

We studied the bird individually, earnestly and conscientiously with our binoculars for fully twenty minutes before we compared notes, each one being timid to be the first to state his conclusion. All finally agreed in pronouncing it the American Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*).—MRS. F. T. BICKNELL, Los Angeles, November 8, 1923.

Additional Records of Alpine Birds in Oregon.—Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis*).—Although considerable ornithological investigation has been carried on in that part of the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon known as the Wallawas, it was not until July of the present year that Rosy Finches were known to occur in that region during the breeding season. While investigating coyote depredations on the Jay Dobbin's sheep range at the head of Big Sheep Creek in the Wallowa National Forest, at an altitude of approximately 8000 feet, my attention was drawn to a number of Rosy Finches feeding on the ground near the base of a high cliff. Several of these were seen to fly back and forth from the feeding ground to clefts in the cliffs where they were evidently feeding their young. The next day, July 23, 1923, specimens were secured and forwarded to the U. S. Biological Survey. These proved the subspecific determination, as above. The females showed every evidence of being incubating birds, and both sexes were in much worn plumage. On July 24, 1923, a small bird just out of the nest was seen. These notes constitute what is thought to be the first breeding record of this species in Oregon.

Black Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*). Among the many birds noted on the feeding ground at the base of the cliff on July 23, 1923, was a nearly black individual that proved to be a Black Rosy Finch. Upon dissection it was found that the testes were not enlarged as in the *tephrocotis* specimens.

Until further investigating is carried on in that section, it will remain a mystery whether this individual was merely a straggler from the nearest known breeding range in the Salmon River Mountains of Idaho, or an actual breeding bird. However, its presence in these mountains constitutes the first record of the occurrence of *Leucosticte atrata* in the State of Oregon.

Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*). On July 24, 1923, while crossing an open alpine meadow at 7500 feet elevation near Aneroid Lake, Wallowa National Forest, Oregon, I heard the song of a Pipit. The meadow was overgrazed by bands of sheep and the smallest object could be seen on the ground for a considerable distance. In a short time I saw a pair of these birds, and judging from their actions I was evidently close to either the nest or their young, as they showed much alarm at my presence. This constitutes the first record of the occurrence of this species during the breeding season in the State.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, Portland, Oregon, December 15, 1923.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Both Divisions of the Cooper Ornithological Club have unanimously elected to Honorary membership in the Club, Doctor Albert Kenrick Fisher. This distinction has been conferred upon Dr. Fisher in recognition of his contributions to western ornithology, the chief of which is his "Report on the Ornithology of the Death Valley Expedition of 1891," and also in recognition of his long service on the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Under the latter auspices Dr. Fisher has been largely responsible for the development of economic ornithology in the United States to its present high status. The Honorary membership list of the Cooper Club now contains eight names—Florence M. Bailey, Albert K.

Fisher, Henry W. Henshaw, C. Hart Merriam, G. Frean Morcom, Edward W. Nelson, Robert Ridgway and Frank Stephens.

The January, 1924, issue of *The Auk* presents as its "leader" what we consider by all odds the most valuable single article that has appeared in that journal for at least a year. This is Arthur A. Allen's "A Contribution to the Life History and Economic Status of the Screech Owl (*Otus asio*)". A precise standard of field observation is applied to a common species of bird with largely new results; and the data is handled inferentially in various interesting directions without resort to unsound logic or fatuous speculation. We would point to Dr. Allen's paper as an

admirable pattern to go by in outlining and carrying out life-history investigations.

We are glad to announce that Mr. Frank Stephens has rejoined the staff of the San Diego Natural History Museum, under the title Curator Emeritus of Vertebrates. Mr. Stephens was formerly director of that museum, but had subsequently turned his attention to the development of his ranch in eastern San Diego County. He will now be in a position to devote all his energies to building up the research collections in the institution with whose early history he had so much to do. Associated with Mr. Stephens is Mr. Laurence M. Huey as Curator of Vertebrates, Mr. Huey having received his training in this field under Mr. Donald R. Dickey of Pasadena.

In view of an evident tendency in our own State toward making the securing of collecting permits by beginning bird students more and more difficult, we feel it an appropriate time to quote the following authoritative statements in this regard, made by Dr. A. K. Fisher of the U. S. Biological Survey (in Bull. Amer. Game Protective Assoc., vol. 12, July, 1923, p. 9).

"In all branches of science, investigation and handling of material are essential to the development of our knowledge, and the more available the material, the more rapid the progress. Ornithology has advanced rapidly in the past for the reason that no lack of material has hampered its studies. Upon the data secured by students of this subject, all sane programs for game-bird conservation and all plans of game commissions have been founded. The more fully that definite knowledge gained by the work of ornithologists enters into the consideration of state game affairs, and the more interest that is shown in the subject by the commissioners, the more service will ornithologists render to the public and to game conservation."

"A few game commissioners who have had little or no scientific training have taken the position that a sufficient number of birds has been collected and no more specimens are necessary. If this principle were rigidly enforced, ornithology would soon be a science of the past, and game commissions would degenerate to mere political offices. Ornithology, like all other sciences, advances, and new facts are revealed, as the stu-

dent proceeds further and further with his subject. Conditions affecting the bird population are constantly changing, and these should be the subject of thorough, up-to-date investigations. If collecting birds had been stopped thirty years ago, there would have been no American Game Protective Association, no treaty for protecting birds migrating between the United States and Canada, and few waterfowl for the food and recreation of the sportsman."

"It is understood that much of the prejudice shown by commissioners toward ornithologists may have been inspired through the activities of maudlin sentimentalists or of those who have become satiated after years of sickening excesses. It has been stated that a reformed game butcher makes the most insistent advocate of the abolition of all shooting. It is believed that very much good would result to everyone concerned if the antagonism shown by game commissioners were changed to intelligent co-operation.

"The various game commissions continually need the assistance of ornithologists, and it is to be hoped that the prejudice that now seems so evident may pass away. Instead of discouraging the young ornithologist, the game commissions would do well to make it possible for him to secure material and to look upon him as an assistant and not as one whose chief object is the destruction of bird life."

The reproduction of the large number of photographs accompanying Mr. Dixon's article on the Wood Duck, in this issue, has been made possible through contributions toward the cost of engraving by three Cooper Club members whose names are, in deference to their personal preferences, withheld.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF PHILLIPS' DUCK BOOK.*—Upon opening this volume, the very first feature of it that struck me was that the author puts every one of the 49 included species of ducks under the one genus name *Anas*. *Mareca*,

* A Natural History of | the Ducks | by | John C. Phillips | Associate Curator of Birds in the Museum | of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College | with plates in color and in black and white | from drawings by | Frank W. Benson, Allan Brooks | Louis Agassiz Fuertes | and | Henrik Grönvold | Volume II. | The Genus *Anas* | [vignette] | Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1923 [November] | 4to, pp. xii+409, 26 pls., 38 maps.