

All boys and girls can help to prevent the state of affairs described by Longfellow from occurring in the United States. Protect the birds and their nests. Let no harm come to them if it is in your power to prevent it. The boy that saves the life of one pair of robins and the offspring for ten years will have saved 120,932,352 robins and this means a very large amount of money in crops, as the birds save the crops. The boy who destroys one pair of robins will have destroyed the millions of birds in ten years which means the destruction of a very large value in crops.

You may ask why it is that we do not have more birds than we do if the rate of increase is so great? There are many circumstances in the life of birds that cut off this increase. The food supply for all seasons of the year is the greatest factor in the bird problem. The next factor of importance is the severe climatic changes which occur in this country. Some of the other hinderances are the cat, the English sparrow, and the thoughtless boy.

Has man had anything to do in cutting off the food supply of the birds? He is proven guilty, sentence is passed, and the penalty is being worked out. Man in clearing the land destroyed the native fruits that were the birds' natural supply, so they take the next best, the tame fruits. Do not kill the bird that more than pays for the small amount of fruit it eats by destroying harmful insects.

Many birds are killed in storms of wind, rain, sleet, snow and hail. The migratory birds in changing from north to south often venture too late and are overtaken by a snow storm or severe cold weather. They are also caught in the same manner when they venture from the south too early in the spring. Man has destroyed much of their natural shelter in clearing the land for his home. Beyond this man is not responsible for the destruction caused by climatic conditions. The cat is recognized by many as the worst enemy of our native birds. My attention has been drawn to many a tree by the plaintive cry of the robin as she tries to frighten the cat from her nest containing the young ones. Professor Forbush observed a cat destroy six birds' nests in one day, and he has estimated that the cat is responsible for the death of about fifty birds a year.

The few pairs of little birds that were let loose in the City of Boston a few years ago, with the hopes that they would destroy the canker worms that were devouring the leaves of their shade trees, have become a menace to the lives of many of our native birds. They break up the nests of robins, bluebirds, wrens, swallows, song sparrows and vireos. The English Sparrows commence nesting in February, choosing various places for their nests, such as bird-houses, hollow trees, nooks about the barn, in fact they select many desirable places and if any bird dares to interfere the sparrows will mob him. Thousands of dollars have been