

Paulista, and on the literature of the subject. The nomenclature is essentially that of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds'. The synonymy of the species is given, with a brief mention of their distinctive characteristics and distribution, and the character of their occurrence in Sao Paulo. The number of species recorded as occurring in the State is 590, of which just one half are Passeres. — J. A. A.

**Dearborn's Birds of Belknap and Merrimac Counties, New Hampshire.**<sup>1</sup> — This neatly published list of 175 species is based on the personal experience of the writer during the past ten years, supplemented by other information from reliable observers, duly accredited. Although the list is incomplete, it is evidently trustworthy so far as it goes, and is judiciously annotated. The Loon (*Gavia imber*), Mr. Dearborn states, "has plainly decreased within the last two decades. Twenty years ago they bred every summer at one or more of the ponds which are the headwaters of the Suncook River." They have, however, been so far killed or frightened away by "wanton hunters" that none have nested there of late, though they still breed at Lake Winnepisaukee. The Blue Bird was very scarce in 1895, following their destruction at the south by the severe weather of the previous winter. They were more common in 1896, and in 1897 had nearly reached their normal numbers. "This sudden increase," says Mr. Dearborn, "is rather puzzling, when one considers that ordinarily there is no perceptible increase from year to year." — J. A. A.

**Nash's 'The Birds of Ontario in Relation to Agriculture'**.<sup>2</sup> — The principal groups are briefly reviewed in reference to their influence upon agriculture. The seven pages devoted to the Birds of Prey are based mainly on Dr. Fisher's well known investigations, conducted under the direction of Dr. Merriam for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Crows, Jays and Blackbirds are considered at some length, with a verdict that they have little to recommend them from the economic standpoint, their good deeds being in general quite balanced by their evil ones, while the Blue Jay is rather strongly condemned, mainly on account of its fondness for the eggs and young of birds much more useful than itself. The Cow Bird is regarded as a pest, on account of the "terrible destruction" of the small, insectivorous birds it chooses for its foster parents, each Cow

<sup>1</sup>A | Preliminary List | of the | Birds | of | Belknap and Merrimack Counties | New Hampshire | with Notes | By | Ned Dearborn. | Presented to the Faculty of the New Hampshire College | of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts as a Thesis | for the Degree of Master of Science, | June, 1898 | — | Durham | New Hampshire College | 1898. — 8vo, pp. 34.

<sup>2</sup>The Birds of Ontario in Relation to Agriculture. By Charles W. Nash. Toronto. 8vo, pp. 32, with 33 half-tone plates, from drawings by the Author. Reprinted from the Report of the Farmers' Institutes of Ontario, 1897-98.