

As is natural, much of the volume relates to mammals and to game legislation, the chapters concerned more especially with birds being: "The Extermination of Wild Life," "The Game Birds and Larger Non-Game Birds of Canada," "Birds in Relation to Agriculture," and "Government Reserves for the Protection of Birds." The usual information with reference to attracting birds and providing nest boxes, etc., is clearly set forth, and brief accounts of the present and past abundance of the game birds, their habits, etc., are presented. In this connection we note that the author is satisfied that man's slaughter of the Passenger Pigeon and Great Auk was sufficient to account for their extermination, without resorting to fanciful theories.

Some "bird counts" by Mr. N. Criddle which are presented are interesting for comparison with similar counts at localities in the United States. An area of 76 acres, chiefly prairie, contained in three years 58, 72 and 74 pairs of breeding birds respectively, of from 21 to 27 species, while an area of 26 acres of woodland contained in the same years 65, 72 and 66 pairs, of 28 to 31 species. All in all Dr. Hewitt's work will present in concise form to all Canadians the same sort of information that the Biological Survey furnishes, in its bulletins, to the residents of the United States and is a most welcome contribution to the literature of conservation.—W. S.

**Hartert's 'Die Vögel der palaarktischen Fauna.'**<sup>1</sup>—Three parts of this work reached this country during February last. No. XV (Bd III, 1), covers the Alcidae, Otididae, Gruidae, Rallidae and Tetraonidae. No. XVI (Bd. III, 2) treats of the Phasianidae and begins the additions and corrections which are continued in No. XVII (Bd. III, 3). This famous publication is thus rapidly approaching completion.—W. S.

**Food Habits of Two Owls in Britain.**—Like all previous studies that<sup>2</sup> of Dr. W. E. Collinge reveals a preponderance of good over harm in the feeding habits of the Barn Owl. Mice and voles constitute nearly 70 per cent of the food and injurious insects and birds (House Sparrow, Starling, and Blackbird) together, an additional 18 per cent. Shrews, miscellaneous small birds, and neutral insects compose the remainder of the diet.

The Little Owl (*Carine noctua*), a bird introduced in to the British Isles and now common, also is reported<sup>3</sup> upon by Dr. Collinge. Game-keepers and poultry-raisers have condemned the species and have destroyed large numbers of the birds as "vermin." The present study of its food habits is based on the examination of 212 stomachs and 260 pellets, besides various lots of material brought to the nests. It was found that

<sup>1</sup>Berlin, R. Friedlander & Lohn.

<sup>2</sup>The Barn-owl. Journ. Ministry Agr. 28, No. 10, 1922, pp. 1-4.

<sup>3</sup>The Food and feeding habits of the Little Owl, *ibid.*, Nos. 11-12, Feb.-March, 1922, pp. 1-17.