

bral are almost invariably mispronounced because they are accented on the second syllable instead of the first, as they should be. Dyspnea and related words are shamefully treated. The "p" is usually disregarded, although it should be sounded and the first syllable is incorrectly accented when the accent should be on the second.

These illustrations could be multiplied indefinitely, but it would serve no good end. This plea will have fulfilled its purpose if more attention be paid to lexicographic pronunciation and less to intuitive. It is true a vital language is continually changing, but it is dubious if changes emerging from ignorance constitute progress. Much would be accomplished if medical school staffs emphasized orthoepy more, since it is from them that future physicians first learn medical terms. Their present carelessness in speech is a sorry contrast to the thoroughness and scope of their scientific training. The man who speaks with care arouses in his audience a greater feeling of confidence in the potential accuracy of his scientific conclusions.

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A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD BANK SWALLOW

IN the summer of 1937 it was our good fortune to recover as a return at Oneida Lake, N. Y., a banded bank swallow, *Riparia r. riparia*, the known age of which was at least six years.¹ This bird had been banded by us as a nestling on June 30, 1931, about one-half mile from the point of its recovery. Until the present writing it has remained the oldest known individual of its kind.

Now, with the capture, in May, 1942, of adult banded bank swallow No. 35-59216, the record for the longest known life-span in the species rests with that individual. A brief history of this swallow, so far as it is known, is herewith offered as a further contribution to ornithological knowledge.

Adult bank swallow No. 35-59216 was banded as an incubating individual from a burrow in the south bank of Fish Creek near Oneida Lake, N. Y., on May 27, 1936. Its mate was not banded.

On May 21, 1937, this swallow was recovered (Return 1) as a laying or incubating individual in a burrow only a few yards from the one it occupied the preceding season. Its mate also was a return, banded on May 24, 1935. Incidentally, this is the only occasion on which we have recovered two banded return bank swallows at the same time from the same burrow. This burrow was 23 inches deep, 20 inches below the turf and contained an unlined grass nest.

¹ Dayton and Lillian C. Stoner, *Bird-Banding*, 8: 175-176, 1937.

At the time of recovery No. 35-59216 registered a body temperature of 109.6° Fahr. and weighed 14.4 grams. The body temperature of its mate was 108.0 degrees and it weighed 17.7 grams. In this species there are no external differences between the sexes, but the discrepancy in weight between these two individuals strongly suggests that No. 35-59216 is a male. Since this swallow was at least one year old at the time it was banded in 1936, it was now at least two years old.

On May 24, 1940, No. 35-59216 was again captured (Return 2) from a burrow in the same colony as before and at most only a few yards from the ones it had occupied in 1936 and 1937. The burrow was 30 inches deep and 14 inches below the turf. An *unbanded* individual shared the burrow, indicating that the return swallow had different mates, at least in 1937 and 1940. The body temperature of No. 35-59216 registered 107.8 degrees and it weighed 14.2 grams. This bird was now at least five years old.

On May 25, 1942, No. 35-59216 was once more recovered (Return 3) as an incubating individual in the colony in which it had been captured in 1936, 1937 and 1940. And the burrow which it occupied was not more than a few feet from the site of those occupied by it in those seasons. This burrow was 28 inches deep and 24 inches below the turf. On this occasion the body temperature of the swallow registered 109.8 degrees and its weight was 14.3 grams. This bank swallow had now attained the age of at least seven years.

Certain essential facts regarding bank swallow No. 35-59216 may be thus briefly summarized: It was banded as an incubating adult when at least one year old; at the time of its latest recovery in May, 1942, this swallow was at least seven years old. Between its first capture in 1936 and its latest recovery it had been recaptured as a return in 1937 and 1940. All recoveries were in the same sector of the colony as that in which it was first captured. This swallow had made at least six round-trip journeys between its nesting ground and its winter quarters and had a different mate in at least three of the four seasons that it was captured.

It is of interest to observe that among the 282 banded bank swallows which we have recovered as returns within the inclusive seasons 1924-1942, 18 have been approximately one year old, 170 at least two years old, 58 at least three years old, 23 at least four years old, 11 at least five years old, 1 at least six years and 1, the individual above reported, at least seven years old. The results of our banding investigations to date indicate that the probable average life span of this species is from 2 to 3 years. Moreover, the tendency for a given individual to return season after

season to the exact spot in the colony where it has once nested is exhibited to a remarkable degree.

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM, DAYTON STONER
ALBANY, N. Y.

ALBANY, N. Y. LILLIAN C. STONER

A STING-RAY ATTACK ON A MAN ON THE UPPER AMAZON

I SPENT the years 1921-1931 in geological exploration of the upper Amazon Basin, with headquarters at Iquitos in Peru, during which period I witnessed an attack of a sting-ray on a man and cared for the patient. Dr. E. W. Gudger, who is preparing a paper to answer the question, "Is the sting-ray's sting poisonous?", became much interested when I told him of my observation. He states that authentic personal records of such occurrences are rare and that he has found none for the Amazon, where such attacks may be expected commonly to occur. Urged by him, I have prepared this brief account of what I witnessed.

In January, 1925, in working up stream through shallow stretches of a tributary of the middle Rio Morona in northwestern Peru, Fabriciano Vela, my faithful orderly, while wading barefooted beside my canoe in water about twelve inches deep, on a sandy bottom, was struck in the sole of his right foot by a sting-ray. Upon a bottom of this sort, rays are often extremely common in quiet shallow streams of the Upper Amazon Basin of eastern Peru, and not infrequently wading men are struck after these creatures have become alarmed and confused as many plunging, splashing feet churn and roil the water about them. Fabriciano, appearing to be in great pain almost immediately, cried out in terror and despair as he staggered to a nearby sandy beach to fling himself upon the sand and, holding the wounded foot with both hands, to writhe about in agony, tears trickling down his cheeks despite his resolution not to make a spectacle of himself. I had been told repeatedly that this was the most excruciatingly painful experience

which could befall a man in the Amazon jungle and my unfortunate assistant made that contention very convincing indeed.

I had already learned that the Brazilian proprietary medicine known as "Balsamo Divino" was considered the most effective in the treatment of such a case and proceeded with it in the approved manner as soon as possible. This colorless, slightly oily liquid compound of apparently several aromatic ingredients, rather well masked by carbolic acid, suggests the "phenol sodique" of my boyhood days. With a cotton swab saturated with this remedy undiluted, I carefully cleaned and bathed this rather deep stab-wound, and then bandaged the foot lightly so as to hold another similarly saturated swab in place upon the wound while several drops in water were given orally. He had been struck, as I have just said, rather deeply at something of an angle as his foot was raised in stepping forward but the bleeding seemed to me less than one might reasonably have expected. Though he continued for a time in extreme, almost unendurable pain, there was no considerable swelling, nor did he experience nausea, headache nor indeed any systemic symptoms. After several hours, during which the bandage over the wound was kept moist with the medicine, he became quiet and in a short time the wound had healed without sloughing, and indeed without inflammation of any importance, thanks probably to the antiseptic properties of the phenol.

Another boy, Edmundo Araujo, who was with me for a time, was, while on the Rio Ucayali, very grievously wounded by a large ray which drove its terribly venomous spine into the sole of his foot in such a manner that it passed between the metatarsal bones and emerged upon the upper surface. I was not a witness, but he told me later that he had had no idea that one might suffer so fearfully.

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QUOTATIONS

SCIENCE AND THE CENSOR

SCIENTISTS in general and physicians in particular will be disturbed by the correspondence which has passed between the postal censor and Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, editor of *SCIENCE*, and which appears in the current issue of that journal. That censorship in war is necessary no one will deny. But was the censor justified in deleting from *SCIENCE* an item on a new sulfa drug which can be used with good effect in such intestinal infections as dysentery, because our enemies in tropical regions might learn how to return the afflicted rapidly to the fighting line? From time im-

memorial military surgeons have made no distinction between friend and foe in dealing with wounds and disease. In 1917 both the Surgeon General of the Army and the Secretary of War decided that for humanitarian reasons publication of information about an antitoxin developed in this country to combat the bacillus of gas-gangrene, then highly destructive on the Western Front, was permissible. Thousands are now dying of typhus in occupied Middle Europe, but if the censor has his way they can not be saved by the dissemination of any new knowledge acquired here.