

The birds mated with females provided for them, and about the middle of May showed a desire to build nests, and for some time busied themselves with "abortive attempts at nest-building." They proved unable to successfully adjust the materials supplied to them, and were finally furnished with artificial nests. They availed themselves of these, soon completing a lining and beginning to lay. Each female laid a full complement, but the eggs were broken by the birds, apparently by accident in their continued efforts to complete the nest structure to their liking. Each female laid another set of eggs, which shared the fate of the first set. Mr. Scott summarizes his observations on this case as follows: "While I am not prepared to conclude that the Grosbeaks would not have built a nest if furnished with more commodious quarters and nearer like the condition of affairs that exist out of doors, I conclude that so far as nest-building in cages is concerned they are unable to accomplish anything. So far as the song is concerned, I believe that they inherit the call-notes of both pleasure and fear, but that the song of the males was an imitation of a song of a bird that strongly impressed them during the period when they were cultivating this secondary sexual characteristic."

The account of the young Meadowlarks is less detailed. A male acquired a song "quite dissimilar to that of a wild Meadowlark," and accompanied the performance by what Mr. Scott calls "a parade or dance, analogous to the strut of a turkey-cock." A part of the song consisted of "a silvery whistling sequence of five or six notes rather long drawn out, and given with much precision," which so resembled a part of the song of a European Blackbird confined in the same room, that it was several weeks before Mr. Scott and his assistant were able to identify the real author of the strain.

In his comment on this case Mr. Scott says: "My conclusion is that birds are influenced in their early lives very strongly by any noise that arrests their attention, even in a wild state, and that this propensity to imitate and differentiate their normal methods of song is greatly exaggerated under the artificial state wherein they live when in confinement."  
—J. A. A.

**Scott's Ornithology of Patagonia.**—The first fasciculus of the ornithological volume<sup>1</sup> of the Reports of the Princeton University Expeditions to

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<sup>1</sup>J. Pierpont Morgan Publication Fund | — | Reports | of the Princeton University Expeditions | to Patagonia, 1896–1899 | J. B. Hatcher in Charge | Edited by | William B. Scott | Blair Professor of Geology and Palæontology, Princeton University | Volume II | Ornithology | Part I. | Rheidæ-Spheniscidæ | By | William Earl Dodge Scott | Princeton University | associated with | R. Bowdler Sharpe | British Museum of Natural History | Princeton, N. J. | The University | Stuttgart | E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlags-Handlung (E. N ägele) | 1904. — 4to, pp. 1–112. Issued July 26, 1904.

Patagonia, conducted by the late Dr. J. B. Hatcher, has made its appearance under the joint authorship of Mr. W. E. D. Scott of Princeton and Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe of the British Museum of Natural History, and is thus likely to be well done and authoritative. The first part begins with the systematic portion, without any introductory matter, which, under separate pagination, will doubtless appear with the final part of the work. The basis of the present volume is the ornithological collections made by Dr. Hatcher and his principal assistants, Mr. Peterson and Mr. A. E. Colburn, incidentally to the main work of the Princeton University Patagonian Expeditions, which was to explore the geology and rich deposits of animal remains in Patagonia. The scientific results of these eminently successful expeditions will form twelve large quarto volumes, abundantly illustrated with plates and text cuts, and will be published at the expense of the J. Pierpont Morgan Fund. Several volumes have already appeared, including the narrative volume, by Dr. Hatcher, whose untimely death a few months ago is lamented as a most serious loss to science. His wonderfully successful researches in Patagonia were due to his indomitable perseverance, energy, and remarkable power of endurance, under grave hardships and adverse conditions. As a field explorer he had few equals, and he had also attained eminence as an investigator which presaged long years of useful work when disease suddenly cut short his career. In the narrative volume of the Expeditions he recorded many observations on the birds of the region visited, which we are glad to see are here utilized.

Naturally the classification adopted is that propounded by Dr. Sharpe and employed in his well-known 'Hand-List of the Genera and Species of Birds.' The families treated in the present brochure include the Rheidæ, Tinamidæ, Columbidae, Peristidæ, Rallidæ, Podicipidæ, and Sphenicidæ, and include 29 species, occupying 112 pages, with numerous text cuts of heads, bills, feet, etc. Very full tables of bibliographical references are given, for the higher groups as well as the species, with technical descriptions of the species, followed by a brief paragraph giving the geographical range, and as much biographical matter as could be conveniently gathered from preceding writers, including Darwin's extended observations on many of the species included in the scope of this work. Although its exact geographical limits are not here stated, it is evidently intended to be a complete monograph of the ornithology of Patagonia, including the Falkland Islands. Hence only a small proportion of the species are represented in the collections made by the Princeton University Expeditions — only one fourth of those covered by Part I. In most cases, in fact, the descriptions are avowedly based on material in the British Museum, to which Mr. Scott took the specimens collected by the Princeton Expeditions for identification. The work has thus authoritatively determined material for its basis, and through the association of Dr. Sharpe in the authorship, such an authoritative standing that we may pardon even the use of emended names.— J. A. A.