

and subspecies have been honored with his name by other taxonomists. The new forms which he characterized are not, of course, the truest measure of his achievements, although their number is impressive. The 'Catalogue,' forming the epitome of his life's work, is a stronger criterion, but it is only a greater and more complete structure than his other publications, all of which were, in their respective fields, prepared with the same rigorous search for fundamental truth. The monument, built with his own hands, needs no further adornment.

American Museum of Natural History
New York, N. Y.

REPORT OF THE A. O. U. COMMITTEE ON BIRD PROTECTION FOR 1943

It is difficult for an inexperienced Committee to assemble in a few months all the information that should go into an annual report of this kind. We have therefore requested each national organization concerned with the conservation of wild life to send us a brief report of its principal activities for the year so far as they concern bird protection, in order that we may put on record a summary for the information of the membership of the American Ornithologists' Union. We have tried to secure information on the present status of endangered species and we are offering the results in Part B of this report. In conclusion, we are recommending such additional studies or protective measures as seem feasible to us to improve the present situations. We have received very courteous replies to our questions from (1) Mr. John H. Baker representing the National Audubon Society; (2) Mr. Albert M. Day and Dr. Clarence Cottam representing the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; (3) Mr. Hoyes Lloyd representing the Department of Mines and Resources of Canada; (4) Dr. H. L. Shantz of the U. S. Forest Service; (5) Mr. G. K. Zimmerman, Chief of the Department of Information of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service; (6) Mr. Victor Cahalane of the National Park Service; and (7) Mrs. Rosalie Edge of the Emergency Conservation Committee. The following are their reports of accomplishments for the year 1943:

PART A

(1) NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

"1. The Audubon Nature Center at Greenwich, Connecticut, has been developed through alterations of an old barn into a nature museum, with exhibits portraying the interrelationships of animals,

plants, soil and water, on the 281-acre tract, and the various types of animal and plant communities existing there. A nature trail has been laid out and marked; a new entrance road and parking space have been built. Dr. Richard Lee Weaver has been appointed Educational Director and will carry on an active nature educational program as well as supervise a conservation research program. The Center was opened to the public October 16-17, 1943.

"2. Active collaboration has continued with federal and state agencies concerned with the development of a wise land-use plan for the Everglades Region in Florida. A well qualified hydraulic engineer has now been appointed Engineer and General Manager of the Everglades Drainage District and a new Advisory Committee has been set up, on which are not only representatives of the state agencies involved, but the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the U. S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and the National Audubon Society.

"3. Provision of warden service at Audubon Sanctuaries has been maintained in spite of war conditions, and new leases have been executed on four rookery keys in Florida. Short-term lease on the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary in California has been converted into a fifty-year lease with provision that the property may be sold only subject to encumbrance of the lease; this gives relative assurance of permanence. The crop of young birds raised in the Audubon sanctuaries in the spring of 1943 has on the whole not been as large as in the preceding year. This has apparently been due to climatic and cyclical causes. Minor depredations have occurred in a few locations where a small number of birds has been killed for food as a result of the increasing difficulties of obtaining meat, but at all such locations a large crop of young birds has been successfully raised to flying maturity.

"4. Representations made to the School Land Board in Texas resulted in the inclusion of distance and seasonal restrictions on oil drilling operations in certain leases of submerged lands adjacent to the Audubon sanctuary on the Vingtun Islands. Establishment of this principle as a precedent may be of vital importance to the successful maintenance of bird sanctuaries in coastal Texas waters and perhaps elsewhere.

"5. Initiation of the Audubon Wildlife Screen Tours program under the direction of Wayne Short, formerly of St. Louis. The initial series is sponsored by affiliated groups in ten principal mid-western cities, Columbus, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Kansas City, Omaha. The initial

group of lecturers are Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, Mrs. Edna Maslowski, Mr. John H. Storer, Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Mr. C. A. Harwell. This program seems susceptible of considerable expansion in future years.

"6. The School Nature League was merged with this Society, and its activities have been carried on by the Society with the finest kind of cooperation from the Board of Education of the City of New York, which has assigned a teacher at its expense on full time to promote the establishment of nature rooms and assist teachers in the knowledge of conservation and nature appreciation teaching techniques and the use of available printed materials. This program seems to hold great potentialities through expansion and development in all principal cities of the country.

"7. The feather trade has again been checked for observance of existing federal and state plumage laws.

