

formation of Sparrow Clubs, whose object shall be the destruction of these birds by concerted action, the offering of prizes, etc. Shooting in winter time of flocks decoyed by food advantageously spread for the purpose, and the destruction of nests, and disturbing their roosting places, are among the suggestions for their decrease. Directions for the preparation and use of poisoned food are also given, which, if used with proper care, might yield very satisfactory results.

With all the light now thrown upon the subject, it would seem that the Sparrow can have few friends among intelligent people. Those who still believe in him as a desirable addition to our fauna must be of the class Mr. Barrows so happily characterizes in his 'Introduction' as "persons whose minds are so constituted that nothing is evidence to them except what is derived from their own observation, and as this unfortunate mental infirmity is commonly correlated with the total inability to observe anything which interferes with their theories, it makes little difference whether their opportunities have been good or bad, their position is unassailable. . . . No amount of evidence will change their opinion, and fortunately for the good of mankind it makes little difference what that opinion may be."

'Bulletin I' of the Division of Economic Ornithology is a most thoroughly creditable and utilitarian piece of work, vindicating effectively the need and wisdom of establishing such a department of research as a part of the legitimate work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. 'Bulletin I' also admirably completes an investigation originally started by a Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union.—J. A. A.

Davie's Nests and Eggs of North American Birds.—Under a new title,* the words 'Check-List and Key' being very properly omitted, the third edition of this popular book appears as practically a new work, containing six additional engravings and more than twice the matter of previous editions. The nomenclature and classification of the A. O. U. Check-List is adopted and the habitats allotted to each species and subspecies are for the most part taken with little or no change from the same authority. The text, which in previous editions was limited to mere descriptions of nests and eggs with brief notes on distribution or habits, is now greatly extended, a page or more frequently being devoted to a single species, and in many cases the remarks form nearly complete biographies. The author appears to be well informed on his subject and he has freely availed himself of existing oölogical literature, the work abounding in valuable references, and he also includes much new material derived by him through correspondence with other observers. He presents (p. 120) strong evidence of the breeding of *Totanus flavipes* in Ohio, "a well-formed egg"

*Nests and Eggs | of | North American Birds | by | Oliver Davie | Third Edition, Revised and Augmented | Introduction by J. Parker Norris. | Illustrations | by | Theodore Jasper, A.M., M.D., and W. Otto Emerson | — | Columbus | Hann and Adair | 1889.—8vo pp. [1-8], 1-455, i-xii, pl., i-xiii.

being taken from a female killed June 14, 1888, and in the appendix (p. 446) records the capture in the same State of two specimens of *Nyctala acadica* which had just left the nest, also the capture of a single *Zonotrichia querula* April 28, 1889, near Columbus, Ohio. The nesting and eggs of *Spizella pusilla arenacea* are described (p. 309) as "indistinguishable from *S. pusilla*," but on just what authority is not stated. The practice of omitting species and subspecies "of which no authentic account of either their nests or eggs has been obtained" (preface) without further explanation than is conveyed by a break in the enumeration is apt to lead to confusion by conflicting with the same method employed in eliminating species and subspecies from the A. O. U. Check-List which have been excluded for widely different reasons. In this manner, however, we learn that the nest or eggs of ninety-one species and sixty-eight subspecies are as yet undescribed. While without by any means attempting to supply references to the existing literature on the nidification of these species the reviewer adds such as are known to him for the benefit of a fourth edition of this work which he understands is soon to be issued. *Brachyrhamphus kittlitzii*, see Turner, Cont. to Nat. Hist. of Alaska, 1886, p. 121. *Larus minutus*, eggs described by Liljeborg, Naumania, 1852, p. 110. *Colinus virginianus cubanensis*, described by Gundlach, Journal für Ornithologie, 1874, p. 303. *Falco sparveroides*, described by the same author, *op. cit.*, 1871, p. 373. *Scottapex cinerea lapponica* described by Dresser, Birds of Europe, V, p. 281. *Surnia ulula*, described by the same author, *op. cit.*, p. 301. *Chordeiles virginianus chapmani*, described by Scott, Auk, V, 1888, p. 186. *Myiozetetes texensis*, described by Salvin and Godman, Biol. Cent. Am., II, p. 41. *Myiarchus lawrenceii*, described by Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 384. *Aphelocoma californica hypoleuca*, described by Bryant, Proc. Cal. Acad. Sc., 2nd Ser., II, p. 20.* *Sturnella magna mexicana*, described by Salvin and Godman, Biol. Cent. Am., I, p. 458. *Carpodacus mexicanus ruberrimus*, described by Bryant, *op. cit.* p. 23.* *Acanthis hornemannii*, described by Dresser, Birds of Europe, IV, p. 55. *Melospiza fasciata rivularis*, described by Bryant, *op. cit.*, p. 22.* *Eutheia canora*, described by Thienemann, Journal für Ornithologie, 1857, p. 150. *Progne cryptoleuca*, described by Gundlach, *ibid.*, 1872, p. 431. *Geothlypis boldingi*, described by Bryant, *op. cit.*, p. 20.* *Anthus cervinus*, described by Dresser, Birds of Europe, III, p. 299. *Troglodytes alascensis*, described by Turner, Cont. to Nat. Hist. of Alaska, 1886, p. 181. *Psaltriparus lloydi*, described by Sennett, Auk, V, 1886, p. 43. *Phylloscopus borealis*, described by Seebohm, Ibis, 1879, p. 9. It is evident that these omissions relate largely to species of rare or accidental occurrence and they therefore detract very little from the value of the work, which we are sure will be welcomed alike by ornithologists and oölogists as a most convenient hand-book on the nesting habits and distribution during the breeding season of North American birds. — F. M. C.

*This description appeared at too late a date to be included in Mr. Davie's work,