

The elaborate plan adopted in part 1 is continued and we have approximately 1,000 references to mention of this bird, but with the exception of the list of illustrations, they are arranged according to the scientific name employed and not according to subject matter. Consequently if one is seeking information on the nest and eggs of the bird, he must waste time in looking up hundreds of references which he finds relate to other details in the bird's history. If the references were arranged according to subject like those in the several 'Auk' indexes the work would be of vastly greater value.—W. S.

**Howell's 'Birds of Alabama.'**<sup>1</sup>—The edition of this excellent work<sup>1</sup> (see Auk, 1924, p. 489) was exhausted within a short time after its appearance and a second edition has now been prepared. This is simply a reprint but the type is slightly different and consequently the pages, while the same in number, do not exactly correspond. It is noted too, that in the original, while the bibliography was properly so called in the heading on p. 363, it is referred to as a "biography" in the page captions. In the new edition, however, it is termed a "biography" throughout, which is at least consistent though the author we suspect is not responsible.

The appearance of the typography is superior to that of the first edition and the volume will, we are sure, continue to enjoy a wide popularity and serve as an aid to all interested in the bird life of the South.—W. S.

**Patch's 'Holiday Meadow.'**<sup>2</sup>—This attractively bound nature study book written for children contains chapters each devoted chiefly to the biography of a bird, mammal, insect, spider, or plant. Two of the chapters relate to birds, one treating of Meadowlarks and the other of Snowflakes. The latter is especially interesting as describing a successful method of winter feeding which kept the birds coming to the vicinity of a farmhouse from which many interesting observations on them were made. In substance and style the book seems well fitted for its purpose, the entertainment and instruction of children.—W. L. M.

**German Studies on the Food of Hawks and Owls.**<sup>3</sup>—In this discussion of the food of twenty-seven European birds of prey, many of them counterparts of American species, the work of a group of six German workers headed by O. Uttendorfer, begun in 1894 is brought up to date. Most of the previous reports upon the progress of these investigations have been published from time to time in the 'Ornithologische Monatsschrift.'

<sup>1</sup> *Birds of Alabama.* By Arthur H. Howell. Department of Game and Fisheries of Alabama. Second Edition, pp. 1-384, 31 text figures. 1928.

<sup>2</sup> *Holiday Meadow.* By Edith M. Patch. Decorations by Wilfrid S. Bronson, pp. 1-165, numerous half-tone illustrations. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1930.

<sup>3</sup> Uttendorfer, O. in collaboration with H. Kramer, Sr., Dr. H. Kramer, J. Meissel, W. Petry and D. Wiemann, *Studien zur Ernährung unserer Tagraubvogel und Eulen*, Abh. Naturf. Gesell. Gorlitz, v. 31, no. 1, pp. 1-210, pl. 1-40, 1930.

Each species is treated in order, with more or less on the feeding and nesting habits of each. Especially full treatment is given of the European "Sparrow Hawk" (*Accipiter nisus* L.), the Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis* L.), and of the Falcon (*Falco peregrinus* L.). Like the American Accipiters, the European ones prey mainly upon birds. At 176 nests of *Accipiter nisus* were found pellets containing the remains of 12,987 birds of 112 species—an average of about 73.5 birds per nest—a figure which would mean more had the observation periods of the nests been more uniform. Finches (including *Passer domesticus*), Skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*), and the Thrush (*Turdus musicus*), are among the heaviest losers to this raptor.

The data upon the European representative *Circus cyaneus* L. of our Marsh Hawk are disappointingly meager in view of the present debate upon the value of this species. However, the investigations of the food of this species by several other German authors are reviewed, and lead the present authors to plead for the protection of this species. While birds, including the partridge (*Perdix perdix*) seem to form a constant part of the food of the species, the number of mice and other rodents taken is so large as to throw the balance in favor of *Circus*, in the opinion of the authors. It appears that cannibalism among young in the nest occurs occasionally in this species as well as in *Circus aeruginosus*. In *Circus pygargus* (Montagu's Harrier) is noted the custom of the male giving the prey to the female, which then takes it to the nestlings. *Circus pygargus* and *C. aeruginosus* seem to be even more worthy of protection than does *cyaneus*.

As for the Owls, their food corresponds closely with that of the American representatives of the respective species.

The methods of research are somewhat at variance with those used by the Biological Survey in the preponderant weight which is given to pellet instead of stomach examinations, although a goodly number of the latter are given for some species. Throughout the article are interspersed various notes of interest on the general habits and abundance of the different raptors in the districts of Germany. Not the least attractive feature is a series of plates showing what actually confronts the determiner of the food items of the group.—A. S. HYDE.

**Abstract of Proceedings of the Linnaean Society, N. Y.**—This pamphlet<sup>1</sup> covering the years 1927–1928 presents the results of the local field work of this active organization.

Besides the paper on birds of Union County, there are reports on the ornithological year 1926 in the New York City region by Ludlow Griscom and another for the year 1927 by Griscom and Warren F. Eaton. Also the reports of the secretary.—W. S.

**The Illinois Audubon Bulletin.**—The neat little publication of the Illinois Audubon Society for 1930 contains several articles of much interest. Photographing in a vanishing marsh by J. C. Plagge and W. O. Dawson,

<sup>1</sup> Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York for the Two Years ending March 27, 1928. Nos. 39 and 40, pp. 1–103. February 10, 1930.