

- 98738, Ellis, Bluff Lake, August 18.
Retaken by Pierce, Red Ant Creek, September 10.
- A8051, Potter, Bluff Lake, August 21.
Retaken by Pierce, Red Ant Creek, September 10 (twice).
- A6490, Pierce, Bluff Lake, September 5 and 7 (twice).
Retaken by Pierce, Red Ant Creek, September 10 (twice) and
September 12.

From Bluff Lake, Pierce's banding station at Red Ant Creek is about two miles east and a mile north, and the immediate drainage is north and west of north. A line drawn from Bluff Lake to the Red Ant Creek station would cross several canyons which empty into Bear Lake. One might expect a ground feeding bird of riparian preferences to drift down water courses as it retires from the high mountains. The recoveries recorded above, however, indicate indifference to local topography and a drift eastward across canyons and toward the desert. The record is in itself a meager one to be sure, 4 recovered out of 314 Juncos banded at Bluff Lake, and possibly indicates only one radius of a general scatter, but it is a gratifying start and indicates the possibility in quantitative banding when stations become numerous.

Of only less interest is the fact that Pierce saw two banded Juncos at Bluff Lake September 28. Why do some go and others remain?—J. EUGENE LAW, *Altadena, California, September 30, 1924.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The editors of THE CONDOR are fortunate in being able to count on ready help in time of special need. Right now, we are indebted to our fellow Cooper Club member, Mr. Frank N. Bassett, for preparing the volume index, which terminates the present issue.

Two books lately published by H. F. & G. Witherby (London, 1924), and which should prove of interest to American bird students, are Dr. John M. Dewar's "The Bird as a Diver" (8vo, 173 pp.) and Dr. George C. Low's "The Literature of the Charadriiformes from 1894-1924" (8vo, 220 pp.). Two offerings of more diverse aim and content in the same general field could hardly be imagined. Dewar's book deals with the behavior of living birds and limits the subject further to the underwater activities of diving fowl. The author records the duration of 5991 dives, of 23 species—ducks, cormorants, grebes, loons, alcids, and coot. Figures in several other respects are given, and a definite "time-depth relation" is worked out. Incidentally, it appears that the Little Auk is the most efficient diver. Low's book is systematic as well as bibliographic, and brings the history of the one Order dealt with, the shore-birds, down, from the year of completion of volume XXIV, 1896, of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, to the end of 1923. Any student essaying to do thorough work with the shore-birds must henceforth be supplied with this important help. The two Witherby books just no-

ticed show each of them careful work both in compilation and printing.

Speaking further of bibliography, there is real sport in collecting titles in the field of some selected subject. There is mental activity of a very pleasant sort in seeking out what has been written in a particular field, down through time, as the subject has developed. The "hunt" results in a growing "collection" of titles (each supplemented by one's own critical or explanatory notation, which may become a brief digest of the article in important instances). There is a real thrill when the pursuer gets a clue to some obscure title and "runs it down," to find that it may be of much importance, systematically, biographically or historically—or, on the other hand, worthless! It is astonishing how often the seeker finds that presentations, theories, ideas, and sentiments appearing in our current literature have been anticipated, perhaps not once but many times. It is a good antidote for any prideful tendency that one may have toward announcing "discoveries" to find now and then that his own supposed discovery has been set forth long ago and has, perhaps, been published to the world in better language than he could himself employ.

The growing appeal of natural history to people of otherwise widely diverse interests is shown on the Pacific Coast by the increasing activity of a number of societies devoted to various branches of this

subject. There are some societies of long standing that are growing in membership to a marked degree, while additional organizations have been started at various points in recent years. The Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society has headquarters in Seattle; in Vancouver there is the Vancouver Natural History Society, and in Victoria, the Natural History Society of British Columbia and the British Columbia Ornithologists' Union. The Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society and the British Columbia Ornithologists' Union each publish a mimeographed journal, of limited distribution but well edited and containing articles of a distinctly superior type. This bespeaks praiseworthy activity on the part of the naturalists of the northwest, mostly amateurs in the sense that natural history is more or less of a recreation with them; but it does seem a pity that the writings of these observers should not be put into more permanent form. Perhaps the time is ripe for the establishment of a regularly published journal of natural history in the northwest, drawing upon the combined membership of the several societies of the region. If this cannot be done, it seems desirable that important papers be published in some of the established periodicals, reserving for the mimeographed club journals items of local or club interest. The Canadian Field-Naturalist, for example, covers the whole of Canada, and publishes upon other subjects besides ornithology. The scope of THE CONDOR is ornithology of western America, which, of course, includes the whole Pacific coast. It is important, certainly, that these and other similar journals be supported to the utmost by all who are interested in the subjects they cover, and it seems a pity that money and energy be expended on mimeographed "publications" which, however important and interesting their subject matter, are not of real bibliographic standing.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, at 8 o'clock on the evening of August 28, 1924. Vice-President Lastreto presided. The following members were present: Misses Burk, Flinn, and Lindemann; Mesdames Bogle,

Grinnell, Delpont, Harding, Kelly, Mexia, Schenck and Schlesinger; Messrs. Chaney, Clabaugh, Cooper, English, Grinnell, W. Grinnell, Hall, La Barthe, Lastreto, Mailliard, Rankin, Simpson and Trost. Visitors were: Misses Brubaker, McGugin, Pickard, Uhlemeyer; Mesdames Chaney, Furlong and Hall.

Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for June and July were read. The name of Miss Winifred McGugin, 2525 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, was proposed for membership by Edward P. Rankin.

Being called upon by the chair for notes, several members recalled pleasant vacation experiences. Miss Flinn described vividly the commendable solicitude of miners beginning the reworking of an old mine near her vacation headquarters, for the nest and eggs of a wren which had chosen to build upon a dump-cart necessary for the carrying of ore. Mr. Mailliard made the surprising report of the finding of a live Farallon Rail on the sidewalk in front of the San Francisco Orpheum.

The talk of the evening was given by Mr. E. Raymond Hall who spent the ten weeks between May 15 and August 1 studying the fish-eating birds of Pyramid Lake, Nevada, under the auspices of the Biological Survey.

Mr. Hall's findings brought clearly before his audience a realization of some of the overwhelming odds against which Nature works in her effort to perpetuate species in areas invaded by civilized man. Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, at 8 o'clock on the evening of September 25, 1924. Vice-President Lastreto presided. The following members were present: Misses Beaman, Van Gaasbeek and Wythe; Mesdames Bogle, Grinnell, Mead and Schlesinger; Messrs. Bourne, Bunker, Clabaugh, Evermann, Grinnell, W. Grinnell, E. R. Hall and Simpson. Visitors were Mesdames Bunker and Hall; Mr. and Mrs. van Rossem of Pasadena, and Mr. Wilfred H. Osgood of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read.

Members responded to roll call with reports of vacation experiences. Miss