

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.