

by the Stanford University Press (lvii + 241 pp., 102 colored illustrations, price \$3.75). The specific aims of this guide should be fully understood to appreciate its service to bird students. It is addressed to the tourist, casual observer or comparatively uninformed nature student as first aid in making the acquaintances of birds. Dr. Casey A. Wood in the introduction expresses the hope that the user will be led to supplement his information gained from the book by turning to such sources as Hoffmann's "Birds of the Pacific States" and Mrs. Bailey's Handbook.

Simplification is the essence of the color and size key designed to "run down" species. This experiment sets a very difficult task of arranging many complexly differentiated birds by these two criteria. Inevitably there are pitfalls, but a thorough testing of the key persuades me that with respect to the more obviously marked common birds it usually will work for the beginner, as something more technical might not. Identifications by the key can be checked with the illustrations and the adequate descriptions of the species that follow. One is led to wonder why the Mountain (Bailey's) Chickadee is classed under sparrow size when the Rock Wren is grouped as a "small wren." The author includes only what she considers to be the more common birds. Omissions or inclusions, therefore, are difficult to appraise, as one must admit a personal factor in deciding what kinds merit inclusion. Yet I question the inclusion of the Large-billed Sparrow when the resident Belding Sparrow or the Western Savannah Sparrow might have been chosen as the racial representative of the Savannah sparrows.

This raises a point for which the author is to be highly commended, namely, the exclusion of subspecies. Only in the matter of form of the common name does the subspecies intrude its unwelcome confusion; for the A.O.U. Check-list with its illogical vernaculars is followed. However, the beginner will, for a time, probably be happily unconscious of the dilemmas in such a system, or lack of system, of common names. Certainly, Mrs. Dickey is not to be blamed for the faults of the official Check-list.

The accounts of species are devoted to non-technical descriptions with the comparative aspect prominent. Varied items of natural history, distribution and local occurrence are included. The facts are accurate and interesting. The contribution of Mr. A. J. van Rossem to these accounts is acknowledged.

The Donald R. Dickey photographs are by far the most spectacular feature of the book. These excellent works of photographic art have gained a justly deserved reputation of the highest order. That they should have been colored will be regretted by ornithologists familiar with the originals, who will see in the colored version a loss of vitality.

The book is well printed, in handy 5 x 7 inch size, convenient for field use, with flexible waterproof cloth binding. It is not a complete handbook; but as an initial aid and focus of interest it should be attractive to the elementary bird student.—A.H.M.

An "Abridged Check-list of North American Birds", based upon the Fourth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list, can now be purchased for 50 cents from the treasurer of the A.O.U., W. L. McAtee, 3200 22nd St., Cherrydale, Virginia. The small size (3¼ x 5½ inches), and the circumstance that it is printed upon one side only, of a fairly good quality of paper, will make this list useful especially to collectors, for labelling and other purposes. The labor of compiling and proof-reading was performed chiefly by Alexander Wetmore of the United States National Museum.—J. G.

The Malheur Lake region of eastern Oregon once teemed with waterfowl and associated animal life, as attested to by many early reports of competent naturalists who visited it. Then came intensive exploitation of the land by the stockman—the practical exhaustion of all the natural resources including the water-supply—until a condition of almost complete desolation prevailed over the lake basin. The land became well-nigh valueless to man; and only as this stage had been reached did the opportunity come to reverse the processes—toward restoration of primitive conditions. Briefly, a "key" portion of the Malheur basin has been acquired by the Federal government, now to be administered by the Biological Survey as a wildlife sanctuary. This is a gratifying accomplishment, one to be credited, with enthusiasm, to the enterprise of Chief J. N. Darling and his staff. Conservation, on broad lines of definition, appears, indeed, to be in effect in an increasing number of directions.—J.G.

In these alphabetical days we suggest a good test for one's knowledge of organizations concerned with bird study;



Fig. 48. Henry W. Carriger, for forty years member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and member of its Board of Governors from the date of the institution of that body; authority on bird-nesting in central California and author of many articles in the *Condor*.

namely, to expand the following initials into their full designations: COC, AOU, WOC, DVOC, NAAS, AAP, IOU, NOU, ECOC, NOC, MAS, MBC, NBBA, WBBA, SLBC, ASM, PNBMS, TOS, ASSV. The above are all American societies. How about these foreign ones: BOU, BOB, RAOU, RHCBO, SOP, SAOA, DOG, DVSV, SOMF, NOC, DOF, RSPB, AS, NOV?—J.G.

There is one section of the ornithological field that shows as yet no sign of exhaustion. This concerns the subspecies question. In volume 1 of the *Auk* (1884, pp. 102, 197, 381, etc.) there appeared spirited discussion of one or another phase of this subject, by J. A. Allen, Elliott Coues, and others. And now, in the 52nd volume of the *Auk* (January, 1935, pp. 31-39), Witmer Stone presents "Some Aspects of the Subspecies Question." The "lure" that Dr. Stone points out as pertaining to that

question is *there*, and doubtless contributions will recur far into the future. No modern worker who ventures to use the subspecies concept intelligently in his own writings can afford *not* to read this latest, most searching discussion, of Dr. Stone's; and said worker will profit still more if he will pursue the discussions back through the preceding 50-year period.—J.G.

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

##### NORTHERN DIVISION

JUNE.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on June 27, 1935, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with 27 members and guests present and President Miller in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for April were read, corrected and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for May were read. The name of Mr. William H. Twisselman, 415 Capitol St., Salinas, Calif., was presented for membership by Mr. O. P. Silliman.

Mr. Joseph Grinnell reviewed and commended "The Hawks of North America," by John B. May. This book has just been issued under the auspices of the National Association of Audubon Societies. It presents a thorough and well illustrated summary of the economic values of these raptorial birds, and shows clearly by the maps the alarming shrinkage in territory of certain of the species once wide-ranging.

Miss Selma Werner described the wanton murder of a duckling on one of the lakes of Golden Gate Park by a female Mallard, whose own four young were close by, and asked for a possible motive. The Chairman said he had once seen a half-grown Cormorant so dealt with when, in scrambling down a cliff, it came within reach of a sitting adult of the same species. He thought that in both instances the act resulted from a maternal instinct to protect young from an approaching threat of danger.

Mr. Eric C. Kinsey told of his trading about of broods of young Black Phoebes into alien nests—with only happy results. In one instance nearly-grown young were substituted for fresh eggs. These nestlings were accepted first by the male foster parent; when the female saw them being fed she followed the example set by the male. Mr. Kinsey told also of the behavior of Western Bluebirds in his aviary.