

through and we trust that those can be found who will prepare terse articles based upon his book with easily grasped facts and arguments, and spread them in the sportsmen's journals and the daily press throughout the country.—W. S.

Jones on 'Insect Coloration and the Relative Acceptability of Insects to Birds.'—After Mr. W. L. McAtee's several able attacks on the theory of protective coloration, it is interesting to find something¹ on the other side of the question although the author accepts most of Mr. McAtee's conclusions and says: "Belief in the protective value of a character is not invalidated by evidence that it is occasionally disregarded by many enemies, or totally disregarded by a few, for it may still be one of the many factors in the equilibrium of survival." From this viewpoint he sees no irreconcilable conflict between the stomach examinations employed by Mr. McAtee and the experiments which he describes.

Mr. Jones' interesting experiments consisted in spreading various dead insects on bird feeding shelves, being careful to avoid any advantage in position, etc., and carefully recording the preferences displayed by the birds, eleven species of which fed there. The results of his experiments are given in detail and his conclusions are that insect acceptability to birds is relative and its causes complex; that coloration has material influence, and that in general brighter colored insects are the less acceptable; that there is a prevalence of so-called "warning coloration" among insects which feed on poisonous or acrid plants but that the relative unacceptability of many insects must depend upon other factors. Mr. Jones has also carried on interesting experiments on the acceptability of various dead insects to ants.—W. S.

Fauna of the National Parks.—This excellent publication² discusses the problems confronting the National Parks Service with regard to the conservation of the natural fauna and flora. The conditions at the time of settlement of the West and the changes already wrought by man before the parks were established are described as well as the efforts that have been made to re-establish the former conditions.

The point is emphasized that the arbitrary boundaries of the parks often exclude areas absolutely essential to the existence of their animal inhabitants, as for instance the lack of winter ranges for certain species which must as a result go outside the park at this season if they would survive. The problems of protecting the vegetation from the animals and the methods of control of the latter are discussed and there is an interesting

¹ *Insect Coloration and the Relative Acceptability of Insects to Birds.* By Frank Morton Jones, Sc.D. *Trans. Ent. Soc. London*, LXXX, pp. 345-386, pl. 18-28. December 31, 1932.

² *Fauna of the National Parks of the United States. A Preliminary Survey of Faunal Relations in National Parks.* By George M. Wright, Joseph S. Dixon, Ben H. Thompson. *Contribution of Wild Life Survey Fauna Series No. 1.* May, 1932. Washington, 1933. Pp. 1-157, figs 1-56. Price 20 cents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office.