

'Table of Species and Subspecies,' which shows by means of symbols their distribution in the islands, and whether the record is based on specimens in the Field Museum, on previously published records, or specimens observed in life but not taken. The combined list numbers 161 species and subspecies, nearly all of which are represented by specimens in the Field Museum, collected in the spring of 1908 by Mr. John F. Ferry and Dr. Ned Dearborn, and in the early part of the year 1909 by Mr. Ferry. One species and three subspecies are described as new; the collectors' field notes are given, and in many cases extended technical annotations. The paper is thus a valuable summary of present knowledge of the ornithology of the Leeward Islands.— J. A. A.

**Fisher on the Economic Value of Predaceous Birds and Mammals.**—

An eight-page paper<sup>1</sup> by Dr. A. K. Fisher states briefly the economic relations of the principal predaceous mammals and birds of North America to agriculture. The house cat is arraigned as the "sleek highwayman" that "destroys in the aggregate more wild birds and young poultry than all the native natural enemies combined," adding that a well-known naturalist estimates "that in the New England States alone 1,500,000 birds are destroyed annually by cats."

A good word is said in behalf of the much maligned hawks and owls, with the exception of two of the former and one of the latter, whose portraits in color, by Fuertes, are pilloried in the three plates that illustrate the paper, in order that they may be the better recognized and distinguished from the beneficial species that for the most part compose these two groups of useful birds. These species are the Sharp-shinned Hawk, the Cooper's Hawk, and the Great Horned Owl. Other birds of usually unsuspected beneficial traits are the Great Blue Heron and the Bittern, which prey upon injurious rodents; certain gulls and terns also gorge themselves on grasshoppers and crickets, while some of them feed extensively on field mice and other small rodents. Crows and Jays, while effective destroyers of pests, are seriously destructive of the eggs and nestlings of useful wild birds.

The educational information here presented will be widely distributed among agriculturists, and should be effective in placing the matter in a proper light before those most interested in the suppression of farm pests.— J. A. A.

**Beebe on the Breeding of Canada Geese in Captivity.**— Apropos of industries connected with semi-wild birds, Mr. Beebe, in a recent number of the 'Zoölogical Society Bulletin,' published by the New York Zoölogical Society, gives an account of the rearing of Canada Wild Geese on Chinc-

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<sup>1</sup> The Economic Value of Predaceous Birds and Mammals. By Dr. A. K. Fisher, in Charge of Economic Investigations, Biological Survey. Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1908 (1909), pp. 187-194, pll. i-iii (colored). Also separate.