

preserving the California Quail which is disappearing in spite of all efforts made in its behalf.

After showing that conditions of food and shelter have not changed and that natural enemies such as predacious Hawks, foxes, etc., have decreased equally as fast as the Quail, if not more so, he seeks for some other cause and we think has found it in the increasing lack of available water. Young Quail in the downy stage must have water within walking distance which Dr. Grinnell estimates as within 400 yards, and when every possible source of water is being piped to irrigate thirsty ranches and even seepage is being caught by underground pipes scarcely a drop is left available for the little birds which probably die at an early age. As Dr. Grinnell says "water supply available in the dry season is a factor delimiting not only human but certain other vertebrate populations in the arid southwest" and if the humans are going to take it all the Quail and probably other species would seem to be doomed.—W. S.

**An Outline of Bird Study.**<sup>1</sup>—The General Biological Supply House of Chicago is issuing a series of scientific pamphlets "each of which is prepared by a scientist whose training lies in the special field presented." One of these recently issued is entitled 'An Outline of Bird Study,' and is by C. Blair Coursen. It consists of brief accounts of the principal activities of the bird student with a series of questions or "study suggestions" following each, and in an appendix a list of books, periodicals, ornithological associations and bird study material with addresses where information may be obtained.

The chapter headings are: The Value of Bird Study—covering economic ornithology; How to Study Birds—field study, recording data etc; Birds in Nature—distribution, migration and nesting; Birds in the Class Room—classification, structure and molts; Activities for the Individual Bird Student—bird houses, feeding and photography; Activities for the Bird Class—winter feeding, sanctuaries and bird banding.

The pamphlet seems to be an admirable introduction to the study of birds and should be especially useful to beginners who have no one at hand to help them.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Dr. Chapin.**<sup>2</sup>—Dr. Chapin has presented a popular account of his late expedition to Uganda, central Africa, in 'Natural History' which is exceedingly interesting reading.

Of a more technical character is his review<sup>3</sup> of the African Cookoos of the genus *Cercococcyx*, in which is described a new species from Ruenzori

<sup>1</sup> An Outline of Bird Study. By C. Blair Coursen, 1928. General Biological Supply House, Chicago, Ill., pp. 1-47, numerous illustrations. Price \$1.00, \$10.00 per dozen.

<sup>2</sup> Ruenzori from the West. By James P. Chapin. Natural History, XXVII, No. 6, pp. 615-627.

<sup>3</sup> The African Cuckoos of the Genus *Cercococcyx*. By James P. Chapin. Amer. Mus. Novitates No. 313. May 16, 1928, pp. 1-11.