2 inches and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches above the floor.

Place house in shade and fasten securely; an orchard is a fine location. Swinging houses without perches are good when domestic sparrows are troublesome. A piece of tin fastened around the trunk of tree or post, in the shape of an inverted funnel, will keep cats away. Fasten a narrow shelf below the eaves of the barn to attract eave swallows, and leave an opening in



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## *The Message of the Rossignol*

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the gable end of the barn to attract barn swallows.

A bird bath is one of the best ways of attracting the birds in summer, but see that it is safe from cats. It should be close to some tree, as birds cannot fly far with wet feathers. Anything that holds water will do for a bird bath. Set it on the ground, on the top of a stump, on a pole or against the house. A slanting bottom, with water varying from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches in depth is best. Make a bird sanctuary somewhere in your grounds.

Have a feeding place for winter birds. This can be simply a cheese box on a pole, or an elaborately-built house. Sheaves of wheat, oats or barley securely fastened to a pole are relished. Hang suet and fat meat on trees. Here is a list of foods that attract the winter birds; suet, fat meat, raw meat, hemp seed, millet seed, cracked corn, cracked wheat, whole corn, whole wheat, bread and cracker crumbs, dog biscuit broken, broken nuts and nut meats, sunflower seeds, chaff, oats, canary seed, doughnuts, salt, celery tops, curds, blemished oranges, apples, old mortar and fine grit. Study the birds and their wants, and you will soon be able to attract happy bird families.

## ***Bird Study***

THE best way to study birds is to go out into the woods and fields and get your knowledge firsthand. Have a notebook and soft pencil and enter all observations. Don't trust to memory. Field glasses, magnifying about four diameters, are a big help. A pocket textbook, such as "Reed's Birds of Eastern North America," will help you to identify the birds. Birds are found in orchards, gardens, overgrown pastures, roadside hedges and trees, along the banks of streams, in swamps, and about the margin of wooded lands. In fact, wherever there are insects, there you will find birds.

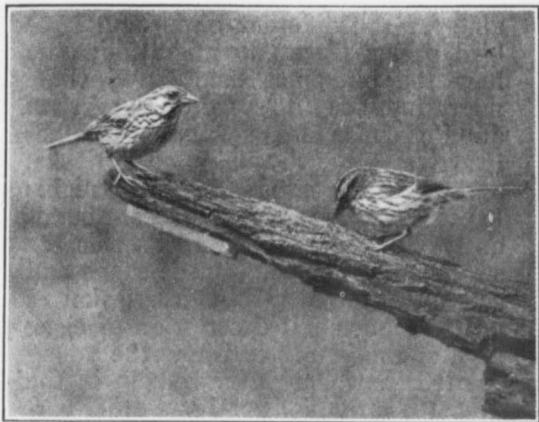
During nesting-time, birds are usually at home. During migration the best time to observe them is from dawn until 8.30 in the morning and in the afternoon from four o'clock until dark. When on a bird trip don't wear anything that flashes; walk quietly toward your objective and don't forget the virtue of patience.

A bird's year is divided into (1) winter or passive state, when the principal occupation is the search for food; (2) the spring migration, northward; (3) mating; (4) nest building and the

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## *The Message of the Rossignol*

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A PAIR OF SONG SPARROWS AT FEEDING STATION

laying of eggs; (5) hatching and rearing the young; (6) molting, and (7) fall migrations, southward.

The special duties of all members should be to (1) make a complete list of all the birds found in your neighborhood, also a census of the nests; (2) find out what birds are decreasing, and why; (3) make a list of birds you would like to see increased; (4) find out the enemies of insectivorous and song-birds in your immediate neighborhood, (5) see if the birds have proper nesting facilities; (6) put up bird houses suit-

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## *The Message of the Rossignol*

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able for the different birds, and have bird baths; (7) study migration; note how the birds act before and while migrating, keep a record of the arrival and departure of each species; whether it arrives singly, in pairs, or in flocks; and whether it flies by day or by night; (8) note where it is found most abundantly, in woods, orchards, fields, or swamps; its choice of food; songs and call-notes; location and description of nest; number and description of eggs; food of the young and how the young are fed; how long they remain in the nest; (9) early flight and any other particulars of interest; (10) feed the birds in winter and study their actions; (11) secure members for this Society throughout your section.

### *Enemies of Birds*

**T**HERE are two classes of bird-enemies, alien and native. Aliens, in the main, are undesirable, and we could well do without them. Native enemies to birds are frequently only locally harmful, and it is often questionable whether they should be molested or not.

### *Alien Enemies*

CHIEF of the first class are three domesticated followers of man, the cat, sparrow and rat. The cat is sometimes useful to man and often ornamental, but to birds in any country a creeping cat spells danger. Cats should be licensed; this would eliminate the homeless or wild cat that is so destructive to bird-life. There is no doubt about the friendless rat; the question is how to get rid of it. As to the sparrow it is undoubtedly undesirable—gregarious and pugnacious in habits, it monopolizes well-settled districts and makes life difficult for native birds—the same can be said of most aliens; even our alien plants or weeds are inimical as they crowd out native plants and force the birds further afield in search of accustomed food.

In Canada, the sparrow is kept in check to some extent by severe winters. In the United States it is a greater nuisance and many methods of extermination have been tried, with little success.

Wherever there is waste food, there you will find the domestic mouse, the rat, and the sparrow. If it were practical to eliminate the waste, these creatures would disappear.

