of the Birds of Australasia,' which is to be "a set of hand-coloured plates of the birds of Australasia, drawn by Mr. J. G. Keulemans." The 'Handlist' is founded upon Dr. Sharpe's 'Handlist of Birds,' and is put forth "to invoke criticism and coöperation of ornithologists, in order to enhance the value of the larger undertaking." The 'Handlist' will, however, be in itself a great convenience. It follows the arrangement and nomenclature of Sharpe's well-known 'Handlist,' and comprises 883 species, arranged in 345 genera.— J. A. A.

Marshall on the Anatomy of Geococcyx, Bubo, and Aeronautes.[1]— Miss Marshall here follows her former paper on the anatomy of *Phalænoptilus* (see Auk, XXIII, 1906, p. 237) by a paper descriptive of the alimentary tract, the central nervous system, the nostrils and eye, the urogenital system, and the muscles of the fore limb, in *Geococcyx*, *Bubo*, and *Aeronautes*, and the pterylosis of *Geococcyx*, with illustrations.

The comparisons are limited mainly to the five genera here named. There appear to be no references to the previous literature of the subject, beyond a short list of titles, with the vaguest references to place of publication possible, as 'Ibis,' 'Auk,' 'Proc. Zool. Soc. London,' etc. (see *antea*, p. 92). As a contribution, however, to descriptive anatomy the paper has value, as it is very fully illustrated.— J. A. A.

Shufeldt on the Osteology of *Sarcops*.[2]— The skeleton of *Sarcops calvus* is here described and figured, and compared with that of several other genera, as *Oriolus*, various genera of Icteridæ, Corvidæ, etc., without, however, reaching a definite conclusion as to its nearest relationships.— J. A. A.

McAtee's 'Food Habits of the Grosbeaks.'[3]—The Grosbeaks here considered are the Cardinal, Gray (*Pyrrhula sinuata*), Rose-breasted, Black-headed, and Blue Grosbeaks. Each is illustrated in colors, from drawings by Fuertes, and numerous text figures illustrate their food, vegetable as well as insect. The account of the food habits of these five species is detailed and comprehensive, and is based on the careful study of the stomach contents of a large number of individuals. These birds attack crops to a slight extent, some of the species preferring fruit, others grain, but all are

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[1] Studies on Avian Anatomy.— II. *Geococcyx*, *Bubo* and *Aeronautes*. Margaret E. Marshall, M. A Contributions from the Zoölogical Laboratory of The University of Texas, No. 73. Trans. Texas Acad. of Science, Vol. IX, 1906, pp. 19–40, pll. i–vii.

[2] Osteological and other notes on *Sarcops calvus* of the Philippines. By R. W. Shufeldt. Philippine Journ. Sci., Vol. II, No. 5, Oct. 1907, pp. 257–267, with 1 plate.

[3] Food Habits of the Grosbeaks. By W. L. McAtee, Assistant Biological Survey. Bureau of Biological Survey, Bulletin No. 32. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1908. 8vo, pp. 92, 4 pll. (3 colored), and 40 text fig.

large destroyers of weed seeds and noxious insects, some of them 'specializing' on some of the greatest insect pests, as the cucumber beetles, borers and curculios of various kinds, Colorado potato beetles, cotton boll weevil, cankerworm, army worm, and other destructive caterpillars, etc. The conclusion is reached that these birds are many times more beneficial than destructive, and are hence of great economic value.— J. A. A.

The Work of the Biological Survey.— The act making appropriation for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, directed the Secretary of Agriculture "to investigate and report to the next session of Congress to what extent, if any, the work now being done by the Bureau of Biological Survey is duplicated by any other Department of the Government, and to what extent the work of this Bureau is of practical value to the agricultural interests of the country." The Secretary's Report [1] forms a document of some forty pages, illustrated with appropriate maps, reviewing in detail the work of the Survey. He says: "I have the honor to report that no part of the work now being done by the Bureau of Biological Survey is duplicated by any other Department of the Government, and that the work of the Survey is of great practical value to the agricultural interests of the country." Following this statement is a concise summary of "the objects, nature, and results of the investigations carried on by the Biological Survey," occupying about three pages, which is in turn followed by a classified, detailed statement of the practical work of the Survey, occupying the rest of the Report.

During the last session of Congress a bitter attack was made upon the Survey, obviously inspired by political animus, which led to a popular uprising throughout the country in its defense, which ultimately overwhelmed its maligners. The demand upon the Secretary of Agriculture for a report to Congress upon the work of the Survey was one of the fortunate results of a seemingly untoward incident; for while the country at large was keenly alive to its economic importance, many of the lawmakers of the nation were in blissful ignorance of its rôle in behalf of the public welfare. Now, however, there is no longer excuse for any such ignorance. Readers of 'The Auk,' and naturalists the country over, while well aware that the small sum annually expended in the niggardly maintenance of the Survey was many times repaid through its practical results, have now access to a comprehensive and convenient statement of its varied, far-reaching, and highly beneficial activities. It is impossible, nor is it necessary, to recapitulate here its various lines of work and their economic results, so fully unfolded in this official report, which fittingly concludes with a list of the publications of the Survey, from 1885,

[1] Report on Work of Biological Survey. By James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture. Senate Document No. 132, 60th Congress, 1st Session. Read December 21, 1907; referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and ordered to be printed, with illustrations. 8vo. pp. 39, pll. i–vi (maps).