

the genus *Lycosa*, and it is so well known that the bite of the great majority of spiders is innocuous, that one feels inclined to doubt whether all these accounts of poisonous spiders are not greatly exaggerated; still, considering the independent sources of our knowledge, we cannot but conclude that many members of the genus *Latrodectus* are highly venomous.

In conclusion I may say, that it is very desirable that all cases of bites of supposed poisonous spiders should be carefully recorded, but only by eye witnesses. I shall be very glad to receive specimens to experiment with.

ART. XI. — *On the Birds of New Zealand.* By T. H. POTTS.

(PART II.)*

(With Illustrations.)

[Read before the Wellington Philosophical Society, June 25, September 17, and October 22; and before the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, September 7, 1870.]

THE following additional Notes on some of our Birds are offered with a full sense of their want of completeness, which will be felt by those whose habits lead them to gaze on the face of nature. As a record of facts, they have been written at different times and places, for the most part amongst the birds themselves when the leisure hour permitted, in the cultivated garden, beneath the deep shadows of the leafy gully, on the wide expanse of the brown tussock-clad plain, by the rocky coast, or in the gloomy alpine valley.

It is yet possible to reach some secluded spots where the hanging branches of the virgin forests exhibit lovely forms and hues of glorious foliage in all their pristine beauty, still unscathed by fire or bushman's axe; where birds still flutter and carol through revolving seasons of a golden age; where the murderous guns, the stealthy cat, are alike unknown; where the bold confident curiosity of the birds surprises the human trespasser, and teaches him, in the plainest language, the story of the changes effected by the savage barbarity of man.

It is felt that some of the papers may be thought long and tedious; but in explanation, it may be stated that I have since last year met with Gray's *List of the Birds of New Zealand and the Adjacent Islands*, and Mr. Gould's *Handbook to the Birds of Australia*, and thought it desirable to comply as far as possible with a wish expressed in the latter work, and make the notes on the genera *Athene*, *Nestor*, etc., rather full. In the illustrations it will be observed that the majority of the nests figured are those of indigenous species; such a selection, it was thought, would be interesting.

* For Part I., see *Trans. N. Z. Inst.*, Vol. II., Art. VIII., p. 40.