

mation on the food habits of California birds is given.

The economic work of Professor Beal came at a time when any esthetic or economic value that a bird might have was entirely overshadowed by depredations made more obvious by the conditions existing in a new country. His bulletins brought forward such conclusive evidence, however, as to convince most people that while birds sometimes inflict injury upon field crops and orchard trees and their products, they are often of great service in destroying enemies of the same crops, and that the aid so rendered in a subtle way may far more than offset the harm that is so apparent.

Mr. Beal's training was that of a scientist, for he was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was appointed Professor of Engineering at Iowa State College, later on becoming acting professor of zoology and comparative anatomy in the same institution. His interest in natural history finally led him in 1891, to join the staff of the United States Biological Survey. Throughout his connection with the Survey his interest was centered in economic ornithology. Twenty-five years of his life were therefore devoted to this branch of science, and most of the workers in the same field now with the Biological Survey received their training at his hands.

His many economic papers have clearly demonstrated the dollars and cents value of birds, and have greatly helped in building up the present-day sentiment favoring bird protection. The farmer, glad to receive help in distinguishing friend from foe, has been taught to seek conclusive proof of harm done before destroying any of the birds on his farm. To Professor Beal must be given also much of the credit for bringing the science of economic ornithology in America to its present high standard. In California he will be remembered as the pioneer and founder of economic ornithology, and as one who developed interest in, and protection for, insectivorous birds.

Mr. J. S. Hunter, who worked with Mr. Beal in the Pajaro Valley when investigations were being conducted in California, pays this tribute to him: "He was a man who did not seem to grow old, took an interest in everything, was thoroughly energetic and intensely interested in his work." With such characteristics it is little wonder that the name of Foster E. L. Beal is revered wherever known and that his publications are used as models by all younger workers.—H. C. BRYANT.

COMMUNICATIONS

Editor of THE CONDOR:

Will you kindly allow me to make an appeal through your columns to the ornithologists of the Pacific coast for photographs for use in the Life Histories of North American Birds?

I am planning to have this work illustrated with a series of the finest photographs I can obtain, showing the home life of every species possible.

I therefore want photographs illustrating breeding colonies, nesting sites, nests and eggs, and young birds. I am short of material on Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros and Cassin auklets, Xantus Murrelet and Pigeon Guillemot.

If any of your readers have good photographs illustrating the home life of any of the above, I should be glad to have them send me such as they are willing to contribute from which I can make selections. Each contributor will receive full credit for what photographs as are used.

Very truly yours,

A. C. BENT.

Taunton, Mass., October 10, 1916.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

RECENT ORNITHOLOGY FROM ALASKA AND EASTERN SIBERIA.—As a result of expeditions sent out from the United States into the far northwest, there have recently appeared several papers which add materially to our knowledge of the ornithology of the regions concerned. Three of these papers are to be commented upon here. The first, by Thayer and Bangs¹, deals with the collections of birds obtained by Johan Koren along the Arctic coast of East Siberia, west to the Kolyma River. Koren was sent out at the expense of Mr. John E. Thayer, and during two years, 1911-12, evidently gave a good account of himself.

Thayer and Bangs describe several new birds from the Kolyma country, as follows: *Lagopus lagopus koreni*, a Willow Ptarmigan differing from our North American races in size and shape of bill; *Circus cyaneus cernuus*, a Marsh Hawk smaller and paler than the European Harrier; *Budytes flavus plexus*, a race of the Yellow Wagtail; *Otocorys alpestris euroa*, a race of Horned Lark. The Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Hylodichla aliciae aliciae*) was found to be nesting as far west in eastern Siberia as the

(1) *Notes on the Birds and Mammals of the Arctic Coast of East Siberia*. Birds, by JOHN E. THAYER and OTT RAM BANGS. Mammals, by GLOVER M. ALLEN. Proc. New England Zool. Club, v, April 9, 1914, pp. 1-66, 1 map.