

# THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

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## The New Hawk and Owl Protection Law

*By* ELTON FAWKS

THIS YEAR THE General Assembly of Illinois passed into law Senate Bill No. 642, which was sponsored by the Department of Conservation. This revision of the Game Code, among many other things, established complete protection for all hawks and owls in Illinois.

In the September, 1957, issue of the *Audubon Bulletin*, the writer told about the passage that year of a new Hawk and Owl Law sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society and other conservation groups. Credit at that time was given to the many who helped me in the passage of House Bill No. 1063. Subsequently it was discovered that Section 36 of the Game Code had not been amended; this section did not list the Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Great Horned Owls as birds that had complete protection. The Department of Conservation promised me that they would seek to amend Section 36 in the 1959 General Assembly to give the protection desired. This has been accomplished, and full credit for the final protection must go to the Department, and especially to Lewis E. Martin, Assistant Director, who steered the bill through the General Assembly. He wrote me several letters telling about the progress of the bill. With his excellent help, little work was required on my part.

The Conservation Department also has started an educational program showing the value of our hawks and owls. Among other things they had a fine exhibit in the State Office Building in Springfield pertaining to protection of these birds. They have notified all state personnel about the new law. On two radio broadcasts of the 15-minute program, "Outdoors in Illinois," they told about the value of our hawks, owls, and eagles. These programs were recorded on tape and the Conservation Department presented a copy to me. The narrator describes how one can tell these birds apart and discusses their value.

The late Lynn Callaway and George Culletin were assigned the task of public education of the value of our birds of prey. The tragic death of these fine men in an auto accident this fall was a severe loss. Lynn Callaway gave me valuable help when we first started work on a model Hawk and Owl Law. He was the closest friend that I had in the Department of Conservation and helped to get us off on a good start. We will miss him tremendously.

Now that the Department of Conservation has started the educational program, the Illinois Audubon Society must carry on. We must not only use every chance to tell about our predatory birds and their place in nature, but must also see that the new law is enforced. This is important. The new Hawk and Owl Bill does permit the practice of falconry. I understand that

many safeguards have been put into this provision. Hawks for falconry must be obtained from a dealer, and young birds cannot be taken from the nest.

At the time the article was written for the September, 1957, issue of the *Audubon Bulletin*, we did not know too much about the protection given to Crows. No protection has been given to them. Under the bill passed in 1957, Crows were listed among the birds that could be hunted with a license. Before this was inserted in the Game Code, a gunman could be afield with a gun, hunting birds without a license, and tell the enforcement officers that he was shooting Crows. Now that a license is required, a man has to have a specific reason to carry a gun afield. This permits better control.

Our new Hawk and Owl Law is better than those in other states. In Illinois, individual birds that are causing damage may be destroyed by the landowner, but he must be able to prove the damage. In most states, one only has to say that a hawk or owl was damaging property or livestock. Here one must be able to prove the destruction. We now have an excellent bird protection law; let's keep it. Attempts will be made to have the law changed. One attempt has already been made. However, it failed miserably, as it won no support in a hunting club where pressure was applied.

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### FUERTES QUAIL TO HANG IN STATE PARKS

VISITORS TO SEVERAL Illinois State Parks next year will have the pleasure of seeing lithographed copies of the Fuertes Quail, the same drawing that appears on our I.A.S. armband. These framed pictures, a gift of the Illinois Audubon Society, will hang in the lodges at Starved Rock, Giant City, Pere Marquette, Illinois Beach, and White Pines State Parks, through the cooperation extended the Society by the Conservation Department of Illinois.

Other copies of the Fuertes Quail are being distributed in the southern part of the state by Mrs. C. F. Russell, an I.A.S. Director from Decatur. They will hang in public libraries in Effingham, Hillsboro, Rantoul, and Lincoln; other cities will also benefit. In the greater Chicago area, Raymond Mostek of Lombard has distributed copies of the picture to the York Center Public Library, the Stephen Mather High School of Chicago, and the Wild Life Haven at Glen Ellyn. The Cook County Forest Preserve District has accepted two pictures to hang in the lodges at Camp Sagawa in Palos Hills. This area is used for teacher-training courses.

Louis Agassiz Fuertes was an ornithologist and lecturer at Cornell University; his pictures are to be found in many bird books. He is well known for his work on the Harriman expedition to Alaska and his natural history discoveries in Western Texas and New Mexico. His life-like drawing of a quail standing in a grain field was made especially for the I.A.S. about 35 years ago. An engraving of the picture has appeared ever since as part of the I.A.S. stationery and on our membership application blanks.

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