

gun be sold carrying more than two cartridges, which is the only "gentleman's weapon," a claim backed by many organizations including the Winchester Arms Manufacturing Co., and the State of Pennsylvania. He also contends that no individual gunner should be allowed to hunt more than every other year. He does not believe in the possibility of restocking and says: "after thirty years of intensive work I am convinced that all breeding and 'educational work' done thus far has not saved the game, that no easy-going 'education' ever will save it, that nothing but a combination of drastic laws and big-stick enforcement (plus other salvage measures) ever will achieve good or great results." He also deplors the introduction and rearing of alien birds to replace our own species. The establishment of game refuges requires years as do also investigations of the subject and he adds "what can happen to the remnants of game with 7,500,000 hunters going out after them annually? Who is there who will guarantee a remainder five years hence? Think it over!"

He shows the failure of the bag limit, alone, in maintaining the supply of Quail and the definite increase in these birds in Ohio since they have been protected there at all times.

Dr. Hornaday sets forth in detail the disgraceful political influence present in almost every effort for game legislation and the attitude of the U. S. Biological Survey, the National Association of Audubon Societies and certain sportsmen's organizations which according to his statements in several important crises were not acting in the interests of conservation.

Everyone interested in game birds should read this book and gain a knowledge of the complications which beset every move in the conservation program and the powerful influences which have to be met. That there are legitimate differences of opinion on some of the questions raised by Dr. Hornaday must be admitted. He, for instance, while deploring the importation of foreign game birds, is strong in his praise of the Starling, yet in Great Britain where the bird is better known it is regarded as a pest by those best qualified to judge. In the experience of the reviewer, while it does devour the larvae of the Japanese beetle, our own Grackles and Robins are equally efficient but are being crowded out by the increasing hordes of the foreigners which eat everything in sight and deplete the winter food of many of our native species.

Dr. Hornaday's book<sup>1</sup> is full of tables and diagrams which deserve careful study as well as many portraits of those who have been most active in the defense of our wild life.—W. S.

**Williams on Trinidad Birds.**<sup>2</sup>—When passing through Trinidad some-time ago the reviewer had the good fortune to come into possession of a

<sup>1</sup> *Thirty Years War for Wild Life. Gains and Losses in the Thankless Task.* By William T. Hornaday. Published for the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund by Charles Scribners' Sons. New York—London, 1931, pp. 1-xiii + 1-292. Price \$2.50.

<sup>2</sup> Williams, C. B. *Trinidad Birds. Notes on the Food and Habits of Some Trinidad Birds.* Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, Trinidad and Tobago, Vol. XX, 1922, pp. 123-185.

paper by Mr. Williams which, although nine years old, has apparently never been noticed by the ornithological journals. Because of this fact, and the additional one that the paper is published in a rather obscure serial that is not likely to fall under the eye of the ornithologist, it seems desirable to make some mention of it even at this late date.

The paper had its conception in investigations conducted by Mr. Williams, in his official capacity as Sugar Cane Entomologist, to determine the bird enemies of the sugar cane froghopper. As a contribution to food habits literature, however, it is disappointing, (1) because far too few stomachs were examined (only one to three specimens of a species, as a rule) to obtain any idea of the normal food of any given species, and (2) because the stomach contents of the specimens that were collected are analyzed in only the most general terms. This may be a little unfair, for it is manifestly impossible to make scientific examinations of the contents of bird stomachs without a well-equipped laboratory, adequate reference collections, and a staff of experts especially trained for the work; but that very fact renders it futile to shoot a few dozen birds—of almost as many species—to determine their economic status. Mr. Williams thus examines forty-nine species, but he is himself keenly aware of the inadequacy of the results.

Altogether 101 species are considered, about a third of the total avifauna, and of these, nesting data are given for thirty-nine. This is a very valuable feature of the paper, and it is to be regretted that the author has not in all cases given a complete description of the nest. He has, however, listed all of the nests, with the dates and sites, that have come under his observation. A record of nine eggs in the nest of a House Wren is astounding, but as a Cowbird was seen to enter this nest it may be assumed that all was not as it should have been.

