

## NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. JAMES G. COOPER, a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Haywards, Alameda County, California, July, 19, 1902, at the age of 72 years. He was born in New York City, June 19, 1830, and was the oldest of six children. His grandfather, James Cooper, an English merchant, settled in New York soon after the close of the Revolution, where he died in 1801, after having accumulated a comfortable fortune. His father, William Cooper, was born in 1798; he early decided to devote himself to the study of natural history, and at the age of nineteen became one of the founders of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, now the New York Academy of Sciences; in 1821 he sailed for Europe, to continue his studies in zoölogy, where he attended the lectures of Cuvier in Paris, and was elected the first American member of the London Zoölogical Society. He was later secretary of the New York Lyceum, and was prominently identified with the notable group of naturalists who soon made the Lyceum prominent among the scientific institutions of America. He was the friend of Audubon and Nuttall, and a correspondent and co-worker of Lucian Bonaparte, editing the last two volumes of his 'American Ornithology.' Bonaparte, in appreciation of his friendship and assistance, named for him the hawk now known as *Accipiter cooperi*, described from specimens taken by Cooper in Hudson County, N. Y. He also collected the type and only known specimen of the sandpiper, *Tringa cooperi*, named in his honor by Baird.

Thus James G. Cooper, the subject of the present sketch, was reared and educated under surroundings especially favorable for the development of his inherited scientific tendencies. In 1851 he was graduated from the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, and spent the following two years in the city hospitals. In 1853 he was appointed surgeon to the northern division of the Pacific Railroad Survey, under the direction of Brevet Captain George B. McClelland, at the instigation of Professor Baird. After serving in the field as surgeon and naturalist for about one year, he returned to Washington to prepare his report. He was soon forced, however, by poor health to seek the more favorable climate of the Pacific coast, where he devoted three years to making collections, most of the time at his own expense, during which period he not only continued his work in the Northwest, but collected also in southern California, and made a trip of three months southward as far as Panama. In 1857 he was appointed surgeon to the expedition under Lieut. Mullan to survey a Wagon Road from Fort Kearney to the Pacific, but the expedition was abandoned when it had reached the Rocky Mountains in Montana, and Dr. Cooper then went on a collecting trip to the Mojave Desert. In 1860 he was again a contract surgeon, and was detailed to accompany troops across the continent from New York to Fort Columbus, Department of Oregon. During the following three years he was engaged in collecting

and in field exploration in southern California, including both the coast and the interior as far east as Fort Mojave. In 1864 he was commissioned Assistant Surgeon in the Second Cavalry, California Volunteers. On being mustered out, at the close of the Civil War, he served as naturalist to the Geological Survey of California. In January, 1866, he was married to Miss Rosa M. Wells of California, and soon settled down to the practice of his profession, which, in 1871, he was obliged to abandon in consequence of failing health. In 1875 he moved to Haywards, California, where he subsequently resided.

Dr. Cooper was throughout his life greatly handicapped by poor health, and for a considerable period was dependent upon his medical practice for support; yet his scientific activity extended over a long period, and embraced a wide field, although his chief work was in ornithology and conchology. His best known ornithological publications are his 'Report on the Birds collected on the Route near the 47th and 49th Parallels' (jointly with Dr. Suckley, in *Pacific R. R. Rep. of Expl. and Surv.*, Vol. XII, part ii, pp. 140-291, 1859), and his 'Ornithology of California' (Land Birds, royal 8vo, 1870, edited by Baird). In 1869 he published a paper of much interest entitled 'The Fauna of California and its Geographical Distribution' (*Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, Vol. IV, pp. 61-81), and in the same year a series of papers on 'The Fauna of Montana Territory,' (*Amer. Naturalist*, Vols. II and III). His contributions to the literature of conchology are far more numerous than his papers relating to other subjects.

In his field work Dr. Cooper was an 'all-around' naturalist, collecting not only birds, mammals, insects, and shells, but extensively in botany, so that many departments of natural history are indebted to his intelligent labors. As already intimated, his field work and his writings relate almost exclusively to the natural history of the Pacific coast region of the United States; and in recognition of his ornithological services the ornithologists of California have very appropriately named their organization 'The Cooper Ornithological Club,' and have published as the first article of the Club's 'Bulletin' (Vol. I, 1899, pp. 1-5) a portrait of Dr. Cooper and an extended sketch of his life, written by Mr. W. O. Emerson, to which we are mainly indebted for the biographical facts above given.<sup>1</sup>

ALONZO M. COLLETT, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Denver, Colorado, August 22, 1902, from typhoid fever, at the age of 33 years. He was born in Indiana, and

---

<sup>1</sup> Since the above was sent to the printer we have received the September-October number of 'The Condor,' in which Mr. Emerson adds an 'In Memoriam' to his previous biography of Dr. Cooper, and Mr. Joseph Grinnell adds a list of his ornithological writings, which number 26 titles.

