

There are a number of cottages built on or adjacent to the golf course, and most of these have martin houses. There are also other bird houses near the cottages, but none in the distant parts of the grounds.

The quantities of insects and weed seeds disposed of by birds on a golf course is not appreciated by many, and greenkeepers, for their own good, would do well to harbor these beneficial and interesting creatures.

With the desirable birds there are, of course, also those that are not wanted, particularly the starlings and English sparrows. These I endeavor to destroy as much as possible around my own residence on the course, where I live the year round. This season at my place we were entirely free of starlings, my gardener having shot them during the winter whenever they appeared, and this fall, after the departure of the martins he will again shoot them should they come. The effect of shooting upon the abundance of English sparrows, however, seems to be wholly negative, as they quickly reappear in as great numbers as ever. There are a number of evergreen trees near our club house and the fifth tee, where the sparrows gather in large numbers. I arranged with a company which specializes in exterminating rats and other vermin with poison gas, to come down and try to rid this grove of evergreens of the sparrows. We selected a night in winter and had the club house vacated for the occasion; the men were on hand with their apparatus, but not a sparrow could be found in the neighborhood; this happened on two occasions.

In concluding, I want to say that if golf clubs wish to attract desirable birds to their golf courses, and place martin houses and other bird boxes around for that purpose, a certain amount of attention should be given to keep sparrows and starlings from inhabiting them.

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## The Golf Club as a Bird Sanctuary

By Arthur A. Allen

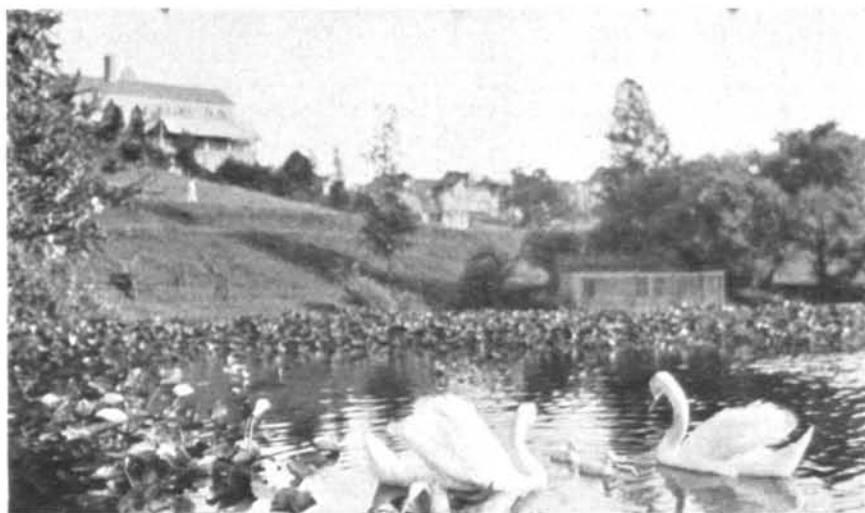
National Association of Audubon Societies

The majority of golfers may not realize that their clubs are ideally situated for giving sanctuary to birds without the slightest inconvenience to the game. It is a mistaken notion that a bird sanctuary must be a large area covered with a tangle of bushes and vines—a real jungle. The places in this country which are richest in bird life are those that combine open areas with clumps of shrubbery or single bushes. The edges of woodlands shelter far more birds than the center of the woods, and pasture lots dotted with thorn apples, dogwoods, and mulberries support still greater numbers. The golf club that has a small wood lot or group of trees where elderberries and dogwoods are encouraged to grow, or permits a few thorn apples or flowering crabs to remain at appropriate places, or has a few mulberry or hackberry trees about the borders, can be an ideal bird sanctuary provided there is water within flying distance for the birds and either dead trees or bird houses for species of birds that naturally nest in cavities. Clubs lacking in any of these features can, with comparatively little expense, provide substitutes that will be equally attractive, and thus in a fairly short time build up a bird population that rivals that of any bird sanctuary in the country.

There are many kinds of birds that frequent golf courses. Some range from coast to coast and from Maine to Florida. Others are

restricted to the East or West or to the North or South. One will not see ground doves and mockingbirds on our northern courses, nor bobolinks and cardinals in California, nor lark sparrows and dickcissels in New England; but everywhere there are robins and bluebirds, meadowlarks and horned larks, vesper and savanna sparrows, mourning doves and killdeers. They are not always identically the same varieties, but to all intents and purposes they are the same, pleasing our eyes with their grace and beauty and cheering our souls with their melodies. The methods which one would use in New York or New England to increase their numbers are the same as he would use in Florida or in California, depending on local conditions of food, water, and shelter.

