

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The seventh annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club is scheduled to take place in the Los Angeles area on April 22 and 23, 1932. The regular meeting of the Board of Governors will follow on the twenty-fourth. While good-fellowship and better personal acquaintance are important ends served by these general meetings, the scientific papers and the opportunity for discussion of papers constitutes the fundamental element. The six previous occasions of meeting have done their service well. The 1932 meeting is expected to be quite as full of constructive discussion. The building of the scientific program is not a "one man job," although the final arrangement of its separate items is properly so delegated. The papers are submitted by the Club members at large, and stimulus or outlet for such contribution is the major function of the annual meeting. Let us each one take that thought seriously. The one man function, however, will be greatly facilitated if each contributor who submits a title will at the same time indicate the nature of his contribution. A sentence or two in explanation sometimes assists greatly where a title is hard to "translate". We sometimes suspect the title in fiction or in drama of being in the nature of *concealing coloration*. Might not our scientific titles more properly strive to be *revealing colors*? What is your title? Send your reply to LOYD H. MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles*.

Dr. Gayle B. Pickwell, whose recently published ecological study of the Prairie Horned Lark is reviewed at length and altogether favorably by Mr. McCabe in this issue of the *Condor* (p. 106), is a graduate from Cornell University who came to California some five years ago to teach in the natural science department in the San Jose State Teachers College. He has not only established his record as an extremely successful teacher there, but has put out a series of nature bulletins under the title *Western Nature Study*, in which animal and plant natural history is set forth on a high plane of factual worth and at the same time in a form for the immediate use of teachers. He is aided in this type of work through his marked ability in the field of wild-life photography. Dr. Pickwell is also active

in promoting interest in birds through the Audubon Societies and in conducting summer courses in ornithology. Recently he was elected Vice-President of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

Mr. George Willett, of the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, is undertaking a complete revision of his "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California", originally published as *Pacific Coast Avifauna* Number 7. He urges that all important unpublished records for that region either be turned in to him for inclusion in his new compendium, or else be published independently so as to become generally available.

The first book on birds to reach us in the new year was Arthur H. Howell's "Florida Bird Life", published by the Florida Department of Game and Fresh Water Fish in coöperation with the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture (cap 4to [185 x 248 mm.], pp. xxiv + 579, 58 pls., 72 text figs. [maps]; to be had from the Florida Department of Game and Fresh Water Fish, Tallahassee, for \$6.00). This is essentially a state list, well and authoritatively annotated, embellished with some general matter and an abundance of illustrations, part of these being from colored drawings by Francis L. Jaques. The typography throughout is excellent. The chapter giving the "History of Florida Ornithology" proved of special interest to us. And well worth studying because of its bearing upon current conservation problems is the chapter contributed by Robert W. Williams setting forth the "History of Bird Protection in Florida". There is a complete and accurate "Bibliography of Florida Ornithology" to which abundant reference is made in modern approved style, throughout the text. In this book, as a result of Howell's 12 years of consistent work upon it, we are now afforded the latest word as to the status of the many birds peculiar to that peninsula and so well known in the general literature of North American birds. In general it would seem that despite large reclamation movements the fortunes of the bird life of Florida are somewhat improving, due to the rising regard for bird life on the part of the citizens of that state.—J. G.

Dr. Casey A. Wood's "Introduction to the Literature of Vertebrate Zoology" (Oxford Univ. Press, London: Humphrey Milford, 1931, foliopost 4to [8½ x 11 inches], pp. xx + 643, frontispiece) pertains so extensively to ornithology that no working ornithological library can afford to do without it. The result of laborious bibliographic research, this work becomes at once useful to active students through the various classifications it gives—chronological, by groups of animals dealt with, by subject, and, exhaustively, by author. Of readable and extremely informative character are chapters on such subjects as Linnaean literature, travelogues of explorers, the literature of zoogeography, periodicals and serials, and rare and unique works. We congratulate Dr. Wood on the final completion of this monumental undertaking.—J. G.

Mr. John R. Pemberton got back on February 10 from a ten weeks' cruise along the west coast of Mexico, visiting the many islands from the head of the Gulf of California south to Socorro. Dr. William H. Burt and Mr. A. J. van Rossem were guests of Mr. Pemberton on his yacht, collecting vertebrates in the interests of Mr. Donald R. Dickey of the California Institute of Technology.

## CURRENT DISCUSSION

### GAME AND WILD LIFE CONSERVATION

This is a reply to Mr. T. T. McCabe's well written and persuasive *exposé* of two recent manifestations of the sportsman's movement: my "Game Survey of the North Central States," and the several publications issued by "More Game Birds in America." Both are, I take it, inclusively condemned as "a framework of pernicious doctrines, too often speciously glossed over."

Mr. McCabe's attitude raises what seems to me a fundamental issue. I hope that it may provoke some badly needed cerebration among both protectionists and sportsmen, and especially among those intergrades like myself, who share the aspirations of both.

There are many sportsmen who laugh at any attempt to embody the protectionist point-of-view in any game program. "Whatever you do the protectionists will be against it." Mr. McCabe's paper furnishes scant comfort to those of us who have been holding out against this attitude, because we see in it the indefinite continuation of the present deadlock, from

which the sharpest pens gain much glory, but the game gains nothing except a further chance to disappear.

"More Game Birds" on the one hand, and the "Game Survey" (as further developed in the "American Game Policy") on the other, represent the opposite wings of the sportsman's camp. From their very inception they agreed to disagree on the very issues with respect to which Mr. McCabe presumably finds them both "pernicious," namely: predator control, exotics, degree of commercialization, and artificial propagation. This divergence, great enough to seem fundamental to two groups of hardened sportsmen, would, I had hoped, be perceptible to readers of the *Condor*.

I do not imply that Mr. McCabe should agree with either "More Game Birds" or myself on these moot questions. I ask, though, whether it is good for conservation for him to dismiss both, with one breath, as equally subversive of what he considers sound policy. (I think this is not too strong a statement, since Mr. McCabe says "these proposals are an offer . . . to the nation, for its game birds," to which he would reply, "Not for sale.")

Of course, no disagreement is ever as simple as it looks on paper. A partial explanation of this one lies, I think, in the fact that Mr. McCabe's game policy, whether he realizes it or not, consists of a system of *personal wishes* which might be realized if America consisted of 120 million ornithologists, whereas mine is a system of *proposed public actions* designed to fit the unpleasant fact that America consists largely of business men, farmers, and "Rotarians," busily playing the national game of economic expansion. Most of them admit that birds, trees, and flowers are nice to have around, but few of them would admit that the present "depression" in waterfowl is more important than the one in banks, or that the status of the blue goose has more bearing on the cultural future of America than the price of U. S. Steel.

Now if Mr. McCabe and I had the courage to challenge this universal priority for things material and things economic, we might consistently hoist the banner "Not For Sale" and die heroically under the heels of the mob. But have we not already compromised ourselves? I realize that every time I turn on an electric light, or ride on a Pullman, or pocket the unearned increment on a stock, or a bond, or a piece of real estate, I am "selling out" to the enemies of conservation. When