

Worse than woodchucks and rattlesnakes for mankind is the House Wren for the survival of many of our most valuable and beautiful small bird species; their arch-enemy is doubly protected: by the law and by the ever present wren-box with its small hole which enables him to breed without restriction. Here Dr. Hornaday may find another proof for his statement that "Beyond question we are exterminating our finest mammals, birds and fishes according to law". This protection, that has permitted the House Wren to increase until he has become a deadly menace, has been afforded him through ignorance more often than otherwise, sometimes through forgetfulness, and frequently through skeptical obstinacy. It has been a case of the blind leading the blind. An instance of this blind leadership was met with in the person of a "lecturer on birds" who had been in the lecture field for several seasons. When the destructive nature of the House Wren was mentioned, she said "I never heard of the House Wren." A few words of explanation having been given she exclaimed "Oh, I know now what you mean! You call that a House Wren; I never knew that *any one ever* called it a House Wren; I always call it a Jennie Wren." Thousands upon thousands are following the ignorant leadership of persons who know absolutely nothing of the harmful character of this Wren, even though some of them are able to recognize the bird under its common name.

For a quarter of a century the bird magazines, but more especially *Bird-Lore*, have been publishing accounts of this Wren's raids on the eggs of other species. The testimony of some, as for example that of Mr. Robert Ridgway, which has been oft repeated and of the most convincing type, has been allowed to pass from memory or has met with skeptical obstinacy on the part of those who choose to be utterly deaf to the truths told concerning the depredations of the House Wren, that are fast decimating the ranks of several species of birds formerly common in our dooryards.

A campaign is now in progress to awaken the public to a realization of the dangers threatening the very existence of several small bird species, because of the robber Wren, that despoils their nests of eggs; because these robberies are not often witnessed many people are skeptical. Help is needed in this work of awakening. It is desirable that those who have seen him destroying eggs should testify. If ever it is necessary to form a society to protect

wild life from the protectionists, it will be because the House Wren has emphasized the necessity; and because people, having been taught of his evil ways, still refuse to discontinue the protective boxes that have favored an enormous increase of a species that ought never to be tolerated about our homes where inoffensive birds are encouraged to come.—ALTHEA R. SHERMAN, *National*, via McGregor, Iowa, February 19, 1925.

JUVENILE NOMENCLATURE

Editor THE CONDOR:

I asked some school children to give me lists of California birds the other day, and I have culled the following as being possibly previously unknown to you.

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| honey sukle            | audible warbler |
| bzerd                  | muthacher       |
| bocker bird            | budzer          |
| sprils and song sprils | slow hawk       |
| horn owl               | morning         |
| eanch                  | brown beard     |
| bizird                 | blewbeard       |
| hornet                 | black bier      |
| he-toe-bird            | blow bier       |
| finch                  | chick and hawk  |
| bozer                  | moping bird     |
| readpucker head        | bonebird        |
| jases                  | bockbird        |
| born owl               | mocking         |
| barnwoll               | raves           |
| wole                   | ranbon          |
| blewjae                | children's hawk |
| waxtail                | blow jay        |
| sane piper             | moucher         |
| malking bird           | sam hill owl    |
| water ooze             | mud slow        |

One recognizes most, of course, as relatives of our already known species. The *blow jay* is often about when one wants to be unobserved. The *sane piper*, one imagines, would not be placed in the same family with the highland piper—certainly not with the *raves*. But the *children's hawk* appeals to all as a very desirable addition to our avifauna. So does the *audible warbler*. A warbler cannot be too audible, to my fancy. And when in wanton mood, what more desirable companions than the *sam hill owl*, the *born owl*, and the *water ooze*. But not the *hornet*! The *black bier*, the *bock-bird* and the *blow bier* are evidently related—heady stuff. The *bonebird* would, one imagines, be lacking in intelligence—not so lively, for instance, as the *he-toe-bird*. The *chick and hawk* is evidently an example of symbiosis. One seems to remember having seen the two birds together. As for the *eanch*, the *bzerd*, the *bozer*, the *jases*, the *wole*, the *barnwoll*, the *mud slow* and *slow hawk*, the *ranbon* and the *moucher*—why, one feels that one has just got to make the acquaintance of these fascinating members of the class Aves at his very earliest convenience.—DELACOURT DELL, *Claremont, California*, February 23, 1925.