

are nine fine specimens. It may not be out of place to mention the fact that Messrs. Belding, Bryant, Frazar and Nelson did not meet with it on their expeditions in Lower California. There is also a very fine specimen of the Pigmy Owl from a new locality—Miraflores. As you know this is a very rare bird in collections. But what pleased me most of all on this expedition is a series of eight specimens of the tiny Micropallas or Elf Owl from several localities. It seems the only skins in existence from Lower California are two specimens in the U. S. National Museum at Washington! Messrs. Xantus, Bryant, Frazar and Nelson failed to meet with it, so it must be pretty good. Of the Dwarf Horned Owl there are two fine specimens. Also three Barn Owls, two Short-eared Owls and three Burrowing Owls. From Miraflores and El Sauz there is a general collection of birds.

On December 26, at El Sauz, I found a nest of *Columba fasciata vioscae*, with an egg. The nest was a platform of twigs, etc. In the mountain stream nearby the ice was nearly an inch thick! Several other nests were found but contained young ones.

(Letter no. 2): *La Paz, Lower California, Mexico; March 10, 1909.* I arrived here a few days ago from the islands of San Jose, San Francisco and El Callo. On San Francisco I took a series of *Neotoma* which may be new. The object of the expedition to the Islands was to make a search for the eggs of *Brachyrampus craveri*, the Craveri Murrelet. I am pleased to write you that I took over 40 eggs of this species on a rock that lies about two miles from San Jose Island. I also took a series of 35 skins. We found the Murrelets nesting in the crevices among the rocks of the bluff. The nest in all instances was a slight depression in the earth at the end of the crevice and generally contained two eggs, but some nests only contained one. The young take to the sea two days after being hatched! Twenty-two days is the period of incubation. The males help in the act of incubation, many males being taken on the eggs in the day time. In the early morning hours, particularly about an hour before dawn, there was much activity among the Murrelets, they at this time being seen in pairs chasing each other, and making much noise among the rocks. Our tent was at the foot of the bluff and it was impossible to sleep, the Murrelets made so much noise; for when they fly there is a loud whirring sound. Towards the end of our stay they learned that the walls of our tent were soft and seemed to take delight in butting into it in their amorous frolics. One pair in the excitement must have hit it head on, for they dropped to the ground with a thud and fluttered together under the side of the tent into my bed, where

I was trying to sleep. I caught them by throwing my blanket over them. This is the first collecting I have ever done in bed! They proved to be male and female. In the day time I did not observe any in the waters around the island. They seem to feed far out to sea, for with the exception of the setting birds in the crevices, I did not see any in the vicinity of the Islands in the daytime. But in the early hours of the morning the rocks of the bluff seemed alive with them; they all disappeared on the approach of dawn. This species has three distinct notes, the one of displeasure being very harsh. According to Mr. Brewster's book, it seems only one set of eggs of this species has been taken and that was on the Island of Raza in 1875, and was taken by Dr. Streets. The Island of Raza is over 300 miles north of San Jose Island.

On the Island of San Francisco, on a high headland overlooking the sea I found a Bald-headed Eagle's nest. The nest was a bulky structure and contained two eggs. This set seems to be the first recorded from Lower California. Also took a set of eggs of the Fish Hawk. On a Mangrove Island in a lagoon on the Island of San Jose I found a colony of Great Blue Herons breeding. I took about 25 eggs, and three sets of four eggs and three sets of three eggs. If I am not mistaken this is the first colony of Great Blue Herons discovered in Lower California.

Also took some more Snowy Herons, Oystercatchers, Mangrove Warblers, and Brewster Boobies. The above collection was made under difficulties. We camped on El Callo Rock at the foot of a bluff. With the exception of a few days the wind blew a gale during our stay there and threatened our tent with destruction. I had two sailors with me. On the second day on the Island one of them deserted me and returned to La Paz, for it was cold and very windy. I saved the tent by throwing up a wind break of rocks. During the gales we were literally prisoners on the rock, for we could not venture out in our boat, the sea being too rough.

Very truly yours,  
W. W. BROWN, JR.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN, By HORACE W. WRIGHT, with an Introduction by Bradford Torrey and illustrations. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1909; pp. i-xx, 1-238; cloth, \$1.00 net.

