



U. S. Department of Agriculture
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BIRDS HELP SCHOOL GROUNDS.

How and Why They Should Be Attracted to the Yard or Campus.

Washington, D. C. Birds have such an important part in the courses of nature study given in most schools and colleges that more should be done, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, to attract them to school grounds or campuses.

Unfortunately, says the department, the campus, like the park has suffered from too formal landscape gardening. Cropped hedges are not inviting to the birds, and wooded campuses where formerly birds abounded have been so filled with buildings, so gardened and formalized that birds are now scarce. Some corner -- preferably of original woodland and undergrowth if that still exists -- should be set aside and allowed to run wild, as a bird sanctuary.

Birds an Educational Resource.

In addition to the help that birds give as protectors of trees and shrubbery against injurious insects, they furnish, on school grounds, a distinct educational resource. There is scarcely an advanced school in the country that does not offer courses in bird study; and the study of birds out-of-doors is a necessary supplement to that in class room and laboratory. For this reason, says the department, the educational need should be kept in view by those in charge of college and school grounds.

Plants which furnish bird foods should be added, nest boxes put up, and winter feeding carried on as an interesting and instructive part of the work in bird-study classes. It is further suggested that the teacher of ornithology should be called in to advise in relation to the planning and treatment of the campus.

Those who are interested in attracting birds to public and semipublic reservations can get a publication devoted to this subject by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington for Bulletin 715.

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