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end of the grass stem, but put the part in the egg that is soft and white near the joint.

Respectfully,
R. P. SHARPLES,

Westchester, Pa.



PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED.

NORTH AMERICAN FAUNA NO. 21 consists of two papers prepared by Wilfred H. Osgood entitled "Natural History of the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia," and "Natural History of the Cook Inlet Region, Alaska." These are based in the main on explorations made during the summer of 1900 by the author, with Edmund Heller as assistant, under the direction of the Biological Survey. Thirteen pages of the first paper are occupied by a list of the birds known to inhabit the Queen Charlotte Islands. These 96 species are variously annotated, but chiefly in a technical vein. Two insular forms are described as new, *Dryobates picoides*, related to the Harris Woodpecker, and *Cyanocitta stelleri carlotta*, resembling the Steller Jay. A dark northwest-coast form of the Saw-whet Owl is also distinguished as *Nyctala acadica scotca*. The author has resuscitated an ancient synonym of Gmelin's *Picus ruber* for the northwest coast race of the Red-breasted Sapsucker, calling it *Sphyrapicus ruber flaviventris* (Vieillot). The reasons for so doing are not clearly explained but the implication is, apparently, that Gmelin's *ruber* should be restricted to the form occupying the arid Boreal Zone of the interior and southern California. Without discussing the matter at length, it has seemed to us that this is a most unwarranted procedure. Although the habitat of *Picus ruber* is (erroneously?) stated to be "Cayenne," it was probably based on Captain Cook's description, the same as *Picus flaviventris*. Either *ruber* should be rejected altogether, or it should apply, as heretofore understood, to the northwest-coast form.

In the second paper, ten pages are devoted to a list of the birds of the Cook Inlet Region. Of the seventy-seven species enumerated, the known ranges of several are notably extended. The Dusky Horned Owl, Rufous Hummer and Rocky Mountain Creeper probably find their westernmost stations in this region. The unexpected discovery of the White-tailed Ptarmigan so far northwest is also an evidence of energetic field-work, in a country where the collector does not always meet with "one continual round of pleasure!"—J. GRINNELL.

BULLETIN NO. 15 OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, prepared by Dr. Sylvester D. Judd, treats of "The Relation of Sparrows to Agriculture." Aside from its bearing along econ-

omic lines, this paper obviously adds much to our knowledge of the general habits and ecology of sparrows. The account of observations made in the field is very entertaining, and evinces an unusually acute perception on the part of the observer. The experiments carried on with caged birds are also quite suggestive. It was found that so-called "protectively colored" insects, even though presented to a song sparrow, partly covered by earth of the same hues, were discovered and eaten by the bird with remarkable promptness; and that some "warningly colored" insects, provided with odors and taste very disgusting to a person were as greedily devoured; but others, after the first taste, were subsequently avoided. The birds showed an extremely acute power of discrimination, for they carefully avoided stinging insects; though stingless species of similar appearance, and which are usually cited as examples of "protective mimicry," were at once devoured. This is rather discouraging testimony for the theorists. Yet there are many enemies of insects besides birds, and these may be oftener baffled by the color artifices than are the keen-sighted sparrows.

The conclusions reached in regard to the economic value of sparrows, is very favorable. In fact they are said to be the most beneficial of any groups of birds so far studied. This statement does not however include the English sparrow, which is declared to be unqualifiedly obnoxious wherever it occurs.—J. G.

DIGEST OF GAME LAWS FOR 1901. By T. S. Palmer and H. W. Olds.—It is stated that "the object of this report is to present in convenient form the provisions of the laws now in force, including the amendments enacted during the present year." Some 200 changes in the game laws of the various states has necessitated a complete revision of former bulletins, so that the present Bulletin brings the game laws of each state and territory into convenient form. Every detail has been gone into with great system and tables covering almost every phase of the open and close seasons of each species of game have been prepared, with the result that the public has at its command a compendium of the game laws such as could result from scarcely any other source than a government bureau with its thorough and systematic work. The bulletin is quite as much of a necessity to ornithologists interested in bird protection as to sportsmen.—C. B.

BIRDS OF MADISON COUNTY, N. Y. By George C. Embury (Bulletin of the Dept. of Geology and Natural History, Colgate University). Hamilton, N. Y., 1901.

This is one of the neatest local lists it has been our pleasure to receive, being, as its title indicates, a list of the birds of Madison County, Central New York. 192 species and a hypothetical list of 16 species are recorded, with