

Chaney and Mason's study of the fossil flora of Carpinteria (Science, LXVI, 1927, no. 1702, p. 156) indicates a forested area during Pleistocene. It may, then, be a purely ecologic factor that makes the Daggett Eagle the most abundant of raptors in that deposit, the rarest at Rancho La Brea, and entirely wanting at McKittrick.

The new generic name here proposed is in honor of Dr. Alexander Wetmore of Washington, D. C.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, May 29, 1928.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

An indication of the progress being made in bird banding in Western North America is given by the Census of Birds Banded in the Western Province for the calendar year 1927 on pages 14 and 15 of the April, 1928, number of *News From the Bird Banders*, published by the Western Bird Banding Association. Totals of 160 species and subspecies, and 18,891 individual birds are shown, which are substantial increases over the corresponding figures of 145 and 11,445 for 1926. The birds represented by these census figures, and those for previous years, have been the basis of a considerable amount of study, some of the results of which have appeared in THE CONDOR, in papers presented at Cooper Club meetings, and elsewhere.—H. M.

A correspondent makes the pertinent suggestion that we emphasize the impropriety of anyone's writing extensively for publication without reading what has been written on the same subject by others within at least the preceding five years. It is pointed out that there seems to be a marked tendency of modern bird students to ignore preceding literature; too many current contributors publish regularly on the basis of their own personal background of experience exclusively. Surely, there can be no argument for such narrow individualism. Real advance in knowledge must be based on the aggregate experience of all investigators insofar as it is available. The complaint is made, with which we hold some sympathy, that literature has accumulated to a point where it is practically impossible for a person to be sure he has found all previous contributions

even in his own section of the general field. But, again, it certainly is possible for a prospective author to acquaint himself with what has appeared in the chief ornithological magazines during the relatively brief preceding period of five years or so.—J.G.

Prospective contributors to THE CONDOR should understand that we accept articles only on condition that they are submitted for use exclusively in this magazine. In other words, we feel strongly that we are not justified in printing in our magazine any article already published elsewhere, no matter how seemingly important, or in what other periodical printed. There is rarely any excuse at all for simultaneous publication of the same article in two or more journals; it is a waste financially and is not in the interests of bibliography. We are distressed to find that the Golden-crowned Sparrow record from Massachusetts printed in our May issue had also appeared in the April issue of *The Auk*. May *Condor* was in press before April *Auk* reached us, and we had no information previously that any such duplication was in prospect.

The Boston Society of Natural History has just published, in its Proceedings (volume 39, April, 1928, pages 33-72, plates 4 [portrait] and 5), a biographical sketch of Edward Howe Forbush, who is just this year retiring from his position as Ornithologist of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This biography is written by John B. May who, we understand, succeeds Mr. Forbush in office. We have read the biography with keen interest,

especially that part of it in which Mr. Forbush's own account is quoted, of his visit in 1888 to the coast of British Columbia. Here, again, the modern collector can have little understanding of the hardships and real adventure experienced by the explorer in the West forty years ago. Incidentally, it was during that trip to British Columbia that Mr. Forbush collected the type of the race of Lincoln Sparrow designated by Brewster as Forbush's Sparrow.

William Leon Dawson died suddenly, of pneumonia, in Columbus, Ohio, on April 30, 1928. We are informed that he was actively at work upon a new edition of his *Birds of Ohio*, and that he was also of late giving his winters to the study of the birds of Florida with the aim ultimately of publishing a similar work on the birds of that state. Both of these publications were to have been patterned after the artistically and literarily monumental *Birds of California*; but the financial organization formed to make the carrying out of these plans possible will now necessarily be dissolved. A biography of Mr. Dawson appeared in *THE CONDOR* for 1913 (vol. xv, pp. 62-69, portrait).

A recent publication in the economic field is the privately printed "Study of the Economic Status of the Common Woodpeckers in Relation to Oregon Horticulture", by Johnson Andrew Neff. The work upon which this contribution is based was done by the author during the period 1924-26 at Oregon Agricultural College. While the text takes much account of previously published information, there is also included a considerable proportion of original material. This brochure thus should be acquired by everyone interested in the field of its subject. Copies may be had at a cost of \$1.50 by addressing the author at his home in Marionville, Missouri.

We learn that a new book is about to appear from the pen of Florence Merriam Bailey. This one will deal with the "Birds of New Mexico", to which subject it is well known that Mrs. Bailey has been giving much study for several years past. The book will be abundantly illustrated, from twenty-three original colored drawings by Allan Brooks and one drawing by Fuertes. In addition there will be

many black and white drawings and maps. The book will be printed in Washington, D. C., and every effort will be expended toward making this in all respects one of the best of Western bird books. The selling price of the book will be \$5.00, and advance orders may be filed with our fellow member, Mr. R. T. Kellogg, Silver City, New Mexico. Since the cost of this publication has been underwritten privately, the sale price has been fixed to exclude any margin of profit. The date of publication will be during the coming autumn.

