

in cutting the scarps and depositing the materials of the various formations are marine, estuarian, fluvial and possibly subaerial.

The North Atlantic Coastal Plain underwent numerous changes in altitude while the various formations were building. They are briefly as follows:

1. Subsidence and deposition of the Lafayette.
2. Elevation and erosion of the Lafayette.
3. Subsidence and deposition of the Sunderland.
4. Elevation and erosion of the Sunderland.
5. Subsidence and deposition of the Wicomico.
6. Elevation and erosion of the Wicomico.
7. Subsidence and deposition of the Talbot.
8. Elevation and erosion of the Talbot.
9. Subsidence and deposition of the Recent.

The subsidence appears to be still in progress.

F. L. RANSOME,
Secretary.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY AT WASHINGTON.

THE 365th regular meeting was held on Saturday evening, May 17.

Arthur H. Howell spoke on 'The Summer Birds of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont,' describing the fauna and flora of the region at some length, and stating that the flora in particular was characterized by the presence of a number of plants customarily found farther north. The paper was illustrated with lantern slides showing characteristic features of the region as well as some of the birds.

W. W. Cooke discussed 'Bird Migration Routes,' paying special attention to the theory that in crossing considerable bodies of water birds either followed along existing islands, or where islands or direct land connection had formerly existed. The speaker gave the results of long and careful observation of many migratory North American birds, and showed that in passing from our southern States to Yucatan and Central America, or in returning, the small birds passed directly over the Gulf of Mexico where there had never been land. Very few of our birds either wintered in Cuba or passed through it while migrating, while the popular idea that birds passed from North to South America along the Windward and Leeward Islands was entirely

incorrect. Neither, as far as could be ascertained, did birds follow certain routes, or 'lanes,' in their migrations, but covered a wide area. V. K. Chesnut exhibited a number of slides showing various poisonous plants of the west, giving their Indian names and uses. F. A. Lucas showed slides of the large Claosaurus skeleton at Yale, stating that it was the first complete Dinosaur skeleton mounted in this country.

F. A. LUCAS.

SECTION OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

At a meeting on April 28 a paper entitled 'Two Experiments in Color Vision' was presented by Professor Robert MacDougall, and in his absence was read by title. He has found (1) that the subjective intensity and saturation of a given constant objective color increases with the retinal area illuminated by it. This increase is most marked in case of green, least marked in case of red. A similar phenomenon appears in the grays. The apparent difference in brightness between a patch of gray and a light or a dark background is increased by enlarging the patch. (2) A given area of illumination produces a stronger subjective effect when this area is divided and distributed over the retina than when it is compact. This is perhaps because the area of irradiation is increased by distributing the area of illumination.

Professor J. E. Lough reported some experiments on the memory of school children. He had tested 682 schoolgirls ranging in age from 9 to 15. The method employed was the same as that used by Lobsien in a similar investigation of the school children of Kiel. A list of ten words was read to the pupils who then wrote down as much of the list as they could remember. This was repeated with new classes of words until eight lists had been given. These experiments show: (1) That memory improves but slightly between the ages 9 and 15, being 62 per cent. at 9 and 64 per cent. at 15. This is in sharp contrast with the results obtained by Lobsien—38 per cent. at 9 and 75 per cent. at 15. (2) That the amount remembered depends upon