

We are pleased to announce the addition of a new name to the list of active bird men resident in California. Mr. J. H. Bowles, late of Tacoma, Washington, has removed to Santa Barbara, which he will make his home. As a result of his bird work in the vicinity we may expect some ornithology along new lines, at least for that region. Mr. Bowles is an intensive student of life histories, and an accurate and vivid writer.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A second new fossil bird from the asphalt beds near Los Angeles is described by Mr. LOVE HOLMES MILLER in a paper entitled *TERATORNIS A NEW AVIAN GENUS FROM RANCHO LA BREA*.^{*} The species is, of course, new, as well as the genus and is called *Teratornis merriami*, in honor of Professor John C. Merriam of the University of California, thru whose efforts the Rancho la Brea fossil beds have been brought to the attention of paleontologists.

The description is based on coracoids, sternum, and nearly complete skull. The fragments so far secured represent at least four individuals. The bird is related to the Birds of Prey, and was of immense size, much greater than any existing flying bird. It is found difficult to assign the new form to any existing family, the vulture-like characters predominate. Since the limb bones and feet are still unknown final conclusions as to relationship are postponed; yet it appears probable that a new family will have to be established for it. This discovery is in the greatest degree of importance and interest, probably more so than any previous one among fossil birds for two decades.

In the same paper there is also described a new species of vulture, larger than the Turkey Buzzard, closely related to the Black Vulture of the South Atlantic States. This is called *Catharista occidentalis*. As Mr. Miller's work on the fossil birds of the Rancho la Brea beds continue, we may expect further discoveries of extreme interest in the light that they shed on the history of the avifauna of southern California.—J. G.

THE HABITAT GROUPS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. By FRANK M. CHAPMAN, Curator of Ornithology. (= Guide Leaflet Series, no. 28, New York, February, 1909, pp. 1-48).

As indicated in the title, this is an explanatory manual of the beautiful series of habitat groups of North American birds now on exhibition in the American Museum. Each one is figured, and to nearly every one about a page of text is devoted, explaining the figures in the group, and the mode of life of the species treated. A map indicates the localities represented—"From the Bahamas to the Gulf of St.

Lawrence, from the Atlantic to the Pacific"—and each group, we are told "is the result of a special Museum expedition in charge of the Curator of Ornithology." The subjects are well chosen, and, judging from the illustrations, the work is magnificently carried out. He is indeed a fortunate man who can bring an undertaking such as this to a successful conclusion.—H. S. S.

Mr. ERNEST ADAMS has recently published a local list of decided interest to Californians entitled *LAND BIRDS OF PLACER COUNTY* (=Placer County Institute Research, October 12, 1909, pp. 27-46).

In this paper 158 species are formally mentioned, and brief notes are given as to relative abundance, seasonal occurrence, and local distribution. Of particular interest to the reviewer is the record of two Cedar Waxwings in the County as late as June 19. The author does not, however, give his opinion as to whether or not this may indicate the nesting of the species in the region. It seems probable, in our mind, that it is merely a late date of departure. Another record of note is that of the Phainopepla, on September 8.

The list is a large one, for the land birds of a single county; but it must be remembered that Placer County includes a transection of the Sierra Nevada from the western lowlands to Lake Tahoe. All of the life zones with their characteristic species, are thus represented in the County.

Lists, of the nature of the present one, are always of value locally. School teachers and others interested in an amateur way will find Mr. Adams' list of decided aid. And further, those more advanced bird students interested in general distribution will find in this paper much data of value.—J. G.

THE BIRDS OF NEW JERSEY. By WITMER STONE, Curator, Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia. (=Annual Report of the New Jersey State Museum, Part II, Trenton, N. J., 1909, pp. 11-348, pl. 1-84). The object of the present report is "to present keys and descriptions that will enable anyone to identify birds that he may see, to give a brief sketch of the more characteristic habits of the common species, and at the same time to include such facts and records on the distribution of all species as will make the report a thoroughly up-to-date list of the birds of the State." All this it appears to do, clearly and concisely, while the author's name is sufficient guarantee of the care and accuracy with which the work is carried out. There are chapters on the destruction and protection of birds, and on distribution and migration, while the report closes with a bibliography of the principal books and papers treating of New

^{*}Univ. Calif. Publ. Geology V, pp. 305-317, figs. 1-11; issued Sept. 10, 1909.

