

SCIENCE

VOL. LVI DECEMBER 15, 1922 No. 1459

<i>The Trend of Avian Populations in California:</i> DR. JOSEPH GRINNELL.....	671
<i>Are Permanent Disturbances of Equilibration inherited?</i> DR. C. R. GRIFFITH.....	676
<i>The Usefulness of Analytic Abstracts:</i> DR. GORDON FULCHER	678
Scientific Events:	
<i>Conservation of the Resources of the Pacific; The University of Wyoming and Dr. Nelson; The Industrial Division of the American Chemical Society; The Union of American Biological Societies; Hotels for the Boston Meeting</i>	680
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	682
<i>University and Educational Notes</i>	686
Discussion and Correspondence:	
<i>Glaciation in the Cordilleran Region:</i> J. T. PARDEE. <i>Effects of Copper Wire on Trees:</i> DR. GEORGE B. RIGG. <i>Tangent Lines:</i> PROFESSOR FLORIAN CAJORI.....	686
Scientific Books:	
<i>Hicks on the Analysis of Spectra:</i> DR. CHARLES E. ST. JOHN.....	687
<i>American Eosins:</i> DR. H. J. CONN.....	689
<i>Zoological Nomenclature:</i> DR. CHARLES WARDELL STILES.....	690
Special Articles:	
<i>The Organization of the Nervous Mechanism of Respiration:</i> PROFESSOR F. H. PIKE and HELEN C. COOMBS.....	691
<i>The American Chemical Society:</i> DR. CHARLES L. PARSONS	693

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, publishing the official notices and proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

11 Liberty St., Utica, N. Y. Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.
Entered as second-class matter January 21, 1922, at the Post Office at Utica, N. Y., Under the Act of March 3, 1879.

THE TREND OF AVIAN POPULATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

THERE is one besetting temptation to which any student fairly advanced in the exploration of his chosen field would seem justified in yielding. This temptation is to hold up to close scrutiny any striking generalization given wide publicity, save it be from the most authoritative source—to see whether it be really founded in fact. A case in point has to do with avian populations.

It has been stated or at least implied with increasing frequency in late years, in various publications, especially in those emanating from organizations concerned with bird protection, that serious decrease is taking place in our bird life, and that this decrease is due to the thoughtlessness or perfidy of man and is preventable. These statements and implications are being expressed not only with regard to the longer and more thickly settled eastern United States, but with regard to the west in general, and to California. Confessedly with some *a priori* doubt, but with a view to testing fairly the truth of these dicta, I have undertaken an inquiry into the situation in our own state, for the purpose of finding out what the facts are—of ascertaining whatever changes in our bird population may, indeed, have become apparent, and the causes therefor.

To begin with, of course, terms must be defined. In using the word "decrease," or its opposite, "increase," in this connection, one of two distinct ideas may be in a person's mind. He may refer to the *number of species*, or he may refer to the aggregate *number of individuals*. Or, both of these ideas may be held, in more or less vague association.

To take up the **first** concept: There is no question whatsoever that a certain few species of birds have become nearly, or quite, extinct, as far as California is concerned, within the

Science

56 (1459)

Science **56** (1459), 671-700.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/56/1459.citation>

PERMISSIONS

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.

Copyright © 1922 The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.