

information on the subject began to be a matter record, when Mr. Brewster published his list of 66 summer birds observed in the vicinity of Greylock Mountain (Auk, I, 1884, pp. 5-16); and five years later this was materially supplemented by Mr. Faxon's lists of the birds of Sheffield (76 species) and Greylock (80 species, Auk, VI, 1889, pp. 39-46, 99-107), and by Mr. Hoffmann's still later paper on the summer birds of Central Berkshire (Auk, XII, 1895, pp. 87-89). The present paper presents the the combined results of these and other observations on the birds of Berkshire, the authors having made numerous visits to the region for the purpose of studying its bird fauna, not only in summer, but also in winter, spring and autumn.

While the list is admittedly incomplete, especially as regards the larger migrants and the winter stragglers, it presents all the information at present available on the subject, and is doubtless essentially complete as regards the summer birds of the region. The list, copiously annotated, numbers 197 species, with 4 additional subspecies, or, excluding the House Sparrow, just 200 forms. The first six pages contain a general account of the varied topographic and biologic characteristics of the region. Greylock is described as rising above the surrounding country like "an island of northern vegetation," and on its top have been found birds "whose normal habitat is the edge of the tree line of the loftier northern mountains," while in the Housatonic Valley a few southern or 'Carolinian' species find their way northward from southern Connecticut. A bibliography of several pages shows "the published sources of information available for the purposes of the list." The authors have chosen to impress upon their work a certain stamp of individuality by adopting an order of arrangement inverse to that of the A. O. U. Check-List, and in spelling a few of the technical names according to their particular preferences. The list appears to be a 'hard-and-fast' one, so far as it goes, every doubtful record being rigidly excluded, and, as already said, as complete as present knowledge renders it possible to make it.—J. A. A.

'Birds in Horticulture.'—In an address read before the Illinois State Horticultural Society,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Wm. E. Praeger makes a very good presentation of the facts in the case as regards the utility of birds to the horticulturist. He does not ignore the appropriation by certain birds of more or less fruit, but brings forward in offset the evidence of their extreme utility to the agriculturist at nearly all seasons, based on the investigation by competent experts of the general food habits of the species charged with injury to the crops. His conclusion is that in the case of the great majority of birds the good they do is so great and the harm, if any, so trifling that they should be encouraged and protected at all times.—J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> Birds in Horticulture. By Wm. E. Praeger. A paper read before the State Horticultural Society at Springfield, Ill., Dec. 26, 1899. 8vo., pp. 12.