"8. Rationing and other restrictions seemed to make it unwise or impossible to continue during the past year operation of the Audubon Nature Camp in Maine or the Audubon Wildlife Tours in southern states and in California. The Society plans to renew these activities at the earliest feasible moment."

(2) U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

"Four new national wildlife refuges were established in the following localities: Hernando County, Florida; Accomac County, Virginia; Kidder County, North Dakota; and Skagit County, Washington. Two refuge areas were removed from our jurisdiction: one by transfer to the National Park Service and one by General Land Office decision. The number as of June 30, 1943, was 274, totaling 17,620,320 acres. A very large proportion of the refuges were established primarily for bird protection.

"The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration involved coöperation with Soil Conservation Districts, particularly in developing field borders that will be of value to birds, and the continued transplanting of game birds to stock both old and new ranges. No additional comprehensive investigations of individual species were begun.

"Sixty-nine salaried Federal officers were available for the enforcement of wildlife conservation laws in the United States and 23 in Alaska. The former group obtained convictions of 2,567 violators who were punished by fines aggregating \$75,215 and jail sentences of 2,826 days. In Alaska, 135 persons were convicted and \$3,765 fines and 810 days in jail assessed against them. Most of the United States activities comprised enforcement of bird protective laws.

"Scientific collecting permits were reduced in number from 1,779 to 1,510. There was practically no change in the number of bird-banding permits, which on June 30 totaled 2,390. 1700 coöperators banded 177,898 birds, of which 30,783 were ducks and geese. The grand total of birds that have now been banded is 4,528,241 with returns or recoveries of 315,000.

"Because of loss of funds and of personnel, research relative to birds was practically on a maintenance basis except for investigations performed by the flyway biologists which were carried on with almost their usual intensity.

"It was estimated that the waterfowl population at its low point in 1934 was only about 27 millions. According to the January inventory of 1943, their numbers were between 115 and 120 millions, and the 1943 fall migration of the birds is expected to be the largest in several decades, possibly 150 million individuals. Despite the general increase, a few species, as the Redhead and Ruddy Duck, are not responding to protection as well as most of the others. The Woodcock seems to be increasing slowly but its populations are in need of careful management. The Wilson's Snipe is still on the decrease. The Mourning Dove is making a gratifying recovery but its numbers are still below the optimum desired. Special attention is being given to the White-winged Dove in order that its management may be improved.

"The increases in waterfowl and certain other birds are not without an objectionable aspect because they are resulting in increased damage to crops. It has been necessary to investigate, and to take certain measures for the control of, depredations in California, Idaho, Colorado, and Louisiana. Surprising though it may seem to many who have come to regard the Sandhill Crane as a vanishing bird, this species has increased to such an extent that, in its present rather narrow migration path, it is the subject of an annually increasing number of complaints on the score of crop damage. It may, therefore, be necessary to permit the application of repressive measures locally before the species has reoccupied its former range if indeed that objective can ever be achieved.

"The high prices for agricultural products and the pressure for maximum crops have made bird damage keenly felt and have resulted in demands for relief that cannot be ignored. Justified complainants in large numbers and over wide areas must be satisfied or the entire conservation movement will be injured."

(3) DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES OF CANADA

In Canada, Mr. Hoyes Lloyd reports the establishment of additional sanctuaries and a lengthened open season on Ptarmigan. He sounds a warning note for the Wood Duck and for the Black Duck in the Maritime Provinces.

"1. The Government of the Yukon Territory established in the southwestern angle of the Yukon, 'Kluane Game Sanctuary,' with an area of about 10,130 square miles, in which no hunting or trapping is permitted.

"2. The open season for all Ptarmigan in the Northwest Territories was increased from four months annually to eight months, viz., September 1–April 30. Ptarmigan are very numerous in the Territories in relation to the human population and form an important food supply.

"3. Canada still gives protection to the Wood Duck by a closed season, but it will not be easy to continue this unless the United States returns to similar protection.

"4. In general, the reproduction of waterfowl has been good although scarcity of ammunition greatly limits hunting. There have been some reports of scarcity of Black Ducks in the Maritime Provinces.

"5. The following sanctuaries have been established under the Migratory Birds Convention Act:

'Ile aux Tourtes Bird Sanctuary'

a small group of privately owned islands in the Ottawa River near Montreal, established February 22, 1943.

'Ken-Wo Country Club Bird Sanctuary'

a golf course near Kentville, Nova Scotia, established July 5, 1943."

