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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the Executive Committee (members present, Roger Adams, O. W. Caldwell, A. J. Carlson, *chairman*, B. E. Livingston, Kirtley F. Mather, Walter R. Miles, F. R. Moulton and E. C. Stakman) held on June 24, 1945, the following actions were taken:

1. The Association will take over the editorship of SCIENCE January 1, 1946.

2. The nominees for consideration in connection with the editorship of SCIENCE secured by the Special Committee (Drs. George A. Baitsell, Philip Bard, Howard P. Barss, W. F. G. Swann) from the canvass of the members of the Council and submitted to the Executive Committee, were subjected to a preferential ballot and the chairman of the Executive Committee was authorized to contact

these nominees in the order of the preference ballot, with reference to availability, and to report to the Executive Committee.

3. The chairman and the Permanent Secretary were authorized to submit the names of nominees for editorial advisers for SCIENCE (two nominees from each section, one to be elected), which were presented to the Executive Committee by the SCIENCE Policy Committee (Malcolm H. Soule, Roger Adams, Walter R. Miles), to the members of the Council for election.

4. The chairman was authorized to appoint a committee to study and make proposals for the acquisition of adequate housing facilities for the growing activities of the Association, and this committee was authorized to proceed immediately to secure funds for a permanent home for the Association.

relatively gentle winds rather than regular, strong winds, which factor seems in itself to bar this magpie from certain otherwise suitable areas. The total of requirements for the yellow-billed magpie is thus distinctly different from that of the American Black-billed Magpie . . . ; neither species would likely thrive for long within the range of the other [p. 294].

For sixty years the taxonomic and distributional study of California birds has been the interest of an extremely active group of ornithologists. The late Dr. Joseph Grinnell, senior author of the present monograph, often said that continuation of the undertaking offered problems enough to keep a growing company of workers busy for the next hundred years. His statement may be true, provided constant extension of the aims is taken into account, though it is difficult to see how any refinement of technique could broaden the scope or improve the usefulness of the present volume without rapidly encountering limitations imposed by the law of decreasing returns.

The work covers 427 species (644 species and subspecies) of California birds. Of these, 273 species (423 species and subspecies) breed within the State. 84 species are represented by more than 1 race: 38 by 2 races, 21 by 3, 11 by 4, 3 by 5, 3 by 6, 3 by 7, and single species have, respectively, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 18 races. California song sparrows comprise no fewer than 14 races, the breeding ranges of several of which are restricted to extremely small ecological niches. A colored frontispiece portrays the distinctive plumage characters of eight of these forms, and a distributional map on page 548 shows the ranges within the State of all 14.

After an introduction of eight pages, the work opens with a systematic list of the species and subspecies of California birds. This includes both technical and vernacular names, in both of which the authors make certain departures from the A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds, a step taken deliberately and ably defended in the introduction. Then follows the general account of the native birds of the State, which occupies the bulk of the volume. The treatment includes a list of synonyms; a paragraph on the status of the form in California; a longer paragraph on the geographic range, which lists the published sources and gives a succinct and illuminating insight into the nature of earlier findings. The final heading under each form relates to the habitat of the bird within its seasonal or permanent geographic range. A total of 57 clear distributional maps adds greatly to the usefulness of the admirable text.

Pages 557 to 576 are devoted to introduced species and to those of uncertain or legendary status. By such means the authors have removed from the body of their book material of a kind that has long cluttered

up the text of countless other works on ornithology, while at the same time they have not deprived their readers of information that has a special interest in its own right. The work closes with an index covering all scientific and popular names of every species and subspecies.

The book as a whole fulfils expectations built up by the senior author, who is no longer living, and the junior author, who still carries on in the same tradition. There is not a word of padding in its 608 pages. Its text is stark but sufficient, and it offers a direct guide to the best sources of more detailed information. Space precludes further consideration of a particular sample of the text, but the reviewer can not forbear a reference to the common cliff swallow of California which, according to seasonal press releases, arrives each year at the mission of San Juan Capistrano on March 19 and departs with equal regularity on October 23, taking due account, if we are to believe the newspapers, even of the quadrennial shift produced by leap year. Grinnell and Miller have no space in their compact text for a reference to the pious tale, but in discussing the status of this swallow in California they note that the "dates of arrival and departure are greatly variable with year and locality."

