

rarely serious, as to its destruction of the eggs and young of other birds. Its depredations upon poultry are local and sporadic, and doubtless limited to a small proportion of the crow population of a given district. In the present paper Dr. Cole recites several well authenticated instances of considerable loss to poultry raisers from the fondness of crows for young chickens and ducklings. The author favors the non-protection of the crow by State laws, but believes it would be unwise to offer a bounty for their destruction. The crow has its good points as a destroyer of injurious insects, but in view of his general character as a nest-robber and chicken-thief, and his propensity for pulling up the farmer's young corn, it is doubtful whether his good deeds outweigh his many evil propensities.—J. A. A.

**Swarth on the Distribution and Molt of Mearns's Quail.**<sup>1</sup>—Following a short account of the habits and distribution (illustrated with a map) of this quail (*Cyrtonyx montezumæ mearnsi*) Mr. Swarth gives a detailed account of the change from the juvenal to the first winter plumage, with illustrations of the various stages, from photographs, showing the ventral surface in thirteen specimens. Each stage of the change is described, and attention is called, apparently for the first time, to the sexual differences observable in the juvenal plumage.—J. A. A.

**Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels.'**<sup>2</sup>—Part IV,<sup>2</sup> dated April, 1909, completes the genus *Æstrelata*, and contains in addition the genera *Pagodroma*, *Bulweria*, *Macronectes*, *Fulmarus*, *Daption*, *Halobaena*, and three of the four 'species' of *Prion*. From the known intergradation of the four forms of *Prion* (*l. c.*, p. 286), three of them are evidently not properly entitled to the rank of species, and their interrelationships would be better expressed by the use of trinomials. *Bulweria macgillivrayi* is known only from a single specimen, as is also *Æstrelata fisheri*, and there are only two known examples of *Æ. heraldica*.

As in previous parts, we have here a most satisfactory summary of the history, characteristics, and relationships of these, for the most part, little known pelagic birds.—J. A. A.

**Howard's 'The British Warblers,' Part III.**—Part III<sup>3</sup> of this remarkable monograph merits fully the liberal praise we bestowed upon Parts I and II

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<sup>1</sup> Distribution and Molt of the Mearns Quail. By H. S. Swarth. Condor, Vol. XI, No. 2, March-April, 1909, pp. 39-43, 1 pl. and 3 text figg.

<sup>2</sup> Part IV, pp. 223-296, pll. lxxix-cxix. April, 1909. For notices of previous parts see Auk, XXV, 1908, pp. 244, 338; XXVI, p. 95.

<sup>3</sup> The British Warblers: A History with Problems of their Lives. By H. Eliot Howard, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. Illustrated by Henrik Grönvold, London: R. H. Porter, 7 Princess Street, Cavendish Square, W. Part 3, February, 1909. Price, 21s. net.

Blackcap, pp. 1-30, 1 colored plate of male and female, 8 photogravure plates of male in various attitudes; Pallas's Warbler, 2 pp., 1 col. pl.; Radde's Bush-Warbler, 2 pp., 1 col. pl.; Chiff-chaff, 1 photogr. pl. of female; 4 maps, showing summer and winter distribution of the Blackcap and Garden Warbler.