(4) U. S. FOREST SERVICE

"The major contribution of the Forest Service to bird life is perhaps in the protection and management of the vast area in the National Forests—about one acre in ten in the United States. Through fire control, regulation of forest cutting, grazing and other uses, the land is kept continuously productive. Thus, a favorable habitat is maintained, and in many instances is improved with the increase of plant species which provide food and cover for birds.

"Because of the curtailment of much of the wildlife work on the National Forests, there are no new undertakings to report in connection with the protection of birds for 1943. Efforts to improve the environment for certain birds have been brought to the attention of the American Ornithologists' Union in the past. These include:

(1) stabilization of lake levels and flowages, notably in the Lake States' forests for the welfare of waterfowl, (2) reservation of openings in the forests of Lake States for Sharp-tail Grouse, (3) development of clearings in the dense second growth forests of the South, (4) planting of food patches to encourage turkey in some areas in the South, (5) fencing of arroyos to provide quail with food and cover in the Southwest, (6) development of water for quail in foothill areas in California, and similar projects.

"Enforcement of the 12,000 acre closure and sanctuary for the California Condor, established on the Los Padres National Forest, has been continued. Latest reports indicate that the condor has increased somewhat during the past year, which is good news for this 'vanishing' species."

(5) U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

"Despite wartime conditions, it has been possible to make considerable advances in those aspects of soil and moisture conservation work which are related to the improvement of bird habitats. Soil conservation districts, the farmer-organized and farmer-operated vehicle through which most soil conservation work is accomplished, now number more than 1,000 and embrace more than half a billion acres. The Soil Conservation Service has helped farmers develop conservation plans on about 80,000,000 acres and combined treatments have been placed upon one-half of these to date. This means that such practices as are useful to birds now form an impressive figure. Strip-cropping has been placed upon 3,494,000 acres. Woody plantings cover 714,000 acres. Grass plantings cover 2,688,000 acres. About 1,000 miles of shrub borders have been established along field edges. Farm and ranch ponds in districts now number 18,000. Nearly 2,000,000 acres of farm woodlands are protected from livestock and fire. About 75,000 acres have been planted primarily for wildlife and wild plant crops and through protection an even greater acreage has been allowed to revert to native vegetation.

"A most useful tool in the program to devote every acre of agricultural land to the purposes for which it is best adapted, is the classification of land according to its capability for use. On the basis of soil types, degree of erosion, slope and climate, farmland capability classes are established. Thus, lands suitable for sustained use in crop production may be so handled. Some lands are best suited to forage production or timber products. The Service has found that more than 33,000,000 acres of farm and ranch land are unsuited to the production of cultivated crops, livestock forage or timber. These acres

are largely coming to be known as 'wildlife lands' and are so treated. They include such places as marshes, streambanks, rock outcrops, strip-mined areas, and the like. Most of them present erosion problems which are best solved by treatments directly beneficial to wildlife.

"Birds are protected on a dozen State refuges on land administered by the Soil Conservation Service in ten states. In addition, there are a number of areas closed by the Department where such birds as the Mississippi Kite, Little Brown Cranes, and many other species receive protection.

"The Service finds indications, in the few ornithological studies that have been made, that combined soil conservation treatments result in 30 to 40 per cent increases of birds for farmlands as a whole, and some practices apparently double the number of birds in the fields on which they are applied. There are, likewise, notable increases in species."

(6) U. S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

War has had its effect on the protection of birds and other wildlife on many units of the National Park System. Strenuous efforts have been made by the National Park Service to maintain its peacetime standards of patrols and investigations, but the loss of many experienced men has had inevitable results. Thus far, we believe, these results have not been serious in losses of wildlife. Discontinuance of investigations into wildlife conditions, however, may be more detrimental later.

"Numerous attempts have been made to open the national parks and monuments to practically unlimited grazing of domestic stock. Success of these efforts would have been highly injurious to many birds through destruction of habitats and food. All requests for new grazing allotments in the major parks and wilderness-type national monuments have been refused. Increases in other units of the National Park System have been permitted only where permanent damage would not result.

"Due to personnel shortages, it was not possible in 1943 to carry out wildlife studies and the annual census of Trumpeter Swans in Yellowstone National Park. General observations seem to indicate that the status of the species remains approximately unchanged since the last census in 1941.