A new sportsmen's organization has been founded, to be known as The American Wild Fowlers. Its president is Dr. John C. Phillips, whose office address is 508 Lenox Building, Washington, D. C. The plan of this organization is simple, and it is now financed on a three year basis without any attempt to enroll a large membership. Its aims are to do everything possible toward the conservation and increase of wild fowl (ducks and geese) throughout the country. A recent announcement contains many statements which we are inclined warmly to support; from these we select for quotation the following: "We want information on all of the following points: shrinkage of surface water through drainage and through the effects of agriculture (especially in the Prairie States); the existence of all legitimate shooting clubs; the onset of any adverse factors affecting the duck supply, such as disease, oil pollution, duck sickness, over-shooting, or unusual conditions on the breeding grounds. Lastly, we want really worth-while statistics showing actual kill of birds at various points, so that eventually with the help of State records we may form a close estimate of the numbers of birds shot each season. This, taken together with adequate returns from the census now in progress under the Biological Survey, and with increased knowledge from banding, will give us a more rational basis for determining the proper methods of handling what we believe is a really great national resource." A specially commendable thing is the aim of this organization to cooperate closely with the United States Biological Survey and to resist any legislative effort designed to take away from that Bureau the authority necessary properly to administer the migratory bird life of the nation. The names of the persons as-

sociated with the American Wild Fowlers guarantee that here is an organization of sportsmen with the caliber to exercise their influence intelligently from the scientific natural history standpoint.—J.G.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The April meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m. on April 26, 1928, in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for March were read. The name of Miss Clara M. Stedman, 3871 Howe St., Oakland, Calif., was proposed for membership by J. Grinnell.

Mr. Brighton C. Cain and Mr. Philbrick Smith called attention of those present to the exhibition of birds proposed in candidacy for State Bird at the Oakland Public Museum. Mr. C. B. Lastreto read a newspaper clipping announcing a proposed blue jay shoot; this was commented upon by several members. Mr. Harwell reported a colony of about 25 Cliff Swallows nesting in Oakland. Mr. Grinnell reported having seen males of four species of hummingbirds in Strawberry Canyon on April 21. Mr. Storer announced that on an April Sunday Mr. Clabaugh and himself had seen 42 species of birds in the Solano hills. Mr. Mailliard told of the continued presence of the albino Ruddy Duck in Golden Gate Park and said that it had been seen on nearly every one of the lakes there.

Speakers of the evening were Mr. Joseph Mailliard and Mr. H. S. Swarth. The latter spoke upon the bird-life of Arizona in general and the changes which have come about since early collectors combined the avocation of bird study with the vocation of protecting settlers from Apache raids. Most of these changes Mr. Swarth found were caused either directly or indirectly by the over-grazing of the cattle ranges.

Mr. Mailliard's talk, which was illustrated by slides, dealt with the Santa Rita Mountain region of southeastern Arizona, where he had camped both spring and fall about seven miles north of the town of Patagonia. Mr. Mailliard enumerated the species he found about the ranch house there, with its grove of cottonwoods, and then those species found

in the drier and more sparsely inhabited areas. Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, on March 27, 1928, at 8 p. m., with President Chambers presiding. About forty members and friends were present. The minutes of the February meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the February meeting of the Northern Division were read.

The following applications for membership were read: Charles Harlan Abbott, Professor of Zoology, University of Redlands, 28 South University St., Redlands, Calif.; John H. Drengberg, 1370 Los Flores Drive, Eagle Rock, Calif.; John D. Lyons, Jr., Route 1, Box 6, Tucson, Ariz.; Otto McCreary, Agricultural Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming (all proposed by W. Lee Chambers); and Charles Homer Cooper, Elk Grove, Sacramento Co., Calif., proposed by Harold Michener.

Dr. Miller reported that plans for the Annual Meeting were progressing satisfactorily. Major Allan Brooks, at the request of President Chambers, gave a short talk and expressed pleasure at being able to attend a Cooper Club meeting after so many years since the last such opportunity.

Dr. Miller, the speaker of the evening, told in his entertaining manner of the fossils found in the asphalt deposits of Carpinteria, California; and he pointed out some of the differences between the animal and plant remains found in the three known deposits of the kind, at Carpinteria, Rancho La Brea (Los Angeles), and McKittrick. From the plant remains at Carpinteria, which include both staminate and pistillate flowers of mistletoe and pine, and other flowers, seeds, leaves and stems so perfectly preserved that even the fine hairs still remain, it is concluded that the climate there was more humid than at present—climate and vegetation much like those now at Pacific Grove. The birds represented were mostly land birds—California Peacock, California Quail (almost exactly like the one of today), hawks, eagles, some long-legged waders, one goose, and two ducks. The complete absence of gulls was remarked on by Dr. Miller as one of the unexplainable fea-