

Important New Book on Birds of Prey

The dramatic swing of public opinion from persecution to protection of hawks and owls is reflected on nearly every page of the first comprehensive book about these birds ever to be issued. "North American Birds of Prey" by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., published October 19 by Harper & Brothers, is sponsored by the National Audubon Society.

The book grows out of an earlier work, "The Hawks of North America" by John B. May, published 20 years ago. In the intervening years the spread of scientific knowledge about the raptores and their place in nature's economy has gradually turned the tide from wide-spread slaughter toward increased protection of eagles, hawks, and owls. Continuing studies by conservationists have shown that the birds of prey, despite their occasional predation on poultry and game, function in the long run as friends of the sportsman and farmer by controlling rodents, insects, and other creatures, and helping to maintain a healthy balance in the wildlife com-

munity. These birds are now accorded legal protection in all but six states.

"The raptores, of all birds the finest, are like masterworks of art," says Roger Tory Peterson in his foreword to the new book. "It is a miracle that our hawks, owls, and eagles have hung on as well as they have, but how long can they continue to do so?" Mr. Peterson adds, "This new volume meets the times by presenting the magnificent but maligned birds of prey in the new light shed by recent ecological research."

"North America Birds of Prey" is illustrated with 46 plates in full color, the majority by the noted bird artist, the late Allan Brooks. The text describes each species as it may be seen in its natural habitat, and includes information on recognition, nesting habits, and range.

The author, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., is on the staff of the National Audubon Society and is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Swallow Intuition

By E. Watson, Drinkwater

When staying at a large home near Drinkwater, we came across an incident of a mother's alertness of particular interest. This house has a large front porch facing east which is seldom used except by Barn Swallows, which have nested there for years.

The storm door was being removed and the screen door being put on by Mr. Watson. He noticed a fledgeling on the floor of the porch but did not notice that it had gone inside.

A little later a swallow was seen trying to get in at the kitchen window, quite a distance from the porch and facing north. It flew against the window until it attracted the notice of Mrs. Watson in the kitchen. She listened and heard a faint noise and chirrup in the parlor, some distance away. Going to the other room she found the little bird. As soon as she had put it outside the parent swallows came immediately and took charge. Now it is able to fly and

the family are re-united.

How did the swallow know to come to the window on the other side of the house? This is especially interesting since it was the only room occupied at the time.

Underhand Tactics

Mrs. John Hubbard,
Grenfell, Sask.

When John was working on the land one day this summer he saw a Swainson's Hawk trying to chase an Eagle away from the vicinity of its nest. The Eagle wouldn't budge from its perch on a tree and the Hawk got very excited. Finally it decided it was going to move that Eagle or know the reason why.

It came down on the Eagle in a bomb dive, but imagine that Hawk's surprise when the Eagle rose from its perch, turned neatly up-side-down and grabbed for the Hawk with its talons. The Hawk got away but it left the Eagle in peace for as long as it wanted to sit on that particular tree.