

when the work was begun, to date. These include 'Bulletins' (Nos. 1-31), 'North American Fauna' (Nos. 1-26, excepting No. 6, not yet issued), 'Circulars' (Nos. 1-62), 'Farmers' Bulletins' (10 in number), and reprints of articles from the 'Yearbook' (29 in number).

A more popular review of the work of the Biological Survey has also recently appeared in the 'National Geographic Magazine,'¹ where Mr. H. W. Henshaw attractively presents the results and methods of its various lines of research. Especial reference is made to the relation of birds to agriculture, and the investigation made accurately to determine them; also the losses due to small mammal pests and to wolves; bird reservations and game refuges; protection of game and birds; supervision against the importation of undesirable and dangerous mammals and birds. No one can fail, on reading either of these documents, to realize, at least in some degree, the great economic importance to the entire nation of the work of the Biological Survey.—J. A. A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Buffel-head Duck.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs:—In the current descriptions of the colors of the adult male Buffel-head Duck, there is, according to my own examination of specimens, an error as to the color of his belly. Audubon, Chapman, Saunders, Hoffman and Mrs. Bailey all *include this part* with the neck, breast and wing-coverts, simply stating that all these are *white*. Wilson, alone, always so exquisitely accurate in description, says: "...rest of the scapulars, lateral band along the wing, and whole breast, snowy white; belly, vent and tail-coverts *dusky white*" (the italics are mine).

This, as I have said above, agrees with my own examination of a small number of specimens procured in the New York market in winter, except that in my specimens the "dusky white" of the belly does not include the *vent, or adjacent tail-coverts*, both of these tracts being pure white, or very near it. In mine, too, the "dusky white" is too dark to be called any kind of white. It is a delicate real pattern of wood ash color, strongest along the sides and between the legs.

Yours very truly,

ABBOTT H. THAYER.

Monadnock, N. H.,
Jan. 28, 1908.

¹ The Policemen of the Air. By Henry Wetherbee Henshaw. National Geographic Magazine, Vol. XIX, No. 2, February, 1908, pp. 79-118, with 16 full-page half-tone illustrations and many others in the text.