when a youth of seventeen moved with his parents to Kansas, and entered the Kansas Normal School at Emporia, from which he was graduated in 1890, and where he remained for two years as an instructor. He then became a laboratory assistant in the department of botany at Harvard University, where he remained for two years, and then took the position of teacher of natural sciences at East Denver High School, Colorado. "The subjects which he taught here were zoölogy, physiology, botany and physical geography, besides a small but enthusiastic volunteer class in biology. Aside from his uniform success as a teacher, Prof. Collett had a way of endearing himself to his students by his ready sympathy in everything which interested them." He achieved considerable success as a collector and taxidermist, but appears to have published very little relating to ornithology.

CLARENCE H. MORRELL, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1895, died at his home in Pittsfield, Maine, July 15, 1902, after a lingering illness of nearly two years duration. He was born at Pittsfield, Me., February 23, 1872, and at an early age showed a preference for nature study. While botany and other branches of natural history claimed much of his attention, he had a deeper interest in the birds. While in the Maine Central Institute as a student, he assisted in teaching the classes in nature study, and was recognized as an authority on birds. Later he devoted all of his spare time to natural history pursuits, and wrote extensively on such subjects for the local newspapers and for many of the bird magazines. He became an active member of the Maine Ornithological Society soon after its organization, and was chosen editor of its 'Journal,' but lack of time compelled him to resign the editorship on the completion of the first volume. He continued his interest in the 'Journal' and in the work of the Society, being one of the faithful few through whose efforts the activity of the society was maintained.

In his field work he was careful and conscientious, and anxious that all his records should be beyond question. His series of Maine Warblers 'sets' is among the finest ever gotten together. Although one of the few holding a permit from the Governor of the State to collect birds, nests, and eggs for scientific purposes, he very rarely shot a bird, except with his ever-ready camera. His chief delight was to row his boat up the pond to his favorite haunts and carefully photograph the birds and nests which he found there. The writer was frequently his companion on these trips, and many happy hours have we spent together among the birds. His quiet, gentle disposition, his manliness, and his deep love of the beautiful endeared him to all who knew him; and in his death science loses a sincere worker, and his friends and co-workers a friend whose loss will long be felt. — J. M. SWAIN.

THE PUBLISHERS, Houghton, Mifflin, and Company (Boston and New York), announce for early publication Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey's

'Handbook of Birds of the Western United States.' "This book is intended to do for the western part of the United States what Mr. Frank M. Chapman's 'Handbook' has done for the East." It has been prepared on similar lines, and will contain "over six hundred illustrations, including thirty full-page plates from drawings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes."

Such a work has long been needed, and its preparation could hardly have fallen into better hands. The price is stated to be \$3.50 net, postage extra.

MR. RALPH G. MILLS, of 356 West Decatur St., Decatur, Illinois, is investigating the parasitic habits of the American Cowbird, and desires information concerning their eggs. In a letter to the Editor of 'The Auk' he states that he desires data respecting "the exact size of the one or more Cowbird's eggs in each nest, the size of each of the eggs of the host, the name of the host, and any additional facts of interest." In publishing the results of his investigations Mr. Mills will give due credit for any assistance rendered him.

THE U. S. Department of Agriculture has just issued, as 'Farmer's Bulletin No. 160,' a digest of the 'Game Laws for 1902. A Summary of the Provisions relating to Seasons, Shipment, Sale and Licenses,' prepared by Dr. T. S. Palmer and H. W. Olds, assistants on the Biological Survey. "The object of this bulletin is to meet a general demand for information on game laws by presenting briefly the most important regulations concerning the shipment and sale, especially those governing interstate commerce in game. . . . It is believed that the matter presented in this report, although greatly condensed, will prove useful not only to sportsmen and wardens but also to dealers, shippers, farmers, and others interested in game." By means of maps and tables the information is presented in an exceedingly convenient form. Map 2 (p. 30) shows that only four States — Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, and Virginia — permit the exportation of game. Map 3 (p. 40) shows that the southern Provinces of Canada and about three fourths of the States and Territories prohibit the sale of certain kinds of game at all times; some of these permit the sale of certain kinds of game during the open season and for a certain number of days immediately thereafter, as shown in the explanatory table accompanying the plate. All of the Southern Provinces of Canada, and all of the Northern States except Idaho, and Arkansas, Florida and South Carolina of the Southern States, require nonresidents to obtain hunting licenses, the fee for which varies from \$5 to \$50 in the different States and Provinces. Tables show at a glance the close seasons for all kinds of game in the United States and Canada. A gratifying and encouraging feature of this exhibit is the increasing strenuousness of laws for the protection of game, and the wide-spread legislative interest in the subject.