

seventy nests, some of them of last year's construction, and it was apparent that this was the site for which we had searched in 1932; incidentally, it was within fifty yards of the end of our search of that season.

On May 23, 1933, I saw a band of fully five hundred birds fly across the property of the Shasta Fur Farm about four miles from McArthur; on the same date three males were seen perched on a wire fence along the McArthur-Glenburn road, about one-half mile from McArthur.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Sacramento, California, August 1, 1933.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club is planned for March 30 and 31, 1934, at San Diego. The sessions will be held under the auspices of the San Diego Society of Natural History. The committee appointed by the president of the Board of Governors to conduct the meeting is: Ways and means, W. Lee Chambers; publicity, Harry Harris; program, Loye Miller; meeting arrangements, Clinton G. Abbott, Frank F. Gander, Laurence M. Huey, A. M. Ingersoll, and J. W. Sefton, Jr. The dates have been set to coincide with the Easter holidays, thus stimulating many people to make the trip to San Diego at a time when that part of the State is rich in ornithological interest. The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in connection with this meeting of the Club.—A. H. M.

The essential importance of an adequate annual index to any magazine is realized by every student. To the end of providing such for the *Condor*, we are dependent upon skilled service gratuitously rendered. The editors hereby acknowledge assistance of this kind from our fellow Club member, Miss Selma Werner, furnished for several years passed. Specifically, she prepared the Index to Volume XXXV, in our November issue.

Large attendance alone was sufficient to make the 1933 meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union a notable one. But there were other impressive features. Among the ones which those who attended will long remember were the many papers—so many that the resulting double sessions prevented any one person from hearing more than half the whole program; the marked interest shown in the more serious phases of avian biology; the exhibit of bird art; opportunities to visit the zoos and museums and to make field excursions in and about New York City;

the annual dinner where it was announced that Doctor Frank M. Chapman had been awarded the Brewster Medal for the most outstanding ornithological publication (his revised Handbook) in the preceding six years; and distribution of the volume "Fifty Years' Progress of American Ornithology 1883-1933". Visitors were unanimous in expressing their appreciation of the preparations made and so carefully carried out for their welcome and entertainment by the New York members of the Union.—J.M.L.

Pacific Coast Avifauna number 21, issued December 1, 1933, by the Cooper Ornithological Club, is a 204-page book entitled "A Revised List of the Birds of Southwestern California". In this substantial contribution the author, Mr. George Willett of the Los Angeles Museum, brings down to date, upon the basis of greatly increased knowledge, the field of his "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California", published more than twenty years ago as Pacific Coast Avifauna number 7. The same territory is covered; and a huge amount of data, unpublished as well as on printed record, has been critically assorted and, in condensed form, incorporated into the new summary. A total of 446 kinds of birds is entered in regular status, and for each is given, insofar as known, its historical, distributional, seasonal, and breeding status. Nomenclaturally, the author has been notably conservative, which is proper in a working bird-list such as is likely to remain a standard guide for students in its territory for many years to come. The numerous taxonomic comments will stimulate reëxamination of subspecific status, to the end that revisions and improvements in classification will surely come. This number in the Avifauna series is practically altogether an accomplishment of the Southern Division of the Club. In a way, it constitutes a historical rec-



*Cleveland Bent*

Fig. 8. Author of the Life Histories, nine volumes to date, most comprehensive work yet undertaken covering the natural history of North American birds. Mr. Bent has been a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club for 25 years, is now an Honorary Member of the Club. He is Vice-President of the American Ornithologists' Union.

ord of ornithological activity in the Los Angeles region from the very beginning of the Club's existence. This résumé is exceedingly creditable to all of the very many persons concerned, and especially so to George Willett by reason of the painstaking industry and searching analysis he has expended upon it. Copies may be obtained from W. Lee Chambers, 2068 Escarpa Drive, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles.—J.G.

Bird students in the San Francisco Bay region will be appreciative of a down-to-date, carefully compiled, annotated list of the "Birds of Marin County" (Audubon Association of the Pacific, 206 California Street, San Francisco, crown 8vo, 16 pp., price 25 cents). This has been provided under the authorship of Laura A. Stephens and Cornelia C. Pringle, whose source material consists chiefly of the records of fifty-six trips afield in Marin County by members of the Audubon Association of the Pacific during the years 1919 to 1933, inclusive. A total of 269 kinds of birds are given formal entry, of which 85 are residents, 39 summer visitants, 87 winter visitants, 32 transients, and 26 of rare occurrence.—J.G.

Otto Widmann died at his home in St. Louis on November 26, 1933, at the age of 92 years. He had held the distinction latterly of being the oldest living American ornithologist; and to the very last, so we are informed by his daughter, Mrs. Mildred Widmann Philippi, he retained active interest in birds and in the organizations concerned with bird study. He had been a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club for thirty years and of the American Ornithologists' Union for fifty years. Aside from his important published contributions upon Mississippi Valley birds, Widmann is known to westerners from his visit to California in 1903 and the resulting account of "Yosemite Valley Birds" printed in the *Auk* in 1904. His autobiography, most interestingly written, with portraits, appeared in the *Wilson Bulletin*, XXXIX, 1927, pp. 146-155.—J.G.

We have read through, every word of it, Frank M. Chapman's "Autobiography of a Bird-Lover" (Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1933; 8vo, pp. xiv + 420, 4 col. pls., 84 hft. ills.; \$3.75). Once the reading be started, we fail to see how any naturalist could withstand the fascinating quality of this book, maintained,

as it is, to the very end. Suffice it here to say, of necessity all too briefly, that illuminating sidelights on the latter-day history of American ornithology are in this volume interspersed with vivid, personal narrative concerning Dr. Chapman's many resultful trips afield.—J.G.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, September 28, 1933, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with about 120 members present and Vice-president Miller in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read by title only. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read. The following persons were proposed for membership: Miss Patricia Anderson, 2325 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, California, by Alden H. Miller; Mrs. I. M. Thompson, 1004½ Cragmont Ave., Berkeley, by Amelia S. Allen; Hugh M. Worcester, U. S. Reservation Protector, Box 50, Merrill, Oregon, by E. L. Sumner, Sr., through the Western Bird-banding Association.

Mr. Dyer reported a Fox Sparrow in his Piedmont garden on September 16, and Miss Pringle a Fox Sparrow in Golden Gate Park on September 27. Robert Taylor reported 20 Cedar Waxwings seen in Oakland September 20, and on the same date a House Wren and a Slender-billed Nuthatch at the scout camp near Oakland. A few Phalaropes were on a small pool and one rising was struck by a Sharp-shinned Hawk from which it escaped, so badly injured, however, that it died a few hours later. Mrs. Kelly told of seeing Western Tanagers in the pear trees at her Alameda home. Miss Baldwin had seen a flock of about thirty Vaux Swifts near Redondo Beach last month.

Mr. Harwell told of autumn conditions in Yosemite and of seeing during the last two weeks many Phalaropes on Crater Lake, Oregon, Mono Lake, California, and on the small lakes of Yellowstone Park. At the latter place it was noted that some of the birds were "whirling" clockwise on the water and some counter-clockwise. He regretfully admitted that he could not report seeing any one bird change the direction of its "whirl." Miss Rinehart reported seeing a Road-runner in Altamont Pass, California, on August 30.