

while uttering its complaining note. Thus, with reasonable certainty of success, the Aleutian Tern may be looked for as nesting as far east as Dry Bay, which, so far as the writer knows, is far to the eastward of any previous record of its breeding.—ERNEST P. WALKER, *Phoenix, Arizona, February 7, 1920.*

**Dusky Warbler at Berkeley, California.**—On February 23, 1920, Dr. William F. Bade handed me a recently dead Dusky Warbler (*Vermivora celata sordida*) which he had just picked up in his backyard at 2616 College Avenue, Berkeley. The feathers in a spot on the throat and on the forehead were gone, as if slugs had been at work on the bird, so that it must have met its death the preceding night or before. Upon skinning, I found wounds in the body which suggested that it had encountered the claws of a cat. The bird was a female in good feather. It was somewhat discolored by town soot, so that it had probably been living in the well-known smoke belt of Berkeley and Oakland for some time, perhaps wintering here. The specimen is preserved in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology as no. 40396 of its bird collection, and authenticates the occurrence of the Dusky Warbler a little farther north than heretofore reported. The two other stations for the San Francisco Bay region are Hayward and Palo Alto—occurrences in December, January and February (see *Pac. Coast Avif.*, no. 11, 1915, p. 146). The northernmost breeding point for this warbler so far as known is Santa Rosa Island, below Point Concepcion. Part of the *winter* habitat of the bird thus lies some 260 miles to the northward of its *summer* range, as well as over 100 miles to the westward.—J. GRINNELL, *California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, March 22, 1920.*

**Range of the Magpie in New Mexico.**—On December 28, 1919, I saw a Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) in a willow swamp on the banks of the Rio Grande near Bernardo, New Mexico. I have also seen the species this winter near Tome, and for several winters near Peralta. On October 13, 1918, I saw a large number west of Alameda. They are plentiful in summer near Valley Ranch, New Mexico, and in Rio Arriba County are found throughout the year.

Bernardo, as nearly as I know, is the southernmost point of record. I have never seen one in the Rio Grande Valley proper in summer; apparently they do not breed south of Valley Ranch, on the upper Pecos.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 21, 1920.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Frank S. Daggett died in Redlands, California, April 5, 1920. In his death the Cooper Club has lost one who was a member almost from the inception of the organization and who in many ways was an important factor in the development of the Club. The Southern Division in particular will miss the presence of a member always faithful in attendance at the meetings, and ready, with helpful counsel and personal effort, in the various problems that the Club has faced. An account of Mr. Daggett's life will appear in the next issue of THE CONDOR.

The Supreme Court of the United States has recently handed down a decision upholding the constitutionality of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This opinion was delivered in judgment of a bill in equity brought by the State of Missouri to prevent a game warden of the United States from attempting to enforce the Act and the regulations made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Ornithologists will cordially endorse

the "common sense" summary in the last paragraph of the Court's decree, that: "Here a national interest of very nearly the first magnitude is involved. It can be protected only by national action in concert with that of another power. The subject matter is only transitorily within the State and has no permanent habitat therein. But for the treaty and the statute there soon might be no birds for any powers to deal with. We see nothing in the Constitution that compels the Government to sit by while a food supply is cut off and the protectors of our forests and our crops are destroyed."

The National Parks Service is this year inaugurating a system of instruction in natural history for visitors to Yosemite National Park. Two members of the Cooper Club will conduct this work during the season of 1920. Through coöperation with the California Fish and Game Commission, Dr. H. C. Bryant will give instruction from June 1 to August 31. Dr. L. H. Miller, Department

of Biology, Southern Branch, University of California, will be in Yosemite during part of the summer, and toward the end of the season he will conduct similar work at Fallen Leaf Lake, in the Tahoe region. The programs include lectures on the plant and animal life of the mountains, to be illustrated in part by lantern slides and moving pictures. Field trips will be arranged for parties of different ages.

During the coming Summer Session at the University of California, June 21 to July 31, 1920, a course on the birds of California will be offered by Mr. Tracy I. Storer of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The subject will be dealt with in a manner adapted to the needs of persons having no previous knowledge of the subject.

The probable fate of all private collections which are not destroyed by some such accident as fire is illustrated in the case of the Grinnell collection of bird skins. This entire collection has been presented to the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, which means that it is now the property of the University of California and hence of the State of California. The specimens number 8,312 and were collected by Mr. J. Grinnell during the period from 1893 to 1907 inclusive. The collection contains twenty-seven types of subspecies; also specimens of at least three species of birds which are now extinct, and many "record specimens". There are large series of such birds as the Willow Ptarmigan, specially selected to illustrate processes of molt, and long suites of birds gathered from appropriate territory to show facts in geographic variation. This collection adds importantly to the research material owned by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The total ornithological collections there now amount to 40,438 specimens.

Mr. William L. Finley has been commissioned by the National Geographic Society to secure motion pictures of the rarer birds and mammals of North America. Mr. and Mrs. Finley will spend May and June of the present year in Arizona and on the Gulf coast of Texas, in the pursuit of this work.

Mr. Austin Paul Smith is collecting birds and birds' eggs this year on the west coast of Guatemala, with headquarters at San Jose.

The annual roster appearing in this issue shows an active membership in the Cooper Club of 649, with honorary 6, making a total of 655 members, the largest number in our history. As usual, Mr. J. Eugene Law served in compiling the roster, and changes or corrections should be reported to him so as to apply from now on to next year's list.

