

out a new check-list of the birds of California, recognizing in it only full species, *providing* a vote should register sufficient encouragement of the idea. I would aim to make this a check-list of *species*, consistently so, in the sense in which this term is exemplified in the A. O. U. Check-list, exhaustive in every detail within the radius of available information—as to distribution geographically, ecologically and seasonally; but I would put all names other than the accepted ones, subspecific as well as otherwise, applying in any part to each species, in the synonymy of that species. To repeat, subspecific names would be found there, but only in synonymy, those long in the literature as well as the lately proposed ones so often stigmatized, with or without justification, as needless recognition of “millimeter races”. For, be it known that, in my opinion, no more scanty grounds for subspecific recognition are known to date than those which form the basis of, say, the “Long-tailed Chat” versus the “Yellow-breasted Chat”, and the “Calaveras Warbler” versus the “Nashville Warbler”. In these and similar cases the scientific name of the *species* will be entered to the exclusion (save in synonymy) of the name of the subspecies; and vernacular names will be chosen accordingly. A variety of difficult problems are plainly in the offing; but I believe each can be solved on some reasonably practical basis.

All this does not mean that I am personally relinquishing the recognition of subspecies. These will still find an important use in phylogenetic and geographic studies, and they will merely be reserved for employment in the more technical type of publication devoted to these particular small portions of the general field of ornithology.

Now to the point: Will each member of the Cooper Ornithological Club who has an opinion, and who cares to make it effective, please within the next 30 days drop me a card voting *yes* or *no* on the proposition: shall the next check-list of the birds of California deal with *species* to the exclusion of subspecies? It is unnecessary to go into qualifying discussion; just say flatly *yes* or *no*.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 15, 1926.*

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

FORBUSH'S BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES.\*—Of all the states in the Union Massachusetts

now proves itself to be the most advanced in matters ornithological. For these many years it has not only maintained the office of Economic Ornithologist in its Department of Agriculture, but it has seen to it that very many contributions of high merit from that office have been printed in excellent style. The present volume marks the culmination of years of continuing improvement from both the ornithological and the typographical standpoints.

From the outset, Edward Howe Forbush has been the Economic Ornithologist of Massachusetts. Besides an enormous amount of lecturing and popular (newspaper) writing, he has conducted extensive economic investigations and prepared for the State press a long series of most creditable economic papers. Two large books, “Useful Birds and Their Protection”, and “Game Birds, Wild-Fowl and Shore Birds”, have come from his pen, and run through three and two editions, respectively; they are now out of print. Now comes Part I of what may be considered Forbush's “magnum opus”—unless he essays something still more exhaustive; and it is a lasting monument to his industry and scholarship as well as a thorough credit to the judgment of those Massachusetts state officials who have engineered the provision of the necessary financial backing.

This latest production of Forbush's constitutes a notable contribution to the general literature of ornithology. As such, readers of this review (presumably a good share of the Cooper Club's membership) would do well each to acquire a copy (or a set, rather, for there are to be two more volumes). We understand through a circular issued from the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture that the present volume may be had for \$5.00 plus carrying charges by applying to the Public Document Division, State House, Boston.

The illustrations are exceptionally fine, comparing favorably with those of far more expensive works. The half-tones are beautifully reproduced from first-class

\* Massachusetts Department of Agriculture | Dr. Arthur W. Gilbert | Commissioner | Birds of Massachusetts | and Other New England States | By | Edward Howe Forbush | Part I. | Water Birds, Marsh Birds and | Shore Birds | Illustrated with Colored Plates from Drawings by | Louis Agassiz Fuertes | and | Figures and Cuts from Drawings and Photographs by | The Author and Others | Issued by Authority of the Legislature | 1925. Large 8vo or small 4to (188 x 248 mm., type-bed 136 x 180 mm.), pp. xxxii + 481, 33 colored pls., 35 numbered figures on inserted plate paper (usually 2 half-tone figures to a page), and 68 unnumbered cuts from line drawings. Our copy received November 27, 1925.

photographs. The 33 colored plates do full justice to Fuertes at his best. One feature disturbed us a bit when we first opened the book: the plates have no white borders; in other words the entire surface of each plate page is taken up with color (background plus from 4 to 10 avian subjects). But as we look back and forth through the book we find ourselves getting used to this latest wrinkle in the handling of illustrations.

As already intimated, the text as well as the illustrations bear the closest scrutiny: The typography is well-nigh perfect. The small-type, technical paragraphs are concise and yet adequate. In these the reader finds down-to-date statements in regard to molts and plumages, distribution, etc. The nomenclature employed is properly conservative.

The large-type portion of each species account sets forth well selected biographical facts. Where important New England birds are concerned the biographies are especially full, and then much information relative to the species at large is frequently incorporated. All these accounts give evidence of careful discrimination on the part of the author. In other words, we are provided with thoroughly dependable natural history.

A noteworthy contribution to philosophic ornithology is comprised in the Introduction where, with the aid of two charts, Mr. Forbush discusses the correlation recently discovered, of the sporadic occurrence of southern birds along the North Atlantic coast with the occurrence of West Indian hurricanes. These storms of great violence travel northeastwardly, and it is shown in a series of instances that the appearance in New England of southern species followed shortly.

Through and through, Part I of Forbush's "Birds of Massachusetts" is an admirable production. We congratulate the author upon his achievement and wish him an equal measure of success in the issuance of parts 2 and 3.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California, December 24, 1925.*

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its November meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 1925, at the Southwest Museum; about seventy members and guests were present. The meeting was called to order by President Wyman. Minutes of the

October meeting were read and certain changes were made. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read. Following are the names proposed for membership: Ralph Emerson De Lury, Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, by W. Lee Chambers; Mrs. Nellie C. Rigden, 2019 Lake St., San Francisco, Calif., by Harold Michener.

The secretary was in receipt of a letter from the Fish and Game Commission in response to a protest of the Southern Division against the outlawing of cormorants and White Pelicans. The Commission stated that this matter was entirely out of its hands, the action having been taken by the Legislature.

An announcement of much interest was made by Mr. Law, in which he told of the decision of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Club to hold a series of annual meetings, similar in character to those of the A. O. U. He followed his announcement with a motion that the Southern Division undertake the holding of the first of these meetings here in Los Angeles the first Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of April, 1926. This was seconded by Dr. Miller with the suggestion that the Chair be empowered to appoint a committee to take charge of arrangements, to which Mr. Law acceded. The motion was unanimously carried, and later in the evening Mr. Wyman appointed Messrs. Harris, Chambers and Law.

Dr. Loye Holmes Miller was the speaker of the evening, his subject being "A Biologist in Central America". His vivid description of Salvador, its people, the food, weather, pests, vegetation, etc., gave his hearers quite a comprehensive idea of conditions in that country. He exhibited a number of interesting specimens of birds found there, some of which showed, as he had stated, that not all tropical birds are brightly colored. Adourned.—ELLA H. ELLIS, *Secretary.*

DECEMBER.—The Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday evening, December 29, 1925, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park; about thirty-five members and guests were present. The meeting was called to order by President Wyman, and minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. November minutes of the Northern Division were read. Following is a list of names proposed for membership: William Howard Ball, 1233 Irving St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and William Beebe, 33 West 67th St., New York City, by W. Lee Chambers;