

Our Great Heritage—Birds and Forests

It is incumbent upon all the people of New Zealand to show active interest in their heritage--our forests and birds. If the people wickedly and apathetically allow this priceless heritage to be destroyed, then will we richly deserve what we will get—an almost birdless, insect-ridden, devastated and eroded land. No good citizen can afford to stand idly by.

Bulletin No. 9

WHAT AMERICANS SAY ABOUT BIRDS.

PLANTING FOR THE BIRDS.

No other group of animals commands such widespread and universal attention as birds; everyone is more or less interested in them. Why is this so?

In the first place, with the exception of insects, birds are the most common form of animal life about us. Approximately 600,000 species of animals are known to science. Some thing like 18,000 kinds of birds alone are found in the world; about 1,200 different kinds are recorded from North America and of these approximately 350 occur in Iowa. Not only is the number of species large, but also the number of individuals is considerable. Competent authorities estimate that there are in the United States 3,800,000,000 nesting birds of all kinds and that, in addition, 3,800,000,000 more birds pass through the United States in their migratory journey. Such an abundance of an active, graceful, beautiful and interesting type of animal life, many forms of which are further attractive to us by reason of their vocal ability, can not be easily overlooked.

Moreover, birds offer unusual opportunities for cultivating the powers of observation as well as for purposes of study and recreation. In addition, they are desirable about our homes and on our farms for the economic benefits which they confer. They are man's only natural allies in the continuous warfare which he must wage against injurious weeds, mammals and above all, insects.

One of the results of the nation-wide movement for the protection of birds has been the acquisition of better and more complete knowledge of their habits, peculiarities and requirements by an ever-increasing mass of people. Those who have had the conservation of our native birds most at