

were 347 boxes of which 66 per cent were occupied. . . . In 1913, 75 per cent of the boxes were occupied."

One cannot believe that our birds are so different from those of Europe that similar success in increasing birds may not be had in this country. Let us at least make the attempt. Dr. Hewitt's paper gives directions for making a cheap form of nest box such as was used in England, and contains a good general statement of the value of birds. The entomologists of England and her colonies are unanimous in giving high rank to birds as enemies of insects.— W. L. M.

Menegaux on Birds as Enemies of Mice.¹— This is a collation of the results published by Dr. A. K. Fisher, in the United States, Dr. George Rorig in Germany, M. M. de la Faye and G. de Dumast in France, and by a few other authors. The economic tendencies of various rodents are discussed, as well as methods of destroying the animals. It is asserted that the chief cause of the steady increase of noxious rodents is the destruction of their bird, mammal and serpent enemies.

Details are given of the food of numerous species of birds of prey, especially of those common to the old and new worlds. The conclusion is that birds are an underestimated but indispensable factor in the control of these and other injurious animals.— W. L. M.

A note on 'The Effect of Extent of Distribution on Speciation.'²
— A paper by Asa C. Chandler, with the title quoted is devoted to an exposition of certain conceptions apparently brought forward as new. Nothing could be more obvious, however than the main thesis of the paper, which is, that wide-ranging orders, families and genera, as a rule contain proportionally more families, genera and species respectively than similar groups of more restricted distribution. I do not wish to comment further on this over-elaboration of a fundamental concept, but desire merely to point out a prior statement and argument of the case. Professor Dean C. Worcester in his "Notes on the distribution of Philippine birds,"³ says: "that in the Philippines the larger the island and the greater the diversity of its surface, the larger the percentage of genera represented by more than one species, and the larger the average number of species into which they are differentiated." (p. 611.) Earlier versions of the idea undoubtedly can be found.— W. L. M.

Henshaw's 'Birds of Town and Country.'⁴— In 1913 the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the direction of the

¹ Menegaux, A., *Les Oiseaux ennemis naturels des souris et des campagnols*. Rev. Sci. 52, No. 19, May 9, 1914, pp. 586-593.

² *Am. Nat.*, Vol. 48, March, 1914, p. 129-160.

³ *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, Vol. 20, pp. 567-625, 1898.

⁴ *Birds of Town and Country*. By Henry W. Henshaw. *National Geographic Magazine*. May, 1914. pp. 494-531.

chief, Mr. Henry W. Henshaw, issued a pamphlet containing colored pictures from paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes of fifty of the common birds of the United States. The supply was almost immediately exhausted and in order to extend the educational influence of the pamphlet the National Geographic Magazine republished it in the issue for June, 1913. The same journal now presents 64 additional colored pictures, also reproduced from Fuertes' paintings illustrating practically all of our familiar birds not included in the earlier publication. The text which accompanies them is again by Mr. Henshaw. The educational value of these publications is enormous and the National Geographic Magazine is to be congratulated upon the good work that it has fostered in making familiar to thousands of people the common wild birds of our country. We understand that a limited number of copies of these two articles as well as some other ornithological papers are to be bound and offered for sale by the publishers of the journal.—W. S.

The Ornithological Journals.¹

Bird-Lore. Vol. XVI. No. 2. March-April, 1914.

The Electric Current in Bird Photography. By Guy A. Bailey.— Telescopes and electric push buttons, in a window of the house, control cameras mounted at feeding stations 100 to 800 ft. distant. Striking photographs taken by the author's unique methods are shown.

The Song of the Philadelphia Vireo. By Mrs. E. F. Miller.

Impressions of the Voices of Tropical Birds. By Louis Agassiz Fuertes.— The third installment of this valuable contribution deals with Orioles, Flycatchers, Finches and Thrushes, while the fourth in the May-June issue takes up the Ant Thrushes and Woodhewers, birds peculiar to tropical America, and of whose habits we know very little. Both Mr. Fuertes' drawings and descriptions of these species are particularly interesting and instructive.

Some Ways of the Oregon Towhee. By Mrs. Stephen E. Thayer.

North American Sparrows— The Purple Finches— Migration by W. W. Cooke, plumages by F. M. Chapman and color plate by L. A. Fuertes.

Educational Leaflet No. 73 treats of the Whip-poor-will.

Bird-Lore. Vol. XVI. No. 3. May-June, 1914.

The Nighthawk in Connecticut. By L. F. Hall and W. I. Smith.

Migration of N. A. Sparrows.— Genera *Peuceea* and *Amiophila*. Color plate by Fuertes.

A Coöperative Study of Bird Migration.— A call for records of arrival of the Red-wing Blackbird, Robin and Phoebe brought 57 returns which have been carefully tabulated by Mr. Chas. H. Rogers.

¹The names of the editor and publisher of each journal will be found in the January number of 'The Auk.'