BIRD BANDING WORK BEING TAKEN OVER BY THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The Bureau of Biological Survey at Washington, D. C., has taken over the work formerly carried on under the auspices of the Linnæan Society of New York by the American Bird Banding Association. In taking over this work the Bureau feels that it should express the debt that students of ornithology in this country owe to Mr. Howard H. Cleaves for the devotion and success with which he has conducted this investigation up to a point where it has outgrown the possibilities of his personal supervision.

Under plans now being formulated this work will give a great amount of invaluable information concerning the migration and distribution of North American birds which will be of direct service in the administration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as well as of much general scientific interest.

It is desired to develop this work along two principal lines: first, the trapping and banding of waterfowl, especially ducks and geese, on both their breeding and winter grounds; and secondly, the systematic trapping of land birds as initiated by Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, the early results of which have been published by him in the Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New York, no. 31, 1919, pp. 23-55. It is planned to enlist the interest and services of volunteer workers, who will undertake to operate and maintain trapping stations throughout the year, banding new birds and recording the data from those previously banded. The results from a series of stations thus operated will undoubtedly give new insight into migration routes, speed of travel during migration, longevity of species, affinity for the same nesting-site year after year, and, in addition, furnish a wealth of information relative to the behavior of the individual, heretofore impossible because of the difficulty of keeping one particular bird under observation.

The details of operation are now receiving close attention, and as soon as possible the issue of bands will be announced, with full information regarding the methods to be followed and the results expected. In the meantime, the Biological Survey will be glad to receive communications from those sufficiently interested and satisfactorily located to engage in this work during their leisure time, for it is obvious that a considerable part must be done by volunteer operators. It is hoped that a sufficient

number will take this up to insure the complete success of the project.—E. W. NELSON, CHIEF OF BUREAU, *Washington, D. C., April 26, 1920.*

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRD BANDING BY MEANS OF SYSTEMATIC TRAPPING. By S. PRENTISS BALDWIN. Abstract of Proceedings, Linnaean Society of New York, no. 31, 1919, pp. 23-56, pls. I-VII. Separate received March 17, 1920.

Both bird-banding and bird-trapping have been used independently for one purpose or another for many years, yet it has remained for Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin of Cleveland, Ohio, to combine these two procedures into a "new" method which has great potentialities for certain lines of ornithological study. Quite incidentally, in an effort to rid his farm of English Sparrows, Mr. Baldwin saw the possibilities of this method, and the paper cited above gives a summary of his results for the period from 1914 to 1918. Part of the work was done in the summer time at Cleveland, Ohio, and the balance at Thomasville, Georgia, during the late winter and early spring months.

The author's method was to set and bait one or more of the "government" double-funnelled sparrow traps, surrounding each by a 20-foot circle of 3-foot wire netting as a cat guard. Traps were visited at frequent intervals, the captured birds being removed, tagged and recorded and then released. In addition, during the summer, a number of House Wrens were caught in box nests provided with a trap door.

The species caught by the sparrow traps include Song, Chipping, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, White-eyed Towhee, Myrtle Warbler, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluejay and Mourning Dove, although traps set for the larger of these birds would not always retain the smaller species. Shrikes gave some trouble in Thomasville and had to be hunted down, but cats were effectively guarded against by the circle of netting. A few birds injured themselves through their struggles in the trap, but subsequent recapture of some of these individuals showed that such wounds healed in a few days.

Permanent residents, summer visitants, winter visitants and transients all figure in the results. Trapping at Thomasville in the spring of 1917, and using five traps for six weeks, some 684 birds were captured. Of these 414 were "repeats" that had been

trapped, branded and released previously. Of 239 new birds, 215 were classed as migrants or winter visitants and only 24 as residents. Four of a lot totalling 63 belonging to the visitant-migrant category banded in 1915 were retrapped in this season and 17 of 169 banded in 1916 were taken again in 1917. Of residents, two of 27 banded in 1915 were recovered and 8 of 44 trapped in 1916.

Mr. Baldwin obtained definite evidence on a number of the heretofore unsolved problems in ornithology. The return of winter visitants was shown strikingly in the case of White-throated Sparrows. Twelve of a flock of twenty were banded in 1915. Two of these were recovered in 1916 and five new birds banded. In 1917 one 1915 bird and four 1916 birds were recovered. The birds in this flock in three successive years, stayed close about a certain thicket at which his trap "A" was placed. They rarely ventured as far as trap "B", 100 yards distant, and none was ever taken in the latter trap.

Chipping Sparrows which do not winter at Thomasville have been taken in the spring of successive years, showing that migrants stop off at the same stations when en route between their winter and summer ranges. Trapping in 1917 resulted in the recapture of three of these sparrows banded in 1915 and eight of those marked in 1916. Song Sparrows trapped at Cleveland indicated that migrants do not move forward at a uniform rate, but, in fall at least, make a move, then linger until a storm urges them on when their places may be taken by new arrivals from the north.

Perhaps the most interesting observations of all are those made on House Wrens at Cleveland. On June 19, 1915, a pair and the members of its brood were banded in a certain "trap" nest. On August 14 the same year one member of this pair was found with a new mate and second brood in the same box while the other member of the original pair also had a new mate (unfortunately not banded) and was also rearing a second brood in another box about 100 feet from the first. In 1916 the second of these "divorced" Wrens was found at the same (second) box but the identity of its spouse as regards the second 1915 mating could not be ascertained.

Contrary to general opinion the handling of birds incidental to their being removed from the traps and being tagged does not discourage their return as is proven by the number of recaptures. Some birds acquire