

Cooke's 'Second Annual Report of Bird Counts in the United States.'¹—This posthumous work of Prof. Cooke's is a further report upon an investigation which was originated by him and in which he was deeply interested. His idea was to obtain as many carefully made counts as possible of the number of birds breeding on definite areas of farm land and with these as a basis, estimate the actual number of breeding birds over much larger areas. No less than 315 counts were received for 1915, covering nearly all the States of the Union, but mainly as in 1914, from the northeast. A comparison of the reports from this region for the two years, we have as the average bird population for each 100 acres of the area covered, 119 pairs in 1914 and 125 pairs in 1915.

Many other interesting facts are demonstrated and while it is too early to draw detailed deductions the practicability and importance of this line of investigation are clearly shown, and it is to be hoped that the Biological Survey will continue the compilation of data on the lines which Prof. Cooke laid down.—W. S.

Pearl and Curtis on Dwarf Eggs.²—In this paper the character and cause of 'runt' eggs are discussed at great length. It seems that these dwarf eggs usually occur but once or twice in the history of one bird, and are generally due to some temporary stimulation and are not correlated with a morphological disturbance of the sex organs.

Some dwarf eggs are yolkless while others contain small yolks. While the authors' study has been based entirely upon eggs of the domestic fowl their conclusions undoubtedly apply to other birds as well.—W. S.

Shufeldt's 'Osteology of *Palaeornis*, with other Notes on the Genus.'³—In spite of a colored plate and numerous photographic reproductions of portions of the skeleton, this paper is disappointing, since one fails to get a clear idea upon what points the author bases his conclusion that *Palaeornis* and its allies "constitute a subfamily" of Psittacidae. There are detailed descriptions of the skeletal parts, most of which "seem to form no exception to the general rule for Psittaci," "are as in all of the Psittaci examined" etc. In other cases comparisons are made with *Ara* and *Amazona* and less frequently with *Cacatua* and *Conurus*, but nowhere is there a comparative table or a summary from which one can get the evidence.

The nomenclature used is a little unfortunate for while *Amazona* is rightly used instead of *Chrysotis*, the present day changes in the names

¹ Second Annual Report of Bird Counts in the United States with Discussion of Results. By Wells W. Cooke. Bull. 396, U. S. Dept. Agriculture. October 23, 1916. pp. 1-20.

² Studies on the Physiology or Reproduction in the Domestic Fowl—XV. Dwarf Eggs. By Raymond Pearl and Maynie R. Curtis. Jour. Agr. Research, VI, No. 25. September 18, 1916. pp. 977-1042, pl. CXII-CXIII.

³ Osteology of *Palaeornis*, with Other Notes on the Genus. By R. W. Shufeldt. Trans. Royal Soc. of South Africa. Vol. V, pt. 5, June, 1916. pp. 575-591, pl. XXXIX-XLI.