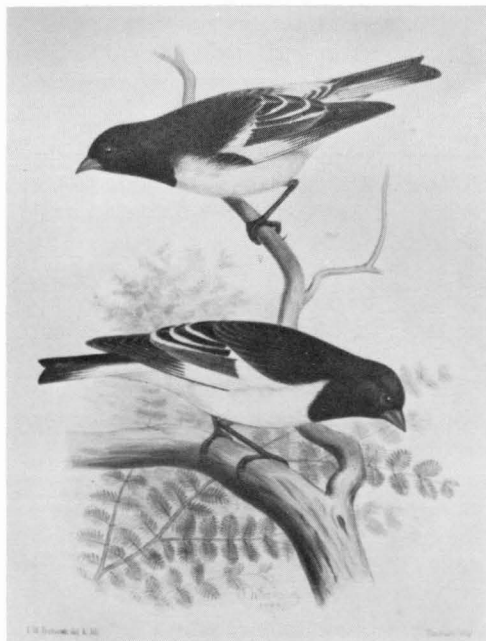


chronological list of classification after which he gives the common name of the bird. He then lists the native habitat and the various places the bird has been introduced. The bird itself is then described in lucid detail.

A very enlightening commentary follows each scientific description. Many side lights are revealed. For instance, Bartlett quotes J.H. Gurney saying, "the cottagers put up pots of earthenware against the walls of their houses for the sparrows to nest in, not by way of encouraging them but to make them into a pie when the young ones get big enough."



Another thing pointed out is the wonderful musical ability of the Virginia Cardinal. He quotes Alexander Wilson, "From the clearness and variety of their notes, which both in the wild and domestic state, are very various and musical; many of them resemble the high notes of a Fife, and nearly as loud." A friend has a pair of these birds in his aviaries and I plan to take special measure to listen to them.

Interesting quips and quotes like this fill the book, and really enhance the readers knowledge regarding the birds in question. Another valuable feature is the field-notes that are recorded for the benefit of the reader. Because the book was written almost ninety years ago some of the field information is the first of its kind to be recorded by Europeans. Items such as social behavior, nidification, seasonal migrations, and diet are described in detail. This information can be used by contemporary bird breeders to approximate natural conditions for the captive birds.

In addition to the qualities already mentioned Bartlett's monograph contains some striking art work. F.W. Frohawk, the artist, was a master. There are twenty five plates in black and white. Six plates are colored by hand and are magnificent. Each plate depicts two or more birds, often a male and a female. Many of the birds are drawn to scale. The worth of the volume is greatly enhanced by the quality of the plates and this is one reason the book has become a collectors item.

All things considered, the *Monograph of the Weaver-Birds* is a book most bird people would love to have. Its organizational flaws are a drawback to the serious researcher but the lively conversation and the quality descriptions make the old tome a delight for the casual reader. It should have an honored place alongside your other bird books ■

REPRIEVE FOR ILLINOIS BREEDERS

The potential threat to Illinois aviculturists from that state's Endangered Species Act has been lifted, advises William Vokoun of Downers Grove, Ill., thanks to the persistent efforts of local breeders. Meetings with the Director and Board of Conservation, who administer the Act, have resulted in the easing of restrictions, thereby encouraging the captive propagation of endangered species by private individuals. Illinois is perhaps the only state regulating the possession of exotic endangered species, an area of jurisdiction usually left to the Federal Government.

Permits for the possession and transfer of endangered species are now available, upon application, at no charge. Applications require information with regard to species kept and a description of the area and conditions under which they will be kept. Breeders must annually submit data on the number of birds kept, raised, and transferred, and to whom.

Mr. Vokoun indicates the leadership of Illinois' aviculturists is trying to ascertain whether that state's government will honor Federal regulations allowing for interstate shipment of endangered species under permit, and whether Illinois will follow Washington's lead in reclassification of those species from endangered to threatened that qualify under the 'captive, self-sustaining population rule' ■

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 1952 Beech St., Santa Clara, California 95054, for information.

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