

color he will correctly state what they did say. Yet his whole argument on the temperature question hinges on this misstatement.

Under 'Influence of acquired Characters,' his 'Table showing relation of color and sex' has obviously no relevancy, at least in the generalized form in which it is presented. Under 'Influence of Forest Areas' an attempt is made to show "why the gray form is not fitted for those regions in which the red is now so greatly in the majority," but the most we get is a statement that there is a partial coincidence between the distribution of the color phases of the Screech Owl with that respectively of the deciduous and coniferous forests. The main point brought forward is that "coniferous forests in the eastern part of the United States have a grayish cast," and that "where the general aspect of the forest growth is gray, gray birds are found." But that there is not a very close agreement between the distribution of coniferous forests and gray birds even our author has to lament: yet this it seems is fortunately but a slight misfortune for the theory, for if the agreement is not close it ought to be, and possibly in time will be. In fact, so crude and unphilosophical are the author's processes that it is almost difficult to treat his struggle with the Screech Owl question seriously. If he had limited his paper mainly to the presentation of his facts on the distribution of the color phases, which are valuable so far as they go, and had been content to plot them on the map by means of symbols, thus showing just how much they were worth and nothing more, he would have produced a creditable paper and saved lumbering up the literature of ornithology with matter not only practically worthless, but, what is worse, absolutely misleading to those who accept it for what it purports to present; and particularly is this true of his 'Map II.' It is in fact its pernicious and misleading features, masked under headlines and embellished with tables and maps of seemingly scientific character, coupled with the fact of its appearance in a reputable scientific journal, that have called down upon it so extended a notice in the present connection.—J. A. A.

**Cook's 'Birds of Michigan.'**—Professor Cook has done good service to the cause of ornithology through the publication of his 'Birds of Michigan,'<sup>1</sup> prepared and published under the auspices of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture. It is compiled partly from previously published lists, partly from "the valuable manuscripts of the late Dr. H. A. Atkins," and partly from his own observations and those of his students and numerous local observers throughout the State. It appears also that a rough draft of the list was submitted to various prominent ornithologists for revision and comment, with the result of giving by far the most complete and trustworthy list of the birds of Michigan that has thus far appeared.

The list was compiled to meet an urgent need of a carefully prepared catalogue of the birds of the State which should not only give a list of the

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of Michigan. Illustrated. By A. J. Cook, Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, State Agricultural College, Zoölogical Department, Bulletin 94, April, 1893.—8vo., pp. 148, with numerous cuts in the text.

species but also notes on their food and nesting habits, with special reference to "the economic importance of the various species." This 'Bulletin,' like the others of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, is distributed "free to all newspapers in the State, and to such individuals interested in farming as may request it." It is thus intended to be educational in a broad sense. While, unlike several other recent State publications on ornithology, it does not attempt to give descriptions of the species, it contains numerous excellent illustrations of prominent types of most of the leading groups, taken (with permission of the publishers) from Dr. Coues's well-known 'Key to North American Birds.' While perhaps scarcely a model in point of literary execution, it contains a vast amount of information especially valuable to the people of Michigan, and much that is of interest to ornithologists at large, particularly as regards the distribution of a large number of species within the State.

The number of species attributed to the State is 332, but of these a number are admitted provisionally, and with expressions of doubt as to their actual occurrence. The list is thus not a hard-and-fast list of birds strictly known to have been taken in the State, but includes a number of improbable records, as notably the six species of *Alcidæ*. It would have been better to have excluded all such from the main list and to have made of them a separate, tentative list. Yet, as the alleged evidence is always given 'for what it may be worth,' the real facts in the case are apparent. In the 'Introduction' 21 other species are mentioned as having been recorded from Michigan, but upon unsatisfactory evidence. Yet several of them are as likely to occur as stragglers as are a number of the doubtful ones which are retained and formally enumerated as a part of the list.

In the quite extended annotations there is often much reiteration, and not unfrequently statements by different authorities that are directly contradictory, which must be the source of some bewilderment to the inexperienced student.

The list proper is preceded by a transcript of all the Michigan game laws relating to birds, and by a very full bibliography of Michigan ornithology, the latter alone occupying 14 closely printed pages; there is also a full index giving both the vernacular and technical names. As already said, the work is well adapted for the chief end in view, and is besides a welcome contribution to the literature of North American ornithology.—  
J. A. A.

**Averill's List of the Birds of Bridgeport, Conn.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Averill's List is "intended to include all species of birds known to occur in a wild state within ten miles of Bridgeport." Many species are admitted from Linsley's well-known 'Catalogue of the Birds of Connecticut,' as recorded from

<sup>1</sup>List of Birds | found in the vicinity of | Bridgeport, Connecticut. | — | Prepared for the | Bridgeport Scientific Society | by | C. K. Averill, jr. | — | January, 1892. | — | Bridgeport, Conn. : | Buckingham & Brewer, Printers. | 1892.—8vo., pp. 19.