

the dissemination of knowledge, the creation of public sentiment based upon that knowledge.

A number of sportsmen's associations in the United States are engaged in intelligent patriotic efforts to conserve game birds. Many of their members are also interested in the protection of non-game birds. They should receive support in all proper endeavours. It is not at all advisable to prevent hunting, but it is quite important to place it under proper control; otherwise in a short time there will be no hunting. Extreme sentimentalists who demand complete cessation of hunting in most cases eat the flesh of fishes and mammals killed in quite as cruel ways as is the game killed by the hunter. The need is of intelligent conservation in the interests of all the people, and that is what most sportsmen's organisations are seeking. They may sometimes make mistakes, as we all do, but their motives are usually good and mistakes can usually be corrected if detected in time.

The early bird laws of the United States provided for the destruction of birds by means of bounty acts, instead of their protection. Especially were laws directed against such gregarious birds as the Blackbirds and Crows, because they were generally supposed to be altogether harmful to crops, and against the Hawks and Owls, because they were all suspected of being enemies of the poultry. Subsequent investigation has shown that the Blackbirds and Crows do a great deal of good to offset the damage they do, and only a few species of Hawks and Owls cause trouble in the poultry yards, while the great majority do a vast amount of good in the destruction of injurious rodents and insects. Consequently, such laws are not now very much in vogue.

Through the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture, the American Ornithologists' Union, the National Association of Audubon Societies and other organisations and individuals, most States have enacted laws for the protection of all except a few species of non-game birds, while the national government has negotiated treaties with adjacent countries providing for protection of migratory birds, and Congress has enacted a law providing for the regulation of hunting migratory birds, under the terms of the treaties.

A number of very important bulletins and other publications dealing with methods of attracting birds have been published during the past few years. Among the suggestions offered, an important one is the provision of feeding places and food for birds during bad weather and times of scarcity of food. Another is the planting of wild fruits and other non-commercial fruits attractive to the birds and affording them a substitute for cultivated fruits in order that they may not be so strongly tempted by ripening cherries.