

phases, solitary and gregarious, and that it is only in the latter phase that swarming and damage take place, has probably attracted more attention than any other aspect of locust research. He now gives a comprehensive review of the laboratory studies that have provided conclusive support for this theory, and demonstrates that an appreciation of phase variation is fundamental to the understanding of locust biology. The significance of phase variation in locust ecology and control will be discussed in the second volume. The last section of the book gives an introductory account of the taxonomy of the *Acridoidea* and a classification of the group down to the level of subfamily, with all the genera and species mentioned in the book listed in the appropriate places. The concluding bibliography of over 1,400 titles includes papers published as recently as 1965.

This excellent book is essential reading for the locust worker and can hardly fail to interest any serious biologist.

DAVID R. RAGGE

THE WHOOPING CRANE STORY

IN 1945 the number of whooping cranes in North America had dwindled to fewer than 30 birds. Their wintering grounds in Texas were protected, but their breeding grounds in Canada could not be protected because nobody knew where they were. In *The Hunt for the Whooping Cranes* (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, New York, \$4.50), J. J. McCoy describes the gradual narrowing down of the hunt until success was achieved in 1954, when the pilot of a Forestry Service helicopter in Wood Buffalo National Park, investigating a fire near the park boundary, radioed that he had sighted three whooping cranes in a desolate area of shallow lakes and ponds. The discovery was just in time, for that autumn only 21 whoopers returned to Texas and not a single young bird of the year. To-day the numbers have topped the 50 that Robert Porter Allen, leader of the hunt, regarded as the minimum necessary for survival. It is an exciting and interesting story, intended for young people, marred only by what the publishers call the writer's "suspenseful narrative style".

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