

whilst the British and the Continental forms may be distinct, the difference is only subspecific and hence the insular bird should stand as *Passer domesticus hostilis*. As undoubtedly our birds are descendents of English stock the same name applies to them. Thus though it does not seem that "Prussian Sparrow" can ever be substituted for "English Sparrow" in this country we really accomplish the same and by a sort of reflex action the opposite of the intention of the original describer, in calling it *hostilis*, the enemy.

P. A. TAVERNER.

LANTERN SLIDES FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.—For some time the Biological Division of the Geological Survey of Canada has maintained a collection of lantern slides for free educational use. This collection covers about three hundred slides of various natural history subjects. They are mostly from original photographs taken by officers of the Survey though some have been kindly donated by other photographic naturalists. Most of them are unusually well colored and of great photographic as well as zoological interest. The series is still far from complete but it is being added to as rapidly as possible and already it is possible to illustrate a great number of subjects by its means. Birds are principally represented but mammals, amphibians and reptiles are also included in the series.

Collections of these slides are loaned freely to any responsible person or institution to be used for educational purposes and not for personal profit. The only conditions attached to their use are, that they be returned promptly with a report on the occasion of their use and that the borrower pays express charges, if any, and makes good losses not due to ordinary wear and tear.

It is regretted that distance makes it impossible to extend this service west in the prairie provinces, or to the Pacific coast at present, but plans are now being considered for having duplicate sets distributed from the branch offices of the Survey in Edmonton and Vancouver.

Any one desiring to use these slides should make written request to the Biological Division of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, stating his official position, if any, the subject of the lecture it is proposed to illustrate, the society, institution or audience to be addressed, or under whose auspices the gathering is to be held, the number and kind of slides desired and the date. The application should be made well in advance so that conflict of dates can be adjusted. The slides should be returned promptly that others who may be waiting for them and have dates already set may not be disappointed.

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BIRD MIGRATION.—In the May, 1919 number of THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST there is an article on the above subject by Mr. H. Mousley containing statements which can hardly be allowed to pass unchallenged.

Mr. Mousley rejects as "one of the fairy tales of science" the theory that birds during migration find their way by the sense of sight. He states that "in pure nature there is no such thing as self-consciousness, or the power of reasoning," yet he admits that these faculties are found in man. If man is not a part of "pure nature" then we are forced to the conclusion that he must be regarded as super-natural, a conclusion with which I think few scientific men will agree. Further this statement is not in accord with carefully conducted observations and experiments on the higher animals. Mr. Mousley goes on to say that some of the higher animals, such as dogs, horses, etc., from long and intimate association with man, no doubt at times display traces of it, that is, of self-consciousness or reason. This statement again is contrary to all the data furnished by the study of animal psychology, since no entirely new type of mental process, such as reason, can possibly be evolved by association with man, and all that man can do in the training of animals is to make use of, and develop more fully, faculties already possessed by the animals in question.

Mr. Mousley continues: "All wild birds and animals, however, I believe, are subconscious, and therein lies the secret of their making no mistakes." The onus of proof that wild animals "make no mistakes" is upon Mr. Mousley. If this were true it would be most fortunate for them, but I fancy any close observer of wild life can recall cases in which wild animals have made mistakes, mistakes which in many instances have cost them their lives.

The next statement is: "To understand this more fully one must be prepared to accept the fact that telepathy (now recognized by science) pervades and is general throughout the entire animal kingdom. It is a potential faculty (working on an astral plane unknown to us at present) which interconnects subconscious mind, and permits silent intercourse to be established." I would venture to suggest that telepathy is far from being recognized by the majority of scientific men, that the idea of "astral planes" is regarded by most biologists as a phantasy, and that there is absolutely no proof that any mind can communicate with any other mind, save through the medium of the senses of hearing, sight, touch or smell.

But Mr. Mousley goes even further than relying on telepathy to account for the directing of migra-



tion and brings in "telaesthesia," which he defines as "power of vision passing the limits of time and space." One can readily see what a very useful power this would be, a power more wonderful than all the gifts of prophecy and fairy wands, but one must be allowed to express a slight doubt as to its existence.

