

*Phaeopus hudsonicus*. Distal three-quarters of right humerus, U. C. Mus. Paleo. no. 30940. Complete except for head. Length from internal condyle to deltoid crest, 59.4 mm.; transverse width of distal end, 11.4 mm. This fossil is indistinguishable from the corresponding bone of the present-day Hudsonian Curlew. The single specimen examined of the Bristle-thighed Curlew (*P. tahitiensis*) presented a definitely heavier shaft than the fossil or any of a series of four Hudsonian Curlews. Except for the missing head the fossil is in almost perfect condition. The condyles and ridges of the anconal surface are slightly worn away.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, California, July 1, 1934.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

With regard to articles, general or brief, accepted by the editors for publication in the *Condor*, we are not infrequently requested by an author to "change it in any way we see fit"; in other words, there is desire, apparently, to make the editors responsible for the worthiness in all respects of such articles. It is true that as a matter of practice the editors of the *Condor* do check up pretty closely on the composition of articles once accepted, emending them in various ways necessary to meet the literary standards of our magazine. Often also, to us seeming mistakes of fact or interpretation are pointed out to an author. But always these emendations and suggestions, either in manuscript or in galley proof, are sent back to the author for his review and final correction. It is the author who is responsible for the ultimate accuracy of his published contribution, not primarily the auspices under which it is printed. On this principle, the *Condor* does not print anything anonymously; reviews, editorials, and even news notes are signed, or at least initialed. Incidentally, we would call the attention of all contributors to the *Condor*, current and prospective, to the editorial statements concerning the "Preparation of Manuscript", on outside back cover of this issue.—J.G.

The Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society, with headquarters at Seattle, Washington, has started a new series of publications under the title "Northwest Fauna Series". Number 1, of 28 pages, a copy of which reached us on April 4, 1934, is a "Distributional Check-list of the Birds of the State of Washington"; author, E. A. Kitchin. A total of 389 species and subspecies are entered regularly, with 39 additional ones of "Hypothetical" status. This check-list will be helpful to bird students resident outside as well as within the state of which it treats.—J.G.

Not many Cooper Club members other than those chosen few who have dedicated their lives to vertebrate zoology have had the opportunity of knowing personally Charles Dean Bunker, presiding genius of the Museum of Birds and Mammals at the University of Kansas. This Museum, famous alike for its collections and for the sound and sturdy quality of



Fig. 39. Charles D. Bunker, Curator of Birds and Mammals, University of Kansas.

scholarship inculcated in the students fortunate enough to be selected by Bunker for training, has been the starting point of a long line of distinguished contributors to all branches of the vertebrate sciences.

Bunker's fame lives chiefly in the work of his students, in whom he succeeds in imparting an undying enthusiasm and love for the work; and his genius lies in his wise selection of human material. His judicious appraisal of those qualities in a recruit on which may be built a successful career in vertebrate zoology has proven to be little short of clairvoyant, and his uniformly sound judgment in this vital particular finds reflection in the long list of serious workers to whom he has transmitted his own enthusiasms, visions, and capacity for hard work. Without a conscious knowledge of pedagogics his results with students have been those of a really gifted teacher; but probably more so the point he is a really great friend, and his boys always remember him with the warmest affection and esteem. His greatest joy in life is seeing them attain academic and scientific success, and with no thought whatever of reflected glory he fairly gloats over their every contribution to the literature.

To those whose lives are much occupied with birds, rats and snakes, friendship with Bunker is a privilege and an inspiration; there is probably nowhere in America at the present time a more stimulating or congenial rendezvous for these strange folk than his smelly old workshop in the basement of the Museum at Lawrence. That the old crowd constantly drift through there on their travels further testifies to the compelling and magnetic personality of this naturalist.—H.H.

As indicative of the further increase of interest in wild-life conservation, attention is called to the move recently made by the National Park Service in placing Wild Life Technicians in Emergency Conservation Camps. The Park Service, feeling that one of its main duties is that of conserving wild-life within the Park areas and fearing that perhaps the "clean-up" work of the men in the camps might destroy essential food and cover of birds and mammals, is taking this means of checking upon the work done and, at the same time, of gathering useful data relative to the native fauna of the Parks. These Wild Life Technicians have been chosen for their superior knowledge of animal natural

history and have been placed widely throughout the United States; in some instances a properly qualified man will work in several different areas. Proper supervision will be given them by the Wild Life Division of the Park Service. Mr. Ben H. Thompson, of the Wild Life Division, George M. Wright, Chief, is in immediate charge of this work, which is conducted under the Branch of Research and Education, directed, in turn, by Dr. H. C. Bryant.—J.G.

The Eighth International Ornithological Congress held at Oxford, England, came to its close on July 10. The happy and eager body of ornithologists, of many types and races, had numbered upwards of 350 registered members. With enthusiasm engendered by the success of the meetings, delegates already are planning for the next Congress, in France four years hence.