This book contains the record of nine seasons' observations made in a city park and is a very interesting example of what may be done by one pursuing the study by way of pastime in

producing something of value by reason of the careful and regular attention given it.

As a local list, it would form a complete guide to those needing some help in making a beginning in the field of ornithology; as a migration record, it has a certain value to the advanced student, both as one of the few examples of published field notes and for the care and appreciation with which the field has been covered.

To one who has felt the same kindling of enthusiasm in the field set apart by such observers as Mr. Torrey and Mr. Wright, that of ornithology without a gun, the words of Mr. Torrey's introduction are particularly interesting. May these words indeed "set many another man upon the same delightful quest," and, so doing, give him that happiness which comes from sitting "in the saddle of a pet hobby horse, ambling at his ease, morning after morning, over the pleasant malls", if only of a quiet city garden.

The book is published in this well known firm's usual style with pleasing binding and careful printing.—H. T. C.

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO, by JUNIUS HENDERSON. University of Colorado Studies, Vol. VI, No. 3; Boulder, Colorado; April, 1909.

This list which, according to the introduction, includes 216 species of birds known to occur in Boulder County, is a compilation based upon the published and unpublished observations of a number of ornithologists who have worked within the confines of the county at various times.

The introduction deals with the topography of the county, and is followed by a bibliography, which is only partially complete. The remarks under each species in the annotated list proper are exceedingly brief, only enough being said to establish the status of the species.

Taken as a whole, the list, which is 23 pages in length, altho written by a paleontologist, is quite comprehensive, and aside from the usual quota of errors in citation, omissions, etc., and a few rather surprising statements (e. g., the Lesser Scaup recorded as a "rare migrant") the list is well written and a timely contribution to Colorado Ornithology.—R. B. R.

BIRDS OF THE WORLD | a Popular Account by | FRANK H. KNOWLTON, Ph. D. | [etc., 7 lines] | The Whole Edited by | Robert Ridgway | [one line] | with 16 colored plates and 236 illustrations | [monogram] | New York | Henry Holt and Company | 1909. Royal 8vo, pp. i-xiii, 1-873, ills. and col. pl. (as above). [\$7.00].

Not since the final edition of Coues' Key have we received a book already proving itself so generally useful as the one of the above

title. Of course its scope is so totally different that one does not think of it in the same connection as the several purely systematic works appearing lately. The text is popularly written, in the sense of being well-wordsed in complete sentences, and the matter shows itself to have been culled out so as to present the sort of information desired by the mass of its intended readers. Yet there is no carelessness in the way of inexact statements, and as far as we have read scientific correctness seems to have been the ambition of the author well realized. The convenience of having at hand abridged accounts of foreign birds we hear of frequently, makes the book one to keep on the reference shelf along with Newton's "Dictionary of Birds." The chapter on classification, giving an "Outline of the Classification of Birds," as adopted by Dr. Knowlton, and approved of by Mr. Ridgway, is a valuable feature. While the colored plates are rather poor, the text figures are good, tho few are new.—J. G.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The April meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the lecture room of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley on the 20th inst. The meeting was called to order at 11:30 A. M. with Pres. W. K. Fisher in the chair and the following members present: W. K. Fisher, J. Grinnell, Jos. Mailliard, R. S. Wheeler, J. Rowley, J. R. Pemberton, W. P. Taylor, F. E. Newbury, M. S. Ray, O. J. Heinemann, Carriger, Miss Alexander, Mrs. Grinnell, Mrs. Burnham and Dr. Ella Cool Walker.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as read.

The motion was made and carried that the secretary cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership all those whose names were presented at the last meeting. [See list of names and addresses in last CONDOR.]

The motion was made and carried that the Secretary make a list of the publications in the Club's library to be disposed of and mail same to C. O. C. members.

On motion the club adjourned and thru the courtesy of Miss Alexander those present were enabled to examine the extensive collections contained in the new museum. After this all assembled beneath a large tree near the museum where a group photo was taken; a walk was then taken up a nearby canyon and lunch was enjoyed beneath the trees lining the stream.

H. W. CARRIGER, *Secretary*.