

(24) *Spizella pusilla*—Field Sparrow. Common on both days throughout the borough.

(25) *Junco hyemalis*—Slate-colored Junco. Common on both days in the more rural sections.

(26) *Melospiza melodia*—Song Sparrow. Common on both days throughout the section.

(27) *Hirundo erythrogastra*—Barn Swallow. Two were observed in company with the Tree Swallows over the lake on the 14th.

(28) *Iridoprocne bicolor*—Tree Swallow. Six were found on the lake during the morning of the 13th. On the 14th they were common over the lake all day.

(29) *Anthus rubescens*—Pipit. One was seen near the Pequannock River on the 13th.

(30) *Sitta carolinensis*—White-breasted Nuthatch. One found at the Steel Works on the 14th.

(31) *Planesticus migratorius*—Robin. Common on all sides on both days.

(32) *Sialia sialis*. Common on both days throughout the borough.

April 16, 1912.

LOUIS S. KOHLER.

BIRDS AND CATS.

The Audubon Society of Massachusetts, a branch of the great national association, of which there are tens of thousands of members in this country, is appealing to the people to assist in the protection of birds by not allowing their cats to roam during the season when young birds are leaving their nests.

In a fruit-growing section like North East, where thousands of dollars worth of apples and other fruits are destroyed every year by insect pests, and where spraying and other measures are imperatively necessary to hold these pests in check, we need every available bird to pull with us in fighting the noxious insects.

Here in town hundreds of young birds might be saved every spring if these who own cats would not allow them to roam at pleasure during the nesting season.

This is looking at the matter from an economic point of view. There is another view that appeals as strongly to the writer, and that is the pleasure of seeing the wild birds and hearing their cheerful songs.

Many birds come from the woods to town for better protection of themselves, their eggs and their young from the owls, hawks, crows, shrikes, squirrels, skunks, weasels, minks, and last, but not

least, from the boys with guns. The better we protect them the more of them will come.

Since spring shooting of ducks has been prohibited in New York, thousands of ducks winter in waters of the central part of that state. Those that stay north are not limited to the hard-weather kinds, but include those that naturally would go south, were it not for the fact that they prefer to endure the rigor of a northern winter rather than risk their lives by being constantly harassed by the shotgun at the south.

Palm Beach and some other winter resorts in Florida prohibit shooting within a mile of town. Pelicans, ducks and other wild water birds resort to these places and soon become so tame one can approach within a boat's length of some of them.

These instances show that birds are not slow to appreciate efforts in their behalf and to take advantage of them.

Is the reader among those who regret the seeming decrease year by year in the number of birds hereabouts? Do you realize that your cats are feasting on dozens of baby birds each year, and thereby making you partly responsible for such a condition? Birds and cats don't go well together. If you have a cat and don't need one, how would it strike you to open negotiation with some boy to eliminate her? Thereby you would do a commendable act in a good cause.

The birds will soon begin to return from the south. We will enjoy having the wrens, the bluebirds, the flickers, the catbirds, the yellow warblers, the crows, and other birds that nested on our premises last year come back to us again this spring. We will greet their coming as though it were friends in human form, and will try to make it unpleasant for any of the feline tribe that roam about our garden when the young birds are learning to fly.

North East, Pa., March 20, 1912.

B.

—o—

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1912.

Balloting for Officers for the year 1912 resulted in the selection of W. E. Saunders, London, Ont., for President; Bradshaw H. Swales, Grosse Isle, Mich., for Vice-President; C. W. G. Eifrig, Addison, Ill., for Secretary; W. E. Henninger, New Bremen, Ohio, for Treasurer; Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Pa., J. H. Fleming, Toronto, Ont., and Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio, for the Executive Council.

For most of the offices the vote was very close.