

The fate of Allsop's plovers in this book ends on a happier note than Fred Bodsworth's curlews in "The Last of the Curlews" (1954). As Allsop points out in his Foreword, the first nest of the Little Ringed Plover in Great Britain was discovered in 1938. But the 1956 survey indicated 70 pairs and the 1959 survey nearly a hundred pairs. Latest returns, those of 1963, total at least 175 pairs (pp. vii, viii). "Birds can easily be overlooked," he concludes (p. viii). If that is true for "the London area's two hundred gravel pits" (p. vii), may it not be even truer of certain species of North American birds in such large areas in the United States as Texas or Alaska or, in Canada, such areas as the Prairie Provinces?—HERBERT KRAUSE.

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

In a review appearing in the September, 1965, issue of *The Wilson Bulletin*, Tom Cade implies that the authors of "Birds of Prey of the World" have shown too casual a regard for acknowledging the work of others, and makes some reference to "plagiarism."

This is a serious allegation, and in fairness to ourselves and our readers, we feel obliged to point out that it has no basis in fact. Authors are credited in Acknowledgments and two separate Introductions, and the Bibliography fully covers our sources under general or specific headings, sometimes in the extensive Bibliographies of our major source books. Any source that "may not be found at all" is the observation of John Hamlet, based on a *lifetime* of field work. Curiously, the reviewer credits the co-author with nothing more than supplying "trained birds."

If he had used the Bibliography as suggested, Dr. Cade would have had no trouble finding the original source of the information about the Gabar Goshawk on p. 257. Having duly noted the bird's range, anyone slightly familiar with ornithological literature would turn to *Regional References, Africa*, and look first for titles that might contain descriptions of behavior, notably G. L. Van Someren's "Days With Birds," where it is indeed listed in the index under Gabar Goshawk, p. 105. No more than 20 minutes need be spent in the library. On the basis of this one example, which is *in* the Bibliography, Dr. Cade says there are "numerous cases" in which we "failed to include references." We contend that he has not bothered to look for them.

Finally, as Dr. Cade concedes on many occasions throughout the review, our book was not intended to be a technical monograph. In his own words, it is "well designed to excite the interest and acquisitiveness of all devotees of the raptors" plus those who do not know what the word "raptor" means. It has been our experience that real conservation of the birds of prey can only begin with understanding and keen personal interest in them.

s/ Mary Louise Grossman and John Hamlet

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