

been driven to the surface by a heavy rain. From observations and experiments upon domesticated and other confined birds it was learned that chickens, ducks, and the Reeves and Silver Pheasants will eat the *Eleodes*, and that turkeys and the Golden, and Lady Amherst Pheasants refuse them. The author remarks however, that the latter birds were "quite annoyed by our presence, and might have eaten the beetles had they not been frightened." The account of the natural enemies includes also a list of 13 species of birds which the Biological Survey has found to feed upon adult *Eleodes*.

In his account of 'Two destructive Texas ants,'¹ Mr. W. D. Hunter inserts a list of the known bird enemies of the agricultural ant (*Pogonomyrmex barbatus molefaciens*). This list also is taken from Biological Survey records (with the exception of one name), and includes 8 species of birds.

The 'Preliminary report on the alfalfa weevil,'² gives a list of the vertebrate enemies of this new, but important pest, based on the work of Mr. E. R. Kalmbach of the Biological Survey. This represents the results of one season's field work on the relations of birds to this weevil. Thirty-one species are mentioned. A noteworthy point brought out by this investigation is that English Sparrows are among the most effective enemies of the pest, practically rearing their young on a weevil diet. Mr. Kalmbach writes that this season these birds are fully equalling last year's performance.—W. L. M.

The Food of Birds in Scotland.—Miss Laura Florence publishes in the Transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society³ detailed results of the examinations of the alimentary tracts of 616 birds representing 74 species. Since the contents of the intestines as well as of the stomachs were studied, the author is able to present data on the imperfection of digestion in some cases and to indicate possibilities in the distribution of seeds and insect eggs. No general conclusions are drawn, and the results for each species are only very briefly summarized. The detailed information is worthy of record, however, and will no doubt be very welcome to all Britons interested in economic ornithology.

The identity of several of the birds with United States species and the recurrence of many familiar seed and insect names, make an American feel much at home while reading the paper.—W. L. M.

Scott and Sharpe on the Birds of Patagonia.—The third installment of the report on the birds of the Princeton University Expedition to Patagonia⁴ is presented with the same wealth of illustrations and breadth

¹ Circular 148, April 26, 1912.

² Bull. 112, May 14, 1912.

³ Fifth Ser., Vol. XXIV, 1912, pp. 180-219.

⁴ Reports of The Princeton University Expeditions to Patagonia, 1896-1899, J. B. Hatcher in charge. Edited by William B. Scott. Volume II—Ornithology, Part III, Charadriidæ-Anatidæ. By William Earl Dodge Scott associated with R. Bowdler Sharpe. Princeton, N. J.—Stuttgart. Pp. 345-504, text figs. 175-252, pl. 1.

of treatment found in the two preceding sections. The orders treated in their entirety are the Ardeiformes, Phœnicopteriformes and Anseriformes, while the first few pages are taken up with the last of the text on the Charadriiformes. The account of the habits of the Steamer Duck (*Tachyeres cinereus*), compiled from numerous sources, and the plate of three progressive stages of the downy young of the same peculiar species are of particular interest.

Owing to the death of both of the authors of the third and preceding portions of this report the preparation of the remaining installments has been placed in the hands of Mr. Witmer Stone, who also read the proof-sheets of the present section, although as presented it is entirely the work of the deceased authors.— J. A. G. R.

Kuser's Birds of Somerset Hills.¹— In this dainty little volume Mr. Kuser has presented the results of his studies of the birds of Somerset County, northern New Jersey. The species are arranged according to their haunts, and their habits and plumages briefly described, while there are colored illustrations from paintings by Mr. C. A. Reed. There are special chapters on The Increase and Decrease of Birds, My Best Day's Record — 64 species, Calendar of Bird Migration in Somerset Hills, Terms used to denote the Abundance or Rarity of Birds, List of Birds Observed in the Somerset Hills, and The Horrors of the Taking of Aigrettes. The book is tastefully gotten up and beautifully printed and the subject matter cannot fail to interest its readers in birds and their protection.— W. S.

Murphy on Birds of Prospect Park, Brooklyn.²— Mr. Murphy contributes a nominal list of 147 species of birds observed in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, by members of the 'Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn' during the past six years. Twelve of these have not been recorded from Central Park, New York, while eighteen species seen by observers in the latter locality have not been found in Prospect Park.

The list will be interesting to those engaged in observing birds in other public parks and reservations in or about our large cities.— W. S.

Bragg's Supplement to the Birds of South Carolina.³— This list is intended as supplementary to Mr. Arthur T. Wayne's 'Birds of South Carolina,' published by the Museum in 1910. It contains notes on ninety-six species, giving additional records, exceptional dates of occurrence and

¹ The Birds of Somerset Hills. By John Dryden Kuser. Published by the Author. 1912. Svo., pp. 1-160, pl. 22 and a map.

² The Birds of Prospect Park, Brooklyn. By R. C. M(urphy). The Museum News, published by the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Vol. 7, No. 8, May, 1912.

³ Birds of South Carolina. Supplement. By L. M. Bragg. Bull. Charleston Museum, Vol. 8, Nos. 2-3, Feb. and March, 1912.