

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The regular July meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club will be postponed until Wednesday evening, August 3, 1921. This is done in order to relate the meeting to the sessions of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which will be held at Berkeley, August 4 to 6, 1921. The business meeting of the C. O. C. will be held at 7:30 P. M., and the program will commence at 8 P. M. The two papers thus far assured are: "The Pelican Colonies of Pyramid Lake" by Barton Warren Evermann; "The Principle of Rapid Peering, in Birds" by Joseph Grinnell. Visiting ornithologists will be able to join in the various excursions which are being planned in connection with the general meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Eugene Law are doing vertebrate field work again this summer in the Chiricahua Mountains, southeastern Arizona. Mr. Donald D. McLean is serving as Mr. Law's assistant, and the party keeps in touch with the outside world through the kind offices of our fellow Cooper Club member at Dos Cabezas, Mr. Frank H. Hands.

We are not infrequently called upon to recommend a few of "the best" books on birds for a beginning student to own, said student being of the type who is ambitious to qualify in due time as a serious ornithologist. Of course the number must be strictly limited and the factor of scholarly standards be kept foremost in consideration. Here are the four works we have, on occasion, nominated: Coues' "Key to North American Birds"; Newton's "Dictionary of Birds"; Pycraft's "History of Birds"; Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds" (with Bent's continuation of the same so far as it has appeared). Perhaps someone else will have different ideas on this score. We invite comment.

Various interesting bits of news have come to the ears of the Editors lately and some of them we hereby pass along. Mr. Harry Harris, of Kansas City, is reported to be at work upon a biographical index to the *Ibis*. There is also a persistent rumor current to the effect that Missouri is to lose Mr. Harris,—California to be the gainer. Part II of Mr. A. C. Bent's "Life Histories" is in press, and the manuscript of Part III is completed. The Treganzas (Mr. and Mrs. A. O.) are actively promoting popular interest in birds among the boy scouts, clubs, and schools of Salt Lake City. Prof.

Arthur A. Allen, of Ithaca, has had remarkable success the past spring in rearing broods of Ruffed Grouse. Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin has recorded further startling revelations this summer concerning the domestic relations of the house wrens on his place near Cleveland. Mr. R. H. Beck is giving a good account of himself among the South Sea islands, whence he has already shipped in to the American Museum of Natural History several consignments of rare bird skins.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

SAUNDERS ON THE BIRDS OF MONTANA.*—This report, the first complete notice of the birds of Montana, consists mainly of an annotated list of all species of recent birds known to have occurred within the State. The main list numbers 332 species and subspecies, including all currently recognized indigenous forms known to occur. Species noticed under secondary headings are as follows: Recently Extinct Species, one (Passenger Pigeon); Introduced Species, four; and Hypothetical List, thirteen, species which have been recorded but the status of which is questioned, owing to possible errors in identification. There is also presented a supplemental list of nine subspecies which have been described but are not generally considered as valid.

We consider this report to be one of the best lists ever prepared for a western State. The allocation of old records, by no means an easy matter, seems to have been exceptionally well done, and the very large amount of field work accomplished by the author places to his credit a much greater proportion of the notes than is usual in such undertakings. Its appearance places the ornithology of Montana on a basis far in advance of similar work in any other of the larger and more sparsely settled States, with the exception of Arizona, and many years are likely to elapse before a more complete exposition of the bird life of the State appears.

The introductory part comprises about twenty-five pages. The introduction proper,

*A Distributional List of the Birds of Montana, with Notes on the Migration and Nesting of the Better Known Species. By Aretas A. Saunders. Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 14. 194 pages; 1 map and numerous figures. Published by the Cooper Ornithological Club, Berkeley, California, Feb. 1, 1921.

occupying about four pages, relates to the author's own work and the other sources which contributed to the results. We learn that Mr. Saunders spent nearly five years of almost continuous field work, with two additional summers, in various sections of Montana. The main results of much of this work have already appeared from time to time. The author also acknowledges important assistance gained from manuscript reports furnished by a number of ornithologists resident in various parts of the State, some of these representing several years' observation in their respective sections. The more important of these lists and the sections covered are as follows: Bernard Bailey, Bitterroot Valley; A. D. Dubois, Dutton and Belton; Joseph Kittredge, Jr., Missoula and elsewhere; Nelson Lundwall, Gallatin Valley; J. L. Sloanaker, Kalispell and Flathead Lake; Gerald B. Thomas, Billings and Lake Basin; and C. F. Hedges, Miles City. Of these, the last two contributed notes on several forms not otherwise known from the State.

A bibliography is presented listing more than 200 titles, arranged by authors alphabetically, and chronologically under authors. Of the articles cited 33 are by Saunders and 22 by Silloway. Among earlier important works which are omitted from the bibliography may be mentioned the articles by Captain Blakiston on birds collected in the interior of British America, published in the *Ibis*, 1861-63; and the report by George M. Dawson of the British North American Boundary Commission, 1875. We miss also, both in the bibliography and in the accounts of many species, references from Mrs. F. M. Bailey's annotated list of the birds of Glacier Park, issued by the National Park Service, January 10, 1919. This report contains many detailed notes on nesting and migration not given in the brief list in the circular which is cited.

