

The provision of better nesting places is very necessary where natural nesting sites are scarce. For species that nest in holes, enclosed bird boxes may be provided, of different sizes and especially with openings of different sizes for various species. In many places small piles of brush may be so placed as to provide nesting cover for ground-nesting species. The value of encouraging the nesting of birds has been demonstrated on more than one occasion. For example, Forbush tells us that an invasion of army worms in Massachusetts did no harm on farms where provision has been made for nesting sites. Hewitt says that in 1905, in a large area in Germany, where insects were defoliating the trees, the wood of Baron von Berlepsch, in which birds had been encouraged by numerous nesting boxes, was almost untouched by the insects, which were kept in check by the birds. The Baron has written a book on *Methods of Attracting and Protecting Wild Birds*, and Wharton has from his own observations given us a shorter account of the methods adopted.

The necessity of protecting birds, particularly during the nesting season, from stray house cats has been discussed at some length in another chapter. As therein indicated, a large proportion of young birds about farms, villages, towns and cities, upon leaving the nests, become victims of cats. If all the cats could be kept in confinement during the nesting season, it would immediately result in a large increase in the numbers of insectivorous birds. Manicuring the cats has also been found effective. Cat-proof wire fences, which prevent the cats from entering enclosures where birds are nesting, and guards for the trunks of trees, which prevent cats from climbing them after young birds in the nest, have been devised. Anti-cat ordinances have been passed in some cities and proposed in others, but they have not proved popular, because of ignorance of the facts, and are bitterly opposed by those who believe that their cats should be allowed to run at large regardless of the rights of their neighbours.

The establishment of properly guarded private and public bird preserves—areas in which the destruction of birds of all kinds is prohibited at all seasons—is another means of encouraging the birds and maintaining their existence or even increasing their numbers locally. Numbers of such refuges have been provided, but the plan is capable of great extension and doubtless much more will be done in that direction in the future. The setting aside of their breeding places as refuges is an especially valuable method of preventing the extermination of such birds as the Egrets. The desperate character of the market hunters is revealed by the fact that wardens of some such preserves have been killed by the collectors of plumage for the hats of the fair sex—a business unintentionally encouraged by those who demand the plumage.