

RECENT LITERATURE

Terrestrial locomotion of the vertebrates.¹—From the short title of this book, the ornithologist might expect to find some discussion of flight, but this mode of progression receives scant attention, as the full title may be taken to give warning. In so far as birds are fitted for traveling on the ground, they receive their due share of the discussion although the more purely terrestrial vertebrates—the reptiles and mammals—occupy the more prominent place.

According to Dr. Howell's view, the protoave was not lizard-like, crawling up the trunks of the trees, but a reptile able to progress at speed bipedally and hence fitted and inclined to hop briskly from branch to branch. Its arboreal life was thus essentially saltatorial as that of the bird is today. Its fore limbs were evidently not used in cursorial progression as much as the hind limbs or they would not have developed alone into wings but flying would have been accomplished by both pairs of extremities. *Archaeopteryx* and *Archaeornis* both had saltatorial hind limbs. Ninety per cent or more of the land birds have limbs of higher cursorial specialization anatomically than all but the most highly adapted mammals, even including the weak-legged goatsuckers. The most cursorial birds have musculature but little different from that of the slower forms.

On the other hand, as Dr. Howell points out, a long tail is a characteristic of the swifter tetrapod reptiles and those with long necks, whereas all birds have the caudal structure very greatly abbreviated in an obvious adaptation for flight. Hence he concludes that the shortened caudal vertebrae in the flightless Palaeognathae are valuable evidence that they, in common with flying birds, are descended from flying arboreal ancestors, at least from an ancestral stock that could glide easily though probably not fly very efficiently.

The skeletal structure and musculature of the vertebrates are discussed in detail with the evolution of the anatomical characteristics that are important in the function of terrestrial locomotion. The evolution of the pectoral and pelvic girdles and the limbs attached thereto, methods of securing support and balance, and similar details are presented well and graphically. In the case of the birds, only the pelvic girdle and limbs are treated since these alone are functional in the sense of the scope of the book.

Considerable attention is given to the gaits of mammals, but those of birds are so much simpler that they demand less discussion. The majority of birds walk, but many that live much of the time in trees hop, as did the arboreal bipedal reptiles. However, it is not possible to segregate natural groups of birds on this basis. Dr. Howell considers the difference between the saltatorial and cursorial types of birds to be slight and to involve chiefly, if not exclusively, the functioning of the nervous system.

In spite of its necessary emphasis on mammals, the book contains a great deal of valuable information about birds and the ornithologist will profit by its discussions. One may wish that the author, with his experience as an anatomist, will some day give us a similar discussion of aerial locomotive in the vertebrate in which birds will, of necessity, occupy the major place.—J. T. ZIMMER.

¹ Howell, A. Brazier. 'Speed in animals / their specialization for running and leaping.' 8vo, pp. xii + 270, figs. 1-55, 11 vignette headings, 1944. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. Price, \$4.00.

Notes on the Procellariiformes.¹—To state that this work is a puzzling production would put the case mildly. It discusses genera, species, and subspecies of Procellariiform birds, real or alleged, in an extremely disconnected and scrambled manner. The numerous headings represent neither chapters nor a systematic list of forms, and when one reads on pages 20 and 21 a discussion under the title, "Is *matsudairae* a species?," one is hardly prepared to skip through four other groups of petrels and albatrosses on the next eight pages and then to come back to another whack at *matsudairae*, attached to a generic name not previously used. In fact, the multiplicity of short 'news-line' headings reminds the reviewer of nothing so much as the similar headings in James Joyce's 'Ulysses.'

A curious characteristic of the ornithological treatment lies in the asking of many questions, toward the answering of which no attempt appears to be made. One example of this methodology is the following sentence, which relates to forms of the genus *Pterodroma*:

"Should *neglecta* 1863, *arminjoniana* 1869 and *heraldica* 1888 be treated as nearly related forms?"

This question could in all probability not be answered solely by reference to the literature, but inspection of any adequate series of specimens would show that *arminjoniana* and *heraldica* are exactly the same species, and that *neglecta* is, indeed, a closely related form.

The second half of this frankly confusing publication contains keys to the families, genera, and species of petrels and their allies, and long tables giving the amplitudes of taxonomic measurements, as drawn from the publications of various students.

The junior author of the work, Mr. E. J. L. Hallstrom, seems not to have figured previously in ornithological literature. A genus *Hallstroma*, which most authorities will regard as synonymous with *Pterodroma*, is named for him on page 37. This "differs from other Pterodromine birds, having a quiet disposition." There are also descriptions of three or more new subspecies and other categories well concealed in the text, such as the subgenus *Stonowa* (p. 27) and the race *Cymochorea leucorhoa muriwai* and the subgenus *Salvipteron* (p. 30).—R. C. MURPHY, *American Museum of Natural History*.

