

in the rejection of the 'Viduinæ' either as a subfamily or a group and in the transference of *Spermospiza* from the Ploceinæ to the Estrildinæ (= Spermestinæ) and of *Quelea*, *Pyromelana*, *Euplectes*, *Urobrachya*, *Coliuspasser*, *Diatropura*, *Drepanoplectes*, and *Pseudonigrita* from the latter to the former. *Parmoptila* and *Pholidornis* are added to the Estrildinæ while *Philetairus* and *Anomalospiza* are retained in the same group.

An appendix contains brief accounts of the nest and eggs, and size of the outer primary in each genus, and in the Estrildinæ the mouth markings of the young as well. These are based upon Mr. Chapin's personal observations and the published accounts of others. A number of half-tone plates showing photographs of nests and drawings of the mouths of young birds complete this valuable paper which is one of the most important contributions to avian taxonomy that has appeared in America for some time.—W. S.

**Pearson's 'The Bird Study Book.'**<sup>1</sup>—Realizing from his own wide experience the many questions that beginners in bird study are constantly asking of those who are more advanced in the subject, Mr. Pearson conceived the idea of embodying in book form such information as would serve as answers to these queries, and the work before us represents the result of his efforts. He begins with general instructions as to the best ways to become familiar with wild birds, following with a discussion of the structure of birds' nests, their variability and where to look for them, and then an account of the domestic life of birds. The migration of birds and birds in winter very properly form the subjects of two separate chapters, as these are perhaps the two most popular topics in outdoor bird study.

All of this naturally leads up to that phase of the subject with which Mr. Pearson is especially identified—the protection of birds, to which all students of outdoor life will sooner or later be attracted. Chapters on the economic value of birds; the bird supply; the traffic in feathers; bird protective laws; bird reservations; bird sanctuaries and the teaching of bird study follow in natural order.

The work is admittedly intended primarily for the beginner, and the author seems to have been most happy in the character of the information which he has collected and in the manner of its presentation. 'The Bird Study Book' will give just the information that many persons are seeking, while the later chapters will give many more or less advanced field students an intelligent idea of the problem of bird protection and what has been accomplished towards its solution, thereby forestalling much well intended but misdirected effort.

Mr. Pearson has included many original incidents and ideas in his

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<sup>1</sup>The Bird Study Book. By T. Gilbert Pearson, Secretary, National Association of Audubon Societies. Colored Frontispiece. Pen and Ink Drawings by Will Simmons and sixteen Photographs. Doubleday, Page & Company, Garden City, New York. 1917. Svo, pp. i-xv, 1-258. Price \$1.25 net.

various chapters and the book will well repay a careful perusal by all concerned with bird conservation. One point is especially worthy of consideration by game commissioners, who in spite of the evidence in favor of most hawks and owls are still inclined to recommend their unlimited slaughter, along with all other vermin, on game preserves, on account of their destruction of a certain number of game birds. Mr. Pearson cites a case in which such slaughter was carried on most thoroughly for the sake of protecting a large preserve of English Pheasants. The birds were later almost wiped out by disease and he says: "Is it going too far to say that the gunmen and trappers had over done their work? So few Hawks or Owls or foxes had been left to capture the birds first afflicted, that these had been permitted to associate with their kind and to pass on weakness and disease to their offspring until the general health tone of the whole Pheasant community had become lowered." All animals, as Mr. Pearson says, "have their part to play in the great economy of the earth, and it is a dangerous experiment to upset the balance of Nature."—W. S.

**Henshaw and Fuertes on North American Warblers.**<sup>1</sup>—The interest in this publication centers about the thirty-two Warbler pictures in colors reproduced from paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. We have several times had occasion to congratulate the 'National Geographic Magazine' upon the splendid educational work that it is doing, in the publication of these colored pictures illustrating various branches of natural history, and once again we express our appreciation. The present pictures are larger than the former bird series, each one being half, instead of one third the height of the page and this of course presents the work of the artist to much better advantage. Mr. Fuertes has published warbler portraits before, notably the series in 'Bird-Lore' which appeared later in Chapman's 'Warblers' and those in Eaton's 'Birds of New York,' but we think the present figures are better than either, and they will give pleasure to thousands of bird students to whom the warblers are always the favorite group for study. Mr. H. W. Henshaw has written a descriptive text in which are embodied many interesting personal experiences of this veteran ornithologist, while the introductory pages discuss the relationship, migration and economic value of these interesting little birds, while frequent references to the publications of the U. S. Biological Survey enable the reader to follow up the subject at his pleasure.

The only flaw in this admirable publication is the caption to a half tone illustration from Chapman's 'Camps and Cruises,' which is used to fill out p. 303. It depicts an interesting family of young Blue Jays under which has been placed, without the authority of either Mr. Henshaw or Mr. Fuertes, we are sure, the following inscription: "Young Fish-Hawks about to Leave their Nest"! — W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> Friends of Our Forests. By Henry W. Henshaw. Illustrations by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. National Geographic Magazine, April, 1917. pp. 297-321.