

trip in 1923 followed by more extended trips in the three following years furnished the main materials for this report<sup>1</sup> to which have been added notes furnished by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and those gleaned from published accounts of the region.

Modoc is the extreme northeastern county of California and for that reason is particularly interesting in connection with the distribution of species and the possibility of the occurrence of additional forms. Mr. Mailliard lists 196 species and subspecies of birds so far detected within its boundaries, and presents interesting field notes regarding many of them. Both Little Brown and Sandhill Cranes occur and local hunters contend that flocks of the two can easily be distinguished by size and habits.

Five additional birds are given in a hypothetical list and an annotated list of the mammals of the county is appended.

Mr. Mailliard has made a valuable contribution to the faunal lists of California.—W. S.

**Bailey's 'Biological Survey of North Dakota.'**—A welcome publication is Vernon Bailey's 'Biological Survey of North Dakota'<sup>2</sup> even though the bird portion has been postponed for a time, to appear as a separate publication. The present volume is devoted almost entirely to the mammals which are treated at length but there is a two page preface and a consideration of physiography and life zones covering fourteen pages, with an excellent map. This nearly level State is almost wholly in the Transition Zone with a small Canadian area in the center of the northern boundary where the Turtle Mountains reach over from Canada and three intrusions of the Upper Austral fauna following up the Yellowstone, Little Missouri and Missouri Rivers.

Characteristic species of mammals, plants and birds are given for the three zones, the Junco and White-throated Sparrow being the only Canadian birds breeding in the State. In mentioning the earlier explorers of the State Mr. Bailey omits Dr. William L. Abbott who spent the month of July 1879 at Pembina and vicinity, though probably purely ornithological papers were purposely omitted. At any rate Dr. Abbott published an account of the birds he observed, in 'Forest and Stream,' XIII, p. 984-5, and his collection made on this occasion is preserved in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.—W. S.

**Bannerman on the Birds of Tunisia.**—In the early part of 1925, Messrs. Willoughby P. Lowe and David A. Bannerman made an extensive expedition through Tunisia for the purpose of securing a representative

<sup>1</sup> The Birds and Mammals of Modoc County, California, By Joseph Mailliard. Proc. California Acad. of Sciences. Fourth Series, Vol. XVI, No. 10, pp. 261-359, 1 text figure. April 27, 1927.

<sup>2</sup> A Biological Survey of North Dakota. I. Physiography and Life Zones. II. The Mammals, By Vernon Bailey. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Biological Survey. North American Fauna No. 49. pp. 1-226, pls. 1-21 and 8 figures. Price 60 cents.

collection of birds of the country for the British Museum, the trip being made possible through the generosity of Mr. A. S. Vernay.

The country is by no means virgin ground ornithologically, as it was, some years ago, thoroughly worked over by Mr. J. I. S. Whitaker whose collection, the basis of his 'Birds of Tunisia' is now at his home in Palmero, Italy. M. Louis Levauden, now resident in Tunisia, also Bede and Blanchet made very complete collections and together with other French ornithologists have contributed largely to our knowledge of the ornithology of the country.

Mr. Bannerman has now published the results of the British Museum expedition as a special supplementary number of 'The Ibis,'<sup>1</sup> which contains the itinerary, and account of the physical features of Tunisia and a fully annotated list of the birds, together with many beautiful reproductions of photographs of the country, and a map.

Tunisia is divided into two main divisions by the author, the northern cultivated and forested region and the southern more or less desert area, and he describes no less than ten faunal subdivisions which impressed him while travelling, although upon working out his report he adopts the six regions delimited by M. Levauden. These are (1) the forested area on the northern Mediterranean coast, (2) the broad cultivated region lying to the south, (3) the maritime plains on the east coast, (4) the steppe country south of "2," (5) the semidesert strip and (6) the extended true desert south of Djerid.

The narrative gives one a good idea of the character of the country that the expedition passed through and illustrates the great variety of physical conditions as we pass from north to south. The annotated list is carefully prepared and is full of notes on the habits and distribution of the species as well as discussions on relationship and nomenclature.

The expedition brought back 740 bird skins together with some mammals and a good series of dried plants. Only one new form was secured—*Erithadus rubecula levaudeni* which has already been published. Mr. Bannerman is to be congratulated upon an excellent report.—W. S.

**Reiser on Bird's Eggs from China and Tibet.**—This report<sup>2</sup> is based on the collections of Dr. Hugo Weigold who accompanied Walter Stötzner's expedition to Szetschwan, East Tibet and Tschili, in 1914. It consists of an annotated list of sets of eggs of thirty-four species with detailed measurements.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> Report on the Birds collected and observed during the British Museum Expedition to Tunisia in 1925. By David A. Bannerman. The Ibis (Twelfth Series) Vol. III. Supplement, 1927. March pp. 1-213, pl. I-IX.

<sup>2</sup> Zoologische Ergebnisse der Walter Stötznerschen Expeditionen nach Szetschwan, Osttibet und Tschili auf Grund der Sammlungen und Beobachtungen Dr. Hugo Weigolds. 4. Teil. Vogelei, von Otmar Reiser. Abhandl. und Berichte der Mus. für Tierkunde und Völkerkunde zu Dresden. Band XVII (1927) April 5, 1927.