

"As you are aware there has of late been a good deal of discussion, here and among the leaders of the American Ornithologists' Union, respecting the comparative status of Canadian ornithology, I am tempted to write to you, as our leading Canadian member, and trust you will not take it amiss if I call your attention to the great amount of work that needs to be done before your country can stand side by side with the United States in this branch of science. With the exception of Mr. MCLLWRAITH'S work—the best manual we have on the special subject—most of the recent advances are due to the Geological Survey, directly or indirectly. And this leads me to inquire whether it would be possible for the Survey to undertake the requisite work in a more systematic manner, even to the extent of including some professed Ornithologist in its corps. * * * * "

Mr. ROBERT RIDGWAY, the well known Curator of the Department of Birds at the National Museum, Washington, and who is the author of several of the leading standard works on American ornithology, writes:

"I trust the effort to create an interest in ornithology among Canadian students will, as it certainly should, prove successful.

"There are so many interesting, and, from a scientific standpoint, important problems regarding the distribution (both general and local), migrations, etc., of our birds yet to be worked out, that you will have the best wishes of all naturalists for your success.

"Much as has been done toward the development of ornithology in North America, it can be safely said that we know the subject only in outline; and I do not think I exaggerate when I say that less is known of the birds of the Provinces than of those of any equal area in the 'far-western' portions of the United States, for the latter have become so well explored by our numerous Government Surveys."

In a letter received from Dr. C. HART MERRIAM, Chief of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the Bureau of Agriculture, Washington, and who is well known in Canadian scientific circles, there occurs the following reference to the subject:

"I am glad to learn from your recent letter that you are endeavoring to create an increased interest in ornithology among Canadian students, and hope you will succeed.

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"The Geological Survey has done a vast amount of splendid work in botany. * * * Why should it not do equally good work in ornithology?"