

made that raptors prefer the front part of the body of prey, and that the frequently observed weakness and death of the youngest nestling is due not only to reduction in quantity of food obtained but also to its quality because the front part of the body is usually eaten by the older nestlings which seize it first.

The authors divide the raptors studied into two groups, (a) those that prefer prey of a definite group and take other only casually, and (b) those habitually taking a mixed diet. In the first class are the mouse-eaters, *Cerchneis tinnunculus*, *Bubo bubo*, *Synium aluco*, *Asio flammeus*, and *Asio otus*; the bird-eaters *Astur palumbarius* and *Accipiter nisus*; a fish-eater *Pandion haliaetus*; and insect-eaters *Erythropus vespertinus* and *Pernis apivorus*. In class "b" are mouse and bird eaters as *Aquila clanda*, *Circus aeruginosus* and *Circus pygargus*; mouse and insect eaters as *Athene noctua*, *Nyctale tengmalmi*, *Glaucidium passerinum*, and *Scops giu*; and omnivorous species as *Buteo buteo*, *Milvus korschun*, and *Haliaetus albicilla*. Text in Russian, summary in English.

A report on the Gray Crow<sup>1</sup> was based on field study and 170 stomach analyses, and the results are presented according to seasons. In May and June the predominant food is insects of which more than half are of injurious and the others of neutral sorts. Some mice also are eaten. In July fishes and mollusks caught in drying pools left by spring floods, as well as insects (69 per cent harmful) are consumed. From August to November grain is freely eaten, some of it from crops. In March and April grain, this time chiefly waste, predominates but many mice are eaten and a variety of refuse. The author believes that the Crow is generally useful to agriculture and as a scavenger, but that it does some damage to hunting interests. Text in Russian, summary in English.

1070 pellets of Magpies from winter roosts along the Kama River were studied by Vlasoff and Teploff.<sup>2</sup> Leading items of food found in the numbers cited were, rodents 684, moles and shrews 38, birds 5, Anura 3, fishes 124, insects 63, besides a considerable variety of seeds. The authors state that under the conditions of this study the Magpie was an omnivorous but completely useful bird and that Magpie killing by hunting groups should not be permitted. The usefulness of old Magpie nests to such beneficial birds as the Long-eared Owl and Kestrel also is noted. Text and bibliography of 14 titles in Russian, summary in English.—W. L. M.

#### Shorter Publications.

**Allen, Arthur A.**—A New Bird for North America. (University State of N. Y. Bulletin to Schools, XX, No. 13, March 15, 1934.)—Capture of a

<sup>1</sup> Economic Importance of the Gray Crow (*Corvus cornix* L.) in the Lower Kama Valley. By D. J. Aspeasoff. Records Volga-Kama Biologic-Trade Station, 2, 1932. Pp. 202-227, 4 figs.

<sup>2</sup> Food of the Magpie—*Pica pica* L. By A. A. Vlasoff and V. P. Teploff. Records Volga-Kama Biologic-Trade Station, 2, 1932. Pp. 228-240.

Trinidad Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) near Ithaca, N. Y., on August 24, 1933.

**Allen, Francis H.**—Charles Wendell Townsend. 1859-1934.—(Privately printed.)

**Bailey, Alfred M.**—Wanderers of the Seas. (Natural History, May-June, 1934.)—On the Albatrosses of Laysan Island with many original photographs.

**Gabrielson, Ira N.**—Baby Styles in Birdland. (American Forests, May, 1934.)—Numerous photographs of young birds.

**Grange, Wallace B.**—Winter Feeding of Wild Life on Northern Farms. (U. S. Dept. Agr. Miscellaneous Publ. No. 159.)—Excellent suggestions.

**Grange, Wallace B.**—Improving the Farm Environment for Wild Life. (U. S. Dept. Agr. Farmers' Bull. No. 1719.)—Valuable suggestions on cover management, replanting with vegetation, and making roadsides attractive to birds as well as to man. Also a strong defence of the Hawks and Owls. "No wholesale destruction of Hawks and Owls should be tolerated," says the author, "such destruction is not wild-life management, but ignorant or willful disregard of facts."

**Hall, F. S.**—Studies in the History of Ornithology in the state of Washington (1792-1932). Part III. (The Murrelet, January, 1934.)—An interesting review of the work of David Douglass and the birds that he discovered or collected.

