

thologists, whose names appear in the report, give the remarkable figures which influence Mr. Hornaday's estimates.

Game and plume birds are unquestionably on the high road to extermination, and certain species of our small birds are decreasing, but the general destruction in the latter class is probably not nearly so great as Mr. Hornaday's figures imply.

This side of the question is of such especial importance to ornithologists that it seems desirable to emphasize the difficulty of reaching accurate results from such data,—especially as sentiment often unconsciously leads us to make extreme statements.

The estimates on page 95 to which we take exception do not, however, detract from the importance and beneficial effect of this valuable report, and it is earnestly to be hoped that Mr. Hornaday's closing suggestions, both as to birds and mammals, may be seriously considered by our legislators, especially as to the suppression of promiscuous egg collecting and traffic in eggs, birds, and game.—W. S.

Sketches of Some Common Birds.¹—The author has here brought together a series of bird biographies most of which have been published previously in periodicals. They treat at considerable length of fifty-five species and, issued in book form, make a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the life-histories of our more common birds.

They are based on observations apparently all made in central Illinois and evidently extending over a considerable term of years. Mr. Silloway writes with the enthusiasm of a bird-lover and the care of a discriminating bird-student. He presents facts which we do not recall having seen before in print, but to our mind is rather further from the mark than most authors when he writes of birds' notes. Thus he states that the Bobolinks of his region are not superior as songsters to the Horned Larks or Dickcissels, the American Bittern's booming cry suggests to him the syllables "boo-hoo," and while his biography of the Least Bittern shows that he has had excellent opportunities to study this interesting species, he seems unfamiliar with its *coo, qua*, and *tut-tut-tut* notes, saying that he has "never heard an individual utter a call or cry of any kind."

The book deserves an index and in supplying it we trust that the author will also give a prefatory note stating where and when his observations were made.

The illustrations are half-tone reproductions of interesting photographs of birds and nests from nature.—F. M. C.

Oölogical Abnormalities.²—Having devoted much time to securing sets

¹ Sketches | of | Some Common Birds | By | P. M. Silloway | Cincinnati, Ohio | The Editor Publishing Company | No. 327 Pike Building | 1897. 8vo. pp. 331, pll. 17.

² Gleanings from Nature, No. 1. Oölogical Abnormalities. By J. Warren Jacobs. Published by the Author, Waynesburg, Pa. 1898. 8vo, pp. 36, half-tone pll. iv.