

one case poplar, in the other *Philadelphus*, at the foot of an open sage-covered hillside at approximately 2000 feet altitude. It is of interest also to record the capture, by Mr. John B. Hurley, of three males in the state of Washington, some two hundred miles south of the locality noted above. The particulars are: Kittitas County, April 10, 1932 (2), Yakima County, April 17, 1932. Dr. Joseph Grinnell has kindly checked the identification of these specimens.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C., August 22, 1934.*

Surf Scoters on Salton Sea.—Reports of the presence of Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*) on Salton Sea were verified on December 25, 1934, when the writers found the carcass of an adult male bird floating in the water off the north shore of Salton Sea below Mecca, Riverside County, California. Mr. Tom Smith, owner of the Pintail Duck Club, who made the original report, shot down three birds from a flock of eight or ten Surf Scoters that were in flight over his ponds on October 27, 1934. This is about two miles from the place where the above-named specimen was found. As the plumage and bones were in a good state of preservation this specimen was turned over to Mr. George Willett who has now added it to the collection of the Los Angeles Museum.—BEN CLARY and MARJORIE CLARY, *Coachella, California, March 19, 1935.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The present issue of the Condor bulks large by reason of a very special circumstance. The valuable article on Mocking-birds as studied by the Micheners, which is the leading one in this issue, was too long and hence too expensive for the Editors to accept save under outside subsidy. Appeal was made to certain Cooper Club members known to be sympathetic toward studies of this nature with the outcome that nine individuals contributed the required \$200. This means that regular Condor subscribers for the current year will be receiving an annual volume of considerably more pages than would otherwise have been possible. The names of the donors are withheld, by special request on the part of some of them.—J. G.

It has often been suggested to the Editors of the Condor that more space be devoted to "Notes and News"—that these are sure to furnish more of general interest to the reader, line for line, than anything else in an issue. Granted, perhaps; but someone has to seek out worthy items of the sort and write them up; not only space but someone's time is required in order to supply them. Our enthusiasm, after proof-reading the galley for the entire issue otherwise, is confessedly at

low ebb, and just enough copy is usually ground out to fill the space that shows up when the issue has been put into pages. This explanation is weak, we know; but a mitigating circumstance we can urge is that really the Division and Chapter minutes, which occupy several pages in each number, include very much of current personal, institutional and ornithological news.—J. G.

A truly beautiful as well as useful book is P. A. Taverner's new "Birds of Canada" (National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, 1934 [our copy received March 25, 1935], 445 pp., 87 colored pls., 488 text figs.; price \$2.00). While in a general way a combination of the author's previously published two volumes, "Birds of Eastern Canada" and "Birds of Western Canada," the text has been entirely rearranged and there is much new information. The abundant colored illustrations are chiefly from the brush of Allan Brooks, while most of the line drawings are the work of the author. The subjects of these latter are well chosen to show important structural or field characters of species; indeed, some points are thereby brought out that we do not recall having seen portrayed or even mentioned in any other work. Cooper Club members

living in the northwestern United States will find this book, we think, quite the best single volume to own as a guide to their local bird-life. General topics and questions of the day are dealt with in



Fig. 34. P. A. Taverner, author of the "Birds of Canada," Ornithologist in the National Museum of Canada, and for twenty-six years Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

Taverner's well-known common-sense way; and they apply south of "the line," as well as north. The book was written with the aim of stimulating "an interest, both esthetic and practical, in the study of Canadian birds." It must surely fulfill this aim.—J.G.

To our notion, the best handling of the subject of birds' voices yet to appear is Aretas A. Saunders' "A Guide to Bird Songs" (Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1935 [our copy received March 4], pp. xvii + 285, 163 figs.; price \$2.50). The method of record used takes into account time, pitch, loudness, quality and phonetics. By combinations of these features, form, rhythm, accent, and other attributes can be expressed. The graphic method of representation consists of a series of lines,

chiefly horizontal, each standing for one note of the song. The length of each of these lines indicates the relative time occupied in the utterance of the note. Its position vertically indicates relative pitch; its heaviness indicates loudness or intensity. Then the phonetic representations and other devices supplement the system, until even complicated songs like those of the song sparrow are quite satisfactorily rendered. We are reminded of the beginnings in this direction made by the late Richard Hunt, whose studies were based upon Californian birds ("The Phonetics of Bird-sound," *Condor*, 25, 1923, pp. 202-208). While Saunders' new book deals with northeastern species (nearly 150 of them), a goodly number of these are transcontinental in range, so that the book can be used with direct profit by westerners. The methods described might well be adopted by field students generally. Someone in California, with "good ear," should make it his steadfast aim for fifteen years or so, as Saunders has done on the Atlantic side, to collect records of birds' voices and then to present the results in the admirable form illustrated in the book now under notice.—J.G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8 p. m. Tuesday, January 29, 1935, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Abbott in the Chair and forty members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for December were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division were read.

Applications for membership were presented as follows: Mr. Kenneth E. Stager, 4300 Budlong Ave., Los Angeles, proposed by George Willett; Mr. B. A. Moeller, 2525 East 37th St., Los Angeles, by Charles A. Warmer; Mr. L. F. Keller, National Park Service, Springdale, Utah, by John McB. Robertson; Mr. James A. Macnab, Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon, by Stanley G. Jewett; and Mr. Ralph E. Dixon, Star Route, Escondido, California, by Joseph Grinnell.

Commenting on the copy of the minutes of the Affiliation Committee, submitted by secretary Luck of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Ad-