

I was within six feet of the pair and had a splendid profile view of the male as he worked to bring up the food. After the performance was over, they both ate freely of the damp, broken dog-biscuit that was on the table.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, April 25, 1925.*

**Another Occurrence of the Gray-headed Junco in San Diego County.**—While assisting Frank Stephens in collecting birds for the Natural History Museum, San Diego, I took, on December 18, 1924, a specimen of *Junco caniceps* in the San Diego River gorge, about three-quarters of a mile south of the old Padre Dam. It is a male, no. 2899, collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. The bird was taken out of a large flock of juncos, principally *thurberi*. A single *Junco hyemalis* was also secured from this flock. This record supports a theory that the autumn dispersal of *caniceps* from its nesting grounds in the Rocky Mountain region is, in California, in a south-westerly direction. Of the five records for the state now published (including this one), all are from southern California, three being from San Diego County.—PAUL F. COVEL, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, April 20, 1925.*

**Wilson Phalarope on the Coast of Southern California in the Spring.**—On May 2, 1925, at Playa del Rey, Shumway Suffel and I saw two small flocks of Wilson Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*) on the gun-club ponds. The birds were in breeding plumage and were identified carefully. The red-brown streaking of the side of the neck was conspicuous as it turned in a horizontal line and ran along the upper wing. The white or lightish foreheads and tops were distinctive, as were the unmarked wings.—ROLAND CASE ROSS, *Dept. of Nature Study, Los Angeles City Schools, May 10, 1925.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

In the financial report of the British Ornithologists' Union, as given in the *Ibis* for May, 1925, we note a statement to the effect that but seventy-five copies have been sold of Part I of the "Systema Avium Ethiopicarum". We wish to call attention of the Cooper Club membership to this publication, and to urge that all who can possibly do so lend their support to the series of which it forms a part. A technical list of the birds of Africa may not appeal to many American bird students as essential to their libraries, but this is a narrow view that should not prevail. The work in question is but one volume of a series that will include the birds of the world. The next edition of our own "Check-list of North American Birds" will form part of the series. Merely from the point of view of the bibliophile who wishes to acquire sets of books in their entirety, it will be profitable for those who will later on buy copies of the North American volume to subscribe to the other parts as they appear. Then, it should be borne in mind that the British Ornithologists' Union has assumed a heavy financial burden in the publication of this initial volume, such as the American Ornithologists' Union will later assume for other parts of the series. It behooves all of us who are interested in the study of ornithology, and who can comfortably do so, to subscribe to the several volumes as they appear, in

short to do our utmost to further the publication in its entirety of one of the most important series of ornithological books that has ever yet been planned.

Our contemporary, *The Wilson Bulletin*, begins a new regime with the current volume, number thirty-seven. Dr. Lynds Jones, founder, and for thirty-six years editor of the magazine, has now resigned this office, his place being taken by Dr. T. C. Stephens. For thirty of his thirty-six years of service, Dr. Jones alone, to quote his successor's comments, "assembled the copy, read the proof, distributed the magazines, jollied the printer, and otherwise piloted the *Wilson Bulletin*." It is no small service that he has thus rendered to American ornithology, and ornithologists of the middle west are doubtless well aware of the extent to which his unselfish labors have contributed toward promoting the interests of the student of birds, and, in particular, in holding the *Wilson Club* together and furthering the aims of that society. The *Wilson Club* was fortunate in having within its membership one who would give so generously of his time and labor toward the well-being of the Club, and who proved so well able to handle the difficult task of editing and managing a magazine like the *Wilson Bulletin*. We congratulate Dr. Jones upon

his thirty-six years of editorial service. He can enjoy his release from his labors the more in the realization that he turns over to his successor a "going concern", a magazine that is well established, successful, and growing.

Any visitor, or prospective visitor, to the California Sierras should be aware of the publication "Yosemite Nature Notes". In July, 1922, the first number of "Nature Notes" appeared, a little mimeographed journal that has run through three volumes. With volume four (1925), and under the new title, "Yosemite Nature Notes" is presented in regularly printed form and with an attractive cover. Originally produced by the Park Service primarily to make known the activities of the Yosemite Nature Guide Service, the scope of the paper has been extended so that it is now the official organ of the Yosemite Natural History Association and of the Yosemite Museum. The subject matter is naturally of local interest and application for the most part; its function is to purvey information regarding local features. The articles are well presented, and convey an impression of reliability. They sound, as they are, as the records of careful observers who are intent on accuracy rather than on making flamboyant and startling impressions. In the first three numbers of volume four we note articles on bear and deer by C. P. Russell, on botanical subjects by Enid Michael, and on certain eagles, hawks and owls by Donald McLean. Especially deserving of mention is Russell's account of some aspects of "unnatural" history, an amusing assemblage of tales of animal misbehavior that are widely current, some of them the world over. Illustrations are some from photographs and some (of birds and mammals) from drawings by E. J. Sawyer.

The California Phainopepla has recently been named by Josselyn Van Tyne (Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History, vol. 5, May 22, 1925, p. 149) as a race distinct from the original *Phainopepla nitens* of southern Mexico. The northern bird is designated *Phainopepla nitens lepida*, the type locality is Riverside, California, and the characters ascribed to the subspecies are solely differences of size. The northern bird is the smaller, or at any rate has shorter wing and tail.



*Wilfred H. Good*

Fig. 46. THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB (see page 161).

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

SKINNER'S BIRDS OF YELLOWSTONE PARK.\*—In this publication the formal list of species of birds accredited to Yellowstone National Park (pp. 170-176) shows 202 entries. The bibliography (pp. 177-181) includes 53 titles. There are two black-and-white inserted maps, one of them showing the localities mentioned in the text and the other one showing the life zones of Yellowstone Park. There are four colored plates, admirable for the purpose. Each shows an "association" of birds, six to eight species to a plate. These plates are the work of Edmund J. Sawyer; and while the figures are necessarily small, they are remarkably clear, creditable not only to the artist,

\* The birds of the Yellowstone National Park, by Milton P. Skinner < Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, vol. 3, no. 1 = Syracuse Univ. Bull., vol. 24, no. 24, February, 1925, pp. 7 (or 11)-192, col. pls. 1-4, folded maps 1, 2, text-figs. 1-47.