

the birds, the weaker old ones as well as the weaker young ones making way for those more vigorous.

According to the food supply, the birds can never exceed a certain number, and all the country is already fully winter-stocked with birds, so out of all those reared every season not 25 per cent. can possibly survive. Their only chance of survival is in being provided with food; if left altogether to Nature the mortality will be very heavy.

More food trees planted, more food given, more shelter provided, means more birds; and more birds means more assistance against the huge invisible army of insect pests, which assistance is their reward to us for our assistance to them; besides that, we have their beauty and their song.

Remember, then, that in August, when we move about well fed in our furs and warm coats, when we smell the daphne and welcome the first narcissus, the birds, our friends, are hungry and starving.

—*Johannes C. Anderson.*

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### HANDY BIRD FOODS.

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Many species of birds take fat freely, especially beef suet. Many also like potato, especially baked potato, or porridge, not excepting Tuis and Bellbirds, which can also be fed on sugar syrup (three parts water to one of sugar by measure). Even pumpkin is appreciated by some in the winter. Don't however, forget about the cat and keep your feeders high and out of the reach of this ever-present enemy.

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### MOORHEN TEACHES MEN.

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A notice board requesting visitors not to spoil the scenery by scattering rubbish about hangs from a tree at Bonchurch Pond, in the Isle of Wight. It reads:—"On an island in this pond each year a moorhen makes her nest, exhibiting to all an example of industry, patience, and mother love most worthy of imitation. Also, she never throws rubbish into the pond, thus adding to her many virtues the crown of neatness."

—*"Christian Science Monitor."*