

show that the fish in several of these lakes are infested with the plerocercoids of *D. latum*.

TEUNIS VERGEER

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

BIRDS OF THE EURASIAN TUNDRA

THE publication on April 30 of Professor Theodore Pleske's *Birds of the Eurasian Tundra* (Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History, vol. 6, no. 3, p. 107-485, 23 pl.) was an event of considerable interest to all students of Palearctic ornithology. This report, which is based upon the collections of the Russian Polar Expedition of 1900-1903, was printed with the income of a fund bequeathed to the Boston Society of Natural History by the late William Brewster.

Through some oversight the paper contains no reference to the fact that the author's manuscript, which was submitted in French, was translated as well as edited by Dr. Glover M. Allen. This would seem to be a case where the proverbial editorial anonymity and lack of recognition should not hold true, especially in view of the thorough scholarship evident in the work of the translator and editor.

FRANCIS HARPER,
Secretary

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY

PRESERVATION OF THE HEATH HEN

FOR the past several years efforts have been made to preserve the few remaining species of the heath hen on Martha's Vineyard from extinction. According to a recent report from the heath hen committee, these efforts have failed, there now being but three birds left on the island, and all these are males. The most careful of determinations has failed to reveal any female birds, and the possibility of saving the species from extinction now seems hopeless. In spite of the combined efforts of the state and bird clubs, there has been a steady decrease in numbers from 1920, when there was estimated to have been six hundred birds on the island. But even though there seems to be no possibility of saving these birds, the state will continue its efforts, and the reservation will be maintained in the hope that some unforeseen factor may arise which will place a different aspect on the situation.

BIRGER R. HEADSTROM

MEDFORD HILLSIDE,
MASSACHUSETTS

HYBRID WORDS

OF course I am always horrified when the Latin-English word "data" is used as if it were singular. I am equally horrified at the continued creeping into

our language of hybrid words. If we are not very careful one of the most objectionable hybrids so far will become fixed in our vocabulary. About a year ago when the word was first used I made a vigorous protest against it in the Washington daily press.

The word I have in view now is "television." Can anything worse be imagined? Happily a hundred years and more ago both our scientific and literary scholars knew a great deal more about Greek than they do about it at the present time. In fact, it may be said that the study of Greek to-day is a lost art, and the result will be further inroads into the realm of using Greek names, or at least parts of Greek names for new diseases and new discoveries. Suppose William Cullen Bryant had not been the master of the Greek tongue, he would have named his immortal poem Thanatovision instead of its appropriate name "Thanatopsis." I proposed either the word teloptiky or telopsis which would have brought it more into harmony with William Cullen Bryant nomenclature. Can we not save the language yet, with science leading in the fight? Let us form a Telopsis Society and pledge every purist in the country to join in our campaign.

H. W. WILEY

THE WORD TO REPLACE "BELIEVE"

THE writer, during the past few years, has been closely associated in work having to do primarily with chemical patents and their causes; and in connection with the prosecution of patent applications before the United States Patent Office, particularly relative to amendments in response to actions by the patent office examiners, wherein claims in the application have been rejected on prior patents and publications, the use of the expressions "I deem" or "it is deemed" has been found very useful in presenting to the examiner the present thoughts of the applicant as to the construction to be given to the art which has been cited.

Turning again to the dictionary, it is found that "deem" is defined as follows:

To think, judge, or hold as an opinion; decide or believe on consideration; suppose.

To have an opinion; judge; think.

Opinion; judgment; surmise.

Accordingly, it may be that the use of the expression "I deem" would remove much of the ambiguity attributed by Dr. Miller to the expression "I believe."

The replacement of the expression "I believe" by "I deem" is therefore presented for consideration.

LLOYD VAN DOREN

NEW YORK CITY