

alder tree. This nest, from below, was similar in appearance to a Black-headed Grosbeak's, so upon bending down the limb we were surprised to flush from it a female Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*).

The nest, which held four eggs of slight incubation, was constructed exteriorly of the fruit stems of wild grapes, a few stems of dry grasses, and a piece of common white twine; the body was of rootlets, and the lining was of black horsehairs with a few white hairs mixed with them.

Though the Western Tanager has been reported as having nested in Napa County, which adjoins Solano County on the west, we do not know of any previous record of the nesting of this species in Solano County.

The creek at the place where the nest was located was between three hundred and four hundred feet above sea level and was bordered and well-shaded by tall alders, maples, live oaks and laurels.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, Solano County, California, July 13, 1932.*

The Caspian Tern, a New State Record for Kansas.—On September 27, 1928, an adult specimen of the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*) was killed by Mr. Harold Standing of Wellsville, Kansas. It was brought to the University of Kansas for identification and subsequently donated to the Museum there. This specimen was taken just a few minutes after daybreak as it was flying along the Kansas River about five miles east of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. It had apparently followed the river down from the east and was accompanied by one other bird that appeared to Mr. Standing to be of the same species. The specimen is a female in the typical post-nuptial plumage and bears University of Kansas Museum number 17147.

The closest out-of-state records for this species are those reported by Harris in his *Birds of the Kansas City Region* (Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis, XXIII, 1919, p. 227). He mentions several taken in October, 1914, at Courtney, and one taken in the spring of 1886, at Lake City. These two towns are in Missouri, about forty miles directly east of Lawrence, Kansas. Acknowledgment is made to Mr. C. D. Bunker, who is in charge of the University of Kansas Museum of Birds and Mammals, for permission to report this record.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, August 19, 1932.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

"Bird Watching in the West" is the title of a recent charming volume by Frances Staver Twining (Member, Cooper Ornithological Club). Illustrations by Florenz Clark, Metropolitan Press, Publishers, Portland, Oregon, 1931, pp. 1-170. Price, \$2.00. Although we have an abundance of publications on the more technical side of ornithology we have little for the growing army of bird lovers who enjoy the birds for their "intrinsic charm" as the author so aptly states it in her preface. Mrs. Twining has shown exceptional ability to express in print her own as well as others' feeling for birds as a part of nature. This little volume, illustrated by numbers of attractive line drawings, and with lists of birds from several western sections, including those of National Parks, will fill a long felt want for a wide field of readers.—S. G. JEWETT.

Early on the morning of August 3, 1932, Miss Ellen Browning Scripps, in her

ninety-sixth year, passed from this life as she slept in her home at La Jolla, California. But the spirit of this remarkable woman, who had been acclaimed San Diego's "most useful citizen," will carry on indefinitely. Always of slight figure and somewhat frail in appearance, she nevertheless possessed the kind of force which comes with a character of insight, decision and vigor. The list of her special interests is the roll of vital human activities. She gave lavishly, but always unostentatiously and as far as possible through others, to colleges, schools, hospitals, churches of many denominations, playgrounds, associated charities, zoological gardens, museums, community enterprises and unnumbered obscure causes.

In the fields of science and education, she generously supported aggressive research, as well as those departments which appeal to children and spread popular knowledge. The list of her benefactions relating to natural history and

kindred subjects includes the San Diego Society of Natural History, the Zoological Society of San Diego, the San Diego Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the Egypt Exploration Society. She financed the publication of Dawson's large work on "The Birds of California," Johnson and Snook's "Seashore Animals of the Pacific Coast," and a number of other natural history books. She was responsible for the permanent preservation of an extensive stand of the unique Torrey Pine, and was ever keenly interested in matters of conservation, creation of parks, and the safeguarding of natural resources.

To the San Diego Society of Natural History she was a "patron saint." Her large donations for specific objects and her generous monthly contributions for operations made possible the activities of this organization and its public museum on their present scale. She lived to see its permanent building, to which she was the largest subscriber, well under way toward completion, and she bequeathed \$50,000 to the Society in her will.

Many efforts were made to express public gratitude to Miss Scripps. Degrees were given to her, tablets installed in her honor. But the best tribute will not be that of any group; it will be perennial.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, July 28, 1932, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Linsdale presiding and about sixty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for June were read, and approved with a change suggested by Dr. Loye Miller. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Mr. Robert Poultney, Arcata, California, was proposed for membership by Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., and Mr. Edgar J. Parker, 321 North Fifth Street, Corvallis, Oregon, by Mr. T. T. McCabe, both through the Western Bird-banding Association.

The Chair brought before the meeting the names of Mr. Albert M. Ingersoll and Mr. A. W. Anthony, both of San Diego, who had been voted upon favorably by the

Southern Division for Honorary Membership and this action was confirmed on the part of the Northern Division by unanimous election.

Mr. C. A. Bryant reported that on July 3, at Moss Landing, he saw Long-billed Dowitchers, Godwits, Willets, Hudsonian and Long-billed curlews, Red-backed Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, Snowy Plovers with nests, and Least, Forster, and Caspian terns. Off the coast were large numbers of Shearwaters. On July 4, on a small island off Point Lobos, he found seventy-five nests of the Brown Pelican in a colony of these birds estimated at three thousand. Four Black Swifts, and Black Oystercatchers with half grown young, were also seen. Mrs. Kelly reported seeing Pigeon Guillemots feeding young along the Santa Cruz Cliff Drive on June 30, and about five hundred Willets, and smaller numbers of sandpipers, Godwits, Dowitchers, Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, and Hudsonian Curlew near the San Francisco Bay Bridge. Mrs. Mead told of seeing sandpipers and Northern Phalaropes near the Key Route pier on July 25.

The evening's program was provided by Dr. Loye Miller, who spoke upon "Fossil Birds". He explained the basis of his interest in this subject, and showed that through the study of bird fossils much has been learned as to the nature of past plant and animal communities and the climatic conditions under which they lived, as also something as to the possible evolution of bird species and subspecies. In conclusion, he brought out the fact that California has contributed richly to this subject, since twenty widely distributed localities have yielded some 150,000 specimens within the thirty years which have followed the finding of a fossil Auk by Lucas.

A brief discussion followed. Adjourned.—MARY M. ERICKSON, *Secretary pro tem.*

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, August 25, 1932, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Linsdale in the Chair and about sixty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved.

Mr. Alden H. Miller read a communication from Mr. John R. Brock of Oakland, reporting upon the homing instincts of certain wild birds, caged by himself