



Knollwood C. C. (Chicago district) has attracted a colony of purple martins, voracious mosquito-feeders, to the bird house on the right and thus minimizes annoyance from insect pests around its outdoor pool.

Birds, Big Greens Aid, Deserve Fullest Club Protection

By JACK FULTON, JR.

FOR a number of years—ever since the importance of attracting birds to country club grounds has been appreciated by those interested in reducing insect pests—nature lovers, bird-house manufacturers, golf publications and the Green Section at Washington have preached and advocated the necessity of erecting nesting boxes and shelters in the fall of the year, so that all scent of fresh paint and human hands, both apparently offensive to birds, would be weathered off during the winter. Birds are wary creatures and arriving from the south in the spring, will rarely nest in any box that has not been exposed for a considerable period to the elements.

But all this preaching has apparently been in vain as far as country clubs are concerned, and lately bird-house manufacturers and others interested in attracting birds have dropped all attempts to sell their products in the fall and are energetically pushing the sales during the spring months when the bird migration is

at its height and the general public has the most interest in attracting our feathered friends. The manufacturers' attitude is—what if the freshly erected house is not occupied the first season? Better to get it up at the wrong time of year than not get it up at all.

In this, they are quite right, because in addition to the esthetic value of birds around club grounds, there is a tremendous and hard to evaluate benefit obtained from their ceaseless warfare against weed and insect pests. Birds are far more valuable to the greenkeeper than any man on his grounds crew. It has been conservatively stated that without weeds and insects to contend with, the grounds maintenance budget of any golf club could be reduced at least 30 per cent.

We should be more appreciative of this ceaseless warfare by our birds. They overlook no nook or cranny. Our trees are vigilantly patrolled each day by woodpeckers, warblers and other woodland birds; the underbrush is cleaned by thrushes,



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wrens and sparrows; our open fields are policed by meadowlarks, robins, sparrows and blackbirds; and the air is cleaned of flying insects by swallows, nighthawks and flycatchers.

It behooves every golf club, then, to do all in its power to attract as many song-birds as possible and to protect them once they are obtained. To do this in thorough and intelligent manner, a complete program of bird attraction and bird protection must be carried out. In brief outline, this consists in:

1. Making the club grounds a bird sanctuary, prohibiting hunting, and eliminating as completely as possible the English sparrow, the house cat, and in some localities the squirrel—the three major enemies of birds.

2. Investing an adequate sum in bird houses, bird baths, feeding stations, and the like.

3. Distributing about the grounds during the spring and early summer months nesting materials such as string, strips of cloth, horsehair, and cotton batting. This material will cause many a bird to remain and nest that otherwise will migrate farther north.

4. Erecting one or two bird baths in front of the clubhouse. They will be in constant use by the birds and afford endless entertainment to the members.

5. Planting heavy thickets of shrubbery about the grounds (if they are not already present). They offer nesting sites, protection against enemies in summer and storms in winter.

6. Planting berry-bearing bushes and trees, particularly those types that hold their fruit through the winter. Fruit-bearing plants attract many birds to the grounds in summer and are the means of keeping the winter birds alive when other food is buried beneath a heavy blanket of snow.

Such a program, intelligently and completely followed out, will frequently increase the bird population of a protected area three times over, and there is no golf club in America that can afford to overlook this phase of good greenkeeping.

The cost of pursuing such a program is not prohibitive. The initial investment for nesting boxes, shelters, and the like will not exceed the cost of building one average green. Thereafter, the expense of maintenance and supplies is negligible.

Club officials interested in the subject will do well to write the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., for the government bulletin "How to Attract Birds." Another piece of literature of value is distributed without charge by Joseph H. Dodson, bird-house manufacturer of Kankakee, Ill. This latter booklet not only presents valuable hints on attracting birds, but also contains photographs of all the various types of houses, shelters, and other paraphernalia essential to a complete program of conservation.

Pro Instruction Gets Brisbane Boost

ARTHUR BRISBANE, famous Hearst writer, usually limits his mention of golf to a comparison of golf clubs and hoes in this sorry scheme of things entire. However, the P. G. A. instruction pictures proved of sufficient interest to warrant notice in his newspaper column "To-Day."

He wrote:

"Are you taking golf lessons? Paying some professional to tell you what to do with your head, arms, wrists, feet, knees, eyes and club?"

"Learn that you may have to take those lessons all over again. Slow-motion 'movies' of the great Bobby Jones and the beautiful Joyce Wethered in action show that these great golfers do not 'break their wrists on the back swing' until very late in the swing. And Jones the Great hesitates at the top of his swing, shifts his body and gets planted before he brings the clubhead down.

"Theory and practice are far apart in golf and in all education."

The last sentence gives the boys cheer. Alex Pirie was erroneously quoted in a recent interview that purported to commit the pro dean to a statement that previous instruction was wrong. To the contrary, Pirie is of the opinion that much of it is far advanced, and to make the advance general, the P. G. A. pictures were shot. Thoroughly analyzed by competent men, the pro pictures, it is hoped, will eliminate a great deal of debate about what is proper instruction. A great simplification of golf instruction is one of the main objectives of the pictures.

Though the pictures may show to some pros that "theory and practice are far apart," it is not a damning or unusual discovery in any field.

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