A study of the American Woodcock.²—In the belief that Maine supported a larger breeding population of the American Woodcock than any other state in the Union and in view of the fact that a refuge for the species, established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, already existed in the state, that region was chosen as the field for the investigation reported in the present paper. It is a study of the species in particular relation to game management, although considerable information of wider application is included. The authors have endeavored, however, to avoid duplication of the work done by Pettingill in his excellent monograph (Mem. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 9: 167-391, 1936) except in the field of management. They have drawn on a wide variety of published information and acknowledge the assistance of numerous collaborators, all of which helps to make the account more complete.

¹ Mathews, Gregory M., and Hallstrom, E. J. L. 'Notes on the Order Procellariiformes.' 8vo, 62 pp., folding keys. Canberra, 1943. Price, 12 shillings 6d.

² Mendall, Howard L., and Aldous, Clarence M. 'The ecology and management of the American Woodcock.' 8vo, pp. x + 201, pls. 1-14, figs. 1-11, 1943. Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine.

Weights and measurements of many individuals, later dissected, were taken to determine the most reliable distinction between sexes, but enough overlap was found to make clear distinction not always certain. The length of bill was discovered to be the most reliable external factor.

Distribution and migration are discussed, and courtship and mating behavior are carefully reported. Contrary to the opinion of various other workers, the authors found no evidence of polygamy and consider the species essentially monogamous, at least so far as the problems of game management are concerned. Studies of territory showed evidence in agreement with previous accounts that males frequently return to the same territory in a succession of years—a point important in management. Nesting activities, feeding habits, cover preferences, and similar factors are of primary interest in the same connection. Limiting factors in the bird's struggle for existence are analyzed and management practices, based on all this information, are proposed and discussed.

No evidence was found of the reputed powers of the bird to "withhold" its scent in emergencies. The participation of the male in incubation duties was still left uncertain but no positive evidence was obtained that he ever took part in this task.

The authors find the need for planned management immediate. The bird is free from organic disorders, which simplifies the problem to that extent. The house cat was found to be the most serious predator but an overproduction of egg-eating mammals in any locality may require some predator control. Artificial propagation is not promising since there are no records of the species breeding in captivity.

The establishment of refuges is recommended, to the number of fifteen, at least, throughout the breeding range of the species. Each of these is to be from 3000 to 10,000 acres in extent although each may be broken into smaller units of a few hundred acres. The preparation of artificial singing grounds is recommended [but since each of these would be occupied by a single male to the exclusion of others, the number required might entail considerable expenditures!], and preservation of cover is essential. Hunting should be watched carefully for critical changes in population that may require immediate alteration in seasonal regulations.

The report is a comprehensive but succinct little brochure that may be read with profit by anyone interested in this important game bird from the standpoint of a game manager, sportsman, or general ornithologist.—J. T. ZIMMER.

A classical lexicon for naturalists.¹—In this convenient volume, the author has defined a long list of classical words that are suitable for use in biological nomenclature. The Greek words are given in their Latinized forms but with the Greek originals parenthetically added. Primary and some secondary accents are indicated and combining forms are appended with their changes of accent when required. Derivations and synonyms are added in many cases.

No attention is paid to improperly spelled or constructed terms nor to otherwise barbarous terms, nor are personal and place names included. On the other hand, an effort has been made to include all the names given by the Greeks and Romans to plants and animals, however obscure or unidentifiable these may be today. Many of these ancient terms are now applied to the same forms or groups as they

¹ Woods, Robert S. *The naturalist's lexicon / A list of classical Greek and Latin words used or suitable for use in biological nomenclature / with abridged English-Classical supplement.* 8vo, pp. xvii + 1, 1-282, 1944. The Abbey Garden Press, Pasadena, California. Price, \$2.75 (plus postage); foreign, \$3.00.

originally were, or to their near relatives, but others are not, as is evidenced by the generic name *Colius*, originally, according to the lexicon, applied to the Green Woodpecker!

To make the lexicon more usable, there is a classified condensation of the more important words arranged in an English-Classical supplement. Here the English names of the animals and plants (variously segregated), physiological terms, habitats, adjectives, numerals, colors, physical qualities, verbs, prefixes, and other general terms, are listed alphabetically with their various Latin (or Latinized Greek) equivalents. It gives a ready source of suggestion to the taxonomist in search of a satisfactory term to bestow on his new form or group.

In an introductory chapter there is a brief discussion of the proper construction and pronunciation of classical words which can be studied to advantage by those whose familiarity with Greek and Latin may be restricted to the classical or pseudo-classical names that are found in biological literature, usually without their derivations.

The volume makes a handy reference work that should find a welcome reception for the systematist's book-shelf.—J. T. ZIMMER.

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