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## *The Message of the Rossignol*

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There is one method of overcoming the obstacle of the sparrow as a native-bird menace in our towns, which is embodied in previous remarks relative to attracting birds. Induce our birds by these means to face the sparrow. Make it worth their while to stay and fight for their rights. The sparrow takes the grain, the native birds the insects, and there is no economic reason why they should not live side by side—they actually do in some localities.

### *Native Enemies*

AMONGST the native enemies to birds are the fox, weasel, and mink, and to some extent snakes, skunks and red squirrels. The following birds of prey have a bad name: great horned and hawk owls; coopers, sharpshinned, duck, pigeon and goshawks. Occasionally blue jays and crows are destructive to nestling birds and eggs.

With regard to most of the above-mentioned native enemies, it does not seem advisable to advocate any general warfare on them, especially in regard to the birds, as many beneficial hawks and owls would suffer.

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## *The Message of the Rossignol*

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Snakes are usually killed on sight, whereas our native snakes are mainly inoffensive and immensely useful in the destruction of noxious insects. Food habits of birds and animals vary in different localities and at different seasons. Co-operative study is required in the Province of Quebec before definite conclusions can be arrived at.

### *Trees and Shrubs that Attract Birds*

**O**NE of the best ways to increase the bird population is to plant such vegetation as will provide food and shelter.

A hedge of wild fruits will protect cultivated fruits as birds usually prefer the former. Amongst the best trees and shrubs are the following:

Mulberry, black and choke cherry, shadbush, June berry, dogwood, mountain ash, white ash, Manitoba maple, balsam fir, red cedar, white spruce, pine, sumac, hawthorn, bar berry, cranberry, grape, honeysuckle, Virginia creeper and sunflower.

### ***Bird Sanctuaries***

**E**VERY community should have a protected plot containing a bird bath, drinking-fountains, food houses, lunch-counters, bird houses and safe thickets for nesting.

A lack of opportunities for safe nesting is realized by all bird lovers. There are now very few hedges, and most of the streams and creeks which were bordered with rushes and vines are dried or filled up. To make up for this deficiency, have a space set apart especially for the birds.

If a small creek flows through it, so much the better. Have sunflowers, Japanese buckwheat, broom, corn and hemp on the bare places. Plant trees, bushes and vines as suggested under "Trees, Shrubs and Vines." Let everything grow wild.

Put up bird houses of various kinds, have feeding boxes, lunch-counters and several bird baths. Have a good hedge around this sanctuary, and see that domestic cats, red squirrels, sparrows and all enemies of bird life are kept out. A committee should be appointed to feed the birds regularly in winter and keep the baths filled with water during the summer.



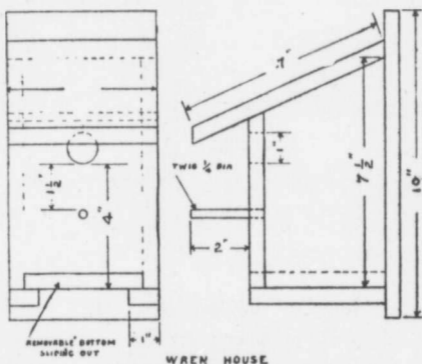
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## *The Message of the Rossignol*

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A protected bird sanctuary will prove an attraction to your neighborhood, and will interest and instruct. Cemeteries make excellent sanctuaries for birds.

Don't wait until someone else starts the movement, do it yourself. There will be many willing to help.



### *Plan of Wrenhouse*

THE accompanying figure represents a serviceable bird house of simple construction. The front measures 5 1/2 x 5 inches; the back, 10 x 5 inches; the roof, 7 x 5 inches; and the sides 5 1/2 inches high in front, 7 1/2 inches at the

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## *The Message of the Rossignol*

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back, and 4 inches wide. The entrance hole is one inch in diameter and 4 inches from the floor, and should be bevelled. The twig shown in sketch may be tacked on. It is not required as a perch, but merely to assist the tenant in entering the nest-cavity. Too elaborate a perch might serve certain bird enemies. Use rough lumber and paint light grey or greenish grey.



Larger houses for other birds can be made on similar lines. For bluebirds, the interior should be 8 inches high, 5 wide, and 5 deep; entrance hole  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter and 6 inches above floor. Nail or wire houses to post or tree in rather open place (not too shady).

## ***Meetings of the Society***

### ***Annual Meeting***

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Windsor Hotel, at 8.30 p.m., on the second Monday in January, when a resumé of the year's work will be presented and officers elected for the ensuing year.

### ***Executive Meetings***

Executive Meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month, for a detailed discussion of the society's affairs.

### ***Monthly General Meeting***

The Monthly General Meeting will be held in the Windsor Hotel, at 8.30 p.m., on the second Monday of each month. It is planned to make these meetings of general interest and after the executive report is submitted, the evening will be devoted to talks, or papers, on birds and their habits, means of increasing the numbers of desirable species and limiting the activities of their enemies, and kindred subjects.

Following the principal communication the meeting will be open to general discussion, when suggestions and queries from members will be welcome.

### ***Field Days***

During the spring and summer outings for the purpose of bird study will be held on Saturday afternoons, under an appointed leader. A schedule of these outings will be mailed to members.

For further information apply to the Hon. Corresponding Secretary, MRS. W. E. L. DYER, at 12 Willow Ave., Westmount (Tel. West. 2837).



