

of New York, a work now well under way and likely to prove a very important publication. It is Dr. Farr's intention "to include all the birds known to occur or to have occurred in our State, and only those forms have been admitted that have actually been taken in New York." As thus limited the list includes 380 indigenous and 4 introduced species, and is followed by a 'Hypothetical List' of 17 species which are likely to occur from their having been taken in adjoining States. The list has been made up with great care and discretion, and shows that the author has his work thoroughly in hand. It is printed on only one side of the paper, leaving the opposite page and wide spaces between the species for annotations, which will prove a great convenience to those wishing to add their own annotations. Dr. Farr states that any corrections or additions to the list will be gratefully received. In the present list the annotations are limited to the rare or accidental species, and consist of footnotes citing the place of record for their occurrence. — J. A. A.

Palmer on Legislation for the Protection of Birds.¹—This is a very important and timely publication in the interest of bird protection. It serves to show how imperfect and crude most legislation has hitherto been, and clearly points out the necessity for a more uniform and more efficient system of bird laws for the different States and Territories of the United States and the Canadian Provinces. As Dr. Palmer says, "the protection of birds is a national, not a local, question. It deals largely with migratory species which breed in one section, winter in another, and traverse several States in passing to and from their breeding grounds." While absolute uniformity may be unattainable, it "seems to be feasible to secure a much greater degree of uniformity than at present exists." Dr. Palmer has done much to pave the way for this by exposing the defects of present laws on the subject and pointing out how they may be immensely improved. Notwithstanding the increased interest shown of late years in the subject, and the growing sentiment in favor of bird protection, both from economic and æsthetic considerations, still, as Dr. Palmer says, "bird destruction is going on rapidly in the United States, and in many regions there is a marked decrease in the abundance of certain species. Cheap guns, lax laws, the mania for collecting and shooting, and more especially the enormous demand for birds for market and for the millinery trade, are responsible for this reduction in bird life."

Dr. Palmer's brochure is divided into three parts. Part I is entitled

¹ Legislation for the Protection of Birds other than Game Birds. By T. S. Palmer, Assistant Chief, Biological Survey. Prepared under the direction of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of Biological Survey. Bulletin No. 12, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Biological Survey. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 8vo. pp. 94, 2 pll. and 8 text figures.

'General Discussion of Protective Legislation,' under which is given: 'History of Protective Legislation'; 'Definitions of Game Birds'; 'Species erroneously considered Game Birds,' as Pigeons and Doves, Flickers, Bobolinks or Reedbirds, Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, and Robins; 'Insectivorous and Song Birds,' as defined in various legislative acts, etc.; 'Plume Birds,' and 'Birds of Prey,' to what extent protected in various States, etc. Then follows a 'List of species protected in each State and in the Canadian Provinces, with penalties for killing the birds and destroying nests and eggs.' Also an enumeration of the birds "specifically exempted from protection" in the different States and Canadian Provinces. Dr. Palmer considers, very properly, that "the rights of ornithologists and bird students should be recognized as well as those of sportsmen," and gives, in tabular form, the requirements of the various States regarding regulations and permits for collecting birds, nests, and eggs for scientific purposes. There is also comment on licenses and other regulations regarding shooting, which relate more especially to game birds, but have a bearing on bird protection in general; on 'Birds in Captivity,' and the prohibition of trapping, netting and shooting. Part I concludes with some account of the different methods and provisions for the 'Enforcement of Protective Laws,' and of the 'Necessity for further State Legislation,' with a review of recent 'Federal Legislation,' as the Hoar Bill, the Teller Bill, and the Lacey Bill. Each of these bills is given in full, with explanatory comment, giving the legislative history of each and stating its scope. Only one of these bills, the Lacey Bill, has become a law.

Part II, 'State Laws for the Protection of Birds,' gives a digest of all State legislation for the protection of birds, as far as this is at present in force. As Dr. Palmer's subject relates only to non-game birds, only those portions of the laws "relating to birds generally, as distinguished from game birds, have been quoted verbatim." Part III relates in a similar manner to 'Canadian Laws for the Protection of Birds.'

Dr. Palmer has here given us in a brief form the results of a vast amount of careful and laborious research and has laid an excellent foundation for future intelligent work, in the line of improved legislation in the interest of bird protection; and we trust that his admirable paper will not only prove a guide, but an incentive, to this end. — J. A. A.

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