

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 book¹ 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 guide² 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-

¹ 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.

² 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].