Ridgway Collection

Feb 17/15

Dear Mr Ridgway

In reading the articles by you in Bird Lore - I am impelled to ask some questions.

I am myself interested in developing & encouraging all the Birds I can & come very place & remain I have some 4-5 acres of land on the outskirt of Rochester but with considerable activity around - The Northern side abuts on the N.Y. Central Railroad - & a Suburban Trolley crosses some 200 feet further North Then my front side faces an Avenue with Street cars -

We have a couple of small ponds & streams - a number of apple-plum pear & cherry trees. One Mulberry

a couple of bushes. & fence
& various other small shrubs -
I am planning to plant the acre
& 3/4 of space between Rolley &
RR track to encourage the birds.
& some other portions along the fence
lines & about the small ponds of water
I would like it to have you say some
thing about your methods of planting
you place each mound - what
you say were deficient in shrubs about
the house - & you planted a group & bades
will you explain this - just what you
set out & the arrangement?
I need suggestions as to the best method
of planting - I mean shrubs in the lot
above mentioned - as it is wholly bare
now - I had in mind placing brush
piles for a year or two or more - at differen

points to start a temple - which
trees & shrubs are growing. But
there is danger of there being fired
there is no fence to keep intruders
out - What have you to say about this
This land is filled ground so for
a time artificial & temporary means
may be used - Suggestions are invited.
What did you do regarding resting
places - I suppose you mean horses
& horses. put up in the trees & -
Did you make them? Did you buy
any - Whose & where?
The water for bathing & drinking is
abundant & much sought after
now - It is a delight to watch the
birds - However the sparrows are the
most numerous (english of course

Have you had any experience in getting rid of them

Purple martins are uncommon in Rochester. There is an old colony in the center of town. but scarcely any others. One friend put out a dozen house along the Lake last Spring & it was soon occupied by a nice lot. I want to try to attract them. Tell me about the kind of box or house & where to place it.

Do you feed in summer all the time. Suet. grain etc & during cold weather - both on the platform & table the food -

How many were your nesting boxes occupied by a true or more than one. & did each true have a box -

4.

I don't know that I understand the significance of your detail regarding Temp & rain fall. & the last number of Birds &c.

Have you any means of irrigating your plants & shrubs. Other than by hose - on a large scale.

My lawn is probably nearly 2 acres & I would like to work out the best scheme to soak it - the garden & plants I set out as I do especially when drouth sets in.

I think I have asked a few questions - enough for the present anyway - & shall be glad to hear from you

Very truly yours
H. H. Powell Rochester Ny.

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