

An Essay on Crows.— In a paper¹ devoted chiefly to the Australian Corvidæ, W. W. Froggatt gives interesting historic lore, and notes on the habits of crows and ravens of all parts of the world. The American Crow is treated under the name *Corvus corone*.

The Australian Crows, like their relatives the world over, are severely criticised for certain injurious traits, and Mr. Froggatt is in sympathy with efforts to control their numbers when necessary. On the other hand, he points out their valuable habits in the way of feeding on insects and in cleaning up carrion. He asserts that they are the best scavenger birds in Australia, and that it is preferable to maintain them in numbers than to introduce carrion-feeder birds from other countries, a movement that has actually been taken up by the Australian Government. In a land where the introduction of exotic species has proved so disastrous as it has in Australia, it would seem that further experiments along this line would be avoided.— W. L. M.

Two Papers on African Economic Ornithology.— Captain S. S. Flower and Mr. M. J. Nicoll are the authors of a profusely and well illustrated brochure² intended to acquaint the people of Egypt with 25 of the more important birds protected by law. The authors state that previous efforts along educational lines have borne fruit. Protected birds are still sold for food in Cairo, however, being picked to hide their identity. Better knowledge of the birds on the part of officials, one of the objects of the bulletin reviewed, is expected to help end this traffic. The authors remark that: "Egypt is a country specially adapted to ravages by insect-pests, because natural enemies of these insects (*e. i.*, birds) are scarce. It is recognized as an axiom that no artificial system of insect destruction is comparable in effect with that which nature herself imposes by means of natural enemies, and it therefore becomes essential that every possible effort to preserve insectivorous birds should be carried out by the cultivators, as well as being supported by all who have an interest in the welfare of agriculture in the country."

In an account of 'Some Insects Injurious to the Black Wattle (*Acacia mollissima* Wild.),' a tanbark plant, C. B. Hardenberg notes³ that birds have both an injurious and a beneficial relation with respect to the chief insect enemy of the plant, the bagworm. Circumstantial evidence indicates that birds serve to distribute the pest, but the bird-carried bagworms usually are insignificant compared to the general infestation due to other agencies. Four kinds of birds have been observed feeding on the bagworm in various stages, thus contributing toward the natural control of this well-protected insect.— W. L. M.

¹ The Crow Family. The Australian Zoologist, Vol. 1, Pt. 6, Nov. 11, 1918, pp. 189-195.

² The Principal Species of Birds Protected by Law in Egypt. Ministry Agr., Cairo. 1918, pp. iv + 8, 8 Col. Pls.

³ Bul. 1, 1918, Dept. Agr., Union, S. Africa, 1919, pp. 25, 34-35.