

Birds as an Adjunct to the Golf Course

In devoting this number of the Bulletin to the subject of attracting birds to golf course properties, the editors are prompted by the feeling that if added interest can be awakened in and added support given to the harboring of desirable birds on golf courses, the benefits to be derived therefrom should be far-reaching, affecting not only the greenkeeper and the golf club patron, but all who are in love with nature.

Any organization or publication seeking to improve playing conditions on golf courses is certain to recognize the value of birds. Even



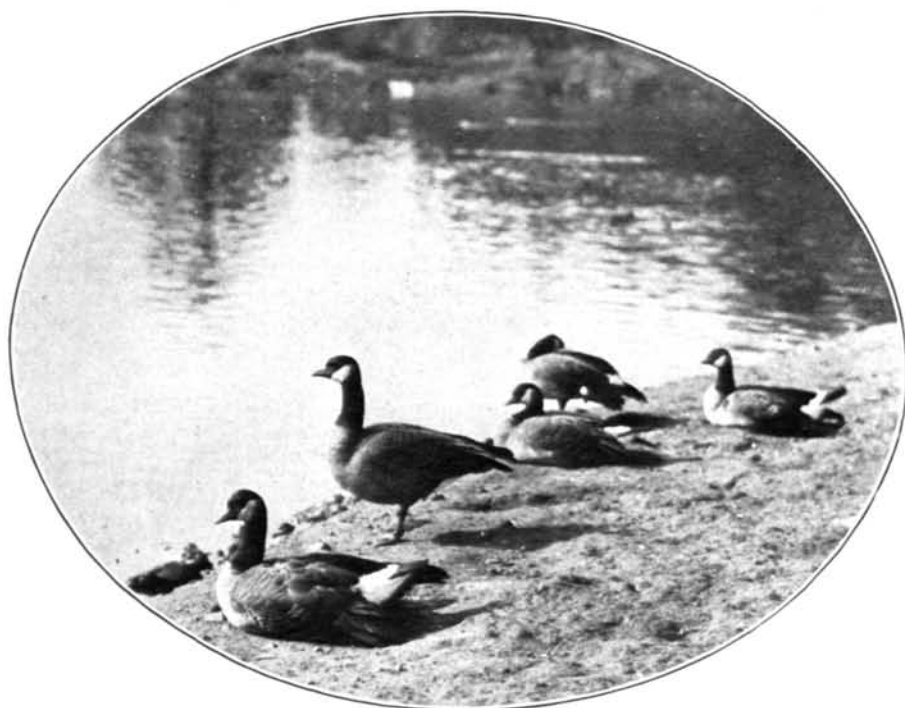
The robin is the best worm-killer of them all

consideration of the subject from the cold dollars-and-cents viewpoint (which is the viewpoint too many green committees are unfortunately forced to take) fully justifies the emphasis that is being given to bird protection on many golf courses. Each year the total expenditure made for poisons to control insect pests and for labor and chemicals for controlling weeds on the golf courses of the country is increasing. As the standards of turf are gradually raised it is indeed

likely that insect damage will become more noticed and objectionable. For the control of insects injurious to turf and other vegetation about the course, clubs may have to choose between such natural insect control agencies as birds and the much more expensive artificial control with chemical poisons. Undoubtedly the best solution will be a combination of both the natural and artificial remedies. To develop an effective insect-fighting and weed-fighting force by encouraging birds on a golf course requires but a slight addition to the yearly budget. It does, however, call for some little effort on the part of one or more club members who may take the leadership in aiding the birds by attending to the few details of providing the necessary encouragement and protection. It usually requires only a little missionary work on the part of a few bird lovers to obtain the cooperation and interest of the entire club membership to the extent of at least giving friendly consideration to the bird life on the club property and to encourage the caddies to have a similar respect.