We regret that the author has failed to include in his introduction accounts of the more important of the early expeditions which traversed the State. Thus the famous journey of Lewis and Clark in 1804-5, during which Montana was crossed on both the outward and homeward trips, resulted in the discovery of three notable species of birds, and of these at least two (Lewis's Woodpecker and Clark's Crow) were first seen in western Montana (though the actual type specimens were taken in Idaho), yet we look in vain for any mention of these important facts, either in the introduction

or in the separate accounts of the species.

Similar lack of detailed treatment obtains with reference to *Cyanocitta stelleri annectens*, from Hell Gate River, east of Missoula; *Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*, from the junction of the Marias and Yellowstone Rivers; *Ammodramus bairdi*, from near Fort Union, situated on the north bank of the Missouri exactly on the line between North Dakota and Montana; *Junco hyemalis montanus*, from Columbia Falls; *Pinicola enucleator montana*, from Bear Creek, Gallatin County; and *Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*, from the Yellowstone about 30 miles above its junction with the Missouri. In some of these cases, however, information as to type localities may be found in the annotations in the bibliography. We can hardly blame the author for failing to undertake the drudgery of compiling accounts of these expeditions, although we consider them important in a work of this kind, but surely the fact that the first known specimen of a given species came from the State deserves mention under its proper heading. An examination of the narratives of journeys would also have prevented the inclusion under *Mergus americanus* of the upper Powder River and Deer Creek records, under *Querquedula cyanoptera*, of the Popo Agie River note, and under *Histrionicus histrionicus* of the Trook record, which refers to the Wind River Mountains (see Palmer, *Auk*, xxx, p. 106), all relating to localities well down in Wyoming.

The annotations generally consist, in the case of the commoner species, of a brief summary of the status of the bird in the State, whether permanent resident, summer resident, regular migrant, or casual visitor, together with dates of arrival and departure, notes on nesting, habitat, zonal distribution, and other items of interest. The notes are in the main well selected and to the point. Each species is treated under the scientific name, and usually under the common name, given in the 1910 edition of the A. O. U. Check-List. We note, however, that in some cases vernacular names are used which seem more appropriate than the official A. O. U. names. An example is Eastern Bluebird, instead of Bluebird, for *Sialia sialis*, which seems a reasonable change, "from the standpoint of a resident of Montana, where *Sialia currucoides* is the Bluebird." We join the author in the hope that similar changes in the common names of many species will be made in the next edition of the Check-List.

Citation of references is by the popular method of indicating a title in the bibliography by a key reference consisting of the author's name, with date of the article and the page. The care necessary to prevent errors by this method is shown by the fact that in some way the key reference to Coues' report on the birds of the 49th parallel (1878) has been confused with that of an earlier work, with the result that in dozens of cases the notes are wrongly credited to his article in the *American Naturalist* on the nesting of certain hawks. This error apparently runs through the entire work, with few exceptions.

The accounts of *Empidonax trailli* and *E. alnorum* evidently were not written in the light of the recent studies of Oberholser, which resulted in the former name being shifted to the eastern form, and the consequent renaming of the western species. However, since the nomenclature throughout is understood to be that of the 1910 Check-List, this course is probably the more sensible one. We would suggest that the standard set in other cases would seem to favor placing Krider's Redtail in the Hypothetical List; we also question the advisability of allowing more than one form of the Blue Grouse for the Bighorn Mountains.

The locality, Silver, Missoula County, where a specimen of Vaux's Swift was collected in 1891, is on the St. Regis River a few miles southeast from St. Regis Pass, and is now known as Saltese. The writer has a recollection of hearing of this change of name many years ago, but has been unable to find the name Silver on any available map. This is an example of the great difficulty experienced in locating places the names of which were formerly in common use but which have become obsolete.

The only species which occurs to the present writer as having been taken in Montana and not included in the list is the Philadelphia Vireo, a specimen of which was taken by H. E. Anthony at Johnson Lake, north of Culbertson, Sheridan County, June 3, 1910; it is formally recorded elsewhere in the present issue of *THE CONDOR*.

Distributional areas are divided into three categories, faunal, zonal, and associational, and as far as we are qualified to judge, the subject is well handled. We are inclined, however, to question the value of mentioning some of the less well-defined associations. Associations seem to furnish a subject so elusive, and yet so alluring, that an author is tempted to indulge in intricate and some-

