

living by cultivating gardens, orchards, or farms on which Hawks render valuable service as destroyers of rats, mice, and various insects. In short, such people have property-rights which are served by some species of Hawks.

If the rights of the whole citizenry of a commonwealth be not taken into consideration when dealing with predacious birds, then, in truth, the game-guardian places himself in an attitude which, stripped of all verbiage, may be stated as follows:

"The hunting fraternity has the exclusive authority to preside over the destinies of the game-birds of the State. As individuals, men have the right to destroy any wild creature that they have reason to believe may be inimical to the interests of the game in their breeding-fields. By the same token, the State should encourage, by bounties or otherwise, as far as possible, the total destruction of all such creatures. This will tend to increase game and give us better shooting." In truth, the actions of some game-protectors give colour to the thought that if they should carefully analyse their own minds, they would find that this declaration quite accurately describes their point of view.

The very fact that game-protective societies of hunters have been the leaders and largely the dominating force in securing game-restrictive laws has very naturally caused many to feel that they have a very large right in the game, much of which exists to-day because of their legislative activities. This may readily be conceded, but there are many people who will strongly oppose the idea that sportsmen have the exclusive right to the game.

A strong resentment exists in the minds of many people because of the growing tendency to set in motion campaigns for wholesale killing of Hawks, regardless of species. State bounties on all Hawks are regarded as unwise and as unfair to the agriculturist and bird-lover. At our office we receive many complaints of gunners shooting Hawks in their line of flight during the period of fall migration, and of pole-traps, which, because of the habits of the birds, catch chiefly the more useful Hawks as well as occasional Bluebirds, Mockingbirds, and other distinctly useful species.

As men we like to feel that we should be judged by the useful duties we presumably perform, rather than by the errors which we make. Why not judge a bird—even a Hawk—by a similar standard? I believe if the people of the country knew of the value of certain Hawks and were familiar with the appearance of these species, they would withhold their fire when a useful Hawk flies over. Will not the responsible leaders in conservation in the various States of the Union exhibit an interest in helping to educate the people of their States on this subject? The Game