

cephala festina) are presented by V. L. Wildermuth.¹ Thirty-one stomachs representing 8 species of Arizona birds were examined and specimens of the alfalfa hopper found in 10 stomachs. The species of birds eating this insect were the Killdeer, Black Phoebe, and Sonoran Red-winged Blackbird. A record for the Nighthawk is quoted from Biological Survey records.

Bird enemies of midges, especially the giant midge (*Chironomus plumosus*) are mentioned in various recent papers by A. C. Burrill.² The species of birds mentioned are the Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Kingfisher, Sandpipers, Red-winged Blackbird, English Sparrow, and Palm Warbler.

In his ninth report³ as state entomologist of Minnesota, Professor F. L. Washburn, includes an article on "Useful Birds found in Minnesota." Paragraphs containing brief descriptions of appearance and habits, and the more important economic information about 21 species of birds form the bulk of the report. Discussion is included also of bad birds, birds of doubtful utility, and protection of planted corn from crows and other animals.—W. L. M.

Two Recent Papers on Bird Food by Collinge.—In "Some Observations on the food of nestling sparrows,"⁴ Professor W. E. Collinge presents a comparative study of the food of juvenile *Passer domesticus* taken in fruit-growing and in suburban districts. The report is based on examinations of more than 280 stomachs, and is a convincing demonstration of the powerful influence of availability in controlling the choice of food by birds. The illustration of this factor is the occurrence of kitchen refuse in 53 out of 87 stomachs of suburban sparrows, and in only one out of 200 birds collected in fruit-growing regions.

The results of the study, on the whole, are favorable to the sparrow. Professor Collinge "is of the opinion that if this species were considerably reduced in numbers, the good that it would do would probably more than compensate for the harm, especially in fruit-growing districts."

The second paper in hand is a brief summary of the economic importance of British Wild Birds.⁵ The commoner species are classed in the following groups:

1. Distinctly injurious — House-sparrow, Bullfinch, Sparrow-hawk, Wood-pigeon, and Stock-dove.
2. Too plentiful, and consequently injurious — Missel Thrush, Blackbird, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Starling, and Rook.
3. Injurious, but not plentiful — Blackcap.

¹ Journal of Agricultural Research, Vol. III, No. 4, Jan. 15, 1915, p. 360.

² By the Wayside, Vol. 13, No. 7, March, 1912, pp. 50-51; Vol. 14, No. 6, February, 1913, p. 44; Bulletin Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. X, Nos. 3-4, April 18, 1913, pp. 145-146; Vol. XI, Nos. 1-2, June, 1913, p. 66.

³ Fifteenth Rep. State Entomologist of Minn., 1913-1914, pp. 1-19, Col. Pls. 1-3. Also issued as Circular No. 32.

⁴ Journ. British Board of Agriculture, Vol. XXI, No. 7, October, 1914.

⁵ Nature. Jan. 7, 1915.

4. Neutral—Jay.

5. Beneficial—Song Thrush, Fieldfare, White-throat, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Wren, Goldfinch, Linnet, Yellow Bunting, Magpie, Jackdaw, Skylark, Barn Owl, Brown Owl, Kestrel, and Plover.—W. L. M.

'First Report of the Brush Hill Bird Club.'¹—The reviewer had the pleasure, in March, 1914, of inspecting a most interesting exhibit of materials for attracting birds. The well prepared report here cited puts into permanent form the valuable features of that exhibit. It discusses nesting boxes and their use, and tells where they can be obtained. Similar information is given for bird baths.

A collection of the seeds and fruits available to birds at the time of the bird show was an important and effectively arranged exhibit. The kinds are listed in the present report, and their value commented upon. Addresses are given of firms from whom various dried berries and grains can be purchased; also a list with publishers of the more important books, pamphlets and journals relating to birds.

National and State game laws are reprinted, and the relations of the bird club work to schools are emphasized. The report includes also a list, by Mr. Ralph E. Forbes, of birds seen in and about Milton during the years 1904 to 1914.

The striking success of the exhibit, which was open for two months and had an attendance of from 40 to 94 persons daily, and the usefulness of the 'First Report of the Brush Hill Bird Club' must be reckoned, in large part, personal achievements of the genial and energetic general manager, Dr. Harris Kennedy.—W. L. M.

Recent Reports on Game and Bird Protection.—The New Jersey Audubon Society presents a very creditable report² for the year 1914 and in Bulletin No. 9 makes an appeal for greater support and additional members which should be met by the bird lovers of the State. There is also an exquisite photograph of the Long-billed Marsh Wren and nest by Francis Harper illustrating an article on the second nesting of the species by Mary P. Allen.

Mr. W. L. Finley's attractive 'Oregon Sportsman'³ continues to keep alive interest in game and bird protection in his State while the recently established 'California Fish and Game' edited by H. C. Bryant⁴ does the same for the great commonwealth lying south of it. In the January number, Joseph Grinnell and the editor have an article on the Wood Duck in California.—W. S.

¹ Milton, Mass., 1914, 123 pp., 6 pls., 1 map.

² Fourth Annual Report of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Oct. 6, 1914.

³ The Oregon Sportsman. Wm. L. Finley, Editor. December, 1914, January, 1915.

⁴ California Fish and Game. H. C. Bryant, Editor, Jan., 1915.