

JUSTIFIABLE CONDEMNATIONBy Mrs. O. L. Wolters,
Tolland, Alberta.

(In our last issue, Mr. S.P. Jordan, of Saskatoon, wrote in part, "My theory is that there is a place in nature for every animal and bird. Man has been interfering in Nature's balance for too long a period of time to even hope to make an improvement. If a cowbird wants to put its egg in a warbler's nest, then I consider that the cowbird's privilege. If a family of magpies kill a few songbirds, then that, too, is their privilege.")

True; conservation needs reason as well as the aid of guns. But why? Because hunting seems to be an ever-increasing sport and recreation, and when so large a percentage of the population indulge lawfully and in some cases unlawfully, the poor animals and birds don't need such things as wolves, crows, magpies or cowbirds to keep their numbers down.

I believe in fair play any day, and to me, a cowbird is a good size in comparison to a little goldfinch. Many a time I have found its egg in a finch's nest. Of course I oust it out as only one would be enough to spoil chances of baby goldfinches getting their share of food from parent finches. We feel that crooks and cheats must be punished in the human race (when caught.) so why not in the bird world also. I'm sure the song and looks of a finch are enlightning to one's spirits any old time, while a cowbird is not, although they do eat insects.

A crow has something in his favor as he eats lots of grasshoppers and is only here part time, but a magpie carries on his destruction all year, picking eyes out of helpless lambs and holes in live animals. They start where a warble has been or a brand, sometimes killing the animal as they pick right through to kidneys, etc. We lost a cow a year ago from just that.

There are several bluffs right around our home where all kinds of birds nest except crows and magpies. Even then crows come when all is quiet during the sleeping-in periods of Sunday mornings, and often we aren't on deck soon enough to save a nest. Also I'm very sure they are not entitled to my chickens!

I am sorry to say something has happened to the flickers that usually nest here around our home. All last year there were about six and so far this year there are only two males. There seems to be a mistaken idea that they are destructive because they make holes in granaries. There are many other worthwhile characteristics that make this damage seem small in comparison.

Mine is not hearsay or just figuring, as I live with these birds all around and allow them to be a part of my life which would be very dull and uninteresting without the songs and glimpses of song and game birds and other animals.

Yours for better conservation.

CONSERVATION PLEDGE

Mrs. Wolters.

Following is a pledge recited regularly by many school children and patriotic groups throughout the United States, as an inspiration to save irreplaceable natural resources:

I give my pledge as an American
to save and faithfully to defend from waste
the Natural resources of my country -- its
soil and minerals, its forests,
waters and wildlife.

CONSERVATION PLEDGE (Cont'd)

This conservation pledge appears in "Outdoor Life." I have been wondering why Canada's conservationists could not adopt one similar with a Beaver or Whooping Crane at the top; instead of stars, have maple leaves, and, of course, have "A Canadian" instead of "An American." This emblem was a result of a nation-wide contest. I firmly believe it would go a long way in educating Canadians to be conservation minded, or at least to make them realize that NATURE is for "All to enjoy and all to Protect."

From OUTDOOR LIFE: "All over the nation today, framed posters of America's Conservation Pledge are being put up for display in stores, schools, offices and clubrooms. Sportsmen and conservationists by the thousands demanded these posters, and OUTDOOR LIFE had them prepared as a public service."

FOREST CONSERVATION

"This winter," writes C. Stuart Francis, of Torch River, "I obtained from the Forest Service at Ottawa a number of copies of a very fine booklet, entitled, "Forest Conservation," which I gave out to several of my neighbors, whom I thought would be pleased to have the opportunity to get such splendid Forest facts as are contained in these attractive booklets. So all of you Nature Lovers, if you wish to add a valuable book to your bookshelf, be sure to send to Ottawa for a copy. It is free."

HOW TO MAKE A BIRD HOUSE

(From "Chickadee Notes," Winnipeg Free Press, March 11).

"Birds that nest in cavities have likes and dislikes about their homes and it is well to build according to the average requirements of the species you desire as tenants. One of the best booklets that has come to our notice, is "Bird Houses, Baths and Feeding Shelters, How to Make and Where to Place Them," by Edmund J. Sawyer, the well-known American bird artist. It is issued by the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, at twenty cents, U.S. Currency. This 36-page pamphlet has many plans of bird boxes and charming sketches of the likely occupants. A list of the Institute's manuals on birds and other wildlife will be sent on request."
