

REMEDIES AGAINST BIRD DESTRUCTION.

(Extracted from "*The Practical Value of Birds*," by JUNIUS HENDERSON.)

Many things can be done not only to prevent undue destruction of birds, but also to encourage them and increase their numbers where advisable. Foremost among these is the creation of a healthy public sentiment by the dissemination of accurate information. An astonishing number of otherwise well-informed people are totally ignorant of the practical value of birds—their relation to human welfare. Much is being done to correct this (in the United States). Much more should be done.

The interest of thousands of school teachers has been enlisted and they have introduced the study of birds into the curricula of their schools, but there are large areas where nothing of this kind has yet been done. The Audubon Societies, with their junior organisations, are doing splendid work along this line, a work that should be pushed into every corner of the land. In a great many localities the Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and kindred movements are doing good work in interesting the youth of the land in Nature, including the birds. It is quite customary in some portions of the country to call upon the Boy Scouts to post notices in the forests and along the highways, urging people to protect the birds and spare the wild flowers. Such organisations should be given every possible encouragement and every effort should be made to get executives for the organisations who are themselves well trained, in order that the information they pass along to the boys and girls may be accurate. Many newspapers are willing to give space to articles bearing upon this subject, and such articles should be prepared by men and women who have made sufficient study of the subject to avoid misleading statements. Much may be done by those interested in the study of birds to encourage the newspapers of their localities to devote more space to the subject, in connection with other phases of natural science, and to furnish the editors with information.

Such a campaign of education is essential to the passage of wise laws for the protection of birds, but the passage of laws cannot solve the problem. Laws will not be enforced without enthusiastic public sentiment behind them. A sufficient police force to patrol the whole country and watch for violations of the law is not practicable. Furthermore, the great majority of officers charged with the enforcement of laws do not even know there are any laws for the protection of any but the game birds, have not the slightest knowledge of the need of such protection or of the importance of birds, and are totally devoid of any interest in the subject. Hence our chief hope lies in the educational campaign,