

lunches, both of which have now been dismissed from consideration although some serious requests for the birds' destruction on these scores have been made in the past! The case of the Pelican taking trout that the fishermen regarded as their game has been met by restocking the lakes rather than destroying the birds.

Of offences of man against the birds are oiling of waters to dispose of mosquitos which resulted in the killing of certain birds and destroying feeding grounds, and the intrusion by park visitors upon the colonies of breeding Pelicans and other colony-nesting species. Mr. Wright quite properly thinks that those wishing to visit national parks will have to put up with such inconveniences as mosquitos and must be excluded from nesting rookeries, although plans can be perfected whereby large numbers of rookery birds may be seen on their feeding grounds and their evening flight back to the rookeries witnessed with ease.

'Men and Mammals' in the parks forms another interesting chapter as does Williams' account of the 'Kaibab Deer Fiasco' where the killing off of the Pumas so increased the deer that they consumed all the forage and it will take fifty years of careful management to cover the scars of the fiasco. The surplus of deer have meanwhile been killed off.

There are many other interesting discussions and many attractive photographs in this little volume.—W. S.

Year Book of the Indiana Audubon Society.—This annual,¹ always rich in bird lore, opens this year with a sketch of T. Gilbert Pearson by Robert P. Allen. There is an interesting article on 'Some of the Large Birds of Indiana' by W. P. Allyn, with photographs of adult and young of the Black and Turkey Vultures. 'Robin Notes' by Earl Brooks and Grant Henderson, the latter presenting evidence of a single Robin attending two nests. Five nests were located in successive buckets of an elevator and two which were side by side contained two eggs each, the others being unfinished. Sidney R. Esten presents a table of migration data for Fort Wayne, Ind., compiled during many years by the late Charles A. Stockbridge. The Society is making a strong movement to prevent the placing of the Mourning Dove on the list of game birds.—W. S.

Third Report of the Hawk and Owl Society.—This publication like its predecessors is full of information regarding the progress of movements for the preservation of these birds. There is much information upon the Hawk Mountain controversy which has fortunately subsided for the present and the protection of the birds given first consideration.

Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., has an interesting report on the Hawk conditions in the South with a list of species observed.

Mr. Warren Eaton, prime mover in the organization of the Society has, as is generally known, been taken on to the staff of the National Association of Audubon Societies in charge of Hawk and Owl protection and Mr. Charles K. Nichols takes his place as Secretary. All contributions in aid of the Hawks and Owls should be sent to the Treasurer, Colvin Farley, 2 Martine Ave., White Plains, N. Y.—W. S.

Snyder on the Sharp-tailed Grouse.—Mr. Snyder has gathered together in this study² of the Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*) a vast amount of information on the cyclic abundance of the species and its habits, followed by a more detailed account of the 1932 emigration of the northern race through Ontario and Quebec, with observations on the behavior of the migrating birds the possible causes

¹ The Audubon Year Book, Vol. XIII. Price \$1.00 (H. A. Zimmerman, 915 W. Gilbert St., Muncie, Ind.).

² A Study of the Sharp-tailed Grouse. By L. L. Snyder. Contributions Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology No. 6. (Reprinted from Univ. Toronto Studies Biol. Ser. No. 40) 1935. Pp. 1-66.

of the flight and the ultimate fate of the migrants. The question of the fluctuation in the numbers of game birds is one that attracts much interest at the present time and we have in this paper of Mr. Snyder's a valuable contribution to the subject.

Following the discussion of the emigration he presents a taxonomic study of the Sharp-tailed Grouse in which he endorses the recognition of *P. p. kennicottii* (Suckley) from the far northwest, as recently proposed by DuMont and suggests the possibility of still another separable race in the grove belt of the Prairie Provinces. In a subsequent paper,¹ with additional material at his command, this race is formally named *P. p. campisylvicola* (p. 4) type locality, near Winnipeg, Manitoba. The status of *P. p. jamesi* Lincoln, with a very small range at the southern extremity of the *P. p. campestris* territory is left for future determination.—W. S.

Hibbert-Ware on the Little Owl.²—This is a thoroughly satisfying account of the food habits of the Little Owl based on the analyses of thousands of pellets, and on the contents of larder holes where food is prepared for the young. This Owl is a ground feeder and "the staple food of the adult bird at all seasons of the year consists of mice, voles, rats, shrews, beetles, insect larvae, and earthworms. The remains of birds occur very sparsely." The young are "reared almost entirely on mice, voles, earthworms, and soft larvae."

Analyses of the gizzard contents of seven of the birds killed because they were thought to be doing harm are presented, and in no case bear out the suspicion of wrongdoing. In so "vermin"-conscious a country as England the Little Owl naturally fell under suspicion, but in these studies the author found no case of depredations either upon game birds or poultry, and knows of only one authentic record of such damage. The author presents a summary giving the species a highly creditable record, and Dr. Walter E. Collinge, the well-known English Economic Ornithologist, supplies a postscript to the effect that from the nature of its food "the Little Owl must be regarded as of great value to the agriculturist. As a factor in the destruction of injurious insects and voles and mice it is a most valuable ally."—W. L. M.

The A. O. U. 'Pocket Check-List.'—There has recently been published by the Union a pocket edition³ of the 'Check-List' based on the fourth edition of the regular 'Check-List' with no change whatever in the names. The technical and English names and the A. O. U. number of each species and subspecies are given and the list is printed on one side of the paper so that it may be used for labelling, for field lists, for "life lists" and various other purposes. There are convenient indexes to the numbers and to the family names and English group names. While of the same size as the former pocket list, of 1910, this one is printed in somewhat larger type with all names of higher groups included and thus covers more than twice the number of pages. It is sold at cost price and should be in great demand as a convenient reference book for one desiring the current technical name of any North American bird as well as for the purposes already mentioned. Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Chairman of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds is responsible for both the compilation and editing of the list and has given us an excellent piece of work.—W. S.

¹ A Revision of the Sharp-tailed Grouse with a Description of a New Race. By L. L. Snyder. Occas. Papers Royal Ontario Mus. Zool., No. 2. July 30, 1935. Pp. 1-9.

² Hibbert-Ware, A., The Little Owl. An Examination of its Food Habits, Reprint 3 pp. (16 x 22 cm.) from School Nature Study, Feb. 1935.

³ Abridged Check-List of North American Birds. From the Fourth Edition of the A. O. U. Check-List. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D. C., 1935. Size 3¼ by 5¾ inches. Pp. 1-177. Price 50 cents. Address W. L. McAtee, 3200 22d St., Cherrydale, Va.