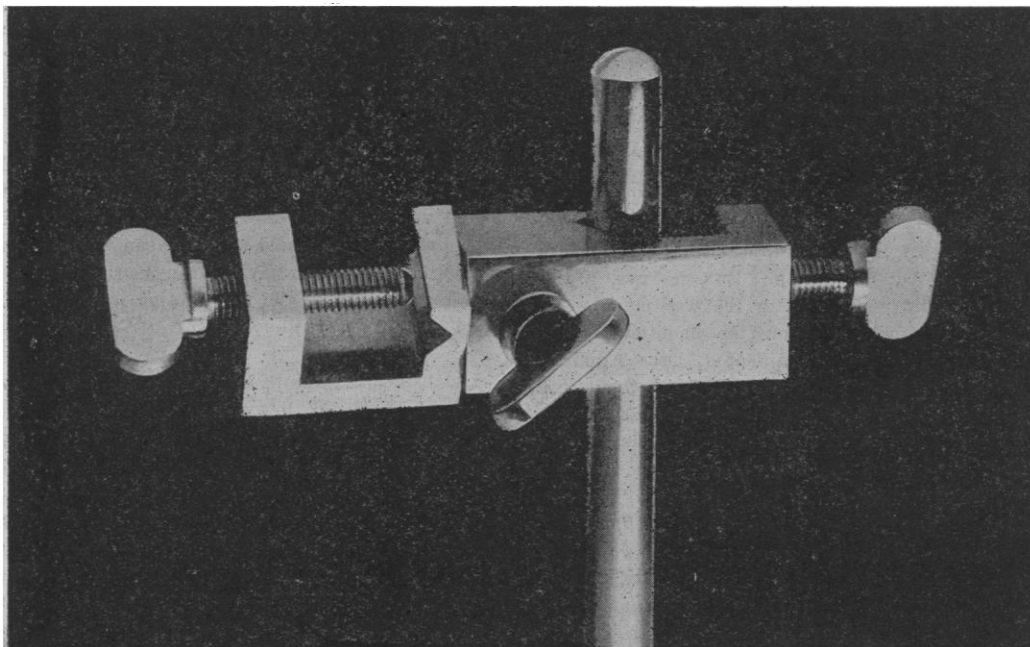
R. C. MURPHY

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

BOOKS RECEIVED

- BATES, RALPH S. *Scientific Societies in the United States*. Pp. vii + 246. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. \$3.50. 1945.
- BAUER, JULIUS. *Constitution and Disease*. Second edition, revised. Illustrated. Pp. xiii + 247. Grune & Stratton, New York. 1945.
- BENNETT, H., Editor. *The Chemical Formulary*. Vol. vii. Pp. xxxii + 474. Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., Brooklyn. \$6.00. 1945.
- BROSTER, L. R. *Endocrine Man; A Study in the Surgery of Sex*. Pp. xi + 144. Grune & Stratton. \$3.50. 1945.
- DEUTSCH, HELENE. *Psychology of Women; Vol. II; Motherhood*. Pp. vi + 498. Grune & Stratton. \$4.50. 1945.
- HUBBELL, RICHARD. *Television; Programming and Production*. Illustrated. Pp. xii + 203. Murray Hill Books, Inc., New York. \$3.00. 1945.
- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS, Compilers. *Multi-Sensory Aids in the Teaching of Mathematics*. Illustrated. Pp. xv + 455. Teachers College, Columbia University. \$2.00. 1945.
- PERRY, ENOS J., Editor. *The Artificial Insemination of Farm Animals*. Illustrated. Pp. 265. Rutgers University Press. \$3.50. 1945.
- RABINOWITCH, EUGENE I. *Photosynthesis and Related Processes; Vol. I; Chemistry of Photosynthesis, Chemosynthesis and Related Processes in Vitro and in Vivo*. Illustrated. Pp. xiv + 599. Interscience Publishers, Inc. \$8.50. 1945.
- WAITE, FREDERICK C. *The Story of a Country Medical College*. Illustrated. Pp. 213. Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier.
- WEIL, ARTHUR. *Textbook of Neuropathology*. Second edition, revised. Illustrated. Pp. xvi + 356. Grune & Stratton. 1945.

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