

English language instead of trying to represent the sound by letters without any reference to the words they may or may not form. Thus "whip-poor-will" is less satisfactory than "whip-poo-weel" as Mr. Nichols says, while his "whip-oor-eel" as the song of a particular bird that he studied exactly denotes the call of one to which we have listened. Mr. C. J. Maynard has a paper on his original discovery of the Ipswich Sparrow which has much historic value and in this connection we might call attention to Alexander Wilson's figure of the bird as the "male" of the Savannah Sparrow long before Mr. Maynard took his specimen (cf. *Osprey* II. p. 117.).

A paper on the nesting, song and play of the Tree and Barn Swallows by Dr. C. W. Townsend contains a mass of interesting observations on the habits of birds that have been far too much neglected. Mr. A. P. Stubbs has an instructive discussion of the white gulls of Swampscott. Five perfectly distinguishable gulls of pure white or nearly white plumage were recognizable among the Herring and Black-backed Gulls, and after fourteen seasons' study of them it was finally decided that they represented different plumages of only two species—the Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. Just such studies as this are needed to aid in the identification of gulls in the field, as the several plumages of a single species are quite as different to the observer as those of several different species, and they must all be learned before accurate identifications can be made.

Mr. A. B. Fowler takes exception to part of the comment on the sight record of the Connecticut Warbler on the Ipswich River trip of 1919, which appeared in the review in 'The Auk', considering that Mr. Brewster's remarks on the rarity of the species made thirteen years ago have little weight today. The point was that *alleged* occurrences of the bird were as numerous at that time as today, while actually proven cases of its occurrences in spring in the east are just as rare now as then. The main intent of the criticism, however, was that there was no clear evidence that the observers realized that they were making a most unusual record for all of eastern North America as well as for the Ipswich River. It is of course entirely a matter of opinion as to the desirability of publishing such records which are of the greatest importance if correct but which can never be proven and hence are useless for any generalizations.—W. S.

**Bulletin of the Illinois Audubon Society.**—This attractively gotten up publication<sup>1</sup> contains much of interest concerning the conservation of nature in general and the activities of the society. Much space is devoted to the problem of the preservation of our National Parks and we are reminded again of the action of the last Congress in granting to a Federal Water Power Commission the authority to lease all public waters including those in National Parks and Monuments and of appli-

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<sup>1</sup> The Audubon Bulletin. Fall, 1920. Published by The Illinois Audubon Society, pp. 1-48.

cations that have already been made for establishing dams and power houses in the Grand Canyon and the Sequoia National Parks. Unless this privilege, so far as it affects parks, is revoked by Congress, there is no knowing what it may lead to. The preservation of many birds is dependent upon the preservation of the forests and the latter upon keeping the National Parks inviolate.—W. S.

**Annual Report of the Chief of the Biological Survey.**—Only those who read this report<sup>1</sup> carefully will have any idea of the extent and diversity of the work that the Survey is now carrying on. Under economic work in mammals we find that no less than 21,558 Coyotes were killed during the past year and in addition some 4000 other predatory animals. The practical extermination of the Prairie Dog over a great part of Cochise and Graham Counties, Arizona, has also been effected and nineteen million acres in the west have been subjected to poison treatment for the extermination of rodents. The tremendous result of poisoning may be realized when we learn that 1000 rabbits were killed for each ounce of strychnine used in Gooding County, Idaho. It seems certain that by means of poison the extermination of many species of mammals, if desired, is only a matter of time, and we trust that all possible indirect results of this tremendous overthrow of nature's balance may be carefully taken into consideration before the final result is attained.

Under economic ornithology we learn that investigations of the Survey have proven the Meadowlarks seriously injurious to sprouting oats and corn in South Carolina and the Secretary of Agriculture has authorized their killing from November, 1919 to April, 1920. Similar permission to kill Robins in the cherry growing districts of New York has been granted from June 1 to July 15, as well as the killing of Grebes, Loons, Terns, Gulls, Mergansers, Bitterns, Green, Great Blue, Little Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, at fish hatcheries, and of Mergansers by state wardens along any of the streams of Michigan where they prove destructive to trout.

Charges against the Dove in South Carolina, Geese in eastern Maryland and Thick-billed Parrots in Arizona have not been substantiated, while the claim that birds were being poisoned in the western states by the operations against vermin were found to be greatly exaggerated, the birds killed being "not enough to cause alarm."

The work of the Bird Banding Association, as already reported, has been taken over by the Survey and the study of the economic value of various birds and investigations on their distribution and migration have been continued.

Under the head of bird reservations the disastrous effect of shutting off the water supply of the Klamath and Malheur Lake reservations is referred to and unless this action can be checked the reservations seem

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<sup>1</sup> Report of Chief of Bureau of Biological Survey. Annual Report Department of Agriculture pp. 1-36 (covering fiscal year ending June 30, 1920.)