

appear to have well maintained themselves; which, however, is not the case with the shore birds (*Limicolæ*), which have nearly all decreased greatly in number. Those now considered common were formerly abundant, as were some that are now rare or casual, some of the larger species having become nearly exterminated or driven off the coast.

In regard to the cause of this decrease, it is "evident that man and his works are of the most importance." The first rank is given to sportsmen, or 'so-called sportsmen,' the second to "Italians and other foreigners"; market hunters rank third, and bird shooters and trappers fourth; while the clearing and draining of land, and other modern improvements, directly or indirectly contribute a smaller and for the most part non-preventable share. Detailed statements of facts well indicate the rôle respectively enacted by these agencies.

Considerable space is given to a consideration of the natural enemies of birds, as cats and dogs, foxes, skunks, weasels, crows, jays, and the English Sparrow — last but not least, although "it is well that the fox and crow are not protected by law," in proof of which Mr. Forbush gives abundant evidence.

Finally suggestions are made for the better protection of birds, which include educational work, the improvement and better enforcement of the laws, and "*control of the cat*," which is admitted by all careful observers to be one of the worst enemies of wild birds.

Mr. Forbush's 'Special Report,' taken all in all, is one of the most judicial, instructive, and important publications in the interest of bird protection that has yet appeared, and should have the widest possible circulation.—J. A. A.

Palmer on Game Protection.—In a recent paper of twelve pages Dr. T. S. Palmer recounts 'Some Benefits the Farmer may derive from Game Protection.'¹ These are security against trespass on the part of hunters; a check on hunting, through the requirement in a number of States of a hunting license, thus checking the number of would-be hunters roaming at will over a State; giving the land owner the right to eject trespassers and to collect damages for injury to his property; the protection of useful birds, as the insectivorous and seed-eating species; protection against the introduction of injurious species of mammals and birds; financial benefits, arising from the sale of live game for propagating purposes, and the lease of hunting privileges, etc. Each of these is explained and its advantages commented on at length.

Another paper by Dr. Palmer relating to the protection of game and birds is a 'Directory of State Officials and Organizations concerned with the Protection of Birds and Game.'² This gives a list of the State

¹ Yearbook of U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1904, pp. 509-520.

² 'Circular No. 50' of the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. 8vo, pp. 16. Revised to Aug. 15, 1905.

officials of all the States and Territories of the United States and the Provinces of Canada, their titles, names, and addresses, and the titles of their official publications. Also a list of all the National and State organizations interested in game and bird protection, with the names and addresses of the president and secretary of each; and there is a similar list of all the Audubon Societies.

Still another useful publication is "Poster No. 10, August, 1905," prepared by Dr. Palmer and Messrs. Henry Oldys and R. W. Williams, Jr., and issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (Biological Survey), giving the 'Close Seasons for Game in the United States and Canada, 1905.'

These publications indicate the activity and up-to-date character of the work of the Game Preservation Division of the Biological Survey, in charge of Dr. Palmer, and give information of the greatest importance and convenience to those interested either in the preservation or pursuit of game, or the protection of birds. — J. A. A.

NOTES AND NEWS.

WALTER E. BRYANT, a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in San Francisco, California, May 21, 1905. His place in the history of West Coast ornithology is important by reason of his substantial and accurate contributions to the literature of the subject and the influence of his personality upon other workers. As Mr. Joseph Grinnell has said in another place: "The life histories of many of our remotely restricted species would remain to-day almost wholly unknown if Bryant had not spent lonely months in their study and then composed what he learned in the form in which we find it now so instructive." His explorations brought to light a number of new birds and mammals, some of which bear his name.

Bryant's first article on natural history appeared in 'Science News' Vol. I, No. 7, 1878, but "the majority of his published writings appeared from 1887 to 1889 in the 'Bulletin' and 'Proceedings' of the California Academy of Sciences, and from 1890 to 1893 in 'Zoe,' a periodical published for four years at San Francisco. These seven years marked the period of Bryant's greatest activity in natural history lines, and the articles resulting from his work evince an evident endeavor to express plainly and accurately whatever he thought worthy of record. Not that his descriptions and recitals are tiresomely commonplace, for I have seldom read anything more fascinating to a naturalist than the accounts of his experiences while collecting in Lower California, and on Guadalupe