

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.

but to the engraver and printer. The contribution ends with a full index (pp. 183-189).

Let me first register whatever adverse criticism I may have. This criticism relates neither to the textual subject matter nor to the illustrations, but to editorial features. One fault from the standpoint of the user is that the front cover (and also numerous pages both at the front and the back) are over burdened with institutional advertising. Indeed, as one picks up the publication and starts through it, he fails at first to get any outstanding clue as to the nature of the contents, the type in which the title and author are set forth on the cover being subordinated to that which designates the auspices of publication. In fact, there is a curious mixture of "official" matter with the "contents", which latter occurs partly in two places; and there is no true title page at all.

Two editorial mistakes that are apparent in the legends to the text figures are as follows: Figure 16 is said to be a "photo by R. B. Rockwell". But it is a photo by F. N. Irving (see Condor, 1920, p. 14). Furthermore, the figure is not that of a "Red-shafted" Flicker, but of the eastern, Yellow-shafted Flicker. Figure 27 is credited to "M. P. Skinner"; but it is from a photo taken by H. J. Rust (see Condor, 1920, p. 90). These are little things perhaps; but it is the last five percent in the direction of perfection that marks a superior piece of work.

Now as to the text, the main part of the contribution under review: It is the work of an author who shows himself to be a close observer and a conscientious reporter. The text is narrative in style; popular, in the sense that it is entertainingly readable. The accounts of the birds of Yellowstone Park are given by region or association, and a sort of ornithological travelogue through the Park results. This mode of treatment seems to us a happy one, at least as employed in a brochure for the use of a tourist public.

Not only the bird life but other features of the natural history of the region are worked into these accounts. The interpretations of general faunal relationships and of interdependencies between various animals are intelligently and stimulative discussed. There is an especially good extended account of the White Pelican. Moot points in the behavior and life history of this bird are considered fairly. Never is a positive statement made except on the basis of the author's first-hand ob-

servation. Mr. Skinner is commendably ready to say "I do not know" or "I have not myself actually seen this"—or words to such effect. Among other important things, he records that the horny keel is present on the bill of the White Pelican in both sexes, being developed to greatest extent, and most generally among the birds, in late May.

One rather amusing lapse I notice is the designation almost invariably of a certain bird as "Water Ouzel or Dipper"; sometimes the sequence is reversed. These names seem so inseparable that the two together seem now to comprise *the* name of the species! We note this double name on colored plate 4 and on text-figure 2, as well as on various pages in the text. We have seen this same usage in other American publications, as also in a late English periodical. Of interest as bearing on Dr. Townsend's discussion which appears elsewhere in the present issue of *THE CONDOR*, is Mr. Skinner's reference (p. 89) definitely to the "white eyelid" of the dipper.

A valuable account is given of the exceedingly rare Trumpeter Swan. This bird has been found nesting within the Yellowstone Park, perhaps its only present-day station of occurrence within the United States. Mr. Skinner records individuals as seen up until 1922.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, April 16, 1925.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, on March 26, 1925, at 8 P. M. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Mr. Joseph Mailliard was made chairman of the evening. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for February were read. The following members were present: Misses Beaman and Canby; Mesdames Grinnell and Kibbe; Messrs. Clabaugh, Cooper, Cozens, Dixon, English, Foster, Grinnell, W. Grinnell, Hall, Kibbe, Mailliard, Perine, Simpson, Swarth and White. Mrs. Clabaugh and Mr. Gentry were visitors.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Bernhard C. Bremer, 516 Battery Street, San Francisco, Calif., by H.