

N. Y., Mr. Geo. C. Embody records some original data by J. T. Lloyd and A. A. Allen, relating to the bird enemies of these crustacea. It is stated that amphipods were found in the stomachs of the Virginia rail, sora, red-winged blackbird, swamp sparrow, long-billed marsh wren, spotted sandpiper, and king eider duck. The last named bird contained 72 specimens of *Gammarus fasciatus*. The Biological Survey has identified amphipods in the stomachs of 30 species of birds, including 6 species of shorebirds, and 14 of ducks. Most of the other birds are marsh-frequenters or visitors like those mentioned by Mr. Embody. The list includes: the seaside, sharp-tailed, and song sparrows, catbird, robin, northern butcherbird, common tern, meadowlark, starling and rusty blackbird.

A recent paper¹ by Hartley H. T. Jackson, comments especially on the Shoveller Duck as an enemy of amphipods, and also lists numerous species of fish which prey upon these crustacea.— W. L. M.

Injurious African Birds.—The Fourth Report² of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories contains two articles dealing with damage to grain crops by birds. The first by Harold H. King (p. 98) briefly states the importance of the matter. It is said that in one province, the losses equal one third of the grain harvested, representing a money value of £70,000.

The second article (pp. 157–177) by A. L. Butler is entitled “The finches and weaver birds of the Sudan, being notes on the group containing the birds injurious to grain crops.” The author says “the damage seems to be done entirely by the sparrows (*Passer*) and the extremely abundant weaver birds of the genera *Hyphantornis*, *Xanthophilus*, *Quelea*, and, in a smaller degree, *Pyromelana*.” (p. 157.) Reichenbach’s Weaver (*Hyphantornis tæniopterus*)” appears to be the most abundant weaver in the country, and it congregates in flocks which must, literally, often number millions. Few travellers on the White Nile can have failed to notice the immense flights of these birds, which look at a distance like great drifting clouds of smoke, and which pass overhead with a roar of innumerable wings like the rush of a hurricane. This species and *Quelea æthiopica* are the most destructive birds on the White Nile.” (p. 175.)

Mr. Butler’s paper treats 23 species of finches, 53 of weaver birds, and in a postscript, one lark. The last named damages grain in the unusual way of hovering in the air and picking off single grains, but the birds come in such vast flocks that fully 50 per cent of the grain is sometimes consumed.— W. L. M.

¹ Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. 10, Nos. 1 and 2, June, 1912, pp. 49–60.

² Khartoum, 1911.