

tions are numerous and deal to some extent with wild flowers and general nature conservation as well as with birds which of course are the principal interest.

There are several papers in defence of the Crow and deploring the attempts at "extermination." An attractive account of 'Bird Haven' the home of Robert Ridgway, at Olney, Illinois, is marred by the consistent misspelling of the ornithologist's name.—W. S.

**Quail Investigation in 1924.**—The first report<sup>1</sup> of the Quail investigation conducted by the Biological Survey in cooperation with sportsmen of Thomasville, Ga., and Tallahassee, Fla., is before us, covering the period from March to September, 1924. The work has been under the direction of Mr. Herbert L. Stoddard. Over 100 Quail were caught and banded in order to ascertain the extent of their migration and investigation of their food habits was begun.

Some 81 nests were studied, the average number of eggs proving to be 14, and ranging from 8 to 24; incubating hens were found to leave the nest for food only once a day, usually in the afternoon. From 69 to 75 per cent of the nests were destroyed but as yet the chief destroyers have not been determined although evidence points to the cotton rats, house cats and opossums.

Investigations were also carried on regarding the artificial rearing of Quail, by visiting game farms in several localities in the United States.

This report is merely preliminary, but outlines the plans that will be carried out as the work proceeds.—W. S.

**Report of the Chief of the Biological Survey.** This closely printed much condensed report<sup>2</sup> is well worthy of careful reading so full is it of facts and data.

Under the heading of wild animal pests we learn that no less than 237 mountain lions were killed during the year making 1236 since the Government began the work of extermination in 1915, while 3448 bobcats and 59 Canada lynxes were killed in the past year alone.

Investigations of the food habits of birds show that many ducks on Chesapeake Bay died of phosphorus poisoning as a result of bombs dropping into the water from the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Laughing Gulls are exonerated from the charges of destroying fish and crabs, but Blackbirds are found to be very destructive to the rice crop in Louisiana.

A biological survey was carried on in the isolated mountain ranges of southern Arizona. Chalacas and Ocellated Turkeys were introduced on Sapelo Island, Ga., where the former are reported to have bred but the latter died.

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<sup>1</sup> Progress on Cooperative Quail Investigation, 1924. By Herbert L. Stoddard. 1925, pp. 1-22, numerous illustrations.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Chief of Bureau of Biological Survey. By E. W. Nelson. December 2, 1924, pp. 1-39.