

endemic species." The following six subspecies are described as new: (1) *Canachites canadensis atratus*, (2) *Lagopus rupestris kelloggæ*, (3) *Ceryle alcyon caurina*, (4) *Dryobates pubescens glacialis*, (5) *Passerella iliaca sinuosa*, (6) *Penthestes rufescens vivax*.

In this district of excessive humidity Mr. Grinnell notes "an increase in the extent of the black markings and a darkening of the shades of brown and green, and a reduction in the general size, and disproportionate shortening of the wings and tail," in comparison with the species of the Sitkan fauna to the southward and of the Yukon fauna to the northward, these features characterizing, in varying degree, the new forms here described. The "four obvious environmental conditions," as compared with the interior are stated to be (1) an extreme amount of precipitation, (2) a high relative humidity of the atmosphere, (3) a large percentage of cloudy days, and (4) a more uniform temperature, due to impeded radiation. He takes occasion to explain that the "melanism," or increased intensification of color, is not due directly to precipitation but rather to cloudiness and excessive humidity — as we had supposed was generally recognized. Also that the "melanism" is inherited, as shown by the newly hatched young, and not acquired during the life of the individual. This and allied questions are discussed at some length near the close of the paper, which will be welcomed as a valuable contribution to the ornithology of a hitherto little known but intensely interesting area.— J. A. A.

McGregor's 'A Manual of Philippine Birds.'¹— A manual of Philippine birds, giving descriptions of the species in convenient form, has evidently been long needed by students of Philippine ornithology, especially those resident in the Philippine Archipelago where libraries well stocked with ornithological works are naturally few. Mr. McGregor has therefore done a good service in supplying this need. The work has been issued in two parts, continuously paged, and may thus be bound together as a compact, handy volume of nearly 800 pages. Keys and diagnoses of the higher groups, with keys to the species, facilitate its use, and sufficient bibliographical references are given under the species to enable the reader to refer to original sources for further information. The work is well planned and carefully prepared, and will thus bear comparison with the best standard works of its class.

The technical name of the species is followed by an English name, such references to the literature as are deemed necessary, including the synonymy, and by "such native names as seem to be commonly used with some degree of accuracy." Then is given the distribution, by islands in alphabetic sequence, with the authority for the records. The descriptions include the external characters and measurements of usually both young and adult

¹ A Manual | of | Philippine Birds | By | Richard | C. McGregor | Part I | [Galliformes to Eurylæmiformes | [Seal] Manila | Bureau of Printing | 1909 — 8vo, pp. i-x + 1-412. "Actual date of publication, April 15, 1909." Part II, Passeriformes. Pp. xi-xvi + 413-769. "Actual date of publication, January 31, 1910."

with the sexual and seasonal variations, and, when available, a fairly full biographical account of the species. Although the work is based on a large collection of Philippine specimens, and on extended field experience in the islands, the author has been compelled to rely on other works for such of the species (about 150), particularly among the water birds, as were unrepresented, or inadequately represented, in the 8000 specimens of Philippine birds in the Museum of the Philippine Bureau of Science, due credit of course being given for the borrowed material. Much previously unpublished biographical matter is taken from a manuscript work on Philippine birds prepared some years ago by Messrs. Frank S. Bourns and Dean C. Worcester for publication by the Minnesota Academy of Sciences. The classification is that of Sharpe's 'Handlist,' which "is followed as both convenient and well known." The 'Handlist' is also followed in the use of binomial names for all the forms recognized, so that the Philippine ornith here numbers 739¹ "species," there being no subspecies.

As already said, Mr. McGregor's 'Manual' is opportune and will be of great use to all students of Philippine ornithology.—J. A. A.

Publications Received.—**Beebe**, C. William. (1) Ecology of the Hoatzin. (Zoologica: Scientific Contrib. of New York Zool. Soc., Vol. I, No. 1, pp. 45-66.) (2) An Ornithological Reconnaissance of Northeastern Venezuela. (*Ibid.*, No. 3, pp. 67-114.) (3) Racket Formation in Tail-feathers of the Motmots. (*Ibid.*, No. 5, pp. 141-149.) (4) Three Cases of Supernumerary Toe in the Broad-winged Hawk. (*Ibid.*, No. 6, pp. 150-152.)

Dearborn, Ned. How to Destroy English Sparrows. U. S. Dept. of Agric., Farmers' Bull. No. 383, 1910.

Grinnell, Joseph. (1) Miscellaneous Records from Alaska. (Condor, Vol. XII, Jan. 1910, pp. 41-43.) (2) A New Cowbird of the Genus *Molothrus*, etc. (University of California Publ., Zoology, Vol. V, No. 5, pp. 275-281, Dec. 31, 1909.) (3) Two heretofore unnamed Wrens of the Genus *Thryomanes*. (*Ibid.*, No. 8, pp. 307-309, Feb. 21, 1910.) (4) The Savannah Sparrow of the Great Basin. (*Ibid.*, pp. 311-316, Feb. 21, 1910.) (5) Birds of the 1908 Alexander Alaska Expedition, etc. (*Ibid.*, No. 12, pp. 364-428, March 5, 1910.)

Howard, H. Eliot. The British Warblers, Part 4. December, 1909.

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Miller, Loye Holmes. (1) *Pavo californicus*, a fossil Peacock from the Quaternary Asphalt Beds of Rancho La Brea. (University of California Publ., Geology, Vol. V, No. 19, pp. 285-289, August, 1909.) (2) *Tertornis*, a new Avian Genus from Rancho La Brea. (*Ibid.*, No. 21, pp. 305-317, September, 1909.)

¹ These are consecutively numbered in the text, while 8 more are added in the "corrections and additions" at the end of the volume, increasing the total number to 747.