

cemetery. Such boys exist all over the country, and war on birds as things made to be killed. . . . The pea-shooter gives no sound, and can be carried in the vest-pocket; but so destructive is it in the hands of a skillful child that the legislatures of some of the western states were obliged to pass laws making the sale of the thing a misdemeanor, and preventing the possession or use of it.

"The destruction of birds by taxidermists, and for alleged 'scientific purposes,' has justly attracted attention and has unjustly brought into disrepute the legitimate collecting of both eggs and birds for scientific use; but much of this alleged scientific collecting is illegitimate, being really done under false colors, or wrongly attributed to science. Of the birds killed or mounted by taxidermists, some, not unfrequently a large part, are for museums or private cabinets: another large share is put up for parlor or hall ornaments, either as groups or singly. All this by a little license, may be allowed as legitimate, or at least not seriously reprehensible. But, unfortunately, the average taxidermist has too often an unsavory alliance with the milliner, and in addition to his legitimate work, is allured into catering on a large scale to the 'hat-trade.' Although a few of them are too-high principled and too much the naturalist at heart, to thus prostitute their calling, taxidermists as a class are at present in deserved disrepute, and are to a large degree responsible for much of the public and mistaken criticism of scientific collecting. This criticism is perhaps more especially directed against the 'egg-collector,' who ranges in calibre and purpose from the schoolboy, who gathers eggs as he gathers postage stamps or 'show-cards,—for the mere purpose of 'making a collection',—to the intelligent oologist or ornithologist, who gathers his eggs in sets, prepares them with great care, with the strictest regard to correct identification, and in series sufficient to show the range of variation—often considerable—in eggs of the same species, and takes a few additional sets for exchange. He may have in the aggregate a large collection, numbering hundreds of species, and thousands of specimens: but, in general, the same species is not laid under serious requisition, and the sets are gathered