In addition to their value as insect and weed seed destroyers, birds are an asset to any golf club in many ways, which need not be enumerated to any one interested in the out-of-doors. One of the ad-

vantages that devotees of the game proudly claim for golf when comparing it with the other great games played with balls, such as football, polo, baseball, or tennis, is that in playing golf the player is able to enjoy not only his game but at the same time leisurely to enjoy nature if he chooses. Most of the favorite courses or individual holes are favorites because of an intangible something that can not be expressed in yardage, turf, hazards, or other features that affect merely the playing of the game. They are undoubtedly favorites because of certain happy combinations of natural surroundings with fine playing conditions. One need only ask a golfer why he particularly likes such-and-such a course, or a certain hole on the course, to realize that his choice is influenced by factors that he finds difficult to explain. Undoubtedly the natural wild life plays an important



A visit from a few wild geese will give the old water hazard an entirely different aspect

part in much of this subconscious evaluation. Different players are influenced by different factors; but it is safe to say that a big majority are at some time influenced by the bird life. A large water hazard may be simply a large body of water with infinite possibilities for swallowing balls. That same hazard becomes quite a different body of water to most golfers when a flock of wild mallards uses it for a feeding place. The same may be said of the influence of other birds in other places around the course. On many courses the value of birds is appreciated, and they are constantly encouraged. On most courses they are practically ignored except for the individual admiration of the members. In a few cases they have been misunderstood and treated as pests. On some courses where grubs or worms are plentiful in the turf, birds may make objectionable holes in dig-

ging for these turf destroyers. Indiscriminately shooting the birds in such cases at best shows an absence of intelligent handling of the problem. On one well-known course last year a man was employed full time to walk around the course and shoot all birds on sight. Such ignorance in dealing with turf problems is fortunately becoming rare. It is now generally recognized that where birds are concentrating on greens and making objectionable holes they are doing the club a service in giving warning that grubs are becoming too numerous in that turf and that some measure should be taken against the grubs rather than the birds. There are of course a few exceptional cases where some birds may become nuisances in different ways, including their harm to desirable birds, which call for drastic measures to limit their numbers.

The Green Section has always been on record as an organization friendly to birds on golf courses. Throughout the back volumes of the Bulletin there have been repeated appeals to clubs to encourage



Bird houses are furnished by dealers in a variety of attractive designs

birds. A series of twelve articles, beginning in the first volume, written especially for the Bulletin by W. L. McAtee, who has charge of the division of food habits research in the United States Biological Survey, has undoubtedly served to stimulate much interest in the subject on golf courses. A large number of courses in different parts of the country are already well-established bird sanctuaries and, as a result, have become doubly interesting to many of the players. While anxious to help in every possible way the cause of wild life on courses, the Green Section of necessity must make the bird interest only one of its minor interests. It is indeed gratifying to learn that there has now been established an organization which makes the bird question on golf courses its prime interest. This is the Golf Club Bird Sanctuary Committee of the National Association of Audubon Societies. The committee, whose headquarters are at 1974 Broad-

way, New York City, consists of the following: T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, chairman; Eugene S. Wilson, vice-president of the American Telegraph and Telephone Company, secretary; Robert T. Jones, Jr.; Grantland Rice, sports writer; Bruce Barton, author; Frank M. Chapman, curator of birds at the American Museum of Natural History; and Arthur A. Allen, professor of ornithology at Cornell University.

This committee has adopted as its slogan "Every golf club a bird sanctuary," and has started its campaign by publishing a 64-page pamphlet entitled "Golf Clubs as Bird Sanctuaries," to which further reference is made by Dr. Arthur A. Allen in his article in this number of the Bulletin. Readers of the Bulletin are urged to obtain a copy of the pamphlet and give serious consideration to the bird sanctuary movement. The National Association of Audubon Societies will gladly aid in any way it can clubs seeking advice. Mr. Horace Mitchell, in charge of the game-breeding department of *Field and Stream* magazine, offers in this number of the Bulletin the aid of his organization also to clubs which are interested especially in the encouragement of game birds. Furthermore, the United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., is and always has been anxious to help those interested in birds. The names of dealers in devices for attracting birds and of dealers in wild duck and quail food plants can be obtained from the Biological Survey.

The following publications are available and will be of assistance to those wishing to obtain information on birds in relation to golf courses:

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND ARTICLES ON BIRDS

PUBLISHED BY AND OBTAINABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS IN THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES. States from Pennsylvania and New Jersey northward. Farmers' Bulletin 621.

HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS IN THE NORTHWESTERN UNITED STATES. Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. Farmers' Bulletin 760.

HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS IN THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES. North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland. Farmers' Bulletin 844.

HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS IN THE EAST CENTRAL STATES. States from Kentucky, Missouri, and eastern Kansas northward. Farmers' Bulletin 912.

COMMUNITY BIRD REFUGES. Of general application. Farmers' Bulletin 1239.

HOMES FOR BIRDS. Relates to bird houses. Farmers' Bulletin 1456.

ELEVEN IMPORTANT WILD-DUCK FOODS. Department Bulletin 205.

PROPAGATION OF WILD-DUCK FOODS. Department Bulletin 465.

PROPAGATION OF UPLAND GAME BIRDS. Contains a chapter on improving coverts for upland game birds. Farmers' Bulletin 1613.

GOURDS FOR BIRD HOUSES AND OTHER PURPOSES. Leaflet 36.

HOW TO MAKE A CAT TRAP. Leaflet 50.

SPARROW TRAPS. Leaflet 61.

PUBLISHED BY AND OBTAINABLE FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
AUDUBON SOCIETIES, 1974 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

PUTTING UP BIRD BOXES. B. S. Bowdish. Special Leaflet 18.

HOW TO ATTRACT AND PROTECT WILD BIRDS. Martin Hiesemann.

A LIST OF TREES, SHRUBS, VINES, AND HERBACEOUS PLANTS NATIVE TO NEW ENGLAND BEARING FRUIT OF SEEDS ATTRACTIVE TO BIRDS. F. H. Kennard.

ATTRACTING BIRDS ABOUT THE HOME. H. K. Job.

THE PROPAGATION OF WILD BIRDS. A manual of applied ornithology. H. K. Job.

GOLF CLUBS AS BIRD SANCTUARIES.

ARTICLES BY W. L. McATEE, U. S. BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,
APPEARING IN PREVIOUS NUMBERS OF THE BULLETIN

ATTRACTING BIRDS TO GOLF COURSES. November, 1921, pages 228-231. At-

tractiveness of golf courses to birds noted and general suggestions given as to improving food and water supply and giving additional protection.

FRIENDLY BIRDS ON THE GOLF COURSE. August, 1922, pages 229-232. Brief accounts of the services of 9 kinds of birds in destroying insects injurious to golf courses.

SHRUBBERY ABOUT GOLF COURSES. December, 1922, pages 338-339. Suggestions as to the extent to which shrubbery can be used about golf courses and notes on the kinds most useful in providing food for birds.

USES OF EVERGREENS ON GOLF COURSES. May, 1923, page 138. Evergreens provide shelter and food for birds. Suggested uses for them on golf courses.

BIRDS OF THE GOLF COURSE, THE KILLDEER. May, 1926, pages 116-117. The killdeer destroys numerous pests of golf courses and should be encouraged whenever possible.

BIRDS OF THE GOLF COURSE, THE ROBIN. July, 1926, pages 162-163. The robin not only feeds extensively upon earthworms, but consumes many insects destructive to grasses.

BIRDS OF THE GOLF COURSE, THE FLICKER. September, 1926, pages 200-202. This bird excels as an ant-eater, but has other pests of the fairway and green on its dietary. Suggestions as to methods of attracting flickers.

BIRDS OF THE GOLF COURSE, THE KINGBIRD. December, 1926, pages 258-259. Attractive characteristic of this species and its valuable food habits commented upon.

BIRDS OF THE GOLF COURSE, THE CHIPPING SPARROW. March, 1927, pages 50-51. A seed-eating bird useful on golf courses; it feeds to a worth-while extent upon insects also.

GOLF CLUBS OWNING LAKES CAN AID WATERFOWL. September, 1927, page 172. Possibility of using water hazards and other bodies of water to attract wild fowl; sources of information mentioned.

BIRDS OF THE GOLF COURSE, THE HORNED LARK. November, 1928, pages 232-233. This hardy relative of the skylark prefers open grasslands like golf courses and is there a useful and charming visitor.