Jersey ornithology, and also with a glossary of the technical terms used. The numerous plates are taken from a variety of sources, mostly from the works of Audubon or Wilson, tho there are some photographs of museum specimens, and many drawings by Fuertes and Horsfall, which, however, have already appeared elsewhere. Typographically the work appears to be excellent, so much so that the curious blunder by which the name *Vermivora leucobronchialis* is attached to two species on the same page (Brewster Warbler and Lawrence Warbler), strikes one with additional force.—H. S. S.

THE BIRDS OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, CARIBBEAN SEA, by CHARLES B. CORY, Curator of Department of Zoology (=Field Museum of Natural History, Publication No. 137. Ornithological Series, Vol. 1, No. 5, pp. 193-255, 1 plate (map), Chicago, October, 1909). Tho based primarily upon collections of birds made for the Field Museum by Dr. N. Dearborn and Mr. John F. Ferry, in 1908 and 1909, this report may be taken as a summary of all ornithological work done upon the Leeward Islands up to the present time. Each of the eleven islands, or groups of islands, is treated separately, and in each case the list of birds is preceded by a bibliography of the ornithological literature pertaining to the place, while thruout the paper pertinent comment is made upon the results attained by previous workers in the field, as compared with the collection in hand. No less than eight new species and sub-species are described—*Coereba lowii* and *Dendroica ruficapilla obscura* from Los Roques Islands, *Conurus aeruginosus tortugensis*, *Tiaris tortugensis*, and *Coereba ferryi* from Tortuga, *Holoquiscalus orquillensis* from Los Hermanos, and *Conurus neoxenus* and *Platycichla venezuelensis atra* from Margarita.—H. S. S.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The September meeting of the Northern Division of the Club was held in the lecture room of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on the evening of September 30, with the following members present:

J. Grinnell, R. Wheeler, W. F. Sampson, W. B. Sampson, H. F. Duprey, M. S. Ray, H. S. Swarth, W. P. Taylor, O. Heinemann, H. W. Carriger, E. W. Gifford, Joseph Dixon, and Miss Alexander, while Miss Kellogg, and Mr. Storer were present as visitors.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 with Vice-President W. P. Taylor in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read. The application of J. Claire Wood, Detroit, Mich., proposed by Mr. Grin-

nell, was presented and laid over till our next meeting. On motion duly carried the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership those whose names were presented at our last meeting. Mr. Emerson's report which was presented at the last meeting was again laid over for one meeting. A report from Mr. Lee Chambers who was a committee of one to finance the publishing of Avifauna no. 5 was read, and on motion the same was accepted. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Chambers thanking him on behalf of the Club for the excellent work done in securing the necessary funds for publishing this Avifauna.

Mr. H. S. Swarth gave a very interesting talk about his recent trip to southeastern Alaska. By means of a launch he was able to visit many of the islands of the coast, and a good collection of birds and mammals was secured. The scarcity of birds in certain sections of the country was very noticeable. The islands are all heavily wooded and as they rise abruptly from the water, traveling was at times very difficult. A curious Indian legend relative to the hooting of the Sooty Grouse was related by Mr. Swarth. The Indians believe that the Raven is the lord of all the birds, and also that at one time both the Sooty and Spruce Grouse hooted, thus making a great noise in the woods. The Raven did not fancy so much noise so he forbade the Spruce Grouse to do any hooting and it has forever since remained silent.

Mr. M. S. Ray presented a paper on "A Defense of Oology" (see this issue of the CONDOR, page 19) and the same was discust by those present. Adjourned.

H. W. CARRIGER, Secretary

SOUTHERN DIVISION

FEBRUARY.—The February meeting was called to order by President Morcom at the City Hall, Los Angeles, Thursday evening, February 25, 1909, with members John Lewis Childs, H. J. Lelande, George Willett, W. Lee Chambers, O. W. Howard, Howard Robertson, P. I. Osburn, Chester Lamb, V. W. Owen, Willard Chamberlain, Howard Wright and J. E. Law present.

The minutes of the last meeting, Jan. 28, 1909, were read and approved. The following applications for membership were presented: J. A. Munk, Los Angeles, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Lawrence Huey, San Diego, proposed by F. Stephens; Miss Elizabeth Day Palmer, Los Angeles, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; D. I. Shepardson, Los Angeles, proposed by O. W. Howard; and R. M. Perez, Los Angeles, proposed by O. W. Howard.

The resignations of Mr. C. L. Newcombe and