

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

In looking back over the 1932 volume of *The Condor*, with the point in view of singling out the most important new ornithological fact recorded therein during that year, we might perhaps be correct in selecting the Micheners' determination that, in the California Linnnet, there may be as many as eight successive replacements of

Pickwell and Miss Emily Smith. Information may be obtained by enquiry of the former at State Teachers College, San Jose, California.

Volume II, part III, of LaTouche's "Hand-Book of Birds of Eastern China" has appeared. This work, published by



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Figs. 26, 27. THE DIVISIONAL PRESIDENTS OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB: AT LEFT, JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, SOUTHERN DIVISION; AT RIGHT, GAYLE B. PICKWELL, NORTHERN DIVISION.

feathers, induced by plucking, between the regular times of annual molt.

The latest word from our World-traveling Cooper Club representative, Dr. Casey Wood, is that he is staying at the Suisse Hotel, in Kandy, Ceylon—will be there till August. He encloses a locally published plea for the "Protection of Wild Life in Ceylon," by Mr. W. W. A. Phillips. Such expressions as "Public interest more important than any ordinance" lead us to infer that the problems of conservation are pretty much the same the World over.

The West Coast School of Nature Study has announced that its Outdoor School is to be held this year June 18 to 28 in the Sequoia National Park. The staff of teachers includes, from membership of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Dr. Gayle B.

Taylor and Francis, London, is thus in no appreciable way delayed by World conditions. The original high standard of usefulness is being held to; indeed, we find it the most helpful work at hand for identifying birds of the Orient.

Dr. Witmer Stone, Editor *The Auk*, has been elected an Honorary Member of the British Ornithologists' Union. This distinction is one that is rarely conferred. The only living Americans now so listed, besides Dr. Stone, are Frank M. Chapman, Harry C. Oberholser, and Leonhard Stejneger.

The article entitled "Second Annual Black Brant Census in California" in *California Fish and Game* (vol. 18, October, 1932 [issued March, 1933]) constitutes probably the most valuable single

contribution to exact knowledge of California's waterfowl that has appeared in any recent year. The author, Mr. James Moffitt, has been conducting, with the help of several other experienced Cooper Club members (C. I. Clay, J. M. Linsdale, T. T. McCabe, L. M. Huey), simultaneous counts of Black Brant on the several bays resorted to by this species along the California coast. In 1932, February 10-12, on Humboldt, Bodega, Tomales, Drakes, Morro, Mission and San Diego bays, a total figure of 43,946 individual birds resulted. In the article cited, Moffitt discusses informatively the facts and factors having to do with the present status and the future maintenance of the population of this important game bird. It is proposed to make the census-taking of this species, at the time of its northward movement, an annual event.

The April *Auk* contains an article by Emerson A. Stoner on the way to gather and store "A Collection Showing Food Eaten by Birds" (Vol. L, 1933, pp. 187-189, pl. VIII). Dried and cleaned crop or stomach contents of birds are kept in cotton-lined, glass-covered, individual insect boxes, suitably spread out and labeled, and constitute a permanent and interesting exhibit. No killing of birds need be done specifically for this purpose. "What specimens I have," says Mr. Stoner, "are the result of investigations made upon birds found already dead," such as those found traffic-killed on highways, ones killed by overhead wires, and some left hanging on fences by irresponsible hunters.

The United States National Park Service has started a new series of publications under the title "Fauna Series." Number 1 is an account of the "Fauna of the National Parks of the United States" (small octavo [150 x 230 mm.] pp. iv + 157, 56 halftone figs. in text, 1933—our copy received March 15). The authors are George M. Wright, Joseph S. Dixon and Ben H. Thompson, all members of the newly instituted Wild Life Division of the National Park Service, of which Division Mr. Wright is Chief. All these developments are the result of the increasing recognition being given to the importance of animal life, and of the maintenance of it in undisturbed estate, within the boundaries of all our Parks. Discussion of principles and of methods for insuring the realization of this ideal, in the

face of various adverse human factors, constitutes the theme of this contribution. We cannot here quote, as we would like, extensively from the final formulation of policies (pp. 147-148). The whole thing is stated concisely, with supporting reasons, and we simply urge its careful reading upon naturalists generally. This valuable brochure, illustrated with the fine photographs by Mr. Dixon, of birds, mammals and characteristic landscapes, can be had for 20 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. A piece of work of such high standards is greatly to the credit of the administrative group within which it originated. High types of public administrators are exemplified in such men as the late Stephen T. Mather, the present Director of National Parks, Horace M. Albright, Assistant Director Harold C. Bryant, and the Chief of the Wild Life Division. The present contribution is a manual of practical animal conservation, the very best we have yet seen, in that the tenets set forth appear not to have been swayed in the least by any special interests seeking "utilization" of one or another element in the fauna. It deserves careful study by everyone interested in saving for the future as much as possible of the wild life in uncultivated areas generally, outside as well as inside National Parks. For nearly all the ideas set forth can and should be adopted widely, to the greatest benefit of present and future human culture.—J. G.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

AN ATLAS OF EUROPEAN BIRD MIGRATION (Schüz, Dr. Ernst, und Weigold, Dr. Hugo. Atlas des Vogelzugs nach den Beringungsergebnissen bei palaearktischen Vögeln, etc. Kommissions-Verlag: R. Friedländer und Sohn, Berlin, 1931. [One portfolio]. Inhalt I Heft Text und 150 Tafeln. [Tafeln=150 map plates, 270 x 310 mm.]. Text mit 5 Abbildungen, pp. vii + 160. 96 RM.)—It is not too much to say that the publication under review places the study of migration on a truly scientific basis. Having made such a statement I hasten to admit that one range, usually the northern, has been delimited for many migrants, flight lines shadowed forth, and the other range indicated, as a rule with much less certainty. Bird banders are perhaps apt to overlook the storehouse of information which is the check-list, and regard their returns as discoveries of what was in fact perfectly well-