

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.

There are also interesting reports from the bird refuges and big game reservations and on the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Regulations. Incidentally we learn that 1079 permits for scientific collecting were granted during the year, 988 for bird banding and 2360 for possession etc., of migratory water-fowl for propagation.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Lönnberg.**—In 'British Birds' for October, 1924, there is a discussion of the proper nomenclature of the Brant by Einar Lönnberg and in the Swedish journal 'Fauna och Flora' he has recently published a number of papers dealing with birds. Among these may be mentioned one on the bird fauna of northern China, in the volume for 1923, and in 1924 is the description race of *Tetrao wrogallus*, *T. u. karelicus* from Finland, an account of the occurrence of *Charadrius apricarius oreophilus* in Sweden, and an historical account of changes in the Swedish avifauna. All of these are in the Scandinavian language.—W. S.

**Report on the Fiji-New Zealand Expedition of the University of Iowa.**—A narrative account of this, the fourth expedition sent out by the University of Iowa, has just been published, making a portly volume of 369 pages profusely illustrated by photographs of scenery, specimens, etc., and admirably printed.<sup>1</sup>

The party of six from the scientific staff of the University was under the leadership of Prof. C. C. Nutting and the expedition lasted from May 19 to September 1922, one month being spent in Fiji and about the same time in New Zealand.

The report is a running narrative by Prof. Nutting of a popular and personal character with numerous quotations, descriptions and bits of history. Two chapters by Prof. Dayton Stoner, who was a member of the party, contain references to the bird life of the two localities, the former consisting largely of a reprint of the author's paper on the Mynah, published in 'The Auk' for April, 1923, while the latter contains many brief notes on the New Zealand birds observed and a reprint of the author's article on the Kiwi of the Wellington Zoölogical Garden.

The paucity of birds in each country seems to have impressed the members of the party as well as the stringent measures for their protection in New Zealand and a corresponding laxity in the enforcement of conservation rules in Fiji. In both islands, introduced species are the most conspicuous, and it would seem that, unless some effective means of exterminating these be adopted, the hope for the preservation of the remnant of the native bird fauna is slim.

Prof. Stoner was also the entomologist of the expedition and an entomological characteristic is evident in his reference to Flycatchers as

<sup>1</sup> Fiji-New Zealand Expedition by C. C. Nutting, R. B. Wylie, A. O. Thomas, Dayton Stoner, Collaborating. Published by the University, Iowa City. Univ. of Iowa. Studies in Nat. Hist. First Series No. 82. Sept. 1, 1924. pp. 1-369. pl. I-LVIII.