

garia sp.), and tomato (*Lycopersicum esculentum* Mill. var. *vulgare* Bailey).

An unidentified species of a very minute, white mite occurring on ivy and China asters (*Callistephus chinensis* Nees) and a begonia mite (probably *Avrosia translucens* Nietner) were also successfully controlled by a single application of 2 per cent. solution of phthalic glyceryl alkyd resin.

Since these experiments for the control of red spiders were performed also in commercial greenhouses and in the field, it seems highly probable that this chemical may find a wide application. Additional advantages which it possesses include no disagreeable odor, lack of spray residue on the leaves, its high degree of spreading capacity and only one application is necessary for killing the adults and the ova.

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#### A BIRD LIST

IN SCIENCE, for July 18, you refer to a bird list,

made by Roger Peterson and myself (not my brother, Dr. Frederick H.) at the Fairchild Connecticut Gardens, on May 18, as a "bird census."

To my mind, it was in no sense a census, but simply a more or less superficial list of the species of birds noted during the course of a morning's walk through the area. The word "census" has been widely misused in this way in the past, and it would seem highly desirable to arrive at some general agreement as to what constitutes a "bird census."

If we adhere strictly to the dictionary definition of the word "census," a true bird census of a 127½-acre tract, swarming with migrants on the move, in addition to the resident species, would be almost impossible to take on a May morning. In view of the increasing need in ecological work for real censuses of the numbers and kinds of wild animals occurring on sample areas—it would seem wise to call any record, which does not represent a conscientious effort to record every single individual bird in the area at the time, a "bird count" or "bird list."

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## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

### ZOOLOGY

*A Text Book of Zoology.* By the late T. JEFFERY PARKER, D.Sc., F.R.S., and the late WILLIAM A. HASWELL, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S. Sixth Edition, in two volumes, Volume II revised by C. Forster-Cooper, M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S. xxiii + 758 pp.; 1-656 figs. 8vo. London: Macmillan and Co., Limited.

THIS famous text-book of zoology was originally a descriptive reference work of monumental character; it stemmed from the heroic period of T. H. Huxley, W. K. Parker and W. H. Flower but was not completed and published until 1898. Although both the volumes emphasized the factual side of development and morphology, the first volume, on the invertebrates, contained far more and better treatment of major phylogenetic problems than the second, which was for the most part merely an orderly record of bare facts with a minimum of inference. But these facts were so conveniently set forth that the rising demand has kept the work going through six editions.

In the first five editions some new details were added, but few radical changes were made and there was scant notice of the huge expansion of knowledge that had meanwhile taken place in the fields of vertebrate paleontology and general morphology. At last, however, the time came when it was realized that Parker and Haswell, Volume II, was in great need of modernization, and this formidable undertaking was then fortunately entrusted to C. Forster-Cooper, M.A.,

Sc.D., F.R.S., late director of the University Museum of Zoology at Cambridge and for some years director of the British Museum (Natural History).

The theme of the volume is the "Phylum Chordata," treated strictly from a taxonomic-anatomical viewpoint. In order to compress this enormous subject into practicable limits, the reviser has ignored many such significant techniques as the mathematical treatment of growth and form and the illimitable fields of genetics, physiology and the like; albeit that in many universities these are considered to be the central themes of modern zoology. But these subjects are already well represented by excellent contemporary text-books; whereas Parker and Haswell, Volume II, while still without a peer in its own territory, was getting to be so far behind the times that it might have been abandoned entirely in favor of a wholly new work. Thanks to the reviser and his collaborators, however, the old book has now been thoroughly rejuvenated or, more accurately, revised and enlarged. In its handsome new format we might even liken it to some stately building to which new extensions have been added but in such a way as to increase the usefulness of the parts and enhance the general effect of the whole.

The old text aimed to describe accurately the resemblances and differences between the innumerable products of vertebrate evolution; it but rarely referred to the changes in anatomical structure whereby one type has been transformed into another. The result