

number came over, but I could not count them, as it was nearly dark. They took the same line and turned at the same spot. I got the location by the noise they made when they made the turn. On November 9, 1932, forty-three passed over, and took the exact same line of flight, as if they were following a well-marked trail. I believe they go to a small lake two miles east of my place.

The interesting feature of these migrations is that they have happened on the same date every year, and also within a few hours of the same time, and also that the swans fly so low (about one hundred yards high). What puzzles me is why they make that turn in the same place every year.—A. HOLE, *Rennie, Manitoba*.

WESTERN MOCKING BIRD (*Mimus polyglottis leucopterus*) ON VANCOUVER ISLAND, B. C.—On June 7th, 1931, when walking through the residential section "On the Hill" in Port Alberni, V. I., B. C. attention was drawn to the loud whistling of a bird in a nearby garden. On investigation it was found that the whistling came from a mocking bird which could be seen flying from tree to tree until it finally perched on the telephone wire only a few feet above our heads, when the bird was positively identified. During the half hour this mocking bird was under observation, it was heard to imitate perfectly the robin, blue-bird, purple finch, Bewick wren, and towhee.

Local residents stated that this bird had been about the district for two or three weeks and that their attention had been drawn to it by its lively and delightful song.—KENNETH RACEY.

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGION OF CENTRAL ALBERTA by Frank L. Farley. Published by The Institute of Applied Art Limited, 10042, 109th St., Edmonton, Alberta, July, 1932. 8vo. pp. 85. Map and 12 halftones. Price 50 cts.

This little brochure fills a long felt want in giving us a basic list of the birds of the midsection of Alberta. It is based on twenty-five years, observation in the locality during the critical period of change from practical wilderness to cultivation. Thirteen pages are taken up with a Foreword describing the country and making acknowledgements. To page 59 is a list of 238 species of birds, many of them extensively annotated. Following is a Supplement giving tables of arrivals and discussions of Summer Birds in a Camrose Garden, Birds and Weather, The Whooping Crane, Changes in the Status of Certain Birds and Animals in Central Alberta during the Past Fifty Years, Tracing the Gulls to their Winter Homes, A Christmas Bird Census in Alberta, Settlement and Cultivation of the Prairies and its Effect on Bird-life, and an Index.

It seems excellently done and good judgement and restraint are used in accepting evidence. Of particular interest are the faunal changes that have taken place and are still in progress. The falling off in numbers of various species of ducks is particularly notable. "Formerly very common, now quite scarce" or its equivalent is regrettably often repeated. Of fifteen sporting species listed, but three are not so characterized. Unfortunately while the author lists cultivation, grazing, drought and Crows as contributory causes he makes no mention of the most important one and the only one that is within ready control, that is, over-shooting.

It seems so apparent that if breeding grounds are restricted and production reduced through uncontrollable influences we have just that much less surplus for sporting purposes. Yet it is just this obvious fact that many shooters refuse to face. They embrace any specious or theoretical method of conservation except the obvious one that is most easily applied and certain to work,—reduction of kill. Until practical means of increasing production are developed and *their efficiency demonstrated by use* the only salvation of our wild water fowl seems to lie in further restriction of shooting.

A strong plea is made for the Buzzard Hawks, those useful, ever-set gopher-traps that are daily being killed off to the great detriment of agriculture. Thousands of dollars are spent annually in rodent control yet these particular birds, that even the most bitter vermin haters acknowledge are wholly beneficial, continue to be sacrificed to foolish prejudice. It is doubtful if any thing can be said that will alter the general public's attitude towards them. To talk protection of any hawk or serious shooting restriction seems like whistling against the wind yet both are vitally necessary to conservation.

Altogether this is a valuable addition to the bird literature of the west and especially to that of the region particularly dealt with.—P.A.T.

"GAME MANAGEMENT" by ALDO LEOPOLD with drawings by Allan Brooks—Charles Scribner's Sons, London, 1933. 481 Pages and Preface. \$5.00.

To those who are interested in the field of conservation whether they be sportsmen, land-



Taverner, P. A. 1933. "Birds of the Battle River Region of Central Alberta, by Frank L. Farley [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 47(8), 159–159.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339506>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89103>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339506>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/339506>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.