

**THE PILTDOWN FORGERY**—J. S. Weiner—*Oxford University Press*, 214 p., illus., \$3.50. Reporting an investigation into how the Piltdown hoax was perpetrated on the scientific world. By one of the scientists who exposed the forgery.

**PROTECTIVE COATINGS FOR METALS**—R. M. Burns and W. W. Bradley—*Reinhold*, 2d ed., 643 p., illus., \$12.00. A description of modern advances and a review of historical developments in the field, beginning with earliest records.

**REMEMBERING MADE EASY**—Arthur L. Logan—*Arco*, 94 p., illus., \$2.50. You must first want to remember, but if you have the desire the author offers you several systems of repetition and association to use as crutches to support your memory.

**ROALD AMUNDSEN: A Saga of the Polar Seas**—J. Alvin Kugelmass—*Messner*, 191 p., illus., \$3.00. A newspaper and magazine writer tells the dramatic story of the life of the explorer.

**THE ROCKET PIONEERS ON THE ROAD TO SPACE**—Beryl Williams and Samuel Epstein with foreword by Andrew G. Haley—*Messner*, 241 p., illus., \$3.75. The story of the pioneers from 18th century William Congreve and his war rocket to the developers of the V-2.

**THE SAGA OF THE GREY SEAL: Introducing the Natural History of the Grey Seal of the North Atlantic**—R. M. Lockley—*Devin-Adair*, 149 p., illus., \$4.00. The adventurous story of a trip by tiny Irish-built curragh, or long canoe, to the secret breeding place of the seals.

**SLIM GREEN**—Louise Dyer Harris and Norman Dyer Harris—*Little, Brown*, 53 p., illus., \$2.00. A child's story book that tells of the ways of a little green snake.

**A SYSTEMATIC METHOD FOR LOCATING INSTANT CENTERS**—Willard C. Lyford and Leo A. Padis—*Virginia Polytechnic Institute*, Engineering Experiment Station Series No. 97, 21 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. A method to aid the mechanical engineer in locating these centers and a presentation of the theory on which this method is based.

**TV REPAIR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON FRONT ENDS**—Sidney Platt—*Rider*, 122 p., illus., paper, \$2.10. A practical book for the technician.

**THE TREE OF CULTURE**—Ralph Linton—*Knopf*, 692 p., illus., \$7.50. The author intended this book to express the concepts and data he had acquired during his 40 years of work in the field. The work was nearly completed when Dr. Linton died in 1953, and his wife completed it from his notes and lectures.

**TUMOR-HOST STUDIES: The Physiological and Pharmacological Action of an Iodide-trapping Substance Formed in Tumor-bearing Animals**—Kenneth G. Scott and Chin-Tzu Peng—*University of California Press*, Publications in Pharmacology, Volume 2, No. 22, 31 p., illus., paper, 75 cents. A study of abnormal iodine metabolism and its relation to tumor growth.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1955

justified by his deceptively robin-like appearance. And, since he is frequently mistaken for an oriole, he might well be called a "ground oriole," too, though he is not.

The other name by which this bird is commonly known is "chewink." The two names, towhee and chewink, are intended to represent the bird's characteristic call—an interesting illustration of how differently two people can hear the same syllables.

Other names by which he is known include swamp robin, joree, bush-bird and turkey sparrow.

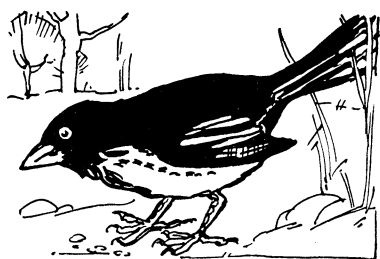
Like many another bird of the forest edges, the towhee is a useful servant of man in his destruction of insects and their larvae. The towhee gets in his good work at the strategic moment, for his scratching about in the dead leaves of springtime turns up the six-legged destroyers by the dozen and hundreds, just at the beginning of insect breeding time and before they have a chance to lay their eggs. Thus parent insect and brood are destroyed at one gulp, and a stitch in time saves many times nine.

The towhee's way of scratching on the ground is peculiar, and an aid in distinguishing it from other birds. The towhee scratches by using his feet alternately, after the manner of hens. Another unusual characteristic of the towhee that some bird watchers have noted is an apparent nonchalance when his nest is approached.

It could be that this is the bird's way of deceiving the intruder—a deliberately assumed role!

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The *hornbill*, an African bird, walls herself up with mud inside a hollow tree at nesting time, leaving only a small hole through which her mate feeds her and the young.



Towhee

➤ HE IS dodging in and out among the undergrowth, and if you do not get a good look at him, you will surely call him a robin. For his back and tail and head are dusky, and the sides of his breast are the terra-cotta red of the American robin's. And he has a brisk, cheerful, tail-flicking way of hopping about that makes you think of that most familiar of our birds of spring.

But if you look a little closer, you can see that his duskiness above is deeper than that of a robin, and that the red does not run all over his breast, but gives way to a wide apron or bib of white underneath. Along his wings also, when they are folded, is a betraying line of white that marks him as not a robin.

The towhee is a bird of many aliases. "Ground robin" is a popular name, and

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