

In the winter of 1899-1900 Macoun began to write his *Catalogue of Canadian Birds* which was revised by him in 1907-08 and republished in 1909. In 1882 Macoun published a large and illustrated work called *Manitoba and the Great North West*, in which he gave a glowing account of the prairie lands and their possibilities. Referring to this book he says: "I included in it almost everything I knew and thought about the country."

John Macoun, in the course of his exploratory work, discovered many new species of animals and plants, most of which have been named by other scientists. At the end of the autobiography is a list of 48 species discovered by Macoun and given the specific name *Macounii* by their describers. The list includes 20 Flowering Plants, 14 Mosses, 2 Lichens, 6 Hepaticæ, 1 Starfish, 2 Mollusks, 1 Butterfly, and 2 Fish, and is a remarkable tribute to Macoun's activity as a collector.

A few errors have crept into the book. Thus the writer is informed by Mr. A. A. McCoubrey, who is familiar with the western mountains, that the illustration facing p. 230, which purports to show Mt. Macoun, is as a matter of fact a photograph of the Sir Donald Range which does not include Mt. Macoun, this peak being situated some distance south of the range represented. This mistake is unfortunate, since Mt. Macoun is a fine mountain, well worthy of commemorating by its name the work of the great Canadian naturalist. On p. 286 Lake *MacGregor* should be Lake *McArthur*. On p. 262 Macoun, writing concerning the year 1891, says: "We looked up at the place where Mr. Abbot was killed." Mr. Abbot was not killed until 1896. On p. 224 *Dr. Chedle* should be *Dr. Cheadle*. The lack of a map showing the routes of Macoun's chief journeys in the west is a serious omission which detracts from the value of the book.

Macoun's personality included an interesting variety of characteristics. He had an indomitable will, great powers of physical endurance, high courage and tenacity of purpose, all of which enabled him to overcome obstacles to his progress. He was a born naturalist with an intense love of plants and animals and with a collector's instinct. His wide knowledge of natural history, his excellent memory and his vivacity and humour made him an interesting conversationalist and companion; but, on the other hand, he was often dogmatic, and he was undeniably egotistic. He had, as everyone who reads his "Autobiography" must admit, a profound belief in himself; but, without this, he would scarcely have been able to accomplish what he did for Canada. His dogmatism and egotism are all the more easy to forgive and forget in view of his never-failing kindness of spirit and helpfulness to all younger workers and those who

sought his assistance. This spirit of universal kindness and helpfulness is acknowledged in an introduction to the "Autobiography" by Ernest Thompson Seton and is gratefully remembered by many others.—A. H. R. B.

THE "BRITISH BIRDS" MARKING SCHEME. Progress for 1922, by H. F. Witherby, *British Birds*, Vol. XVI, No. 10, March 1, 1923.

As indicated by the title, this is a report on the past year's work of marking birds under the auspices of "British Birds", one of the junior bird publications of England. Previous reports have been made annually since 1909. It is but a brief summary, merely enumerating the number of birds ringed, or as we are accustomed to say, "banded". No attempt is made here to report results farther than to count the recoveries. Evidently English ornithologists have gone into the work thoroughly and the amount that has been accomplished is illuminating to those who imagine that systematic bird marking is a particularly American field of investigation. Since the inauguration of the work in 1909 some 114,724 birds, of 106 species, have been banded. The total of recoveries is not given but there is an interesting table of 28 species giving total number ringed since 1909, number of recoveries so far and the percentage of recovery. In this the Mallard leads them all. Out of 686 ringed, 152 were recovered, a percentage of 22.1. This is a decidedly better record than that reported in the *Auk* for the banding of Ducks on Lake Scugog in 1920 and reviewed in these pages in the last March number, p. 57, where 16 per cent was the record. Cormorants, Herons, Sparrow Hawks and Woodcock follow with from 17 to 12 per cent. It is evident that birds that are commonly hunted for sport or as vermin make, in the number of returns, the most profitable banding subjects. On the other hand, the lowest percentage is obtained from the Spotted Flycatcher, 1,066 birds having been ringed with but 2 recoveries, a percentage of only .1.

As indication of individual activity it is interesting to note that Mr. Mayall ringed through the last year 1647 birds, though he visited no large bird colony where numbers could be ringed without much effort. Mention is made of the seventh record from South Africa of a Swallow with a *British Birds* ring, without, however, giving other data.

It is satisfactory to see that the Old Country is accomplishing so much good work in this interesting and incalculably valuable line of research.—P. A. T.



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