Yucatan coast. The Cichlidæ are a family of fresh water fishes much resembling superficially our sunfishes (Centrarchidæ), and their occurrence in salt water had not been previously noted.

The discovery of a new species of catfish belonging to the genus *Conorhynchos*, in the Rio Usumacinta was also reported. No species of this genus was previously known from any point north of Brazil.

But the most interesting thing in connection with this bagre was the discovery that it has the habit of oral gestation, a curious habit not previously known to be possessed by *Conorhynchos*, though long known among species of South American and Ceylonese catfishes of the genus *Arius*.

When the eggs are laid they are taken up by the male catfish, who retains them in his mouth until they are hatched.

In the mouth of one of these catfish Mr. Nelson found thirty-nine eggs many of which readily rolled out when the fish was held up by the tail.

The eggs are quite large, measuring about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and the embryos are well developed.

Another important discovery was the fact that *Girardinichthys innominatus* is ovoviviparous. This is a species of Pæciliidæ (killifishes) and was found by Dr. Rose to be an abundant inhabitant of the Rio Lerma. Its viviparity had not been noted before, nor was the species known to occur elsewhere than about the City of Mexico.

W. W. Cooke spoke on 'Some Untenable Theories of Migration,' stating that there were two theories as to the relative positions held by the individuals of a given species of bird in their winter home as compared with their positions during the breeding season. According to one theory the relative positions were the same, the birds moving southwards as one body, while according to the other theory the relative positions were reversed, those individuals which bred at the extreme north of the breeding range passing over the others, thus becoming the southernmost birds during the winter.

The Maryland yellow throat was given as

an example of this latter method of migration, those individuals that breed farthest north going the farthest south in winter while the southern breeding birds remained almost stationary. But even here a complete reversal of position does not take place, for the intermediate breeding birds do not winter so far south as the southern breeder.

The red-winged blackbird, it was stated, did not follow either of the so-called rules and, in fact, each species seems to have a method of migration peculiar to itself, so that no general rule could be laid down that would cover even a large proportion of the different species. In most species, however, a reversal of position does occur during the early spring migration, but this condition does not last long.

F. A. LUCAS.

THE ELISHA MITCHELL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

At the 141st meeting of the Society, at the University of North Carolina, on April 15, the following papers were read:

'Arsenic Pentachloride': Mr. H. H. BENNETT.

'Copper Deposits of North Carolina': Dr. J. H. PRATT.

'Price of Chemicals': Dr. CHAS. BASKERVILLE.

'Non-cellular Differentiation in Embryos': Dr. H. V. WILSON.

CHAS. BASKERVILLE,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

SCIENTIFIC TERMINOLOGY.

THE word 'ecology' is not to be found in recent English dictionaries, no doubt because such dictionaries do not profess to include every vagary of incorrect spelling that may find its way into print. But had Mr. Horace White looked up 'æcology,' he would have found it in the best dictionaries of the last fifteen years at any rate. He would not, however, have found the definition that is now given by you, but—to quote the 'Century Dictionary'—"The science of animal and vegetable economy; the study of the phenomena of the life-history of organisms, in their individual and reciprocal relations; the doctrine of the laws of animal and vegetable activities, as manifested in their modes of life. Thus, parasitism, socialism, and nest-building