

ian, although Mr. Snyder is of the opinion that under primeval conditions the latter largely predominated and that more southern elements have come in after the area came under cultivation and much of the forests were removed.

The main part of the publication consists of a well annotated list of 230 species of birds with a bibliography.—W. S.

**Robert's 'Les Oiseaux de Chez Nous.'**—We published an announcement of M. Robert's work<sup>1</sup> in 'The Auk' some time ago, and now we have before us the first portfolio consisting of 23 large sheets 15 x 21 ins., upon which are mounted from one to three reproductions of the artist's paintings of familiar French birds—woodpeckers, the Bee-eater, and various passerine species. His work is very different from that of Fuytes or Thorburn and in his treatment, there is more of the artist and less of the ornithologist, with the result, that there is less detailed accuracy and yet, often a reproduction of the character of plumage that is not always attained by our bird artists.

M. Robert's work is, however, by no means uniform; some of his birds show intimate knowledge of the living bird and many a characteristic attitude has been caught while on the other hand there are figures, which in their stiffness and unnatural poses look as if they had been painted from badly mounted specimens. The backgrounds, too, vary very much in effectiveness, some being excellent while others are unfortunate in being far more conspicuous than the bird. There are several cases too, where the background color has been put on immediately around the figure of the bird following its very curve!

However, they are probably the best paintings of French birds that have been produced and most of them are pleasing pictures from an artistic point of view and accurate in detail and coloring, indeed the reproduction seems to be excellent. The work is issued both as a portfolio and as an atlas.—W. S.

**Collinge on the Corn-crake.**—The Land-rail or Corn-crake has diminished in numbers in southern Great Britain for reasons not well understood. As one means of stimulating interest in the bird and its preservation, Dr. Walter E. Collinge has reported<sup>2</sup> on its food habits. He finds it to be one of three British birds that feed most extensively on leather-jackets or crane-fly larvae which are great pests of grass lands. The Corn-crake eats many larvae of the type known in the United States as wire-worms and in all is credited with subsisting to the extent of 66 per cent of its diet upon food, the consumption of which is a benefit to the farmer, while 33 per cent is neutral, and only 1 per cent injurious in character.

Dr. Collinge discusses possible causes of decrease in numbers of the bird,

<sup>1</sup> Leo-Paul Robert | Peintre | Les | Oiseaux | de Chez Nous | Premier Portfeuille | Neuchâtel | Delachaux & Niestlé S. A. | Éditeurs.

<sup>2</sup> Journ. Ministry of Agr. Sept. 1931, pp. 618-621, 1 fig.

and says: "In conclusion, we have here the striking case of a most interesting bird, of great economic value, that spends six or seven months on the land just at a period when it can confer the maximum benefit upon agriculturists. It is, therefore, important that every protection should be afforded to so beneficial a species, and that sportsmen and others should be particularly careful not to destroy it."—W. L. M.

**'Third Bulletin of the International Committee For Bird Preservation.'**<sup>1</sup>—The Bulletin contains articles on bird-protection and bird-protective laws applying to fourteen different countries, viz., Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indo-China, Italy, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, British Guiana, and the United States. The reports were prepared by such well-known naturalists as Jean Delacour, Titis Csorgey, Count Arrigoni Degli Oddi, Austin Roberts, J. G. Myers, T. S. Palmer, Hoyes Lloyd and others.

It is shown that the Migratory Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) is decreasing under the heavy commercial demands made upon them. Reports recently gathered by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson through official channels show that the number of these birds shipped for food from Alexandria, Egypt, to European ports in 1927 was 767,850, while in 1930 such exports had dropped to 410,846.

The Bulletin is illustrated with a frontispiece showing the Seventh International Ornithological Congress held in Amsterdam, June 2-7, 1930, at which time the International Committee for Bird Preservation held its Fourth Biennial Convention. It also contains reproductions of photographs of twenty-one prominent members of the Committee.

There is given a brief summary of this organization which was founded at a conference called in London, June 20, 1922.

The Committee is composed of National Sections, whose members are selected by scientific and conservation organizations in 23 countries. These groups include the world's most prominent ornithological societies in America, Europe, Australia, and Japan. This work was initiated and is fostered by the National Association of Audubon Societies.—T. S. P.

---

<sup>1</sup> Third Bulletin of the International Committee for Bird Preservation. Compiled by T. Gilbert Pearson, Chairman, National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York City. 1931.