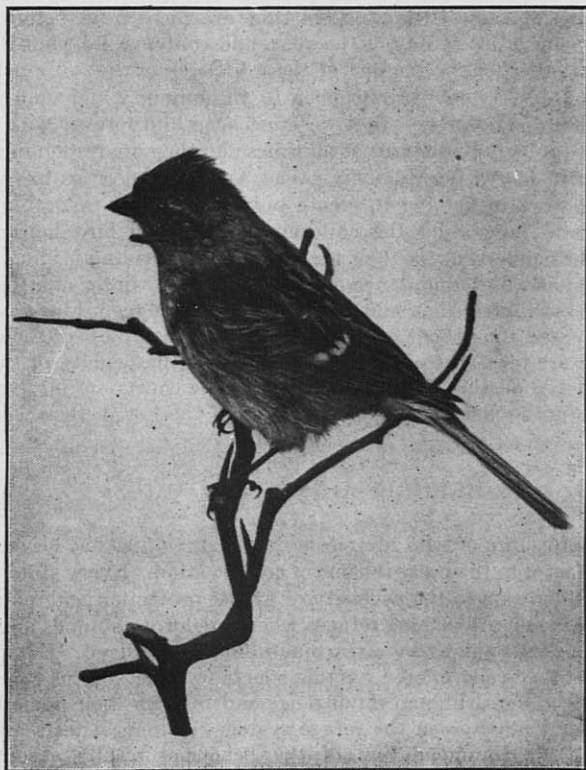


INSECTIVEROUS AND SONG BIRDS.

It is only within the past few years that any public attention was given to this class of birds. They came and went at their pleasure, and if they were fortunate enough to pass unmolested it was their good fortune. They were not looked upon as contributing anything of value to the human race other than their cheering songs and graceful presence about our daily



TREE SPARROW

walks. The hunter had no scruples as to shooting them just to see them fall prey to his marksmanship, and the small boy took delight in pursuing them with his toy implements of destruction. We are surprised that more of the species were not exterminated before modern education brought relief to these helpless creatures of the air.

Reason and education has at last rescued them from the perils that pursued them continually and we have found that they are as indispensable to humanity as the sunshine and rain. We have found that without the birds, agriculture would be a lost industry and the green fields and foliage

would disappear and a barren waste would follow in the wake of their destruction. No flowers would bloom or blossoms spring from the earth, but insects would swarm and vermin would cover the earth; and famine and desolation would be visited upon an ignorant and unholy race.

Our scientists have found that the value of these little creatures computed in dollars and cents alone amounts to millions of dollars annually. It is not beyond our reason to comprehend this when they have proven to us that many of the different varieties of insectivorous birds eat three times their weight in insects each day. Multiply this by the countless millions of these little workers that are busy from before sunrise until after sunset every day of the year, and contemplate what it means. It means that when we see one of these little creatures we must realize that he is a mighty creature for good to all humanity and that our lives depend upon his industry—that we must keep him forever with us.

The law protects these birds at all times and they are responding to this protection in increasing numbers. The Audubon societies have done a wonderful work in helping to create public sentiment favorable to bird life. Also in interesting the children in providing bird houses where they will be convenient for their nesting and in providing feeding stations where the birds find abundance of food during the winter months.

We still have a few alien inhabitants who have no regard for any species of wild life and they shoot or destroy the birds regardless of their usefulness. We are pleased to report, however, that the penalty of the law is easily inflicted on this class of violaters, as the courts are intolerant and invariably pronounce the extreme penalty of the law in these cases.

REFUGES AND SANCTUARIES.

The establishing of wild life refuges and sanctuaries has become a tremendous factor in the great scheme of conservation. Every state that has given consideration to the necessity of proper protection and maintaining of its species are establishing refuges where predatory animals and vermin are exterminated and every disturbing influence removed. Lured by the security and solitude offered by this sanctuary, the various species congregate with almost human intelligence and take up their home life.

States that have given the refuge system the longest tests are unanimous in their commendation of the beneficial results accomplished. Some states have set aside large tracts of wild lands, mostly timber lands, around which a single wire is strung to mark the boundary, and have placed posters short distances apart warning hunters and pedestrians that no firearms are allowed within the enclosure. The overflow from these refuges keeps the surrounding country supplied with the various species and guarantees a perpetual flow from these refuge districts for all time.

We have started this work in Wisconsin, having posted two community refuges, besides the six state parks, which are all patrolled by our wardens and careful attention given to the removing of disturbing elements. We are, however, handicapped through a lack of a proper refuge law to give these refuges the legal distinction they should have and the power to this commission necessary for state wide extension of this work. Our com-