

Sahuaro Screech Owl in Coachella Valley, California.—On December 11, 1932, after a long hike back into a small cañon of the Santa Rosa Mountains, about twelve miles southwest of Coachella, my husband called my attention to an object that appeared to be wedged into a small round opening in the perpendicular side of the cañon wall, twelve to fifteen feet above the ground. Observing it closely for several minutes and deciding it was a forked stick resembling an owl, the knot holes like slits of closed eyes, we determined to get it.

Finding toe-holds in the rocks Mr. Clary climbed nearly opposite before there was an almost imperceptible wink to indicate to the observer below that it was in truth a small owl. But just as his hand was about to close over it this small owl, robin size, which we took to be the Sahuaro Screech Owl (*Otus asio gilmani*) slipped out of the crevice and made its unhurried flight down the cañon to where it turned again into the protective coloring of the rocky cañon wall not over a hundred feet away. The pronounced horns, small size, and pale gray coloring were all distinctive. The owl was seen at close range, and in flight passed within arm's reach, so that the wing pattern was easily discernible. This is the first record of this species made by the writer in this section.—MRS. BEN L. CLARY, *Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella, California, January 27, 1933.*

A Grinnell Water-Thrush in Oregon.—On August 26, 1931, a Grinnell Water-Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*) was taken from one of the traps of a regularly operated bird-banding station at Beaver, Oregon, sixteen miles south of Tillamook. The trap was of the "clover-leaf" type, baited with rolled barley and cheese trimmings and set on the bank of a small stream, about six feet from the water. The skin was sent to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, for identification, where it was examined by Dr. J. Grinnell and Dr. Alden H. Miller, who provisionally referred it to this race, although it is "darker and somewhat smaller than other skins in the Museum collection."

So far as I can ascertain, this species has not been previously recorded from Oregon.—REED W. FERRIS, *Beaver, Oregon, January 30, 1933.*

Food of the Pigmy Owl and Goshawk.—The following observations were made on a place owned by the writer on Hat Creek, in Shasta County, California.

At dusk, on August 18, 1930, the writer was walking toward the creek when something darted past his head, striking a branch of an old dead tree about twenty feet away. It proved to be a California Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma californicum*), and when collected it was found to have in its claws, a freshly killed Cassin Purple Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*), of which the head and part of the entrails had already been eaten.

On the evening of August 25, 1931, an American Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus*) was seen carrying a large mammal which, when the hawk was collected, was found to be a California Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus griseus griseus*). The head and part of the body had already been consumed by the hawk. The Gray Squirrel has been a rare animal in the above locality for many years, but at the present time it seems to be getting established once more.—ERNEST D. CLABAUGH, *Berkeley, California, March 9, 1933.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The eighth annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, at the University of California in Berkeley, with headquarters in the Life Sciences Building. The board of governors will meet on Sunday, May 7. Day-time programs of papers at the annual meetings have come to be, during the past seven years, contributions of high order and provocative of good discussion. To cite one instance, we will long remember George Willett's brief

but well directed remarks on "Logic in Systematics," given last year in Los Angeles. One important aim this year is to make the program even better suited for open discussion and interchange of ideas than heretofore. With these precedents and aims in view, thoughtful planning by contributors will go far to aid the program committee. Shortly, mail request for titles will be sent out. Be forewarned, therefore, and have ready a suitable title to submit. We trust the somewhat earlier date of

meeting this year, compared with that of two years ago in Berkeley, will facilitate attendance. Arrange at once to be in Berkeley on the first week-end of May. Plan also to join in our noon-day and evening social activities and renew fellowships with bird students from distant parts of the State and country.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *General Chairman, University of California, Berkeley.*

There was distributed at the January (26th) Northern Division C.O.C. meeting the first copies of a printed folder entitled "Birds of Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park" [Oakland, California], compiled and issued by the Oakland Ornithological

dents, 20; summer visitants, 11; winter visitants, 61; transients, 19; vagrants, 20; introduced 7. The first "boy" on record to watch birds on and about Lake Merritt was Edward W. Nelson, who, on one day in 1872, identified 28 kinds (see note in *Condor*, 27, 1925, pp. 173-174). The present contribution, of pocket size, on stiff paper, and based on accurate observation over a period of years, is admirably adapted for local popular use. There ought to be available just this sort of list for every population center in the country.—J. G.