Some species find food on the green and nesting places in the rough—open-country birds, like the killdeers, larks, and vesper sparrows. To them the abundant insect life or weed seeds provide sufficient food, and the tangled grass of the rough safe nesting places



This water hazard at the Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale, N. Y., has been transformed into a beauty spot by the use of aquatic plants and a family of swans

if enemies are not too numerous. Little has to be done to increase their numbers except to give them protection from careless caddies and careless workmen when cutting the areas around their nests. The addition of drinking and bathing places to those links which have no water hazards will serve to increase the numbers of birds.

Another group of birds find much of their food on or over the green, but depend for nesting sites upon trees, bushes, or bird houses. This group includes such familiar birds as the robin, the bluebird, the grackle, the flicker, the purple martin, the tree swallow, and the kingbird, which are so often seen about the trees. It should also include the cardinals and mockingbirds in the South, the catbirds and thrashers in the North, and the blue jays, the thrushes, the orioles, the wrens, the chickadees, the woodpeckers, and many others if shrubbery is provided about the club house or the outer borders of the rough. These birds, numbering among them some of our most

attractive song birds, can be very materially increased by a well-defined feeding and planting plan which will provide them with food and nesting places. The erecting of nesting boxes for the hole-nesting species, and the addition of bathing and drinking places, are necessary on many golf courses. The creation of a feeling of security over all the course by decreasing the natural enemies of birds, especially cats, and forbidding all guns and sling shots, is highly desirable. It is remarkable what a few Audubon bird-sanctuary signs, to which I shall allude later, will do toward creating the very desirable atmosphere. The signs not only encourage greater protection of birds but also induce greater respect for club property from neighbors and from the caddies.

During the winter months, when bird food is naturally scarce, some clubs make a practice of regularly feeding the winter birds. Those like the woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, and creepers, that naturally feed on hibernating insects, take very kindly to beef suet. Those like the song sparrows, tree sparrows, and juncos, that usually feed on weed seeds, are provided with bread or chick feed and sunflower seed. Those like the robins and waxwings, that depend



The quail is a ground feeder, and when the deep snow comes he huddles together with his friends and waits for it to melt, often starving to death. Winter feeding is sometimes absolutely necessary to preserve quails on a golf course

on wild fruit for a living during the winter, are given apples or raisins until the thorn apples, crabs, and mountain ash trees come into bearing.

The Golf Club Bird-Sanctuary Committee of the National Association of Audubon Societies has just published a 64-page, beautifully illustrated booklet entitled "Golf Clubs as Bird Sanctuaries" to assist clubs in attracting and holding desirable wild birds. The booklet will be sent gratis to officers of golf clubs upon request sent to the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, New York City. The benefits to be derived from birds by golf clubs are pointed out in the booklet by Mr. W. L. McAtee, of the United States Biological Survey. The booklet also shows how many of these beautiful and valuable birds can be materially increased in number by

the proper placing of nesting boxes, the planting of fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, or the addition of bird baths where other water is not available. The suggestion is made at the end of the booklet that each golf club appoint a bird-sanctuary committee of its own to further the project of making the golf course more attractive to birds, and that such committees get in touch with the National Association of Audubon societies.

Dealers in bird-attracting devices, and nurserymen who can supply stock of trees and shrubs attractive to birds, have been asked to make special prices to golf clubs, and a list of these dealers can likewise be secured from the National Association of Audubon Societies.



Flickers are very desirable birds on golf courses because of their fondness for ants. Their natural abode is in the hollow of dead trees. Where these have been removed, pieces of hollow trunks, fitted with top and bottom, fastened to poles or trees, will serve at little expense for their shelter and the rearing of their young

The Association has issued also an attractive poster on heavy cardboard, 14 by 22 inches in size, entitled "Build Bird Houses for These Valuable Birds;" this is available to golf clubs for their bulletin boards or caddie houses. The poster shows in color six of the more attractive birds that can be increased in number about golf clubs by the proper placing of nesting boxes. Directions for building bird houses, and photographs of houses actually in use by birds, add to the value and usefulness of the card.

The Golf Club Bird-Sanctuary Committee of the National Association of Audubon Societies announces that while its project has been inaugurated this year in the State of New York only, for the sake of convenience, its assistance and cooperation are offered to clubs anywhere in the United States and Canada.