

English Sparrow alone of all our birds will live in the parkless sections of large cities; to many people there it is *the only bird* and they would not give it up. As to economic value, it may be said that the English Sparrow is known to feed on a larger variety of insect pests than is any native bird and that it is one of the most effective enemies of the destructive alfalfa weevil.

The part of the theoretical discussion in Shelford's book that is probably of most interest to readers of 'The Auk' is that relating to geographical distribution. Remarks on page 161 indicate that the variously proposed laws of temperature control in the opinion of ecologists, do not fit the case. These opinions are summed up by Shelford on p. 299: "Nothing is, I believe, more incorrect than the idea that the same single factor governs the regional distribution of most animal species. Since the environment is a complex of many factors, every animal, while in its normal environmental complex, lives surrounded by and responds to a complex of factors in its normal activities." The question properly asked, "Can a single factor control distribution?" probably must be answered in the negative.

As to the general style of the book it may be said that it is not adapted to recreative reading. The book is frankly a manual or text-book, hence the style is direct, concise and inornate. The title more properly would read "Animal Communities in the Chicago Region." Temperate America not only includes part of the continent to the south but is of too broad implication even for the present treatment of the subject as applied to North America. The illustrations are abundant and good; the bibliography and indexes are excellent. The publication was subsidized and locally distributed by The Geographic Society of Chicago. It is handled, however, as one of the regular series of University of Chicago publications and may now be obtained only from the University Press.—W. L. M.

The Oriole.—This handsomely printed and well illustrated journal appears under the editorship of Mr. John Dryden Kuser who is also president of the Somerset Hills Bird Club, of which it is the official organ. The objects of the club are the protection and study of birds, and this, their first publication, will go far to attract attention to their work and to stimulate the members to further endeavor. There are articles by members, on the Chickadee, Passenger Pigeon, Cardinal and Mallard, illustrated by colored plates loaned by the National Association of Audubon Societies, and other contributions of a more general nature including one by W. De W. Miller, 'Hints on Bird Study'; and one by C. Wm. Beebe, 'Feathered Martyrs.' Dr. Wm. H. Wiegmann also contributes three records of the Purple Sandpiper near New York City, and a note on the occurrence of the Bartramian Sandpiper, both rare species in this vicinity.

We congratulate the editor of the Oriole upon its creditable appearance and trust it may have a useful and successful career.—W. S.

¹ The Oriole. Official Organ of the Somerset Hills Bird Club, Bernardsville, N. J. Vol. 1, No. 1, August, 1913.