

five years of beach work. Other collectors state they have never seen it in this locality; hence the record seems worthy of publication.

Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis*): A specimen shot at dusk on January 31, 1918, near Los Angeles, by a hunter who mistook it for a goose, was presented to this Museum, where it was mounted and placed on exhibition.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*): A winter record, January 6, 1919, appears unique. The bird was seen from a car window, near Del Rey; but no mistake could have been made in identification.

A cripples' convention: While bird-looking on the beach January 1, 1919, near Hermosa Beach, I noted a flock of Sanderling (*Calidris leucophaea*) that acted peculiarly. By working carefully along at some distance from the water, the birds were induced to string out in a line near the water's edge and passed me in that formation, eight of them running and *fourteen hopping*, and close inspection with a glass showed that fourteen of that flock were one-legged. Less than 200 feet farther up the beach were six Knots (*Tringa canutus*) (note the winter record) of which two were "hoppers"; while close beside them, farther from the water, was a flock of seventeen Snowy Plover (*Aegialitis nivosa*) of which not less than five were one-legged. It would seem natural that birds of one species, crippled and unable to compete on even terms with their normal fellows, should flock together to some extent; but such a percentage of cripples, of three species, and the proximity of the different groups of cripples, is interesting, to say the least.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, June 14, 1919.*

The MacFarlane Screech Owl in California.—Through an oversight there was omitted from the 1915 California state list of birds a race of screech owl fully entitled to have been included. This was the MacFarlane Screech Owl, *Otus asio macfarlanei* (Brewster), the claims to which as a bird of California were clearly set forth by Mr. Robert Ridgway in 1914 (*Birds of North and Middle America, Part vi, pp. 697-698*). He gives the range of this owl as including "northeastern California (Fort Crook; Baird, Shasta County?)". The evidence for its occurrence at Baird remains questionable, but for Fort Crook, which is near Burgettville in extreme northeastern Shasta County, there is a specimen in the United States National Museum.

Through the kind offices of Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, Associate Curator of Birds in the National Museum, the undersigned has been privileged to examine this Fort Crook specimen. It is no. 16027, U. S. Nat. Mus., male, taken by John Feilner (probably in 1860), and is in apparently as good state of preservation as if it were taken last year instead of nearly sixty years ago. The present writer has made comparisons between this bird and *macfarlanei* from eastern Washington, without detecting differences of any seeming consequence. Larger size, greater extent of blackish markings on the contour feathers generally, and the browner tone of color dorsally, serve to distinguish it from any specimen of the more southern California races, *bendirei*, *quercinus* and *gilmani*.

The Fort Crook bird, having been in existence so long, has been commented upon by a number of writers before Ridgway announced its status in positive terms. Brewster (*Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, vii, 1882, p. 32*) considered it an intergrade between *bendirei* and *kennicottii*; Townsend (*Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., x, 1887, p. 203*) placed it under the name "*kennicottii*"; Brewster (*Auk, viii, 1891, p. 143*) thought it "about intermediate" between *bendirei* and *macfarlanei*; and Hasbrouck (*Auk, x, 1893, p. 256*) put it under *bendirei*.

Collectors visiting the Modoc region of extreme northeastern California should keep special lookout for the MacFarlane Screech Owl. It ought to be common there locally, even though but one California-taken specimen seems as yet to be contained in any museum.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, April 18, 1919.*

A Breeding Record for the Red-headed Woodpecker in New Mexico.—On Monday, June 16, while making a trip about five miles south of Albuquerque in company with S. E. Piper and J. S. Ligon, of the U. S. Biological Survey, we saw a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) enter a hole in a dead cottonwood tree. An examination showed the hole to contain young birds, probably about ten days old. Both adults were observed a few minutes later carrying food to the young, and on passing the same place about dark one of the old birds was found on the nest. As nearly as I am aware

this is the first breeding record for this species in New Mexico with the exception of the one noted by Mr. Ligon below.

The Red-headed Woodpecker has been observed in New Mexico apparently with increasing frequency since 1915. I find in my records the following notes on the occurrence of this species:

1 adult bird, Albuquerque, June 7 and 8, 1915.

1 adult, Roswell, Feb. 12, 1916.

1 adult, 4 miles north of Albuquerque, Aug. 18, 1918.

1 adult, in same locality as the nest above described, May 25, 1919.

Mr. J. S. Ligon, of the U. S. Biological Survey, supplies the following notes from his records:

July, 1915, nesting at Ft. Sumner, New Mexico.

Sept. 9, 1916, 1 adult, South Spring River, Roswell, New Mexico.

Sept. 4, 1917, 1 adult, Los Lunas, New Mexico.

Aug. 28, 5 adults observed between LaJoya and Isleta, on the Rio Grande, New Mexico.

May 27, 1919, 1 adult, at White Tail, Sacramento Mts., New Mexico.

In a previous issue of THE CONDOR, I have advanced the theory that the Red-headed Woodpecker is invading New Mexico by way of the telephone poles along the transcontinental railway lines. In support of this theory it is interesting to note that all the observations listed above were on or near railway lines.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 17, 1919.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The *Second Ten Year Index to The Condor* will probably be off the press by the time this issue of THE CONDOR reaches our readers. No pains have been spared by its compiler, Mr. J. R. Pemberton, to make this index serviceable in every feasible way. The user will not only be able to find his way to the extensive literature contained in volumes xi to xx by *species* (under all the different names employed for each), but will also be guided on the basis of subject matter, geography, and authors. Needless to say every CONDOR subscriber and Cooper Club member should possess himself at once of a copy of this Index (*Avifauna* No. 13). Applications should be made to the Club business manager, W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Eagle Rock, California.*

About the most thoroughly satisfying book we have yet seen on the birds of any one country is the work now appearing from the press of Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London, entitled "A Practical Handbook of British Birds." No less than six experienced students of British birds are collaborating in the production of the work, each attending to some special portion of the matter relating to each species. Dr. Ernst Hartert is handling the nomenclature and keys; Mr. H. F. Witherby furnishes part of the descriptions and diagnoses, and Miss Annie C. Jackson, part; the field characters are drawn up for the most part by Mr. C. Oldham; Mr. Norman F. Ticehurst

traces the migrations of the birds; and the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain deals with their food and breeding habits. Here is a demonstration of the higher plane of output which is bound to be reached through organized co-operative effort. The three parts of the work which have so far appeared, comprising over two hundred pages and several excellent plates, respond to our scrutiny as well-nigh ideal, as regards both method of treatment and content. Of course our British friends have many more years of ornithological history to draw from, as well as the records of many more observers, than we of western North America have. Any approach to the completeness shown by their work would as yet be impossible here. Many, many years of conscientious gathering and recording of facts yet remain to be done before west-Americans can hope to put through so complete a "practical handbook" of our birds.

Dr. Witmer Stone, Curator of the Philadelphia Academy and Editor of *The Auk*, has spent the early summer in the Chiricahua Mountains, southeastern Arizona. Botany as well as Ornithology received his attention, though we have an idea the main object of the trip was a thorough rest; for Dr. Stone is a prodigious worker and has but rarely allowed himself a vacation. Mrs. Stone "came along too"; and Mr. and Mrs. J. Eugene Law are of the party. Mr. Alex-