

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.¹ — 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'.² — 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

¹A | 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.

²The 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.

Bird being raised at the expense of a brood of some far more useful species. The European House Sparrow's numerous bad traits are recounted, and he is likewise credited with many good deeds. In the author's opinion, his good traits about balance his mischievous ones, as he is at present represented in Ontario, but he thinks the species should not be allowed to greatly increase. Of course, the Woodpecker, Cuckoos, Thrushes, Warblers, and Flycatchers, are highly commended and their protection strongly advocated. This useful pamphlet closes with a reprint of the Ontario 'Act for the Protection of Insectivorous and other Birds'; the species exempted from protection are "Hawks, Crows, Blackbirds, and English Sparrows." The 33 full-page original illustrations are not especially artistic, but will probably aid the farmer in distinguishing between his friends and foes.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on the Birds of the Kurile Islands.¹—This appears to be the first attempt to enumerate the birds of the Kurile Islands, which are, zoologically speaking, as yet a *terra incognita*. The only important collection of birds made there, since Steller's visit more than a century ago, was gathered by Capt. H. J. Snow, and passed into the hands of Capt. Blakiston and Mr. Pryer, who reported upon it in their paper 'The Birds of Japan', published in 1882. Dr. Stejneger's list is an attempt "to lay a foundation upon which others may build," and for this purpose he has "gathered together all of the materials and records" accessible to him. In most cases the information is meager and unsatisfactory, and should serve to call attention to this extensive chain of islands, "about 630 miles long," as an important field for zoological investigation. Dr. Stejneger's list numbers 146 species.—J. A. A.

Clark on the Feather Tracts of North American Grouse and Quail.²—At great expense of time and trouble Dr. Clark succeeded in securing either fresh or alcoholic examples of all the genera, and of nearly all the species of North American Grouse and Quail for the purpose of studying their pterylosis. In the present paper of a dozen pages and three plates we have the results of his investigations. As the field was nearly new, the paper proves a valuable contribution to pterylography and also to North American ornithology. The information is both interesting and instructive, but does not have a decisive bearing on any points of taxon-

¹ The Birds of the Kurile Island. By Leonhard Stejneger, Curator, Division of Reptiles and Batrachians. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 1144, Vol. XXI, pp. 269-296.

² The Feather-Tracts of North American Grouse and Quail. By Hubert Lyman Clark, Ph. D., Instructor in Zoölogy, Amherst College. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 1166, Vol. XXI, pp. 641-653, with plates xlvii-xlix.