

Bird being raised at the expense of a brood of some far more useful species. The European House Sparrow's numerous bad traits are recounted, and he is likewise credited with many good deeds. In the author's opinion, his good traits about balance his mischievous ones, as he is at present represented in Ontario, but he thinks the species should not be allowed to greatly increase. Of course, the Woodpecker, Cuckoos, Thrushes, Warblers, and Flycatchers, are highly commended and their protection strongly advocated. This useful pamphlet closes with a reprint of the Ontario 'Act for the Protection of Insectivorous and other Birds'; the species exempted from protection are "Hawks, Crows, Blackbirds, and English Sparrows." The 33 full-page original illustrations are not especially artistic, but will probably aid the farmer in distinguishing between his friends and foes.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on the Birds of the Kurile Islands.¹—This appears to be the first attempt to enumerate the birds of the Kurile Islands, which are, zoologically speaking, as yet a *terra incognita*. The only important collection of birds made there, since Steller's visit more than a century ago, was gathered by Capt. H. J. Snow, and passed into the hands of Capt. Blakiston and Mr. Pryer, who reported upon it in their paper 'The Birds of Japan', published in 1882. Dr. Stejneger's list is an attempt "to lay a foundation upon which others may build," and for this purpose he has "gathered together all of the materials and records" accessible to him. In most cases the information is meager and unsatisfactory, and should serve to call attention to this extensive chain of islands, "about 630 miles long," as an important field for zoological investigation. Dr. Stejneger's list numbers 146 species.—J. A. A.

Clark on the Feather Tracts of North American Grouse and Quail.²—At great expense of time and trouble Dr. Clark succeeded in securing either fresh or alcoholic examples of all the genera, and of nearly all the species of North American Grouse and Quail for the purpose of studying their pterylosis. In the present paper of a dozen pages and three plates we have the results of his investigations. As the field was nearly new, the paper proves a valuable contribution to pterylography and also to North American ornithology. The information is both interesting and instructive, but does not have a decisive bearing on any points of taxon-

¹ The Birds of the Kurile Island. By Leonhard Stejneger, Curator, Division of Reptiles and Batrachians. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 1144, Vol. XXI, pp. 269-296.

² The Feather-Tracts of North American Grouse and Quail. By Hubert Lyman Clark, Ph. D., Instructor in Zoölogy, Amherst College. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 1166, Vol. XXI, pp. 641-653, with plates xlvii-xlix.