

Fisher's Hawks and Owls from the Standpoint of the Farmer.¹—This is a condensed and very useful summary of the relations of Hawks and Owls to agriculture, based on Dr. Fisher's more elaborate 'Bulletin'² on the same subject. He considers first the 'Cause of the Prejudice against Birds of Prey,' and then refers to 'some characteristics of rapacious birds,' and to the 'food habits' of the principal North American species, and then proceeds to briefly treat of the species under the several categories of wholly "harmless species of Hawks and Owls," "wholly beneficial Hawks," "Hawks and Owls mostly beneficial," and "harmful Hawks and Owls." Among the latter are the Gyrfalcon, the Duck Hawk, the Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, and the Sharp-shinned Hawk, the two latter, owing to the northern distribution of the others, being really the only species occurring in the United States in sufficient numbers to be of any particular importance as enemies of the farmer. These two species, with the Goshawk, Dr. Fisher believes, are the cause of the "unjust hatred and suspicion with which our Birds of Prey are held," in consequence of their often serious depredations upon poultry and game. The publication is timely and should do much to develop a more rational sentiment respecting the real character and the beneficial influence of most of these long-persecuted birds.—J. A. A.

Beddard's 'Text-book of Zoögeography.'³—In view of Mr. Beddard's excellent little work entitled 'Animal Colouration' (see Auk, X, 1893, pp. 195-198), and his many valuable contributions to technical zoölogy, the present work is not a little disappointing and will hardly add to the author's reputation as a careful and trustworthy investigator. The pages give evidence of either haste or carelessness, aside from the numerous typographical inaccuracies. Thus we are told, to cite a few examples, that *Gallinula chloropus* and *Totanus incanous* (p. 10) are among the comparatively few species "that have a world-wide range"; that the Curassows (p. 27) occur in California; among the genera enumerated as confined to the 'Palearctic Region' (p. 89) are *Perisoreus*, *Nucifraga*, *Cyanocitta*, and *Acanthis* (!); *Elasmognathus* (p. 109) is said to

¹ Hawks and Owls from the Standpoint of the Farmer. By A. K. Fisher, M. D., Assistant Ornithologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Reprinted from the Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1894 (1895), pp. 215-232, pll. 1-3, and 3 fig. in text.

² See Auk, X, 1893, p. 199.

³ A Text-book of Zoögeography. By Frank E. Beddard, M. A. (Oxon.) F. R. S., Prosector of the Zoological Society of London, and Lecturer on Biology at Guy's Hospital. Cambridge: At the University Press. 1895. All Rights reserved. 8vo, pp. viii, 246. (Cambridge Natural Science Manuals' Biological Series.)