The Superintendent, Hawaii National Park, has advised us that 'Nene' or 'Hawaiian Geese' have maintained their numbers within and outside of the park. Extensive road building in the Islands, unfortunately, is opening up large areas of the primeval range of this

rare species. Use of some hitherto wilderness tracts outside of Hawaii National Park probably has had a detrimental effect on several rare birds, including the 'Akepa' and 'Akiapolaau,' and the uncommon 'Elepaio' and 'Iiwi.'

"Unauthorized use of Bird Key, Fort Jefferson National Monument, as a bombing target by unidentified aircraft late in 1942 resulted in a fire that burned all vegetation. This and several less injurious acts of similar nature have been the subject of protests to the several military and naval establishments. Fortunately, the fire occurred outside of the nesting season, but the island will not be usable by the Sooty and Noddy Terns until it is revegetated.

"Progress has been made toward the acquisition of a large area of the offshore islands on the North Carolina coast, of which Cape Hatteras is a part. This is a famous wintering area for waterfowl. The State has indicated the present availability of approximately 12,000 acres of land, and has agreed to establish a fund of \$75,000 for purchase of additional area. Prospects are good that further sums will be forthcoming as needed."

(7) EMERGENCY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Edge, reporting for the Emergency Conservation Committee, tells of financing Mr. Richard E. Follett's "research to explore the possibilities of raising Trumpeter Swans domestically," in the belief that that is the only way to assure its perpetuation. This has not gone beyond the exploratory stage though she reports that it has elicited the interest of the New York Zoological Society and the American Wildlife Institute and has the permission of Dr. Gabrielson to use any Federal Sanctuary for the purpose.

Another interest of the Emergency Conservation Committee this year has been the protection of the Duck Hawk and Mrs. Edge would draw attention to the uncoöperative attitude of certain humane societies.—"In May, 1943, a Duck Hawk's nest was destroyed by the management of a hotel in New York, and the young birds were given into the charge of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The agent of the Society destroyed the young Duck Hawks. The excuse given by the executive was that his men could not identify the birds. In September, 1943, a humane society of New Rochelle, New York, asked for the destruction of a Duck Hawk's nest on the eleventh story of a building in New Rochelle because the Duck Hawks fed on pigeons. (This was in reality a late summer roost on the 12th floor.) This disaster was happily prevented through the coöperation of the New York Conservation Department."

PART B

PRESENT STATUS OF CERTAIN ENDANGERED SPECIES

(Information supplied chiefly by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

WHOOPING CRANE

This species showed an increase of four birds during the winter of 1942-1943 over the previous winter's count, when 19 birds were seen on the Aransas Refuge, Texas; four of these were immatures and two young were seen in the same family group.

In Nebraska, however, according to A. N. Brooking, the numbers of migrating cranes reported each spring has dropped from 134 in 1934 to three in 1941, four in 1942, and one in 1943. This alarming report calls for action and the Committee believes that the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society should take immediate steps to learn the exact status of this species throughout its range and institute practical measures to forestall its extinction. A special study of this species similar to the one made of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the Roseate Spoonbill, and the Condor seems highly desirable.

GREAT WHITE HERON

There has been no change in the status of this bird according to records in the files of the Division of Wildlife Refuges, and there is no indication that the increased naval and military activities in the vicinity of the Key West and Great White Heron Refuges, Florida, have interfered with these birds.

TRUMPETER SWAN

The swan count for the United States was hampered this year because the personnel of the Yellowstone National Park was not available to cooperate in the annual count made during August. However, officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service are most optimistic relative to the outlook for this species since careful censusing of the Red Rock Lakes Refuge, Montana, and lakes in the refuge's vicinity revealed a total of 171 swans on areas exclusive of the Yellowstone National Park. Based on records for the past several years, a population of 50 birds is a conservative estimate for the Trumpeter Swans within the Yellowstone National Park; this number, together with the 171 birds outside, would indicate a population of 221 swans in the United States in the fall of 1943.

In British Columbia, the Trumpeter Swan population, estimated to number approximately 500, appears to be fairly well stabilized.

The number of cygnets included in the wintering flocks shows a satisfactory annual increase that unfortunately is offset by winter losses. These are due more often to scarcity of food than to any other cause and the situation is being met on some of the wintering grounds by the feeding of grain. Other losses are caused by lead poisoning and, according to wardens' reports, by Bald Eagle predation. The environment of one important wintering ground has been greatly modified by accelerated deforestation, a product of war conditions. The situation there is being watched.

