

Bryan's 'A Monograph of Marcus Island.'¹—Marcus Island is a small islet near the middle of the North Pacific Ocean (Lat. 24° 14' N., Long. 154° E.) described as "an ancient triangular atoll which has been elevated above the sea," with an area of about 740 acres, a coast line of about four miles, and an elevation in the interior, which is covered with heavy forest, of from 25 to 75 feet. The island was claimed for the United States by right of discovery, by Captain Rosehill, in June, 1889, and in July, 1898, was taken into possession by the Japanese, who later relinquished their claim in favor of the United States. It has guano deposits and cocoanut palms, but its economic importance is, of course, slight.

Mr. Bryan gives first an account of its discovery and location, especially with reference to other more or less mythical islands in the vicinity, and a history of recent attempts at its exploitation. Up to 1900 it appears to have been so little known that its exact location and physical characteristics were still in doubt. After a detailed description of its physical features, its geology and its meteorological conditions, Mr. Bryan, aided by specialists in various branches, proceeds to give an annotated list of the fauna, and some account of the flora, based on observations and collections made by him during a week's sojourn on the island in August, 1902, under the auspices of the Bishop Museum. The birds (pp. 77-116) number 18 species, all water birds, and most of them pelagic or marine species of wide distribution. Not only was no land bird met with, but Mr. Bryan satisfied himself that had "any existing terrestrial or arboreal bird been in any way introduced on the island, it would have perished for want of suitable food." Fifty-six specimens were taken, which, with his field notes, form the basis of the present list. One species, a tern (*Micranous marcusii*), is described as new, it differing, however, only slightly from *M. hawaiiensis*. At the time of his visit the Japanese had a naval officer and a party of marines on the island, and the military regulations imposed by them greatly hampered the work of his party and shortened its stay, and especially interfered with his bird collecting. The Japanese themselves, however, have been exceedingly destructive of bird life there for commercial purposes, particularly of the Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*) which is the most abundant bird on the island. Mr. Bryan found their number beyond estimate; "probably" he says, "to say that there were hundreds of thousands would convey a conservative suggestion as to their abundance." The Japanese had a party of some thirty men engaged in collecting their skins for the New York, Paris, and Berlin millinery markets; and "during the six months from March to September not less

¹ A Monograph of Marcus Island, an Account of its Physical Features and Geology, with descriptions of the Fauna and Flora. By Wm. Alanson Bryan, B. Sc. Illustrated by a map, seven half-tone cuts and line drawings by the author. Occas. Papers of the Bernice Pauahi Mus., Vol. II, No. I, 1903, pp. 77-139.

than 50,000 birds are there slaughtered as a sacrifice to the cruel goddess of fashion." Their method of prosecuting the work is described in detail. Also, "the story of the Marcus Island colony of Goonies (*Diomedea immutabilis*) is one of death and extermination." Disappointed in being unable "to find guano by their crude methods," the Japanese developed a scheme to make a marketable commodity of the Goonies, by killing them and boiling them down in great kettles to form a fertilizer which they shipped to Japan, saving, however, the long wing quills to sell as 'eagle feathers' for the decoration of women's hats, and the breast feathers were "plucked off and sold by the pound." Under this treatment the colony has greatly dwindled, and in 1902 the birds were only killed for their feathers.

Mr. Bryan's extended notes on the habits of a number of the species of birds are of especial interest and value. Besides two species of reptiles, a considerable number of crustaceans, and a large collection of mollusks, he secured some 60 species of fishes, a number of which proved new to science. His brief stay at Marcus Island has thus not only for the first time made the island really known to the world, but has given us a fair conception of its fauna and flora.—J. A. A.

Macoun's Catalogue of Canadian Birds, Part III.¹—The publication of Part III completes this important work, forming a volume of about 770 pages, and constituting the most extensive and valuable single contribution to Canadian Ornithology since the publication of the bird volume of the 'Fauna Boreali-Americana,' seventy-five years ago. We have so fully noted the character and scope of this work in our notices of Parts I and II (Pt. I, Auk, XVII, 1900, pp. 394, 395; Pt. II, Auk, XX, 1903, p. 441) that there is little new to say of it beyond the announcement of its completion. As already said, the work forms a compendium of the previously published information regarding the range and breeding areas of all the species and subspecies of birds known to occur in North America north of the United States, including those of Greenland and Alaska as well as those of Canada, supplemented by a large amount of hitherto unpublished material gathered by members of the Canadian Geological Survey, including contributions from a large number of trustworthy correspondents. The authorities are given for all the statements made respecting the manner of occurrence of all of the forms included

¹ Geological Survey of Canada | Robert Bell, M. D., Sc. D., (Cantab.,) L.L. D., F.R. S. | — | Catalogue | of | Canadian Birds | — | Part III | Sparrows, Swallows, Vireos, Warblers, | Wrens, Titmice and Thrushes. | Including the Order : | Passeres after Icteridæ | — | By | John Macoun, M. A., F. R. S. C. | Naturalist to the Geological Survey of Canada. | [Vignette.] Ottawa : | Printed by S. E. Dawson, Printer to the King's Most | Excellent Majesty | 1904 | No. 883 | Price ten cents.—8vo, pp. i-iv+415-733+i-xxiii.