

and that if a horse should eat at the same rate he would consume a ton of hay in 24 hours. He quotes Forbush to the effect that a certain flesh-eating larva will consume in 24 hours 200 times its own original weight, which would be equivalent to a human infant eating 1,500 pounds of beef during the first day of its existence. He cites Trouvelot as authority for the statement that the food taken by a single silkworm in 56 days equals 86,000 times its own original weight. What destruction would be wrought by insects were it not for their numerous enemies!

It was estimated in 1921 that insects annually destroy one billion dollars' worth of forest and agricultural products in the United States and that but for the birds the damage would be \$444,000,000 more annually—damage reduced about 28 per cent. by the activity of the birds. Good business sense dictates the reasonable protection of creatures responsible for such a saving. Another estimate of the destructiveness of insects in the United States places it as \$20 per year for every man, woman and child in the country, or more than two billion dollars. It is reported that the annual loss caused by insects in this country increased from \$300,000,000 in 1863 to \$800,000,000 in 1904, and has continued to increase.

According to Forbes, in Illinois the birds destroy about 70 per cent. of the annual insect crop, which surely must act as a very effective check upon their increase. Attwater, in an address to a Farmers' Congress, declared that the birds in Texas require about 35,000 bushels of insects for food per day, and added that the estimate is too low at that. Think of all the damage those insects and their progeny, coming on in an unending and rapidly increasing procession, would do if permitted to live! Bryant says that the Meadowlarks alone in the Sacramento Valley, California, consume 193 tons of insects daily in feeding their young during the nesting season.

Many years ago it was estimated that the annual damage done to the apple crop by the codlin moth in the United States was from \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000. At least 36 species of birds are known to feed upon the codling larvæ, destroying in some localities from 66 per cent. to 85 per cent. of the insects, according to McAtee, who says:

"Since 1746 nearly all entomologists who have published accounts of the codling moth have paid high tribute to its avian enemies, and they are almost unanimous in declaring birds to be the most efficient natural enemies."

True, with the vast increase in acreage of orchards the birds are not able to control the pests, but nevertheless they render valiant service to the orchardists in destroying a large percentage of the insects.

In a badly canker-infested apple orchard in Illinois it was