If birds are possessed of this miraculous power it is rather hard to account for the fact of their becoming lost in a fog when migrating. A fog certainly might cause them to lose direction if they depended on the sense of sight, but it should have no influence on a purely mental attribute, such as "telaesthesia" is assumed to be.

In conclusion I would suggest that if the guiding of migration by the sense of sight is to be regarded as one of "the fairy-tales of science" that Mr. Mousley's theory may be regarded as "fairy-talaesthesia."

A BROOKER KLUGH.

A DOPED BUTTERFLY?—Early in September last year in woods on the shore of Lake Missanog, Frontenac County, Ontario, I came across a patch of very large specimens of the poisonous Fly Agaric, *Amanita muscaria*. On the pileus of one of the specimens was a Camberwell Beauty, *Eu Vanessa antiopa*. It did not take flight when I touched it but merely wobbled weakly from side to side. I picked it up and let it go in the air, but it fell to the ground with closed wings. I then placed it on the trunk of a tree, to which it clung for a few minutes, and then fluttered back to the same fungus, where I left it.

It would seem as if this butterfly had been poisoned by muscarine, the extremely toxic alkaloid found in *Amanita muscaria*, though no absolute conclusion on this point can be drawn from this single instance. Its behaviour in returning to its poisonous repast is interesting, but here again no definite conclusions can be drawn from a single instance. I should be glad to hear of any other observations on the relations of insects to this fungus.

A. BROOKER KLUGH.

MORCHELLA BISPORA IN CANADA. Mr. W. S. Odell's note in a recent number of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, apparently constitutes the first published record of the finding of *M. bispora*. The Division of Botany, Central Experimental Farm, some years ago (1912) studied some Morels collected by Mr. J. W. Eastham, B.Sc., near Billings Bridge; among them Mr. Eastham showed me *Morchella bispora*, and I well remember the charac-

teristic ascus containing the two large hyaline spores. There is no doubt in my mind that the species then examined is the same as that recorded by Mr. Odell.

H. T. GUSSOW.

MORCHELLA BISPORA IN CANADA.—I was interested in the article "A Rare Fungus New to Canada," by Mr. W. S. Odell in the January number of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* in which he records *Morchella bispora* from Chelsea, Quebec, and from the vicinity of Ottawa, but I beg to point out that his statement that "There is no record of its having been previously found in Canada," requires modification. In the Ontario Natural Science Bulletin, No. 6, 1910, I first recorded this species from Canada and I reproduce below the original note:—

"*Morchella bispora* is a very common fungus on the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario. It grows abundantly in damp woods, appearing in May, and lasting till early in June. Some of the sporophores attain a very large size. As an edible species it ranks high, as it is tender and of excellent flavour. Dr. Dearness informs me that this species has not been previously recorded from Canada."

The fact that records of the occurrence of species of plants and animals in Canada can be easily overlooked shows the need of some central authority for each group. Such an authority should not be a worker in the group but should be willing to receive and keep on file all records of the distribution of species in his group. I would suggest that the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club try and make such arrangements for as many groups as possible, and publish the names of the authorities, so that anyone wishing information on the distribution of species in a certain group can appeal to the proper authority. In this connection I should be extremely glad to receive records of all species of Cyanophyceae (Blue-green Algae), Chlorophyceae (Green Algae) and fresh-water Protozoa of Canada.

A. BROOKER KLUGH.

RUSTY BLACKBIRDS WINTERING IN ALBERTA.—A flock of eleven Rusty Blackbirds have remained in Camrose, Alberta, throughout the past winter. The winter of 1919 and 1920 has been as severe, and perhaps longer than any since the settlement of this portion of the west. The ground was frozen several inches deep by October 10th, and on the 18th of that month eight inches of snow covered the ground. On November 6th the thermometer registered 24 below zero, on which day a flock of Evening Grosbeaks began their residence in Cam-



Klugh, A. B. 1920. "Bird Migration." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 34(6), 118–119. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.337985>.

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