

main, accurate and well expressed. He evidently has a keen ear, and in putting bird music on paper has been more successful than many of his predecessors. He knows how to use both gun and glass, and has the good sense never to trust the latter in matters of identification.

His careful descriptions of the physical features of several localities where much of his field work has been done contribute largely to the interest and importance of the biographies that follow. The accounts of the Ducks that frequent Niagara River and Lake Ontario contain much that is new; and attention is directed to the little-known habit of the Canada Goose of foraging in wheat-fields.

Concerning the breeding of the White-bellied Swallow on the Mud Islands in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, he says: "I saw the nests of this species on the ground under flat stones, and in holes in the ground. They were elegantly lined with the feathers of the Herring Gull and of the Eider Duck, the feathers being so laid that the tips curved upward and nearly concealed the eggs."

His personal observations on the Horned Lark, the Butcher Bird, and many other species are full of interest and are written in a free and pleasing style. He has heard the rich night-song of the Ovenbird, and his heart has been stirred by the unspeakable melody of the Hermit Thrush. Indeed, he is a real lover of nature, and the reviewer, though forced to mention certain errors and omissions, is still in deep sympathy with much of the author's narrative.—C. H. M.

**Stejneger on the Wrens of the Subgenus *Anorthura*.**\*—A synopsis of the various forms is given, with their synonymy. Six species and two subspecies are recognized, as follows: (1) *Troglodytes borealis*, (2) *T. parvulus*, (2a) *T. parvulus bergensis* (subsp. nov.), (3) *T. pallescens* (sp. nov.), (4) *T. alascensis*, (5) *T. hiemalis*, (5a) *T. hiemalis pacificus*, (6) *T. fumigatus*. The paper has special reference to Mr. Seebohm's treatment of the same group in his 'History of British Birds,' by whom all the known forms of *Anorthura* are degraded to subspecies of the European *T. parvulus*.—J. A. A.

**Stejneger on the Ptarmigans of the Group *Attagen*.**†—This paper embodies the results of Dr. Stejneger's extended and careful investigation of this difficult group of birds—more difficult than almost any other, owing to their nearly continuous moult, and to the scarcity of material collected at corresponding seasons of the year, and properly authenticated as to date of collection. The conclusions here reached are to some extent tentative, and the author appeals for further aid in the way of material. The species and subspecies recognized are as follows: (1) *Lagopus muta*,

\* Ueber einige Formen der Untergattung *Anorthura*. By Leonhard Stejneger. Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie, I, pp. 7-14, Feb., 1884.

† A Brief Review of the Lagopodes belonging to the Group *Attagen* Kaup. By Leonhard Stejneger. Zeitsch. für die gesammte Ornithologie, I, pp. 86-92, pl. v.