

The paper is a valuable contribution to the bird life of a little known part of the African continent and the collector is to be congratulated upon making such a good collection under unusual difficulties, and the author upon working up the material so satisfactorily.—W. S.

Stuart Baker's 'Hand-List of the Birds of India.'—This work¹ consists of a reprint of the lists that have been appearing in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, December, 1920 to April, 1923, repaged, with addenda covering seven pages. It presents a handy list of the birds of the Indian Empire, 2138 in number, including subspecies.

Technical and English names are given with the citation of original publication and type locality and a brief statement of range.

The author is now engaged upon his 'Avifauna of British India,' one volume of which has appeared, and the present list is to give working ornithologists a "rough catalogue showing what advance had already been made in distribution, nomenclature, etc., since Blanford's time" and to "fill the gap until the last volume of the 'Avifauna' appears." The list will prove exceedingly useful and we hope ornithologists will accede to Mr. Stuart Baker's request and give him the benefit of any suggestions they may have tending to make the list more perfect.—W. S.

Birds in the Ecology of Spitsbergen and Bear Island.—The 29th paper² resulting from the Oxford University Expedition to Spitsbergen, 1921, deals with ecology. Birds are frequently mentioned and numerous notes on their food are given. The interesting conclusion is reached that birds contribute in an important way to maintenance of abundance and variety of life in the region, by bringing to the land as the residue of their marine food the principal supply of nitrogen upon which the plants subsist and which is therefore essential to the existence of various chains of organisms. Three species of Collembola, four of Terdigrades and one of diptera were found to live in the nest material of the birds and several species of bird lice live directly upon their hosts. All in all it is evident that birds play a very important part in the economy of the limited biota of these far northern lands.—W. L. M.

Economic Ornithology in Recent Entomological Publications.—The rather heterogeneous contributions to economic ornithology here noted are related only by occurrence in publications regarded as entomological.

¹ A Hand-List of Genera and Species of Birds of the Indian Empire. By E. C. Stuart Baker. Reprinted from the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society together with a Foreword and Addenda and Corrigenda prepared by the Author. Bombay [1923] pp. i-ix + 1-240. Price 6 Rupees (8 shillings net). Sold by Dulac & Co., 34-36 Margaret St., Cavendish Square, London.

² Sumner Hayes, U. S. and Elton, C. S. Journ. Ecol. 11, No. 2, Sept., 1923, pp. 214-286, pls. 2-4, figs. 1-7.

American silkworm (*Samia cecropia*).—In another¹ of his interesting papers on the natural control of insects Dr. John Tothill shows how this prolific moth with a caterpillar so large that, in numbers, it would be a great menace to woodlands, is so kept in check by natural enemies that only rarely does it actually become destructive. From observations of himself and others the author concludes that nearly three-fourths of the caterpillars are eaten by birds (Orioles, Robins, etc.) and about 85 per cent of the pupae are destroyed by Woodpeckers. The Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are thought to be most prominent in this work.

Apple leaf skeletonizer (*Hemerophila pariana*).—This recently imported European pest has caused serious damage in Connecticut and New York. The caterpillar is of a type which our birds freely eat, and it is probable that eventually birds will rank high among the natural enemies of the insect. As a beginning in this direction the Chipping Sparrow has been observed feeding on the larvae.²

Mormon cricket (*Anabrus simplex*).—This well known pest of the western States developed an important outbreak in Colorado in the years 1918–1920 and in some localities did serious damage. Although a thorough study of its bird enemies was planned circumstances rendered this impracticable. However, a few observations are cited relating to Magpies, Blackbirds, and Sparrow Hawks, and the opinion given that “birds are among the most important factors in the control of these insects.”³

Two injurious birds in Colorado.—W. L. Burnett thus brackets⁴ the Ring-necked Pheasant and Piñon Jay. The faults of the former bird are digging out germinating seeds of corn, wheat, and oats and damaging sugar beets and garden vegetables. Little credit is given the bird for destruction of insects. This is a brief report of the investigation noted in a previous review (*'The Auk,'* 38, No. 3, July 1921, p. 480). The Piñon Jay feeds on corn in the field and in the shock and in some sections the losses have been heavy. This damage, as well as that to wheat by the same bird, have also been investigated by the Biological Survey and control measures recommended.

