

expended a great deal of time and labor in bringing together the facts here presented, which he has secured in large part through the issue of circulars to some two hundred correspondents requesting information on the points at issue. — J. A. A.

**Judd's 'The Economic Value of the Bobwhite.'** — In a paper of about ten pages Dr. Judd<sup>1</sup> treats of the economic value of the Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) as (1) a weed and insect destroyer, (2) an article of food, (3) an object of sport. The food report is based on field observations and an examination of 801 stomachs, collected in every month of the year and over a wide extent of country — from Canada to Florida and Texas. The Bobwhite is found to be preëminently a seed-eater, over fifty per cent of its food consisting of seeds, of which the seeds of weeds constitute the bulk. On a very conservative basis "the total consumption of weed seed by Bobwhites from September 1 to April 30 in Virginia amounts to 573 tons." From May to August nearly one third of the Bobwhite's food is found to be insects, which is made up largely of such injurious species as the potato beetle, cucumber beetle, squash bugs, chinch bugs, cotton-boll weevils, various kinds of destructive caterpillars, grasshoppers, etc. It eats very little grain, and this is mainly gathered from stubble fields, and it never, apparently, destroys sprouting grain, like the Crow, various Blackbirds, etc., nor is it, like the Ruffed Grouse, destructive to any harmful extent to leaves and buds. The importance of the Bobwhite as an article of food, and also as an object of sport, is dwelt upon at some length, and it is pointed out that it is possible for farmers to derive a considerable revenue from sportsmen by promoting its increase for purposes of sport. "It is believed," he says, "that if suitably managed, some farms of from 500 to 1000 acres would yield a better revenue from Bobwhites than from poultry." More stringent and more uniform legal provision is recommended for its preservation and increase. The paper closes with a list of seeds, fruits, insects, etc., eaten by the Bobwhite, and is illustrated by a colored plate, by Fuertes, of a Bobwhite in a potato field catching potato beetles. The utility of the Bobwhite as a weed destroyer is especially emphasized. — J. A. A.

**Elrod on Birds in Relation to Agriculture.** — In this paper of some twenty pages, illustrated with several plates of representative birds, Professor Elrod<sup>2</sup> summarizes some of the results of recent investigations of

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<sup>1</sup> The Economic Value of the Bobwhite. By Sylvester D. Judd, Ph. D., Assistant in Ornithology. Yearbook of Depart. of Agriculture for 1903, pp. 193-204, pl. xvi.

<sup>2</sup> The Relation of Birds to Agriculture. By Morton J. Elrod, University of Montana. Second Ann. Rep. Montana State Board of Farmers' Institutes, pp. 173-190, with 8 pls. University of Montana, Missoula, Mont., 1904.

the food of birds, with special reference to the importance of better protection for birds in the State of Montana. A useful list of the principal recent publications on economic ornithology is appended as a partial bibliography of the subject. This timely paper should be of great interest and service to the farmers and fruit-growers of Montana. — J. A. A.

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. JOHN FANNIN, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home at Victoria, British Columbia, June 20, 1904. From 'Forest and Stream' (issue of July 9, 1904) we learn that "Mr. Fannin was born in the backwoods of Kempville, Ontario, where he passed his boyhood." In 1862, attracted by the news of the discovery of gold in the Caribou district of British Columbia, he joined a party of miners "which proposed to make on foot the journey across the great plains and the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast." The party set out from Fort Garry (now Winnipeg), then a frontier settlement, and after four months of difficulties and hardships reached the Fraser River. For nearly ten years he prospected and mined in different parts of the Province, finding himself as poor financially at the end of the period as when he began, but with a wealth of useful experience, and an intimate acquaintance with the country, later utilized in the service of the Canadian Government. About twenty-five years ago he settled on the banks of Burrard Inlet, near the present town of New Westminster. "Mr. Fannin had always had a deep love for nature, and here he settled down and began its systematic study, though at first with little knowledge and almost without books. Here . . . without assistance, he taught himself most of the birds and mammals of the region . . . As time went on, his fame as a naturalist spread throughout British Columbia, and when, about sixteen years ago, the Provincial Museum was established at Victoria, Mr. Fannin was made its curator. . . His services were heartily appreciated by the Government, which in 1895 sent him to Europe and to the United States to study the workings of modern museums." He unselfishly and unceasingly devoted his time and strength to the increase and arrangement of the collections under his charge. His principal contribution to ornithological literature is his 'Check List of British Columbia Birds,' published at Victoria, B. C., in 1891 (*cf.* Auk, IX, 1892, p. 65). He also contributed a few notes on British Columbia birds to 'The Auk,' and was a correspondent of 'Forest and Stream,' and other natural history journals. He was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1888, and a member in 1901.