The Congress held interest for everyone. Some found most profit in the scientific program and debate; others derived most pleasure from establishing new personal acquaintances and from conversations; and still others felt that the trips and excursions were the best features. Whatever one's inclination, each person seemed quickly to find his own ornithological niche and dwelt comfortably in it.

The restriction of the scientific program to the forenoon of each day was widely appreciated, as members then did not weary of attendance upon sections. Of special interest were the debates, one led by Colonel R. Meinertzhagen on the influence of environment on coloration and another led by Professor J. S. Huxley on types of behavior in birds. Among life history photographs shown, Herr Siewert's pictures of the Osprey were extremely artistic and complete in their depiction of every detail of habit. Topics that appeared to figure prominently in the program were homing instincts, hormone control of pigmentation in feathers, the principle of *nomina conservanda* and modern methods in systematics, and the conservation of birds.

The culminating feature was the week-end trip across Wales to the sea bird islands of Pembrokeshire. The trip by water was made on two British destroyers; the weather was perfect and the birds were on best behavior. The immense colonies of Puffins, Razorbills and Guillemots, with many other species, afforded an experience to non-British visitors long

to be remembered.

Too much credit cannot be given to the English Committee that planned the meetings, and special praise must be accorded the fine work of Secretary Jourdain and Mr. B. W. Tucker. Oxford was an excellent meeting place. President Stresemann's conduct of the meetings was admirable; his manner of presiding and his scientific leadership were ideal.—A.H.M.

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Thursday, May 24, 1934, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Pickwell in the Chair and about seventy members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division's April meeting were read and approved, and minutes of the Southern Division's April meeting were read.

Applications for membership were: Mr. Edward Avery McIlhenny, Avery Island, Louisiana, by Joseph Mailliard, and Miss Hope M. Gladding, 58 Tamalpais Road, Berkeley, California, by E. L. Sumner through the Western Bird-banding Association. A United States government press communication announcing the death of Dr. Edward W. Nelson and giving an account of his life and of his scientific career was read by the Secretary.

Mr. E. L. Sumner reported a second nest built by the Richmond Mockingbirds, containing three young, banded May 23; Mr. Dexter, Mrs. Bracelin and Miss Sanford gave accounts of local robins' nests; Mr. McClintock told of the finding of Black-chinned Sparrows on Las Trampas Ridge and Mr. Tonkin of a nesting colony of American Egrets near the Pacific Highway. Migrating Tanagers were noted by Mr. Pickwell at Alum Rock Canyon on May 18 and by Miss Wythe in Berkeley on May 20. Miss Rinehart saw the Olive-sided Flycatcher on May 2 and young Chipping Sparrows in the nest on May 15.

Mr. Cain told of the efforts of a young scout to attract birds to a back yard that was completely paved. Several Christmas trees furnished cover, water was provided, nesting boxes put up and he was rewarded by the nesting of a pair of bluebirds. Gordon Bolander reported the presence

of seven Least Terns at Dumbarton Bridge on May 20, and Mrs. Stephens found Yellow-billed Magpies in Tesla Canyon on April 29. Prof. Morley read extracts from a diary written in 1830 telling of the destruction of migrating Passenger Pigeons—830 dozen were taken in a season and sold for 25 cents to \$1.00 per dozen. Later, in 1870, they were still so plentiful that they were caught in nets and killed by crushing the skull with the thumb or biting into it with the eye-teeth.

The third and last contest program consisted of two talks: One by Robert Taylor on "Back-yard Birding"; the other by Miss Alice S. Mulford on the "Ecology of the Brewer Blackbird on the University Campus". These were followed by interesting comments and discussion, after which the meeting adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary pro-tem*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Thursday, June 28, 1934, in the Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Mr. Grinnell in the Chair and forty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for May were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division and of the Stanford Chapter for May were read.

Applications for membership were: Miss Vivian Giles, 909 Clay St., Ukiah, Calif., proposed by J. Grinnell, and Mrs. J. R. Winblad, 575 Pierce St., San Francisco, Calif., proposed by Mr. E. L. Sumner, through the Western Bird-banding Association. Mrs. James T. Allen, reporting for the Contest Committee, announced that the award to a junior speaker would be given to Mr. Cranson L. Hopkins for his talk entitled "Random Observations on Barn Owls", and the senior award to Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, who spoke on "Rock Decay and its Ornithological Significance". The awards are to consist of books on birds and are to be given to the recipients at the September meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pease, duly seconded and unanimously adopted, that the Northern Division record its appreciation of the work of the Contest Committee in ably planning and carrying out a series of programs so well worth while.

The program of the evening was the general reporting of "Field Notes", and the Chairman called first for observations on Mockingbirds in the East Bay region. Observations of five members confirmed