Bird enemies of cotton pests in the Virgin Islands.⁵—The Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) and the Black Witch or Judas Bird (*Crotophaga ani*) “eat large numbers of the larvae and adults and are of great value in controlling the cotton worm” (*Alabama argillacea*), the second most important pest of cotton in the islands. The same birds feed also on the fall army worm (*Laphygma frugiperda*), the southern green stinkbug

¹ Proc. Acadian Ent. Soc. 7. 1921 (June, 1922), pp. 30–36.

² Porter, B. A. and Garman, Philip, Bul. 246, Conn. Agr. Exp. Sta. Feb. 1923, p. 260.

³ Corkins, C. L., 13th Ann. Rep. State Ent. Colo. (1921) June 1922, p. 54.

⁴ 12th Ann. Rep. State Ent. Colo. (1920) June 1921, pp. 47–49.

⁵ Wilson, Charles E. Bul. 3, Virgin Ids. Agr. Exp. Sta. May 1923, pp. 3, 5, 14, and 17.

(*Nezara viridula*), and the bollworm or corn earworm (*Heliothis obsoleta*), all injurious to cotton.

Bird enemies of Forest Insects.—Dr. E. P. Felt in his annual report for 1921¹ calls attention to the importance of birds as enemies of leaf-eating caterpillars in forests and suggests that “better protection of birds is one of the most promising methods of avoiding serious injury.” After noting the complete destruction by English Sparrows of a flight of snow-white linden moths (*Ennomos subsignarius*) in the city of Albany, he further states: “Insect-feeding birds appear to be the most effective checks upon such outbreaks and occurrences such as noted above are additional arguments for the better protection of birds, since under present conditions, at least, the cost of artificial control in ordinary woodland areas would be prohibitive.”—W. L. M

The Ornithological Journals

Bird-Lore.² XXV, No. 5. September–October, 1923.

Birds of Paradise at Little Tobago Island. By Henry D. Baker.—Interesting account of the habits of the birds and the proposal to catch them and transfer them to Miami, Fla.

The Bird-Feeding Towers of Ahmedabad [India]. By Grant Foreman.

The Marsh Hawk in Southern Michigan. By William G. Fargo.

Feeding-Habits of the Northern Shrike. By Ralph E. Danforth.

Observations on the Mockingbird at Dallas, Texas. By Alice B. Harrington.

The color plate depicts the Green Heron, American, Least and Cory's Bitterns.

Bird-Lore. XXV, No. 6. November–December, 1923.

Stories from Birdcraft Sanctuary. By Mabel Osgood Wright.

The Evening Grosbeak at Ithaca, N. Y. By Herbert Friedmann.

Our Winter Guests. By B. T. Chafin.

Great Blue Herons' Nests. By Donala Gillingham.—A remarkable photograph showing 27 nests and over 50 birds in one tree, at Vancouver, B. C.

Birds seen in Florida in February, 1923. By W. G. Fargo.

The colored plate, with migration and plumage notes, treats of Scott's and Audubon's Orioles and the number closes with the bulky report of the National Association of Audubon Societies which is full of important matter on bird study and the progress of conservation work.

The Condor.³ XXV, No. 5. September–October, 1923.

An experiment with a Rufous Hummingbird. By A. Dawes DuBois.

¹ 35th Rep. State Ent. N. Y. (1921) June 1923, pp. 82 and 84.

² D. Appleton and Co., Harrisburg, Pa.

³ 514 Lester Ave., Pasadena, Calif.