

were 347 boxes of which 66 per cent were occupied. . . . In 1913, 75 per cent of the boxes were occupied."

One cannot believe that our birds are so different from those of Europe that similar success in increasing birds may not be had in this country. Let us at least make the attempt. Dr. Hewitt's paper gives directions for making a cheap form of nest box such as was used in England, and contains a good general statement of the value of birds. The entomologists of England and her colonies are unanimous in giving high rank to birds as enemies of insects.— W. L. M.

**Menegaux on Birds as Enemies of Mice.**<sup>1</sup>— This is a collation of the results published by Dr. A. K. Fisher, in the United States, Dr. George Rorig in Germany, M. M. de la Faye and G. de Dumast in France, and by a few other authors. The economic tendencies of various rodents are discussed, as well as methods of destroying the animals. It is asserted that the chief cause of the steady increase of noxious rodents is the destruction of their bird, mammal and serpent enemies.

Details are given of the food of numerous species of birds of prey, especially of those common to the old and new worlds. The conclusion is that birds are an underestimated but indispensable factor in the control of these and other injurious animals.— W. L. M.

**A note on 'The Effect of Extent of Distribution on Speciation.'**<sup>2</sup>  
— A paper by Asa C. Chandler, with the title quoted is devoted to an exposition of certain conceptions apparently brought forward as new. Nothing could be more obvious, however than the main thesis of the paper, which is, that wide-ranging orders, families and genera, as a rule contain proportionally more families, genera and species respectively than similar groups of more restricted distribution. I do not wish to comment further on this over-elaboration of a fundamental concept, but desire merely to point out a prior statement and argument of the case. Professor Dean C. Worcester in his "Notes on the distribution of Philippine birds,"<sup>3</sup> says: "that in the Philippines the larger the island and the greater the diversity of its surface, the larger the percentage of genera represented by more than one species, and the larger the average number of species into which they are differentiated." (p. 611.) Earlier versions of the idea undoubtedly can be found.— W. L. M.

**Henshaw's 'Birds of Town and Country.'**<sup>4</sup>— In 1913 the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the direction of the

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<sup>1</sup> Menegaux, A., *Les Oiseaux ennemis naturels des souris et des campagnols*. Rev. Sci. 52, No. 19, May 9, 1914, pp. 586-593.

<sup>2</sup> *Am. Nat.*, Vol. 48, March, 1914, p. 129-160.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, Vol. 20, pp. 567-625, 1898.

<sup>4</sup> *Birds of Town and Country*. By Henry W. Henshaw. *National Geographic Magazine*. May, 1914. pp. 494-531.