times tedious discussions to account for the presence of species, when in fact the reason for such presence is self evident or the explanation tells only half the story. An example of the latter kind is the citation of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker (i. e., the eastern form) as a characteristic species of the Yellow Pine Association west of the Continental Divide. This treatment is explained in the main account of the species, and while the subject appears to be conclusively treated from the standpoint of a State list, we are tempted to pursue it further. The Pileated Woodpecker is, as far as we know it, an inhabitant of *heavy forests, either deciduous or evergreen*, wherever they occur in sufficiently large and continuous areas to afford the bird protection and an adequate food supply. The species is thus a resident of the better-developed or better-preserved parts of the eastern forested region from the Atlantic Coast to the Mississippi Valley, and from Florida to southern Canada. The bird is naturally absent from the Great Plains, and where the northern edge of this vast treeless area impinges on the great transcontinental forest, carrying its influence far northward and combining forces with adverse geological and climatic conditions so effectively as almost to bisect that great expanse of woods, as far as really heavy forests are concerned, the ranges of the eastern and western Pileated Woodpeckers are apparently separated (excepting one record) by a space of five hundred miles from Lake Winnipeg to the lower Athabaska River. In the valley of this stream, the fertile soil of which, aided by a climate somewhat tempered by periodic mild trans-montane influences, induces a heavy forest growth, we again meet with this magnificent woodpecker. From this section north to the Liard, and west to the Pacific, its range is practically continuous wherever suitable forests occur, and there is but little interruption. From British Columbia southward, the range of the bird is confined mainly to the country west of the Rocky Mountains, including the area in question in western Montana. Theoretically then, all the birds of this northwestern area should be closely related, and we believe that this is the case and that the individuals living in western Montana and throughout the west Canadian range will be found to be referable to *Phloeotomus pileatus picinus*, if indeed this race, which seems to be but slightly differentiated, be considered worthy of recognition.

The map leaves much to be desired, but taking into consideration the number of things it purports to show, it does well. However, it is a good example of what happens when one attempts to represent the salient features of a great State on a single page. It simply can not be done.

It is to be regretted that the relatively trivial errors and omission which we have indicated should appear in a work of such a generally high standard of excellence, but they should not be construed as reflecting seriously on the results of an undertaking based so largely on original investigation of a high order of merit, and representing an amount of painstaking study which can be fully appreciated only by those who have attempted similar labors.—EDWARD A. PREBLE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., May 13, 1921.*

EVERMANN AND CLARK ON THE FAUNA OF LAKE MAXINKUCKEE.*—"The Birds" occupy a relatively unimportant position in this comprehensive report (pages 481 to 579 of the first volume) as compared with certain other groups of animals or plants, but there is, nevertheless, a great deal that is of interest and value here placed on record regarding the species treated. One hundred and seventy-five species and subspecies are listed (305 are attributed to the entire state in Butler's *Birds of Indiana*), those given in greatest detail being naturally the water birds and those most closely confined to lacustrine or riparian surroundings. The lakes and rivers of northern Indiana in years past formed a veritable hunter's paradise and although the myriads of water fowl have since been sadly reduced in quantity, we can still see in the numbers of species represented at least an indication of former conditions.

The accounts of the birds are written in Dr. Evermann's pleasing and unhackneyed style, with the spirit of the enthusiastic collector cropping out in many places.

Residents of Indiana have available in this report a store of detailed and authentic information pertaining to the natural history of the northern part of the state. Lovers of nature from other sections should derive a great deal of pleasure from the narratives relating to various of the species

concerned, even though unfamiliar to the reader. Incidentally it may be suggested that even an ornithologist can find much to enjoy in some sections of the book relating to things other than birds, such as the parts that deal with the reptiles and fishes.—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

FEBRUARY.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held at the Southwest Museum, together with the Bird Lovers' Club, at 8 p. m., February 24, 1921. The special feature of the evening was the exhibition of a large number of excellent lantern slides, mostly of birds and nests, by President Dickey. This entertainment was enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience of some sixty members of the Cooper Club, Bird Lovers' Club, and the Audubon Society.

Followed the business meeting, at which Dr. Miller presided, at the request of President Dickey. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved, followed by reading of minutes of January meeting of the Northern Division. January membership presentations received favorable action, on motion of Dr. Rich, seconded by Dr. Bishop. New names were: W. B. Purdy, Milford, Mich., by Wright M. Pierce; Mrs. C. E. Raymond, Hinsdale, Ill., and H. H. T. Jackson, Washington, D. C., by W. Lee Chambers; William Warren Moore, Eureka, by John M. Davis; William Rowan, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, by W. L. Chambers; Walter Cunningham, Kansas City, Mo., by Harry Harris; Dr. Frances Louise Long, Helen S. Nicholson, and Herschel Vincent Hibbard, Tucson, Ariz.; also Mrs. M. F. Musgrave, Phoenix, Ariz., by Charles T. Vorhies.

Dr. Miller announced that Mr. W. L. Finley will exhibit moving pictures of birds at the March meeting of the Club, and extended an invitation to all present to attend that meeting. Informal discussion of bird matters completed the session.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary.*

MARCH.—The regular meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held in the assembly room of the State Exposition Building, Exposition Park, at 8 p. m., March 31, 1921. President Dickey was in the chair, with an audience of 150, among whom were 35 club members.

*Lake Maxinkuckee, a physical and biological survey. By Barton Warren Evermann and Howard Walton Clark. Published by the Department of Conservation, State of Indiana, 1920. Vol. 1, 660 pp., 32 halftones, 36 colored pls., 23 text-figs., 1 map; vol. 2, 512 pp.