

Hardy's Reminiscences of Andrew Downs.¹—These reminiscences are based on a long personal acquaintance with this remarkable man while General Hardy was stationed at Halifax on military duty about the middle of the last century. A long article entitled 'An Afternoon with Downs,' contributed to a Halifax newspaper by Mr. Hardy in 1864 is here reproduced, describing in detail Downs's home and Zoological Gardens at the head of North West Arm, near Halifax, and the personal traits of a man whose name is inseparable from the history of Nova Scotian natural history. Downs's "Zoo" is said to have been the first "established on the American continent."—J. A. A.

Beal on the Relation of California Birds to the Fruit Industry. Part II.—This is the concluding part of Professor Beal's report on the 'Birds of California in Relation to the Fruit Industry.'² Part I, treating of 38 species, was published in 1907 (see Auk, XXV, Jan., 1908, p. 96). The present part treats of 32 additional species, and consists of statements concerning the food found in the stomach of birds taken mainly in the more thickly settled and highly cultivated parts of the State, since they afford a better test of their relation to husbandry than would the same number of birds taken at random throughout the State.

In reference to the general subject, the author states: "Few birds are always and everywhere so seriously destructive that their extermination can be urged on sound economic principle. Only four of the species common in California can be regarded as of doubtful utility: These are the linnet [House Finch], California jay, Steller jay and redbreasted sapsucker. When the known methods of protecting fruit have been exhausted, or cannot be employed profitably, then a reasonable reduction of the numbers of the offending birds is permissible. But the more the food habits of birds are studied the more evident is the fact that with a normal distribution of species and a fair supply of natural food, the damage to agricultural products by birds is small, compared with the benefit."

Of the California Jay it is said that it does "entirely too much nest robbing for the best interests of the State," as well as being a despoiler of fruit. While woodpeckers in general rank high as useful birds, the Red-breasted Sapsucker is classified as more harmful than beneficial, owing to its habit of pecking holes in the bark of trees and stripping it off in patches.

The report is illustrated by eight beautiful colored plates, after drawings

¹ Reminiscences of a Nova Scotia Naturalist: Andrew Downs. By Major-General Campbell Hardy, R. A., Dover, England. Proc. and Trans. Nova Scotia Institute of Science, Vol. XII, part 1, pp. xi-xxx. August, 1908.

² Birds of California in Relation to the Fruit Industry. Part II, By F. E. L. Beal, Assistant, Biological Survey. Biological Survey, Bulletin No. 34. 8vo, pp. 96, with 6 colored plates. Washington, Government Printing Office. Issued August 8, 1910.