

Bird Enemies of Brine Shrimps and Alkali Flies.—Sweeping statements based on negative evidence are dangerous, and no exception may be noted for one which claims that “enemies play no part in keeping down the numbers of *Artemia* (Brine Shrimps), or of *Ephydra* (Alkali Flies) in the larval stage.”¹ Dr. Alex. Wetmore, of the Biological Survey, who has had considerable experience about Great Salt Lake to which locality the quoted assertion relates, has pointed out² that *Artemia* and *Ephydra* are by no means free from enemies. Shovellers, Lesser Scaups, Goldeneyes, Green-winged Teal, Wilson’s and Northern Phalaropes, Avocets and Black-necked Stilts all feed extensively upon both of these animals. But for the fact that stomach analyses have not been made of other birds collected at the same place, it would undoubtedly be possible to add the names of a number of species to this list. Dr. Wetmore states that “the toll taken by birds from the brine shrimp and alkali fly larvæ and pupæ during the course of a season constitutes a mass of individuals almost beyond comprehension. . . . The immense number of these creatures . . . must be attributed to the large number of offspring produced rather than to an absence of enemies.”

If misinformation and mis-statements based thereon, are as prevalent throughout biological science, as they are in the field that has been most cultivated by the reviewer,—the food-habits of birds—the way of the student toward truth is indeed beset with pitfalls and obstacles, almost impassable.—W. L. M.

Bird Enemies of the Varying Hare.—Mr. Norman Criddle in connection with an account of the destructiveness of snowshoe or bush rabbits, points out the value of their bird enemies. He states: “Three birds are prominent in the destruction of rabbits. The Goshawk which is also very destructive to grouse; both eagles are largely rabbit feeders, and lastly there are the Great Horned Owls. These owls have unfortunately been reduced much by man of late years, though there are no birds that take a heavier toll of bush rabbits. Preserve these birds and we should in time reduce rabbits very materially and by this means at least aid in conserving our forests.”³ (p. 262.)

To the birds named by Criddle as enemies of bush rabbits must be added the Great Gray Owl and the Snowy Owl. Mr. E. A. Preble reported⁴ that the stomachs of the latter species collected by him almost invariably contained the remains of varying hares.—W. L. M.

Curious Hoarding Habits of Birds.—Dr. L. O. Howard reports⁵ the recovery of moonstones, kernels of corn and wheat, and small acorns

¹ Vorhies, Chas. T. “Notes on the Fauna of Great Salt Lake. Amer. Nat. 51. p. 498. August, 1917.

² Amer. Nat. 51, pp. 753-755. December, 1917.

³ Varying hares of the prairie provinces. Agr. Gaz. Canada, Vol. 4, No. 41. April 1917.

⁴ N. A. Fauna, 27, 1908, p. 375.

⁵ Entomological News, 29, No. 1, January, 1918, pp. 15-16.