

Henry's paintings are excellent and the brief text to each plate satisfactory and well printed.

The species figured in this part are the Blue Nuthatch; the Iora (*Aeginthina*); Ceylon Blackbird (*Merula*); Whistling Thrush (*Arrenga*); Black-naped Flycatcher (*Hypothymis*); Wood Shrike (*Tephrodornis*); Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dissemurus*); Fan-tailed Warbler (*Cisticola*); Munia (*Uroloncha*); Legge's Flower-pecker (*Acmonorhynchus*); Pygmy Woodpecker (*Yungipicus*); Layard's Woodpecker (*Chrysocolaptes*); Jungle Nightjar (*Caprimulgus*); Pompadour Pigeon (*Treron*); Ceylon Wood Pigeon (*Columba*); and Bustard Quail (*Turnix*).—W. S.

Pellet Formation and Nesting Habits of the Barn Owl.—In the fourth number¹ of the 'Encyclopedie Ornithologique' the formation, mechanism of expulsion, physical form and composition, and number of pellets ejected daily is discussed for birds in general with special reference to feeding experiments with *Corvus corone* and *Tyto alba perlata*.

The author and M. Madon examined over 1700 whole pellets and an indefinite amount of unconsolidated pellet material of the common Barn Owl. The results obtained differ from those of former investigators in the greater proportion of rodents found. Percentages secured by averaging the findings from 4 lots of pellets ejected at varying times and places by different individuals show that rodents numerically form 58.98 per cent, insectivores, 21.05 per cent; tabrachians, 16.30 per cent; birds, 0.65 per cent, and saurians a trace, of the food items. The conclusion is that this owl merits diligent protection.

The balance of the volume is devoted to a journal of 220 days of observation of the nesting habits of the Barn Owl. Commencing with the selection of a pigeon house as a suitable domicile, the coming of the mate, laying of the eggs, brooding, hatching of the young, their growth and departure from the nest were recorded daily by the painstaking observer. In the journal the daily catch, number, species, sex and weight of prey is noted. Certain marked foods were weighed and left in the nest shelter, the pellets containing them subsequently being collected and weighed. The nestlings were weighed daily from first appearance until they became unmanageable, a period varying from 31 to 44 days for the five birds. In addition the weights of a series of eggs and of adults are included.—PHOEBE KNAPPEN.

Shorter Papers.

Bangs, Outram.—The Chinese Forms of *Seicercus* of the Burkii Form-Circle. (Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, Vol. XI, pp. 1-5, May 8, 1929.)—Three species recognized; *cognitus*, *intermedius* and *burkii* the last divided into four subspecies *S. b. latouchei* (p. 4) Kuatun, n. w. Fohkien being described as new.

¹ La Vie des Chouettes. Régimes et croissance de l'Effraie commune *Tyto alba alba* (L.) en Vendée. By G. Guérin. Encycl. Orn. France. No. 4, 157 pp., 10 pls., 1928.