

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-

mission has framed a refuge law which we are submitting to this legislature for passage, which, if passed, will equip us to carry on this work in the manner it should be. The coming of the automobile has opened the remote districts where seclusion was found, and settlement is encroaching more and more upon their habitations. This condition demands that broader protection must be given for these creatures, which is best afforded by a generous supply of refuges.

DEER.

The immediate danger of exterminating our deer was overcome by the passage of the one buck law by our last legislature. This is a proven method of conservation. Sixteen other states have tried this method prior to the passage of the one buck law in Wisconsin. Something had to be done to save our deer, as settlements are fast encroaching on the wilderness and the fast increasing population is narrowing the area of their habitation. Consequently we must throw around them the necessary protection to retain them as an abundant game animal. In the light of experience, we know that no animal responds more readily to protection and encouragement than the deer, for our first year's trial of the one buck law has resulted in producing more fawns this year than have been seen in the deer territory in any previous year. Nothing is more reasonable if we exercise common sense, than that by retaining our female deer we will perpetuate the specie. The farmer, rearing his domestic cattle or other animals, keeps his females and sells off the males, thus providing against depletion of his herds. The one buck law is a common sense law and it needs no scientist or prophet to figure out the benefits that must surely follow its enforcement. Every sportsman who desires to leave to his posterity the inheritance that God ordained to the children of men will support this law with his very best efforts.

This law, we realize, is an inconvenience to the hunter who cares for nothing only to satisfy his desire to kill. He is angry when he sees the white tails bounding through the brush and he is obliged to restrain his passion to shoot until he can see the antlers. We admit there are hunters who will take the chance and shoot regardless of the consequences, but such men are not sportsmen. They belong to that class of hunters that should be denied a citizen's right to secure a license. We believe that a majority of our hunters are true sportsmen who are out for the sport, and their red blood demands the antlers.

To prove the efficiency of the one buck law to increase the supply of deer, we quote the experience that the state of Vermont has had with this law, it being the first state to adopt the law and consequently having had the longest experience:

"Forty years ago, as a result of persistent hunting the deer were exterminated in the state of Vermont. In 1878 twenty sportsmen raised a fund and purchased from the Adirondack section of New York seventeen deer which were released in Turland and Bennington counties and protected by a closed season which continued for nineteen years. In 1897 an open season was again given, and has been continued each year since that