For one who finds an intrinsic interest in local names that does not always attach to the half-breed Latin monikers so often inflicted upon helpless birds, there will be food for thought in Mr. Williams' paper. "The Parson," as a name for *Tachyphonus rufus* is understandable, even appropriate, but why should such an exquisite creature as *Tangara desmaresti* be dubbed "Worthless"? And by what quirk of fancy was "God Bird" ever conceived as a name for that consummate rascal, the House Wren? It is a pity that Mr. Williams does not enlighten us.

The author contributes a note also on that much-mooted question as to whether Vultures find their food by sight or smell. In the Naparimas he observed large numbers of Black Vultures and one or two Turkey Vultures "collected on and around a field . . . which had been experimentally manured with liquid slaughter-house refuse which, though invisible, could be smelled a quarter of a mile away."

Another item of exceptional interest relates to the flocking and migrating of *Muscivora tyrannus*. Imagine flocks of sixty thousand Fork-tailed Flycatchers!

But withal the best part of the report is that—some four and a half pages—devoted to the Guacharo, and this alone amply justifies its publication.—E. G. H.

**Nichols' 'Birds of Marsh and Mere.'**—In 1926 under the above title Mr. J. C. M. Nichols published an attractive little volume dealing mainly with British game birds and more recently a second edition has appeared.<sup>1</sup> It is a book that will please all lovers of sport, especially duck hunters to which subject it is mainly devoted. Beginning with the Geese—the Gray Lag, White-fronted, Bean and Pink-footed, with the "Black Geese," Bernicle and Brant—we have interesting accounts of their habits and their shooting, interspersed with anecdotes and personal experiences which will appeal strongly to the sportsman. Following are detailed accounts of blinds, guns, and ammunition as used in England.

Then the Ducks are considered and there are chapters on 'Shooting in Canada,' the 'Larger Wading birds and Shorebird Shooting,' the latter a sport no longer permissible in America.

It is interesting to read of the abundance of the European Widgeon and of the occasional capture of an American Widgeon, just the reverse of conditions on our own coasts, but the mention of the regular migration of the Trumpeter Swans in Canada must surely be a slip of the pen for the Whistling Swan, a species which is not mentioned.

The author's statement that Geese feed in the fields on moonlight nights just as they do in the daylight and his theory that they resort to the shore the next day "for salt and sand to help digest their meal" is interesting though perhaps the theory is not proven. The book is full of such little bits of fact and theory on the habits of the birds which add much to its interest.

Mr. Nichols, by the way, is not only author but artist as well and has furnished a lot of line sketches and excellent wash or pencil drawings mainly of birds on the wing, reproduced in half-tone as well as a color plate of the White-fronted Goose.—W. S.

**Wetmore's 'The Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.'**—As is generally known Dr. Alexander Wetmore has for some time been interested in the bird life of Haiti and San Domingo and the results of his explorations in the island and his studies of its avifauna have just been published as a Bulletin of the U. S. National Museum.<sup>2</sup>

This report owes its inception to the researches of Dr. William L. Abbott who in 1883 and again from 1916 to 1923 made extensive collections on the

<sup>1</sup> Birds of Marsh and Mere and how to Shoot them. By J. C. M. Nichols, with an Introductory Note by J. G. Millais. Illustrated by the Author. Heath Cranton, Limited. 6 Fleet Lane, London, E. C. 4. Pp. 1-287. Price 7 shillings, 6 pence net., postage 6 pence extra.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. By Alexander Wetmore and Bradshaw H. Swales. Bulletin 155 U. S. National Museum, U. S. Government Printing Office. Washington: 1931. Pp. 1-483, pll. 1-26. (For sale by the Supt. of Documents, Washington, D. C., Price \$1.00.)