PREVENTING BIRDS FROM DAMAGING GREENS. September, 1929, pages 154-155. Birds digging holes in greens are searching for insects; if the latter are killed by direct insecticidal measures, excavating by birds will cease.

MISCELLANEOUS

WILD BIRD GUESTS. E. H. Baynes. E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 1915.

HOW TO ATTRACT THE BIRDS. Neltje Blanchan. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, N. Y. 1903.

PERMANENT BIRD HOUSES. Gladstone Califf. The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wis. 1925.

BIRD HOUSES AND NESTING BOXES. E. H. Forbush. Circular 47, Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, Boston. 1915.

OUTDOOR BIRD STUDY (HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS). E. H. Forbush. Circular 12, Massachusetts State Department of Agriculture, Boston. 1919.

HOW TO ATTRACT WILD BIRDS ABOUT THE HOME. N. M. Ladd. Greenwich Bird Protective Society, Greenwich, Conn. 1915.

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH BIRDS. N. M. Ladd. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, N. Y. 1916.

FOOD FOR GAME BIRDS AND WILD DUCKS. C. S. Landis. The Shooters' Guide, Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Del. 1925.

OUR NATIVE BIRDS, HOW TO PROTECT THEM AND ATTRACT THEM TO OUR HOMES. D. Lange. Macmillan Co., New York, N. Y. 1899.

SANCTUARIES FOR BIRDS AND HOW TO MAKE THEM. H. J. Massingham. G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., London, England. 1924.

PRACTICAL METHODS FOR ATTRACTING WILD BIRDS. Eleanor Mellen. New England Nurseries Co., Bedford, Mass. 1915.

ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH FOOD AND WATER. R. O. Merriman. M. B. L. 20, Department of Interior, Ottawa, Canada. 1923.

HOW TO HAVE BIRD NEIGHBORS. S. Louise Patteson. D. C. Heath & Co., Boston. 1917.

BIRD HOUSES BOYS CAN BUILD. A. F. Siefert. Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Ill. 1916.

HAND CRAFT BIRD HOUSES. F. I. Solar. The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wis. 1923.

PLANTING FOR THE BIRDS. Dayton Stoner. Service Bul. IX (13), University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. 1925.

METHODS OF ATTRACTING BIRDS. G. H. Trafton. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., New York, N. Y. 1910.

BIRD FRIENDS. G. H. Trafton. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., New York, N. Y. 1916.

PLANTING TO ATTRACT BIRDS. Munder-Thomsen Press, Baltimore. 1915.

Wild Life at Pine Valley

By Morris L. Parrish

As a rule few members of a golf club have learned to appreciate the beauty of the wild life that loves to linger in the seclusion of the out-of-bounds or water hazards that the players like to avoid. The appeal of native vegetation is perhaps felt by more individuals than is the appeal of wild bird life, since it seems to be the particular care of the feathered tribe to shun the visitations of the curious. Most golf courses, with their combination of wooded areas, open spaces, and water hazards, afford what is apparently an ideal setting for the attraction of a wide variety of bird life. I have come to take a particular interest in the native birds that visit or make their homes on the property of the Pine Valley Golf Club. Doubtless all of our



On the Pine Valley golf course. Here the combination of tall trees, dense underbrush, open spaces, and abundance of water provides an ideal natural setting for a bird sanctuary

players are familiar with the robins that stalk around over putting greens and fairways in their search for earthworms, or the noisy and conspicuous blue jay, or the crows that occasionally drop down to forage on the turf, or the flocks of purple martins that fly into and around the box near the fourth hole. But how many of them are aware that within the confines of our course may also be found the catbird, the brown thrasher, song sparrows, chewinks, crested flycatchers, the tufted titmouse, wrens, kingfishers, buzzards, and hawks? Bluebirds have this year made their reappearance for the first time since they were driven out by the starlings several years ago. There are also a few quail. On our water hazards there are swans and mallard ducks which breed annually, and Canadian geese. Certainly a greater abundance and variety of this wild life would make its home with us were efforts made to provide food for the birds, especially over the winter, and to establish a bird sanctuary.