**Harper, Francis.**—The Okefinokee Wilderness. (Nat. Geogr. Magazine, May, 1934.)—A most interesting account of life in this famous swamp with incidental mention of birds.

**McAtee, W. L.**—Conservation of Game or of Wild Life—Which? (Scientific Monthly, February, 1934.)—An article that every one should read—especially sportsmen! The writer, a Government expert on wild life conservation, sums up the situation when he says: "Hunting being a luxury there is no validity in arguments for sweeping aside everything that interferes with it."

**O'Roke, Earl C.**—A Malaria-like Disease of Ducks. (Univ. of Michigan School of Forestry, Bulletin No. 4, 1934.)—Account of study and experiments in control of the protozoon parasite *Leucocytozoon anatis* which is the cause of the disease.

**Patten, Bradley Merrill and Kramer, Theodore C.**—The Initiation of Contraction in the Embryonic Chick Heart. (Amer. Jour. Anat., November, 1933.)

**Phillips, John C.**—Migratory Bird Protection in North America. (Special Publication Amer. Comm. International Wild Life Protection, I, No. 4. 1934.)—A chronological résumé of the subject.

**Rogers, Charles H., and Deignan, Herbert.**—Birds New to the Kingdom of Siam or Otherwise Noteworthy. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, April 2, 1934.)

**St. Louis Bird Club.**—In Memoriam Otto Widmann. (St. Louis Bird

Club Bulletin III, No. 1, No date.)—Tributes, bibliography and portrait.

**Shannon, Wayland E.**—Notes on the Bird Life of Merritt's Island [Florida]. During the 1932 and 1933 Seasons. (Florida Naturalist, VII, No. 3, April 1934.)

**Soper, J. Dewey.**—Interesting Bird Records for Southern Baffin Island. (Canadian Field Naturalist, April and May, 1934.)

**Swarth, Harry S.**—The Bird Fauna of the Galapagos Islands in Relation to Species Formation. (Biological Reviews [Cambridge, England] IX, No. 2, April, 1934.)—A general discussion of the origin and nature of variation in the bird life of the islands. The author considers the islands to be of volcanic origin and their fauna to have come from elsewhere, possibly in part from the West Indies. The main group of land birds which has proved such a puzzle to systematists he explains as "a fine example of diversification unhindered by competition."

**Slejser, Austina J.**—Results of Bird Banding by the Museum of Natural History at Leiden. (Zool. Mededeelingen's Rijks Mus. Nat. Hist. Leiden XVI, Af. 3-4. 1933.)

**Wetmore, Alexander.**—A Systematic Classification for the Birds of the World, Revised and Emended. (Smithson. Misc. Coll. Vol. 89, No. 13.)—The changes from the author's former edition are the establishment of the Penguins as a distinct super-order; the uniting of the *Perdidae* and *Phasianidae*; the recognition of a distinct family *Rostratulidae* for the Painted Snipe; the reversal in position of the Parrots and Cuckoos; and in the *Passeriformes*, the uniting of the Bowerbirds with the Birds of Paradise, of the *Paramythiidae* with *Dicaeidae*; *Enicuridae* with *Turdidae*; *Aerocharidae* with *Vangidae*; and *Graculidae* with *Sturnidae*; also the establishment of a distinct family *Paradoxornithidae* for the Parrot-bills.

**Zimmer, John T.**—Studies of Peruvian Birds. (American Mus. Novitates. No. 668, Oct. 23, 1933, and 703, March 15, 1934.)—The first of these papers contains a study of the genera *Taraba* and *Sakesphorus* with a new form described in each, while the second has to do with *Hylophylax*, *Myrmothera*, and *Grallaria*, with one, two, and two new forms, respectively. The detailed discussion of species will prove of the greatest help to students of the Ant Thrushes.

#### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.** XXXVI, No. 2. March-April, 1934.

Bird-Notes from Bed. Part II. Spring. By Mark F. Emerson.—Purple Finch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Robin and Catbird come to a window feeding shelf and are photographed.

A Morning's Migration. By Myrtle Broley.—A spring "wave," and flock of 2000 Snow and Blue Geese near Winnepeg.

A Dusky Poor-will as an Overnight Guest. By Emerson A. Stoner.

Tree Swallows at Home in Montana. By Winton Weydemeyer.—With excellent photographs: