

THE LIVING BIRD — BOOK REVIEW

To read and analyse the "Living Bird" is to fully appreciate the work that has been done at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, N. Y.

The First Annual of the Living Bird (1962), edited by Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, tells of the extent and scope of the ornithological studies available under the liberal facilities of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Through the ample supply of visual aids and tape recordings, sights, sounds and songs are ever ready for close study and analysis.

The woods, ponds and fields of the sanctuary provide the background for field work.

With the aids of these facilities of the laboratory, students and graduate students have prepared their work, the results of some of which are ably shown in the excellent articles recorded in this book.

The papers on ethology, sound recordings and their application to laboratory and field work with living birds, and the very explicit explanation of the new approaches in the study of ornithology, within the covers of the "Living Bird" make good reading for all interested.

These papers prove conclusively that the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has a place for any serious minded bird student. The courses offered cover a wide range and scope for research, where students and graduate students can work and study under the expert guidance and very competent leadership of Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg, Dr. William C. Dilger and members of the laboratory staff.

Edward C. Ulrich

CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

The lucklessness of conservationists is that they can never leave their victories high on the shelf to sometimes gaze at with satisfaction, relishing in the good feeling of a job finally done. As soon as your attention has been turned to another problem, probably a land speculator, predator control enthusiast, or someone similarly dedicated, has jiggled the shelf enough to totter the victory.

John Alderman of New York City, who had so successfully spirited the fight to have the Golden Eagle bill passed by Congress, knew there would have to be surveillance to make sure that protection of the bird was enforced. No one could have believed that the whole effort would come crashing down — and so quickly.

The Department of the Interior, in issuing proposed regulations implementing the law, specified that when permission was granted by the Secretary to control these eagles, they could be taken "by firearms, traps or from aircraft." This was shattering. The main intent of the bill had been to halt the airplane hunting in Texas which has threatened the decimation of this species in North America. This action by the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife unbottled the spectre of some Secretary of the Interior opening the whole state of Texas for control of Golden Eagles — which a Secretary could do in accordance with the law's provisions.

There was a rush by conservationists to pick up the pieces — and in the place where they fell, the Department of the Interior. Carl W. Buchheister, President of the National Audubon Society and Charles H. Callison, Editor of the "Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide," on January 3 personally called on Secretary Stewart L. Udall. The Audubon officers actually could not pick up the pieces — Secretary Udall was the man big enough to do this, if and when he would.