

Sage's List of Portland, Conn., Birds.¹—The interest in the study of birds aroused by the exhibition of the Dr. William Wood collection of Connecticut birds in the rooms of the Hartford Historical Society has induced Mr. Sage, who is in charge of the collection, to print this list of birds as the most practical way of answering the frequently asked question "What birds can we find around our houses?" It is based on thirty years' observation and, as stated in a prefatory note, includes only the "birds seen to alight within the fenced enclosure about my house in the thickly settled portion of the town of Portland, Connecticut." No less than ninety-one species are given, each being briefly annotated as to the time and manner of its occurrence, twenty species having been found to breed. An additional list of ten species seen flying over is given.

The notes here recorded forcibly illustrate the unexpected results which may follow careful observations under apparently very unfavorable conditions, and show that even the restrictions of town-life need not debar one from the pleasures of bird study.—F. M. C.

Worcester and Bourns's Contributions to Philippine Ornithology.²—This paper consists of (1) 'A List of the Birds known to inhabit the Philippine and Palawan Islands, showing their distribution within the limits of the two Groups,' and (2) 'Notes on the Distribution of Philippine Birds,' the latter by Dr. Worcester alone. The first is a tabular list showing the distribution of the species among the islands. In the second paper the zoölogical affinities of the Palawan group are discussed, the conclusion being reached that their affinities are with Borneo rather than with the Philippines. The Philippines are then considered, each member of the group being passed in review, in respect to our knowledge of its ornithological fauna and its zoölogical affinities. A summary of conclusions is given, consisting of fifteen propositions. It is found that a "close relationship exists between the degree of difference in the avifaunæ of any two groups [of islands] and their present and past geographical relationship, those islands which have been longest and most completely cut off from their neighbors showing the highest degree of differentiation."

Steere's 'law of distribution' that "the genus is represented by but a single species in a place," is discussed at length, with a reëxamination of the facts now available, including many data Dr. Steere did not have. The result is a disagreement with Dr. Steere on a number of minor

¹ List of Birds found about my house at Portland, Conn. By John H. Sage, published by the Author. Pamphlet, 12mo. pp. 16.

² Contributions to Philippine Ornithology. By Dean C. Worcester, A. B., Assistant Professor of Zoölogy, University of Michigan, and Frank S. Bourns, M. D., Ann Arbor, Mich. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XX, No. 1143, 1898, pp. 549-625.

points. Lack of space forbids a statement of the problems, which, however, are of great interest to students of geographical distribution. The paper is illustrated with a map, and a series of charts showing the distribution of certain genera and species in the Philippines with special reference to 'Steere's Law.'—J. A. A.

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