

that was a surprise even to the most hopeful friends of the birds. A volume was prepared by Dr. Fisher entitled "Hawks and Owls of the United States in Relation to Agriculture," giving a full report of the work done. Forty



FOOT OF OWL, SHOWING REVERSIBLE TOE.

eight species in all were examined, with the result that six were pronounced wholly beneficial or wholly harmless; twenty-nine chiefly beneficial; seven neutral, that is, their good deeds balanced their evil deeds; and only six positively harmful. In the words of F. M. Chapman, editor of "Bird Lore," the food of hawks "consists to a large extent of small mammals and insects, birds and poultry forming a comparatively insignificant part of the diet of most species. Hawks



FOOT OF FISH HAWK.

are thus of great value to the agriculturist as the natural check upon the increase of the myriads of small rodents so destructive to crops." "Owls—feed more largely on small mammals—most of which are nocturnal—than the diurnal birds of prey. They are therefore of even greater value to the agriculturist than the hawks."

We reach, then, the inevitable conclusion that a clear distinction must be made between beneficial and injurious birds of prey, and it is the plain duty of every farmer to become familiar enough with these birds to recognize which are his friends and which his enemies, or, failing this, to shoot no hawk or owl that he does not know is the enemy of his chicken roost. It is his duty to do all in his power to have the beneficial species protected by law and by sentiment. It is a matter which touches his pocket for it would be disastrous if the numbers of these birds were very much depleted. Mrs. M. O. Wright in an educational leaflet in "Bird Lore" on the Marsh Hawk, says, "Every farmer in North America who reads this leaflet should at once commence a campaign of education among his fellow-workers, and should make it a prominent plank in his platform that all the beneficial hawks should have legal protection." All day long the hawk is scouring the meadow for mice or grasshoppers and at nightfall the owl takes up the work, thus protecting the property of the agriculturist, and any farmer who shoots the beneficial species of hawks or owls may well be compared to a citizen who would shoot the policeman who is protecting his property.

In Ontario there are about twenty one species to be considered. These may be arranged as follows: (a) Those