

It is properly charged that the Sharp-shinned Hawk is negligible as a danger to game birds. Its bird food consists of small song birds and it is without doubt nature's implement in killing off the weaker or diseased individuals so as to preserve the stock of these birds at a high state of development. As Mr. Quinn says "these little Hawks are not killed because destructiveness to game; they are certainly not killed for food; they are not killed because it requires any special skill to hit them. They are killed just for the "fun" that certain human beings take in killing a beautiful and inoffensive creature which asks nothing of man except to be allowed to live!

In the same connection we may quote W. H. K. whose verse from "Punch" Mr. Quinn has used as an introduction:

"Because a bird or beast is rare
Some sportsman marks it down to kill;
And counting any game as fair
Contrives to make it rarer still.
O *homo sapiens*, who must
At any cost your trigger pull,
I sometimes think *your* species just
A little bit too plentiful!"

While mentioning many details as to Hawk persecution there is an important omission for which it is hard to account i. e. the shameful shooting of Hawks at Cape May Point, N. J. and incidentally the good work of the National Association of Audubon Societies has been doing in policing part of the area and in instructing gunners as to which Hawks may be shot and which may not. The *permission* to shoot Sharp-shins is chargeable to the New Jersey legislature. Mr. Quinn could easily have secured information about Cape May Hawk shooting from Mrs. Edge, of the Emergency Committee, or many others who know about it, and it seems a shame not to have condemned these New Jersey "sportsmen" along with the others. The "Pigeon Hawk" depicted in the illustration is unfortunately and evidently not a Pigeon Hawk.—W. S.

Ali on 'Economic Ornithology in India.'¹—The author comments on the disparity of attention given to systematic and economic ornithology, respectively, in India, and suggests the importance of federal investigation of bird economics. Reference is made to work in the United States and approval is expressed of the volumetric method of stomach analysis. The harmful and beneficial activities of birds are classified and discussed with mention of Indian examples. For instance, 15 per cent of the rice crop in southeastern Khandesh is consumed by Rosy Pastors. On the other hand, thousands of these birds are eaten by the people. The spread of *Lantana* by birds, the symbiotic relationships of Sunbirds and Flowerpeckers with mistletoe, and the fertilization of various flowers by birds are examples of bird-plant relationships discussed. The production of fertile seeds by the silk cotton tree, the species most used for match manufacture in India, is said to depend mainly on cross-fertilization by birds. The direct economic value of birds also is stressed; waterfowl netting in some localities provides almost free sustenance for the local population for several months in the year; egret "farming" is mentioned. Such uses of birds have their dangerous aspects and it is surprising that they have not already become evident in a country with so dense a population as India. An interesting review, bringing to attention novelties to students of economic ornithology in other lands.—W. L. M.

¹ Current Science, 4(7), Jan. 1936, pp. 472-478.