

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.

voles and mice make up 31 per cent of the food, injurious insects, 30 per cent, neutral insects 17 per cent, earthworms 7 per cent and wild birds 4 per cent. The latter, in this case also, were chiefly injurious species. Game birds were barely represented and poultry not at all. Consequently Dr. Collinge's judgment is distinctly favorable to the Little Owl.—W. L. M.

**Bird Enemies of Two Exotic Insect Pests.**—The wattle bagworm (*Acanthopsyche junodi*) is termed the worst of pests of the black wattle in South Africa. From a study of nearly 60,000 specimens it has been determined that birds destroy about one per cent of these insects. The birds that have been observed to prey upon the bagworm are Sprews, Parrots, Weaver-birds, Silver-eyes and Butcher-birds<sup>1</sup>.

In Trinidad a blight both directly and indirectly due to the sugar-cane frog hopper (*Tomaspis saccharina*) is the most serious drawback to cane-growing which ranks second among the industries of the island. Damage as high as £300,000 has been caused by this blight in a single year. In an extensive account<sup>2</sup> of the natural enemies of the frog hopper Mr. C. B. Williams records 3 species of birds as preying upon the immature insects and 17 upon the adults. The Forked-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora tyrannus*) is said to be the most important bird enemy of the frog hopper.—W. L. M.

#### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.** XXIV, No. 2. March–April, 1922.

When the Birds Come North. By Grace A. Hill.—An account of the spring migration 30 miles north of Nome, Alaska.

The Friendly Phoebe. By Clinton G. Abbott.—Illustrated account of a nesting.

Caught in a Springtime Blizzard. By Margaret A. Bartlett.—At Boulder, Colo.

A Nest-Building Parrot. By Mary B. Sherman.—An escaped pair of Gray-breasted Parrakeets built in a garden at Ogdensburg, N. Y.

The Migration and Plumage papers cover the Red-winged Blackbirds with a plate by Fuertes.

**The Condor.** XXIV, No. 2. March–April, 1922.

A Large Tern Colony in Texas. By J. R. Pemberton.—Well illustrated.

Notes on Fox Sparrows in California in the Autumn of 1921. By Joseph Mailliard.

A Study of Roosting Holes of the Red-shafted Flicker. By Emerson A. Stoner.—Drilled through the sides of a frame building and roosted inside.

A Law Governing the Elevation of the Nesting Site. By Charles K. Averill.—“Birds with long pointed wings may nest high or low, but the short and round winged are low nesting.”

<sup>1</sup>Skalfe, S. H., South African Journ. Sci., 17, Nos. 3–4, July 1921, pp. 291–301.

<sup>2</sup>Mem. Dept. Agr. Trinidad and Tobago, No. 1, Jan. 1921, pp. 66–67, and 70–78.