

CORRESPONDENCE.

Naturalists and 'Concealing Coloration.'

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

Dear Sir: — I hereby send you my periodical warning to naturalists that their supposed opposition to my so called ideas is in reality nothing but a state of error kept alive solely by ignorance. Any of the scores of intellectual persons who have spent even two days with me here, laugh to learn of the average naturalist's attitude about it and many of them are astonished to hear that no natural history institution has yet sent any committee to investigate this immense and revolutionary discovery. It is absolutely impossible for any one to see what I am showing and continue to doubt its significance. The discovery that thousands of species in all orders are each, no matter how they happen to look elsewhere, superhumanly perfect pictures of the very background against which it would apparently most help them not to show! Do naturalists really fancy that when a professional copier of nature, a picture-maker, tells them that these are such copies, the phenomenon is not worth investigating? Moreover it is not an individual artist that tells them this, but a representative body of them, composed of all the painters to whom I have shown the things. Many naturalists, feeling forced to believe that I am right about these wonderful copies, have said they admitted it but *disagreed about the deduction*. Here their position becomes hopeless; because, if they will not come and witness, they must take my word that the cases are practically the whole animal kingdom, all but the species that neither hunt nor are hunted; and if this is so, it is utterly absurd to try to call it accident.

ABBOTT H. THAYER.

Monadnock, N. H.,
June 12, 1913.