The comprehensive study of the Rancho La Brea eagles and vultures by Hilde-

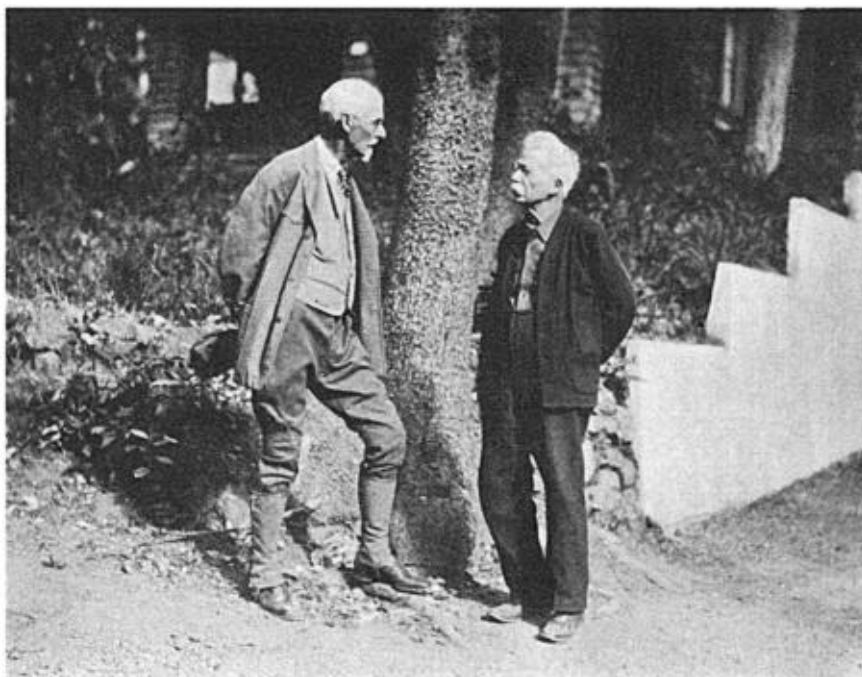


Fig. 17. JOSEPH MAILLIARD (LEFT) AND C. HART MERRIAM (RIGHT), TWO HONORARY COOPER CLUB MEMBERS OF DISTINGUISHED RECORD.

Photograph taken September 7, 1930, by Lawrence V. Compton, at Lagunitas, California.

Club. This is a group of enthusiastic young naturalists working under the guidance of Scoutmaster B. C. Cain, from whom copies of the folder may be obtained at 5 cents each. A total of 138 kinds of birds are listed under current vernacular and authoritative scientific names, with groupings indicated as follows: Permanent resi-

garde Howard (*Carnegie Inst. Wash.*, publ. 129, October, 1932, 82 pages, 29 pls.) might well be designated the outstanding publication of the year dealing with avian paleontology. The problem of assorting and associating as to species the abundant fossil material in the Los Angeles Museum from this locality has demanded a special

mode of handling worth the attention of paleontologists generally. The report recognizes eight forms of eagles, large buteonids, and Old-World vultures present in the deposits, but in addition constitutes a review of all the fossil records of these types in North America. The only new species, a *Urubitinga*, from Hawver Cave, California, is described, perhaps too informally, in the body of the text on page 25. The work is revisionary; family and generic allocations are importantly altered. It is gratifying to see the Rancho La Brea materials, which in quantity frequently outnumber available modern skeletons, continue in the hands of so competent a worker as Miss Howard.—A. H. M.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

SIEWERT'S "STÖRCH" AND HEINRICH'S "DER VOGEL SCHNARCH".—Two German nature books have just appeared, differing in subject matter, for one treats of the home life of two native birds, the other of a collecting expedition in the Malay Archipelago; yet they have much in common.

It is seldom that a book combines notable pictures, scientific accuracy, and literary style, yet Horst Siewert's "Störche"¹ has this distinction. A number of his studies have already appeared in the *Journal für Ornithologie*, chiefly on the great birds of prey; he now gives us a book on the home life of the two storks.

The tale of the rare, shy Black Stork that lives in deep forests has a special appeal. From day-long vigils in a blind in a tree top the author learned that the female did most of the incubating, the male taking her place for some hours each morning. When the young were three weeks old, the parents relieved each other in two and a half to four hour shifts, bringing, however, a total of only five meals, two in the early morning and three late in the day. With the White Stork the female incubated all night, but during the day the birds changed places at intervals ranging from one to four and a half hours, the male assuming the larger share of the task.

There is not a trace of nature faking nor of anthropomorphism here; on the contrary, instead of glossing over the fact that the Black Storks let one of their babies die of cold and hunger on the rim of the nest, the author uses the incident as an occasion to discuss bird mentality. In connection with the White Storks he

brings up the vexed question whether bird language is uttered with the intention of communication, or is always an expression of emotion. The scientific value of the book is attested by the fact that 16 pages of the observations on *Ciconia nigra* are reprinted in the last *Journal für Ornithologie*.

Too often the object of nature photography appears to be chiefly entertainment; here on the contrary every one of the 80 pictures is significant of some phase in behavior, for Horst Siewert's purpose was primarily that of understanding the life of his subjects.

In "Der Vogel Schnarch", Gerd Heinrich tells of the adventures of himself, his wife and sister-in-law in the high mountains and terrible swamps of Celebes, a two years' expedition which resulted in a rich array of new forms of both birds and mammals for the American Museum of Natural History and the Zoologisches Museum and Zoo of Berlin. With vivid description of the primeval forests and strange birds and beasts, and occasional flashes of humor, the author recounts difficulties and rewards, discouragements and triumphs and the final capture of the two rare rails, *Habroptila wallacei* and *Aramidopsis plateni*—"der Vogel Schnarch." The undaunted courage of all three participants, and their dogged determination to achieve the allotted task, give an example of devotion in the service of science which may well serve as inspiration to the rest of us.

These books, despite their low price, are masterpieces, each in its own phase of bird study.—MARGARET M. NICE.

THE BIRDS OF NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR.—This work of Austin's appeals to the reviewer as much more than a regional annotated list, especially in that considerable emphasis is placed upon the origin and history of Holarctic avifaunas. In treating of the Newfoundland Labrador avifauna as a whole, which is comprised of 177 species and subspecies, interesting and useful nominal lists of various groups of species are given, such as: species of uncertain status, species classified as

¹ 1932. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer; 208 pp., 80 pls. 4.80 RM.

² 1932. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer; 200 pp. 69 pls. 4.80 RM.

³ The Birds of Newfoundland Labrador, by Oliver Luther Austin, Jr. *Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, No. VII. Cambridge, Massachusetts, published by the Club, September, 1932 (received here, November 21, 1932); 299 pp., with 2 maps, index and bibliography.