

and presented to the Academy some fifty to sixty-five years ago. Although an investigator of marked ability in several fields of scientific research, he published almost nothing, but imparted freely his discoveries to others for publication. While his name is thus missing from the list of eminent naturalists, it stands high on the roll of the patrons of science.

Other papers in the present number of 'Cassinia' are: 'The D. V. O. C. and its Twentieth Anniversary,' by George Spencer Morris; 'Duck Shooting on the Coast Marshes of New Jersey,' by I. Norris De Haven, with supplementary matter by Mr. Stone; 'Cruising through the New Jersey Pine Barrens,' by J. Fletcher Street; 'On the Nesting of the Broad-winged Hawk and Goshawk in Pennsylvania' (with two half-tone plates), by Robert P. Sharples; 'Breeding Birds of Passaic and Sussex Counties, New Jersey,' by William L. Baily (an annotated list of 94 species); 'Report on the Spring Migration of 1909,' compiled by Witmer Stone; 'Abstract of Proceeding of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1909'; 'Bibliography for 1909,' comprising titles of papers relating to the birds of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, and of other ornithological papers by members of the Club; and a list of the officers and members of the Club. (For further notice of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Club, and a list of the officers of the Club for 1910, officially communicated, see below under 'Notes and News.')

— J. A. A.

J. Grinnell on the Birds of the Prince William Sound Region, Alaska.¹—

This is a report on the birds collected by Miss Annie M. Alexander's third expedition to Alaska, made in the summer of 1908, the party being composed, in addition to Miss Alexander, of Joseph Dixon, Edmund Heller, A. E. Hasselborg, and Miss Louise Kellogg. The material obtained, on which the present report is based, consists of the note-books of the collectors, 500 bird skins, ten sets of eggs and a few nests, now in the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy, as a gift from Miss Alexander. This report is preceded by a similar one by Mr. Edmund Heller on the mammals, in which the itinerary, collecting stations, and the physiography of the region are described in detail, including the islands in Prince William Sound and the adjoining mainland coast. The life zones represented in this district are the Hudsonian and the Arctic-Alpine. The fauna is naturally scanty, the mammals obtained numbering only 16 species, and the birds collected or noted, 89 species, specimens of 86 of which were taken.

The introduction to Mr. Grinnell's paper on the birds contains a numbered 'Check-list of the Species Observed,' followed by the very fully annotated "general account," a discussion of the composition and origin of the avifauna of the Prince William Sound district, and of "melanism in the

¹ Birds of the 1908 Alexander Alaska Expedition, with a note on the Avifaunal Relationships of the Prince William Sound District. By Joseph Grinnell. University of California Publ., Zoölogy, Vol. V, No. 12, pp. 361-428, pll. xxxii-xxxiv, 9 text figures. March 5, 1910.

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."



Grinnell, Joseph. 1910. "J. Grinnell on the Birds of the Prince William Sound Region, Alaska." *The Auk* 27, 236–237. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4071151>.

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