

except in rare cases, where individuals attack cultivated fruits and grains our native birds merely preserve the balance of nature by destroying weeds that plague the farmer and by checking the insects that destroy the produce of the agriculturist. The great value of birds is demonstrated. The question is first how to attract them where they have disappeared, and then how to protect the crops from their occasional depredations."

The English Sparrow comes in for severe condemnation. "It has been shown to interfere with seventy kinds of our own birds, most of which nest about houses and gardens and are beneficial to the farm and garden." Its extermination is advocated. "Bounty laws cannot do this, for, as has been clearly demonstrated, they do more mischief than can be easily remedied, as money is usually spent on the heads of valuable birds that have been mistaken for the injurious ones. But the work might be effectively done by State boards or commissioners, who should hire trained assistants to destroy the birds and their nests."

Miss Merriam's articles are illustrated with numerous cuts of the birds and insects especially mentioned, derived mainly from the recent publications on these subjects by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.—J. A. A.

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