

particular respecting its breeding, when it begins to build its nest, the materials it uses for the purpose, the number of eggs it lays, the variation in their color, size and shape,—all these particulars are the real history of a bird; and in the account of each species of British birds I endeavour to give as many of them as possible." The Introduction to Volume II contains a paper of 24 pages 'On the Protective Colour of Eggs,' by Mr. Henry Dixon, which will be noticed at length in some future number of 'The Auk.'

Mr. Seebohm's work abounds in passages which invite comment, but lack of space forbids a more extended notice.—J. A. A.

**Ingersoll's 'Country Cousins.'**\*—This well-written work, intended to entertain and assist 'those who take delight in out-door studies,' consists of twenty-one articles, devoted to a variety of subjects, reprinted from the various periodicals in which they originally appeared. Birds come in for a fair share of notice, mainly in the chapters entitled 'A Wet Day with the Birds' (pp. 21-30), 'Birds of the Brookside' (pp. 39-48), and 'A Chat about Bob White' (pp. 175-181). The book as a whole is much better written, both as regards truthfulness and style, than popular works on natural history often are, the writer for the most part contenting himself with subjects with which he is personally familiar, and in which he is especially interested. He therefore writes intelligently, largely from original observation, and in the main correctly, but there are here and there lapses which a little more care would have saved. This is not often the case in the ornithological portions of the work, but a pleasantly written account, several pages in length, of the Long-billed Water Thrush (*Siurus motacilla*) is marred at its close by the statement, "This is a northern bird." The Spotted Sandpiper, the three species of *Siuri*, and the Quail (*Ortyx virginianus*) are the species accorded most attention.—J. A. A.

**Langille's 'Our Birds in their Haunts: A Popular Treatise on the Birds of Eastern North America.'**†—Several months have now elapsed since the appearance of this long-promised book, on which the author has been at work, he tells us, for the past twelve years. It is a compact volume of 624 pages, sparsely illustrated by woodcuts, most of which are borrowed from the second edition of Coues's 'Key.' Its scope will appear from the opening sentence of the preface: "The first aim of this work is to render as popular and attractive as possible, as well as to bring within a small compass, the sum total of the bird-life of Eastern North America." Had

\* *Country Cousins: Short Studies in the Natural History of the United States.* By Ernest Ingersoll, Author of 'Friends Worth Knowing,' 'Knocking Round the Rockies,' 'The Ice Queen,' etc. Illustrated. New York: Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square, 1884. 8vo. pp. 252. Plates, and woodcuts in the text.

† *Our Birds in their Haunts: a Popular Treatise on the Birds of Eastern North America.* By Rev. J. Hibbert Langille, M. A. Boston: S. E. Cassino & Company 1884. 8vo. pp. 624, woodcuts in the text.