It is considered important for the welfare of the species that warden service and winter grain-feeding be expanded. Canadian authorities are aware of this necessity and undoubtedly these additional protective measures will be undertaken when conditions permit.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL

The Sabine Refuge, Louisiana, played host to a new nesting colony of spoonbills this past spring, when some 35 pairs moved into the refuge from a near-by colony and began nesting. They selected Shell Hill, a most inaccessible place, and, although strong winds occurred during the incubation period, relatively few nests were destroyed. Fifty birds spent the summer of 1942 on the Indian Key Refuge, Florida, as is usual, and 40 were seen there again in the spring of 1943, according to last records received from that area. The Imperial Refuge, Arizona, was visited by ten birds in the fall of 1942, establishing the first record for that area since its establishment. Increased use of the Aransas Refuge, Texas, was noted in the fall of 1942 when 300 birds came into this area to feed. After nesting is completed on the Audubon Sanctuary, located on the Second Chain of Islands, near the Aransas Refuge, many of the adults and their offspring move into the area to feed. A spoonbill spent most of August, 1942, on the Great White Heron Refuge, Florida, according to Earle R. Greene, who also reports that the species occurs on the Marquesas Key, but that no nests have been located there to date.

ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN

This prairie chicken has not been seen on the Aransas Refuge, Texas, during the past year, but observations near the refuge indicate that nesting conditions have been favorable and a neighboring ranch reports a good population with many young birds. Strong concentrations were also reported from this ranch with many seen in the cultivated small grain fields.

MEARNS'S QUAIL

Ten birds were seen on the San Andres Refuge, New Mexico, during the spring of 1943.

REDHEAD

This species has shown a good increase on the national wildlife refuges during the past few years. In the fall of 1942, Susquehanna Refuge, Maryland, reported 10,000 present; 15,000 were estimated on the Bear River Refuge, Utah; 15,000 on the Valentine Lakes Refuge, Nebraska; 30,000 on Lower Klamath, California; and 15,000 on Mud Lake Refuge, Minnesota, for the same season. It is the most common duck on the Boulder Canyon Refuge during the migration.

CANVAS-BACK

Large concentrations of this species were reported from many national wildlife refuges during the fall of 1942, some of which were as follows: Susquehanna Refuge, Maryland, 350,000 (these probably represented the bulk of the birds wintering along the Atlantic Coast); Bear River, Utah, 15,000; Lower Klamath, California, 40,000; Valentine Lakes, Nebraska, 15,000; and Chautauqua Refuge, Illinois, 10,000. Continued restrictions on the taking of this species during the hunting seasons are most desirable.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE

The Santa Ana Refuge, Texas, had a fairly representative portion of the estimated 250,000 birds of the Rio Grande Valley; the birds utilized the favorite nesting habitat along the ebony and mimosa-bordered resacas of the refuge.

RED-BILLED PIGEON

This species, which, in the United States, is restricted to the lower Rio Grande Valley, used the Santa Ana Refuge, Texas, during the past nesting season and an estimated 200 nesting pairs were seen. Ornithologists in this section of the country announced a high percentage of increase in the species for 1943.

SANDHILL CRANE

This species, which includes the Sandhill, Little Brown and Florida Cranes, appears to be continuing a most satisfactory comeback, according to accounts of birds seen on the various refuges. Large concentrations of Sandhill and Little Brown Cranes were noted on several national wildlife refuges during the 1942 fall migrations, including Lacreek Refuge, South Dakota, where 14,000 were estimated;

Crescent Lake, Nebraska, with 11,000; Muleshoe Refuge, Texas, with 5,000; Lostwood Refuge, North Dakota, with 2,500; and Aransas, with 1,500 birds. Bitter Lakes Refuge, New Mexico, reported that 12,000 used that area in the spring of 1943, being of the smaller or Little Brown form. A satisfactory nesting season occurred on the Okefenokee Refuge, Georgia, for the Florida Crane during 1942, and an estimated 500 birds were present in the fall. Mr. W. F. Kubichek, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, observed and photographed a concentration in excess of 100,000 cranes along the Platte River near Hershey, Nebraska, during the spring of 1943.

PART C

DISCUSSION

1. We commend the various organizations for their accomplishments during the year, 1943, and particularly the National Audubon Society, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Soil Conservation Service which, in spite of the handicaps resulting from a world war, have been able to carry on with a greatly reduced personnel.

2. We commend the establishment of the Audubon Nature Center and hope that it will stimulate the desire to establish many local sanctuaries, private or public, because of their beneficial influence in encouraging and fostering bird life. Many of these already established by various birds clubs are doing an excellent work but their number should be greatly increased.

