

Alston, Henry Seebohm, and others, several landscape views, nests of the Osprey, and various text illustrations of native implements, etc., and maps showing the routes traveled.

The daily narrative of the experiences of these travellers and collectors in these far northern and still little known regions, noting the progress of the season, the arrival and nesting of the birds, the characteristics of the country and the people, will be read with sympathetic interest by many beyond the wide circle of ornithologists to which it immediately appeals.—J. A. A.

**Wytzman's 'Genera Avium.'**—This important work<sup>1</sup>, proposed in 1903 (see Auk, XXI, 1904, p. 312), seems now well under way, the first five parts having recently reached us for notice. Each part, restricted to a single family, is paged separately, and is practically complete in itself. Part I, by Ernst Hartert, treats of the Eurylæmidæ (pp. 8, 1 pl. col.); Part II, by P. Wytzman, of the Todidæ (pp. 4, 1 pl. col.); Parts III, IV, and V, by T. Salvadori, treat respectively of the Stringopidæ (pp. 2, 1 pl. col.), Nestoridæ (pp. 3, 1 pl. col.), and the Cacatuidæ (pp. 7, 1. pl. col.). The text consists of a brief general account of the family, in regard to its relationships and technical history, keys to the genera and species, with their principal synonymy and geographical distribution. The work will thus be of great convenience and value as a synopsis of the birds of the world. It is edited by P. Wytzman, is published in English, and the illustrations are by Keulemans. They give a full length figure of a characteristic species, with head, feet and other detail figures of a number of other species, thus far all in color, and of course well executed.—J. A. A.

**'Ootheca Wooleyana.'**—We are glad to note the appearance of Part III<sup>2</sup> of this well-known work, comprising 'Columbæ-Alcæ.' It is of course prepared on the well-considered lines of the previous parts.<sup>3</sup> In addition to being a catalogue of the famous Wolley Collection, with authentic and detailed records of the specimens, it comprises also extended notes on the nesting habits and breeding ranges of the species, often to the extent of eight to a dozen pages to a species, with many important editorial additions. The entry numbers included in the present volume are 2798 to

<sup>1</sup>Genera Avium. Edited by P. Wytzman, with Contributions by Messrs. P. L. Sclater, R. Bowdler Sharpe, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, E. Hartert, C. E. Hellmayr, T. Salvadori, etc. 4to, with colored plates. Printed and published by V. Vertemuil & L. Desmet, Brussels. Parts I-V, 1905. (Pt. I, 3/9; Pt. II, 3/1; Pt. III, 2/; Pt. IV, 2/11; Pt. V, 6/0.)

<sup>2</sup>Ootheca Wooleyana: [An illustrated Catalogue] of [the Collection of Birds' Eggs] formed by the late [John Wolley, Jun., M. A., F. Z. S.] Edited from the original notes [by] Alfred Newton. — [Part III. Columbæ-Alcæ.] — [London: R. H. Porter, 7 Prince's Street, Cavendish Square. M. C. M. V.] [Price £2 2s, net. — 8vo, pp. i-iv, 1-384, pll. col. xiv-xxi.]

<sup>3</sup>Part I, Accipitres (including Striges), 1864; Part II, Picariæ-Passeres, 1902.

4840, representing about 135 species. The eight colored plates relate exclusively to the eggs of the Great Auk, seven of which and a cast of another are figured, the accompanying text occupying pages 364-384. It is a matter for sincere congratulation that Mr. Wolley's valuable field notes and records are finally being made accessible, and given permanent form in a manner so attractive and under such competent editorship.—  
J. A. A.

**Economic Ornithology.**—The ravages of the cotton boll weevil in Texas during the last few years and its prospective extension into other cotton-growing districts has led the Biological Survey to undertake investigations to determine what species of birds feed upon this weevil and to what extent they are likely to prove a check upon its increase. The preliminary results thus far reached have been summarized by Mr. Vernon Bailey, in a special report,<sup>1</sup> based on the examination of the stomachs of a large number of birds collected in and around the cotton fields, chiefly in the month of November, 1904, in southern Texas. The weevils were found in the stomachs of about a dozen species of birds, out of about 38 species examined, usually in small numbers, but in sufficient quantity to show that the efficient protection of insectivorous birds is of considerable importance to cotton-growers.

The economic relations of the Bob-white and other quails of the United States is the subject of a report by the late Dr. Judd, published also as a 'Bulletin' of the Biological Survey.<sup>2</sup> The eastern Bobwhite and its subspecies, here treated collectively, occupies, quite naturally, about two thirds of the report, the species of the Southwest the remaining third. There are two plates by Fuertes, one of 'Bobwhite in a potato field,' the other of the 'Gambel quail.' The first is colored and serves as an attractive frontispiece. Various text cuts illustrate the seeds of different weeds that are a pest to the farmer, tons of the seeds of which are destroyed annually by Bobwhite. This bird is considered (1) as an ally of the farmer, (2) as an asset of the farm, (3) as an article of food, (4) as an object of sport, (5) in relation to its esthetic value; several pages are also devoted to measures for its preservation and propagation, and about fifteen pages to a detailed account of its food habits. About 53 per cent of its food consists of seeds, chiefly those of plants injurious to agriculture. An additional 15 per cent is insects, which includes such noxious species as the potato beetle, chinch bug, weevils of various species, cutworms, grasshoppers, and many others. The remainder of its food consists mainly

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<sup>1</sup>Birds known to eat the Boll Weevil. By Vernon Bailey. Chief Field-Naturalist, Biological Survey. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Biological Survey, Bulletin No. 22, 8vo, pp. 16, 1905.

<sup>2</sup>The Bobwhite and other Quails of the United States in their Economic Relations. By Sylvester D. Judd, Assistant, Biological Survey. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Biological Survey, Bulletin No. 21. 8vo, pp. 66, 1905.