

thology? Surely the economic importance of the subject would justify many times the expenditure."

WILLIAM BREWSTER, Esq., who is in charge of the Department of Birds and Mammals at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, and the Boston Society of Natural History, asks :

"What has Canada done for ornithology? In general terms, simply nothing, excepting the little that has resulted from purely private investigations, or from work instigated, and in some cases paid for, on this side of the line. The results of this work are trifling compared to the as yet untried opportunities. * * * Speaking in general terms, Canada—and especially its Northwestern Provinces—is still a virgin field, about which we are in almost total ignorance. The opportunity it offers is surely tempting."

I have heard Dr. SCLATER, Secretary of the Zoological Society of London, express similar views regarding the importance of the ornithological work still to be done within the boundaries of the Dominion; and I gather from letters received from Sir WILLIAM DAWSON that he is not among those who consider Canadian ornithology a finished work.

But besides the defects arising from insufficiency of material, the present notes on distribution will probably be found to contain mistakes due to the limited experience of some of the younger observers whose records are quoted, though with the care that has been taken to have these verified, they should be few.

I trust, however, that with all its faults and errors, the work may prove of some advantage to all who take an interest in our birds, and of some service to my fellow students. If it assists the latter in their present studies, and incites them to increased activity, the labor will not have been in vain; and I leave the matter here, with the hope that at some day in the near future sufficient material may have been gathered from which a more extended and satisfactory account of Canadian birds can be produced.

The system of nomenclature and classification adopted is that prepared by the Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union, and published in the *Code of Nomenclature and Check-List of North American Birds*, issued by the A. O. U. I have included the European