

# HOUSE . . . . No. 478

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By Mr. Crockett of Upton (by request), petition of Lloyd M. Walker for legislation to regulate further the hunting of certain birds. Conservation.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Seven.

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### AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE HUNTING OF CERTAIN BIRDS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 53 of chapter 131 of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in section 2 of chapter 599 of the acts of  
3 1941, is hereby amended by adding after the word  
4 "bird" in the ninth line the word:— hunted,— so  
5 as to read as follows:—

6 *Section 53.* Whoever, except as otherwise pro-  
7 vided in this chapter, hunts or has in his possession a  
8 wild or undomesticated bird, except an English spar-  
9 row, bronzed or purple grackle (crow blackbird), crow,  
10 jay, starling, sharpshinned hawk, Cooper's hawk,  
11 goshawk or great horned owl, or wilfully destroys, dis-  
12 turbs or takes a nest or eggs of any wild or undomesti-  
13 cated bird, except such as are not protected by this  
14 section, shall be punished by a fine of not less than  
15 twenty nor more than fifty dollars for each bird hunted,

16 taken, killed or had in possession or for each nest or  
17 egg disturbed, destroyed, possessed or taken; but an  
18 owner or tenant of land, or, if authorized by such  
19 owner or tenant, any member of his family or person  
20 permanently employed thereon, may kill or attempt  
21 to kill any wild bird which he has reasonable cause to  
22 believe has damaged or is about to damage any  
23 property, including domesticated animals, poultry  
24 and game on game-rearing farms or preserves, and a  
25 person who has a certificate from the director that he  
26 is engaged in the scientific study of ornithology or is  
27 collecting in the interests of a scientific institution may  
28 at any time take or kill, or take the nests or eggs of, a  
29 wild or undomesticated bird, except woodcock, ruffed  
30 grouse and quail. This section shall not authorize a  
31 person to enter upon private grounds without the con-  
32 sent of the owner thereof for the purpose of taking  
33 nests or eggs or killing birds. No city, town, county  
34 or private organization shall offer or pay bounties for  
35 the killing or taking of any bird.