shift about half way through, and it appears that one then discovers the reason why the book was written. It is obvious that Carson is deeply moved by our current crisis in civil rights, and this book is oriented in such a manner that the reader will most easily pick up arguments opposed to racism. The meager facts are interpreted as showing that modern man arose suddenly, about 40,000 years ago, and at that time rapidly spread out over the world. All racial and subracial differences date from the intervening period and are due to the chance assortment of genes in the small, inbreeding populations that moved out from the original home of *Homo sapiens*, which was located somewhere near the Mediterranean sea. Selective forces did not operate because the populations were too small for selection to have an effect. Carson's thesis is that the triggering mechanism for this sudden emergence of modern man was the development of the modern brain, and that only this has remained stable during the dispersion of the new species, while color, shape, and size have undergone drastic random alterations. The obvious conclusion is that man's uniqueness lies in his mental abilities and that in this, all men are brothers.

Thus, it seems that the purpose of this book is to give the layman a scientific basis for what is basically a moral decision. The racists, of course, also claim a scientific basis for their beliefs. Our social and political battles will not be won by quoting "science," but only through the conscious application of conscience to the righting of wrongs.

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Subantarctic Natural History

Subantarctic Campbell Island. Alfred M. Bailey and J. H. Sorensen. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colo., 1962. 305 pp. Illus. $7.

The publication of this profusely illustrated book provides a refreshing change from the popular accounts of Antarctic adventures and the highly specialized research reports that are often difficult to digest and collate with general natural history.

The introductory sections provide a vivid description of this 40-square-mile New Zealand outpost in the inclement Furious Fifties (52°33′ S, 169°09′ E). An excellent historical perspective is maintained: the 1810 discovery, the fur sealing, the attempts at commercial grazing, and the early scientific expeditions are all briefly described. The coauthor began more than four years of intensive biological observations when he was expedition naturalist at the Cape Expedition coast watching station during World War II. (A most casual glance through the book reveals the wisdom of New Zealand's decision to send a naturalist with the military and meteorological personnel when the station was established.) Postwar observations, made by civilian personnel at the station and by occasional visiting naturalists, and the role of the 1958 Denver Museum of Natural History Expedition (under Alfred Bailey's leadership) bring the data up to the current era of subantarctic research.

Although the sections on geology and botany are short, original observations are supplemented with a very complete literature summary. The observations on the degree of changes in the native flora, which have resulted from the introduction of exotic plants, sheep, cattle, Norway rats, and cats, are particularly noteworthy.

Brief details on occurrences of the right whale and more lengthy descriptions of the natural history of the New Zealand sea lion, the New Zealand fur seal, the leopard seal, and the southern elephant seal are in the section on mammals. Notes on census results, breeding colonies, and feeding habits indicate that, to a large extent, the seals have recovered from earlier depredations made by sealers.

The account of the Campbell Island birds occupies over two-thirds of the book. The descriptive material on albatrosses is particularly extensive. Many of the ornithological observations provide new data on general morphology, occurrences, feeding habits, and behavior of both adults and nestlings. Considerable portions of Sorensen's wartime diary and observations made by others are interspersed in the text to provide year-long sequential accounts of several species; these accounts are especially valuable from a phenological standpoint.

This book, with its very complete reference section (the section includes many references to the marine environment which is not covered in the text), will be a particularly useful introduction to a subantarctic island. There is an almost complete lack of data on the invertebrates, however. Natural history observations, which were made throughout several years, greatly extend existing information about several birds and mammals. Students of biogeography will find much of the data useful in determining the extent of distributions, the breeding centers, the pathways of dispersion, and the effects of exotics.

Numerous excellent photographs and the nontechnical text make this a pleasant and informative book for the armchair naturalist.

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Note

A Vagabond with Captain Cook

"Mad, romantic, dreaming Ledyard," son of a Groton sea captain, sailed with Cook and wrote *A Journal of Captain Cook's Last Voyage* (Quadrangle Books, Chicago, 1963. 208 pp. $6.50). From his encounter with the foggy Nootka coast, John Ledyard (1751–1789) returned, not with trinkets but with a firm determination to explore the possibilities of trade in the Pacific Northwest. Years later, when he lay dying in Cairo, Ledyard dreamed of crossing from Kentucky to the Pacific.

This reprint, the tenth "Americana Classic" now in publication, is a facsimile of a rare Hartford imprint of 1783; it is something of a disappointment. The original title page and verso are omitted. Was there a bastard title? Variations in intensity of inking are inevitable for facsimiles, but this Ledyard reprint is illegible at times. If the current practices are continued, these Americana in facsimile will not be sought in the 21st century as Hakluyt Society reprints are today. A short pungent introduction enhances the reprint's value. But, above all, give us a scrupulously literal facsimile.

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