

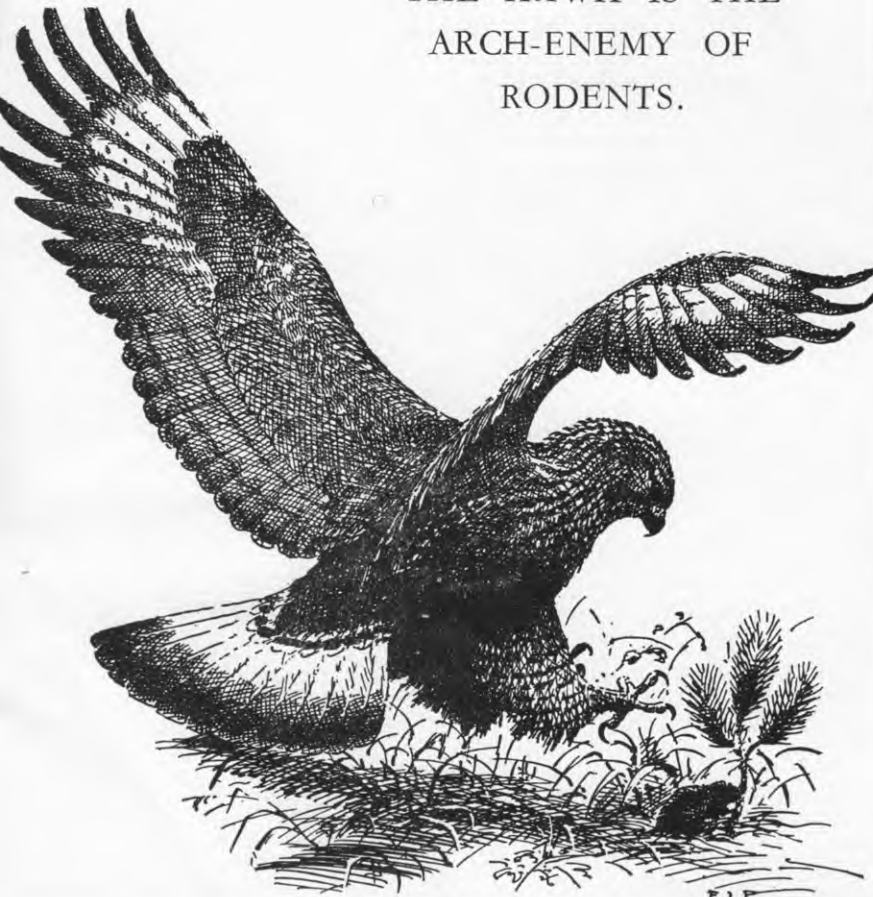
eating species that tend at times to assume the proportions of a plague. Certain examples of this sort are famous. The appearance of the tremendous flocks of Franklin's Gulls that saved the crops of the early Mormon Settlers in Utah from grasshoppers, is now commemorated by a monument. The appearance of great numbers of not only Hawks and Owls, but Crows, Herons, Jays and Shrikes, has invariably been noted at times of mouse or vole plagues both in America and Europe.

The story of the meadow mouse and the way its presence affects all other living things, plant and animal, that occur in the same surroundings with it, is just a typical example of the complicated interrelationships that exist in the world of nature. These are gradually being unravelled by men known as ecologists, whose interest is in knowing how each living thing is

affected by and affects the surroundings in which it lives, and the other living things that inhabit these surroundings with it. Gradually these ecologists are learning that every native species fits into the great pattern of life. Each occupies a vital niche in the structure that supported the varied and abundant wild life that once inhabited this Continent. Unquestionably, this wild life would be more abundant to-day if man would only understand nature's mechanisms and instead of needlessly upsetting them, turn them to his own uses by allowing them to continue to maintain those natural checks and balances that we are finding so necessary to the healthy adjustment of the relative abundance of all species of living things.

—Richard H. Pough, National Association of Audubon Societies.

## THE HAWK IS THE ARCH-ENEMY OF RODENTS.



*Mice and rats eat nestlings, eggs and seeds. They also girdle seedlings and exact a heavy toll from our food supplies, besides carrying disease, yet we wage war on their real enemy.*