

a grove will flourish and regenerate independently of its surroundings, as suggested by Fahnestock. Steep intervening ridges may be of little avail against weather modifications which are induced by regional deforestation.

DONALD H. GRAY
Department of Civil Engineering,
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor 48104

Rare Birds Identified

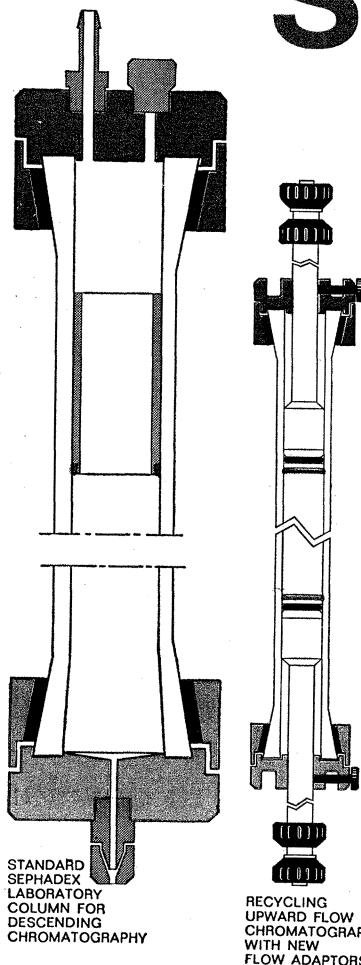
It was kind of *Science* to include Ripley's letter, "Save the Endangered Birds," (11 Nov.). It was most unfortunate, however, that a Mallard duck was chosen to illustrate the point of his letter. The Mallard is one of the most abundant waterfowl in the world, and the fact that its numbers decline somewhat during one breeding season does not mean that it is about to become extinct. This is not the type of bird for which the International Council for Bird Preservation is seeking aid, and if anyone seriously thought we were worrying about saving the Mallard, we would become a laughing stock. One biologist asked me, "What will you try to protect next, the Starling?"

The sort of birds with which the I.C.B.P. is concerned are the California Condor, of which about 50 remain in southern California; the Horned Guan (*Oreophasis derbianus*), very rare and local in cloud forests in southern Mexico and Guatemala; the Atitlán Grebe (*Podilymbus gigas*), of which a small population lives on Lake Atitlán, Guatemala; the Hawaiian Crested Honeycreeper (*Palmeria dolei*), very rare and restricted to Maui Island, Hawaii; the Japanese Crane, of which less than 200 remain in Japan plus a small population in Manchuria; the South Island Saddleback (*Creadion carunculatus*), restricted to a few tiny islets off South Island, New Zealand; the Cahow or Bermuda Petrel, breeding in very small numbers in Bermuda; the Spanish Imperial Eagle, reduced to about 100 in Spain with perhaps a few pairs in North Africa; and the Imperial Parrot (*Amazona imperialis*), confined to the high mountain forest of Dominica, West Indies.

G. STUART KEITH
Department of Ornithology,
American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street,
New York 10024

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