

Commissioners are supposed to enforce all the bird and game protective laws of their respective commonwealths, also to take a leading part in educating the citizens to a better appreciation of the value of all wild life to the State.

The Biological Survey has published some extremely valuable literature showing much of the feeding habits of Hawks and Owls based on examination of stomach contents. Here will be found sufficient evidence to show that many of these species are undoubtedly more beneficial to mankind than they are harmful.

I conclude, therefore, with this plea: In the interests of agricultural investments of the country, in consideration of the feelings of bird-lovers, for the sake of these great, handsome birds themselves, and in a spirit of fair play, will the game authorities not be willing to discourage State-wide bounty systems on the killing of all kinds of Hawks, and will they not accept the offer of the National Association of Audubon Societies to assist in educating the people of the country, so that they may be better able to distinguish those species protected by law? Is this not a fair proposition?

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## NATURAL AGENCIES.

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Of the several natural agencies influencing insect-development, birds and insect-feeding insects can be brought more or less under human control and utilized for the purpose of holding in check insects injurious to forests. As has already been shown, the native birds are intimately associated with the forests, and are responsible in part for keeping the insect balance. The great reduction of these birds, through altered environment, has been responsible for the increase of several insects. There is ample evidence to show that the native insectivorous birds are essential to the success of the indigenous forests, and in many cases to the development of exotic trees; and the preservation and increase of native birds should be an outstanding feature of forest-development. The utility of the bird factor is well illustrated in an account from Germany (1): In two forests separated by a road, one suffered from complete defoliation by moth-caterpillars, while the other, which was an established bird sanctuary, was undamaged, and the swarms of moths that migrated to it from the infested area were devoured by the flocks of birds.—*"Forest and Timber Insects of New Zealand, Bulletin II,"* by Dr. David Miller, B.Sc., F.E.S.