

Florida Burrowing Owl on Hog Island has been recorded elsewhere and whether the occurrence of the Snowy Owl in the same locality has been definitely authenticated.—W. S.

**Doane's 'Common Pests.'**—This useful and instructive book<sup>1</sup> deals with pests which affect man's "health, happiness and welfare" and methods for controlling them. Naturally it treats mainly of insect pests such as flies, mosquitos, fleas, etc., and pests of the garden and orchard, but there are also some twenty-five pages devoted to mammals in which poison is recommended as cheaper than trapping or shooting as a method of control. Although warning is given as to the care that should be exercised in applying it so as not to endanger live stock or game animals, the author does not seem to be aware of the various accounts of the unintentional and widespread destruction of birds by this method!

Bird pests are treated on a dozen pages. Crows and blackbirds are regarded as "on the fence" economically. The Bobolink is absolved from wrong-doing under present conditions but the Catbird and House Finch are considered to require control, at times, as are the jays and sapsuckers. Why the Robin is not mentioned when the Catbird is condemned as a berry-eater we do not understand! A proper warning is sounded against the promiscuous killing of hawks as the author says: "No hawk should be killed unless one is absolutely sure that it is one of the harmful species."

While the English Sparrow is properly condemned as a nuisance the author quotes the Biological Survey in pronouncing the Starling a valuable species. We have frequently had occasion to differ from this conclusion since in our experience the activity of the Starling in driving away or crowding out our native birds more than offsets its usefulness as an insect destroyer, and England with a far greater experience finds it a nuisance.

In the case of birds the author says, very properly, that as a means of control "poisoning is too generally destructive to be recommended" and shooting or trapping is recommended. He could well have extended this advice to the control of mammals also!

The book should fill an important gap in our economic literature so far as its main subject is concerned. It is well gotten up and fully illustrated.—W. S.

**Ashbrook's 'Birds of America.'**—This little pocket guide<sup>2</sup> consists of three booklets,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$  ins., bound in stiff paper, the "Red," "Blue" and "Green Book of Birds of America," containing between them, in the se-

<sup>1</sup> Common Pests. How to Control Some of the Pests that Affect Man's Health, Happiness and Welfare. By Rennie W. Doane, Stanford University. Profusely Illustrated. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher. Springfield, Illinois, Baltimore, Maryland. 1931. Pp. 1-384 with index additional. Price \$4.00 post paid.

<sup>2</sup> The Red Book of Birds of America. By Frank G. Ashbrook. Illustrations by Paul Moller. This is one of a Series of Three Books. Copyright 1931. Whitman Publishing Co., Racine, Wisconsin. [Water birds to Woodpeckers.] The Blue Book [Goatsuckers to Finches]. The Green Book [Tanagers to Thrushes].

quence of the old A. O. U. 'Check-List,' the greater part of the more familiar birds of the eastern states and many of the West, about 200 in all.

There is a colored picture of each and a brief text covering range, habitat, measurements, habits, nest and eggs, the former by Paul Moller and the latter by Frank G. Ashbrook.

The text is accurately compiled with incidental mention of closely related species or subspecies not deemed worthy of fuller treatment while the pictures are in the main acceptably drawn for purposes of identification and remarkably well colored when we consider that the booklets sell for 10 cents each—30 cents for the set. It forms a better bird guide than many which sell for three times as much or more and should do a world of good in interesting children and others in birds and their protection which subject is covered by a brief preface to each volume. There is an unfortunate error at the end of the introduction where it is stated that the length of each bird is taken from the tip of the "wing" (instead of "bill") to the tip of the tail. These booklets are for sale at the Woolworth Stores, throughout the country and we understand that they are soon to be offered through the book trade enclosed in a telescope box at 50 cts. per set.—W. S.

**'Measurements of Birds.'**—This sumptuous publication<sup>1</sup> of 165 pages is devoted wholly to explaining the methods in use for taking measurements of birds and is prepared by S. Prentiss Baldwin, Harry C. Oberholser and Leonard G. Worley. No less than 151 measurements are described, each figured by a line drawing by James M. Valentine. As a matter of fact only a very few of these are in practical use but it is convenient to have them all described in detail in case one should have need to employ them.

Unfortunately in the measurements that *are* in constant use there is difference of opinion, mainly between American and European students, as to how they should be taken. This was emphasized some years ago by Mrs. Naumburg who made an earnest plea that the exponents of the two outstanding methods should compromise their differences in the interest of uniformity. We are sorry to see that the present paper instead of upholding her plea still endorses all the methods employed by American writers. If an international agreement could have been achieved, as Mrs. Naumburg suggested, it would have a been distinct benefit to ornithology since with the present difference in methods we are unable to make accurate use of published measurements. Unfortunately in spite of all suggestions to the contrary scarcely any authors state, in describing a new form, just how they *do* take their measurements!

The work like all publications of the Cleveland Museum is beautifully printed on extra heavy paper, and contains a bibliography as well as a full index.—W. S.

<sup>1</sup> Measurements of Birds. By S. Prentiss Baldwin, Harry C. Oberholser and Leonard G. Worley. Illustrations by James Manson Valentine. Contribution No. 17 from The Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory, Gates Mills, Ohio. Scientific Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. II. Issued October 14, 1931. Pp. i-ix + 1-165, figs. 1-151.