

REVIEWS

ANNOUNCING A NEW JOURNAL IN ZOOLOGY

The Society of Systematic Zoology will initiate publication this year of a new quarterly journal, **SYSTEMATIC ZOOLOGY**. Articles of general interest to all zoological systematists will occupy most of the space in the journal. Book notices, news items, projects, people, museum activities, lists of systematic societies, and other miscellany will round out the contents.

Occupying a hitherto conspicuous void in the coverage of zoological fields by scientific journals, the new serial has three purposes: "(1) to publish, and therefore to encourage the preparation of, contributions on basic aspects of all fields of systematic principles and problems; (2) to provide a suitable forum for discussion of the problems of the systematist and his methods; and (3) to report the other activities of the Society of Systematic Zoology as news."

The Society of Systematic Zoology was organized in 1947 and now has over a thousand members, of cosmopolitan distribution. The president for 1952 is Dr. Alfred S. Romer of Harvard University, and the Secretary-Treasurer is Dr. Richard E. Blackwelder of the U.S. National Museum. A rotating council of eight members supervises activities of the Society, and an editorial board of thirteen members (including the editor and two associate editors) will control publication policies. On a pro tem basis Dr. Blackwelder is acting as editor, with the aid of an eight-member editorial board.

Subscription rates per annum are \$4.00 to members, \$7.00 to non-members and institutions. A discount of \$1.00 is offered to non-members making payment with order and without invoices or bills. Correspondence regarding subscriptions and membership should be addressed to the secretary of the Society, Dr. R. E. Blackwelder, Room 429, U.S. National Museum, Washington 25, D.C.

The Life of the Spider. By John Crompton. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Of all the groups of animals none is more fascinating and yet so little understood by the public as that containing the spiders. The ignorance on the part of the general public concerning spiders is perhaps in part due to the fact that they have little or no

direct economic value. To the casual observer, spiders build webs, or tangled masses of silk, in dark corners of cellars and out-buildings. It comes as a great surprise that there are many hundreds of kinds of spiders that do not build webs but seek their prey in the manner of a carnivorous mammal.

"The Life of the Spider" by John Crompton, published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, effectively presents the fascinating side of the life of spiders. The words and descriptions of the author are well chosen so that the reader is compelled to read the book from cover to cover. The book is divided into thirteen chapters dealing with such subjects as the character of the silk of spiders, the method of web construction, and the habits of various non-web-making spiders such as wolf spiders, crab spiders and trap-door spiders. In the chapter dealing with the trap-door spiders, the author inserts a fascinating account of the hunting habits of a particular species with which he is well acquainted. The method by which young spiders are dispersed is excellently described.

This book is one which should be read by all those interested in natural history. It would make an excellent reference book for students in secondary and primary schools, since it deals not only with the life history of spiders, but also brings out the importance of spiders and the fact that few of them are poisonous. — T. B. KURATA.

Carolina Quest. By Richard M. Saunders. University of Toronto Press and University of South Carolina Press, Toronto and Columbia, 1951; pp. I-XI, 1-119. (\$3.50).

This is a delightful account of a first trip by two young 'Northerners' to the deep South in June. A month of enthusiastic and discerning observations on the ways of both birds and men are set forth, and these experiences are interestingly, often humorously, told. The vivid word pictures of first exciting impressions of new birds, gracious people, and enchanting scenery will be poignantly nostalgic to those who have visited South Carolina, and are entertaining reading for those who have not. Moreover, readers do not have to be dyed-in-the-wool bird enthusiasts to enjoy the book. It is well printed on good paper and is decorated by twelve attractive wood engravings by Sylvia Hahn. — W. EARL GODFREY.



Kurata, T. B. 1952. "The Life of the Spider, by John Crompton [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 66(3), 90–90. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341410>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89102>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341410>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/341410>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.