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CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES. By James Bond. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. 1940 (published July 25): 6 x 9 in., xi + 184 pp., map. \$2.00.

This very useful check-list incorporates a large amount of data within a few pages. Under each form the author gives a reference to the original description and to synonyms, if any, published since the first three volumes of Peters' "Check-list" and parts 2-13 of Hellmayr's "Catalogue." The range is stated in some detail. A very worthwhile feature, especially in a region in which there is a high degree of endemism and in which many forms are gradually being exterminated, is a statement of the occurrence and abundance of nearly every bird, based mainly upon the author's own experience in the field. Appendices list birds known only from subfossil remains, species known only from hearsay, and introduced forms. Of considerable interest are the numerous comments on the probable relationships of various birds, as suggested by similarity of voice and breeding behavior. The author takes a moderate stand in the matter of recognition of genera and species, and he even does not hesitate to synonymize some of his own races.

Bond recognizes 692 forms of birds as occurring in the West Indies. In 1892 Cory listed 585 forms from the same area, so that approximately 100 birds have been added within the last 50 years. This increase is partly due to the description of new subspecies and partly to the collecting of North American migrants. Very few actual "discoveries" have been made, however, since only five or six full species have been added during that period. In the author's words, "it may be said that systematic study of West Indian birds is almost completed."

This book is indispensable to anyone interested in the distribution of West Indian birds.—P. Brodtkorb.



Brodkorb, Pierce. 1941. "Check-List of Birds of the West Indies by James Bond." *The Wilson bulletin* 53(1), 40-40.

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