

easy task. Dr. Collinge found such vegetation, chiefly grass and aquatic plants, to compose in averages of monthly diet 84.10 per cent of the contents of 157 stomachs. Food items next in rank were molluscs 4.60 percent, worms 3.23, and fish and fish eggs 2.39 percent. Charges that the Coot destroys numbers of the eggs and young of wild Ducks were little substantiated by this study, only two instances of bird-eating being found. The general conclusion is that the food habits are neutral and the bird essentially harmless.—W. L. M.

On the Types of J. K. Townsend's Birds.—In my review of Hellmayr's 'Birds of the Americas' (Auk, January, 1936, p. 104) I said "we do not think that the Washington and Cambridge specimens [of J. K. Townsend's birds] can be regarded as 'co-types.' Most of the new species were described in the 'Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia' and we maintain that the specimens retained there are the types."

When this was written I had intended publishing in the same issue a paper on the Townsend types with extracts from some letters of Audubon bearing upon the subject, to which reference was to be made. Unfortunately this paper had to be held over so that my statement lacked the explanation that it should have had. My point was not against the status of "co-types" as forming the basis of species described from several specimens but, rather, whether the specimens in Audubon's possession (which later came to the U. S. National Museum and the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, were used in drawing up the descriptions which were published in the 'Journal' of the Philadelphia Academy, in Townsend's name, by an "ornithological committee" of that institution, during his continued absence in the West.

The "duplicate specimens" were sold to Audubon on October 23, 1935, and in all probability were at once taken possession of by him, at any rate he left Philadelphia on November 10, taking them with him to Charleston where he drew them. The paper describing the novelties was, according to Audubon, published by Dr. Samuel G. Morton, though some other members were doubtless associated with him on the "committee." As it was not read before the Academy until November 15, 1935, and as Audubon apparently had nothing to do with it, it seems very doubtful whether any of the specimens purchased by him were used in its preparation.

Furthermore Townsend's second collection was shipped in its entirety to Audubon in London and a part of it was purchased by him. How many additional specimens of the species he originally bought in Philadelphia were in this lot it is impossible to ascertain, but it is easily possible that some of those in Washington and Cambridge may have been secured at this later date. The whole matter is much involved but is interesting historically.—WILMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Other Ornithological Publications.

Andrews, C. L.—Migratory Birds of Northwestern Alaska. (Nature Magazine, February, 1936.)

Bailey, H. H.—A Revision of the Genus *Coturnicops*. (Bull. 10. Bailey Mus. and Library Nat. Hist., Miami, Fla.)—Describes *Coturnicops noveboracensis richi* (p. 1) from Canton, Ohio, and *C. n. emersoni* (p. 3) from Shandon, California. While the paper is dated September 1, 1935, our copy was not received until December 17. The delay in mailing this publication may result in some unfortunate duplication of names, as it has in the past!

Brand, Albert R.—Bird Voices in the Southland. (Natural History, February, 1936.)—Accounts of taking sound pictures of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Caracara, etc., etc.