3. We regret that no feasible plan has been found either by the National Audubon Society, the Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service to acquire a refuge for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. We feel that at least a portion of the virgin forest known as the "Singer Tract" should be acquired by the federal government as a national monument or wilderness area before it is too late.

4. We recommend that the National Audubon Society, in conjunction with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the proper authorities in Canada and Mexico, inaugurate a study of the Whooping Crane with a view to preventing its extinction.

5. We believe that the Wood Duck and the Woodcock should be removed from the game list and we commend the Fish and Wildlife Service for continuing the closed season on the Wilson's Snipe and the reduced bag limits on Ruddy Ducks and Buffleheads.

6. The Trumpeter Swan, Whooping Crane, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Eskimo Curlew, and California Condor represent a special category of birds not only protected by Federal, State, and Provincial

laws, but exempt from scientific collecting. We recommend that certain other endangered species (List A), having a limited breeding range or a paucity of individuals, be included in this category and that the collecting of them for scientific purposes be permitted only with the special approval of the Federal, State, or Provincial agency concerned.

7. We believe that certain other species protected by Federal, State, and Provincial laws (List B) are rare within the United States and Canada, even though certain of them are more common in regions to the south. We recommend, therefore, that additional protection be given them by further limiting the number that can be taken in any one year or by any one collector for scientific purposes.

It is highly desirable that further information regarding the status of all rare birds should be available and the Committee, therefore, invites every member of the A. O. U., who has additional information gained from recent observations, to make his data available either directly to the Committee or through publication.

A	B
ADDITIONAL BIRDS THAT SHOULD BE GIVEN COMPLETE PROTECTION	BIRDS WHOSE NUMBER SHOULD BE WATCHED CAREFULLY AND GIVEN GREATER PROTECTION THAN AT PRESENT
California Clapper Rail Hudsonian Godwit Kirtland's Warbler Bachman's Warbler Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow	Great White Heron Eastern Glossy Ibis Roseate Spoonbill Short-tailed Hawk Everglade Kite White-tailed Kite Long-billed Curlew Bristle-thighed Curlew Aleutian Tern Whiskered Auklet

8. STATUS OF THE DUCK HAWK. In the past year the Duck Hawk has probably benefitted somewhat from the ammunition shortage among sportsmen. Under special protection the population in one area in the east has increased from five to ten pairs in the last ten years. In California, four eyries were broken up by target practice and gun emplacements of the armed forces (R. M. Bond). In British Columbia, the species is believed to be decreasing. One of the chief nesting grounds for the race *pealei* has lost its isolation because of

the conduct of military operations in the vicinity and a reduction in numbers can be expected (J. A. Munro). In the Mississippi Valley, the rediscovered remnant of tree-nesting birds appears to be in no immediate danger (W. R. Spofford). The apprehension of would-be falconers at a protected eyrie in New York has been followed closely and is not yet believed to be characteristic of the falconry movement at this time. We commend the action of W. C. Adams and the New York State Conservation Department in refusing permits to kill the birds in New York City and at the Bear Mountain Bridge.

9. CANADA GEESSE.—We view with alarm the enormous legal destruction of Canada Geese at the Horse Shoe Lake Refuge and Public Shooting Ground in Illinois. The 1943 kill in this area was approximately 11,000 birds, not counting the cripples, and may represent twenty-five per cent mortality of the main flock of Canada Geese using the Mississippi flyway. We trust that the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Illinois State Conservation Department will be able to adjust the regulations controlling the taking of these birds so as to guarantee their perpetuation.

10. THE COMMITTEE ON BIRD PROTECTION.—We recommend that the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection be composed of three active members responsible for the publication of an annual report and not more than fifteen advisory members. These shall be either past members of the Committee or members so strategically located about the country that they can transmit first-hand information to the active committee on the status of endangered species and call attention to any matters concerning the conservation of bird life that are not being properly attended to in their respective areas.

Respectfully submitted,

A. A. ALLEN, *Chairman*

P. L. ERRINGTON

J. J. HICKEY

J. A. MUNRO

D. STONER

NOTE.—A minority statement by one of the members of the Committee, criticizing various portions of the foregoing report, was forwarded by the Chairman late in May. It is unfortunate that the points at issue were not reviewed by the whole Committee, but under the circumstances, the President and Editor believe that the critique should be reserved for discussion by the Committee or at a meeting of the A. O. U. before publication.—ED.