

He represents the sound by a line, broken or connected as the occasion calls for. Length, indicates duration of time; weight, the intensity or loudness; and relative position, up or down the pitch. Distinct changes of notes are connected by vertical lines and slurs by curved ones. Qualities are represented by syllables that are rarely twisted into intelligible words. The pitch of the opening note and the distinctive timbre are suggested in a short heading.

The reviewer has long used a crude version of this method for recording particularly distinctive songs with some success. At least with notes so made he has often been able to recall a working version of songs long buried in subconscious memory. This proves the practicability of the system as developed and improved by Mr. Saunders and, even if some of the song diagrams given are difficult of interpretation to the mental ear, they introduce the bird student to a system that he can practice for himself and enable him to make records that will assist his own memory and be a basis of comparison with the experience of others. Undoubtedly this little book will be of great value to the field student. We foresee that in the future many note books will be filled with short-hand hieroglyphics which will greatly increase their value. —P. A. T.

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THE HAWKS OF NORTH AMERICA, *Their Field Identification and Feeding*, by John Richard May. Illustrated by Allan Brooks and Roger Tory Peterson. Published by The National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York. Quarto, pp. 140, 37 full page plates in colour, 4 in black and white. Price \$1.25.

"Give a dog a bad name and hang him" is an old aphorism. Our hawks have suffered severely under the human prejudice thus expressed. True, some hawks occasionally take chickens and birds of economic value, but all hawks, good or bad, have been popularly damned for the deeds of the few. Any hawk is generally deemed a legitimate target for any gun

until the sight of a bird of prey living freely is an unfortunately rare experience over much of the country. We are neither hawkphobe nor hawkophile. Our attitude is that the hawk question is one of geography and circumstance with the preponderance of evidence greatly in favour of the hawk. Like humans there are many decidedly good hawks and a few bad ones. Occasionally good hawks get perverted, out of place or pinched by necessity. To mete out indiscriminate destruction to some of our importantly good friends on account of a few undesirables is like jumping over a precipice to cure a tooth-ache. The general popular attitude is, — "We cannot tell one hawk from another; all hawks look alike to us and we take no chance of allowing a possible criminal to escape". But too often there may be an under-current of, — "Besides, we like it, not only the shooting but the glow of virtue we feel in ridding the world of what we regard as a malefactor".

This excuse, weak as it is, no longer holds. With this exceptionally beautiful monograph of the hawks, with full page illustrations of all the species in colour from the brushes of most accomplished bird artists, presented at so reasonable a price, there is no reason why anyone should not inform himself on the appearance, both in field and hand, and on the economic value, of each and every one of our hawks. The text is by one well qualified to speak on the subject, and the evidence is presented with clarity and should carry conviction. Whether it will or not, remains to be seen. Some of us are pessimistic enough to feel that the anti-hawk complex is too firmly ingrained in certain quarters to be removed by any evidence contrary to tradition. We have been preaching the value of hawks in general so long, and with so little apparent effect, that we are getting discouraged. It is to be hoped that this and other efforts to lead popular opinion in the right direction will take effect before it is too late and the last of these interesting, beautiful and valuable birds is no more. This book should be in the hands, and ornamenting the shelves, of every conservationist, sportsman and nature student. — P. A. T.





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