

as much volition involved here as in the mating flight or any other type of motion. It may be doubted that the bird consciously plans any of its activities. The discussion of migration (p. 277) seems to say that migration in the woodcock results from influence of the gonads and is controlled by weather conditions, but surely this is not the correct interpretation of the "recently advanced theories" alluded to.

Condense such items as those dealing with occurrence.

The forty-five pages of material on distribution and abundance could easily have been tabulated in much smaller space. The half page devoted to California could be replaced with the statement that there is no satisfactory record of the species for this state. Ten degrees of abundance require too fine discernments to be appreciated by the reader; anyway it is doubtful if the information justifies more than five such adjectives.

Verify the spellings of names of persons.

Names like Hoffmann, Oldys, Saunders, and Seebohm (each misspelled) can be found with very little search.

Make the printed report compact.

A book more than nine inches wide and twelve inches high is too cumbersome for ready handling in reading or storing; not many book shelves will accommodate it. The wide type bed ($6\frac{3}{8}$ inches) makes reading tiresome and wastes paper where short lines occur, as in tables and in the bibliography. The colored plate could have gone in a seven-inch book without reduction.

Place photographs with the text.

The increased value of illustrations near the discussion rather than collected in plates at the end of the volume is surely worth the possible greater cost. Also, it more than balances the loss of detail which may result if they are printed on text paper.

Use terms in their generally accepted meanings, or else define them.

It is misleading to describe bill, eye, and feet under "fleshy parts" (p. 188). In the diagram and discussion of flight song the term vertically is used in a sense opposite its usual meaning. The reader is likely to wonder what is meant by "level apex" (p. 288). It is not quite clear what is meant by the term "successful species" (p. 245). Can any species exist at all that is not successful according to the definition given?

Make the summary an abstract rather than a list of contents.

A large number of important facts could be recounted within the two pages devoted to a bare listing of the topics treated.—JEAN M. LINSDALE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, August 7, 1936.*

NOTES AND NEWS

With completion of its fortieth volume, an event now but two years in the future, the issue of a fourth 10-year index to *The Condor* will be in order. The preparation of such a decennial index requires the services of a person who knows current ornithology, who understands avian nomenclature and synonymy as pertaining to the period in question, and who gets personal pleasure out of accurately organizing a great mass of detail. The first 10-year index, issued in 1909, was the work of the late Henry B. Kaeding; the second 10-year index, issued in 1919, was the work of John R. Pemberton; the third 10-year index, issued in 1931, was the work of George Willett. What Cooper Club member, who feels qualified to do the fourth 10-year index, and who really wants to do the job, will undertake this service to the Club and to our science? It is none too soon for someone to announce himself and to begin work; for the manuscript should be com-

pleted, all ready for the printer, early in 1939.—J. G.

Circumstances again force us to announce a certain editorial policy in connection with *The Condor*, namely, that of curtailing the function of reviewing current literature. This function is one that we would like to exercise, but we simply cannot, consistently, for lack of space. We feel that all the Cooper Club's available resources should be conserved for printing in our magazine as many as possible out of the large offering of original manuscripts. The best we are able to do in the reviewing line is to give brief notice, under "Notes and News", of an occasional publication that seems to have special bearing on western ornithology—or otherwise, merely as the spirit moves. Be it known, then, that the editors of *The Condor* do not want books or publications sent them with any expectation that these will

be reviewed or even listed in our printed columns. The reviewing function in America is, perhaps needless to remark, performed exhaustively by *The Auk*.—J. G.

The trend of human activity continues to be toward destruction of wild life, of well-nigh all kinds. True, we hear more than ever the phrase "wildlife conservation"; but wild life in the minds of most persons using that phrase means "game", and the purpose of game is to be *shot*. Game-bird "management" is seriously considered as on a par of "practicality" with poultry husbandry. But such activities seem not in any large degree likely to lead to preserving native animal life in its truly *wild* status. Indeed, too often they mean introduction of alien stocks that promise to "do better" than native ones or to be more of an attraction to the shooter. And the fate of any animal kind that is not "of use" (as game) is immaterial. Only "sentimentalists" can have regard for *it!* We have just re-read Lee Chambers' vigorous indictment, in September *Condor* (p. 199), of the practice of "targeting" anything that's alive, and Fred Dale's story in the same issue (p. 208), of the airplane shooting of American eagles. That these and many other similarly destructive activities go on in this year of 1936, without public outcry, or indeed without audible remonstrance from authoritative agencies of "conservation", gives us fair ground, we think, for our feeling, at the moment this is written, of extreme pessimism for the future of general wild life preservation.—J. G.

Correction.—In making up the last issue of *The Condor*, the blocks for figures 33 and 36 in the article by Weydemeyer and Marsh (vol. 38, September, 1935) were transposed by mistake so that the caption beneath the cut on page 189 refers to the photograph on page 197, and vice versa.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum on Tuesday, July 28, at 8 p.m., with President Little in the chair and twenty-two members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for June were read and approved. Applications for membership were: Raymond M. Selle, 1562 Munson Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., by Luther Little; John Thomas Wright, Box 146, Pomona, Calif., by John McB. Robertson; Harry R. Painton, 4605 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif., and Glenn B. Head, U. S. Forest Service, Sonora, Calif., by W. Lee Chambers; John H. Carter, Sod House Camp B. F. No. 2, Burns, Oregon,

Mrs. H. G. Savage, Redmond, Oregon, and Robert Edgar Towle, Malheur Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, Burns, Oregon, by Stanley G. Jewett.

Dr. Bishop reported on the recent book by George M. Sutton, on his experiences since he started collecting. Band-tailed Pigeons were reported as nesting in Altadena and Monrovia, and Dr. Bishop reported on the taking in Bear Valley of the Red-breasted Sapsucker. Sidney B. Peyton reported the taking on July 22 of a nest of the Green-backed Goldfinch with three eggs and one egg of the Dwarf Cowbird. An invitation to hold the August meeting at the aviaries of Mr. W. J. Sheffler was extended to the club by Mr. Sheffler, the meeting to be held on Sunday afternoon, August 30. After adjournment the members went to the first floor where the lights were turned on in the bird room of the museum, and the varied exhibits were enjoyed by all.—Adjourned.

P. S. A belated visitor arrived after a number of the members had gone home, carrying a motion picture projector, and said that he had some pictures that he would like to show the club; so a place was arranged in one of the offices, and the remaining members were treated to some wonderful motion pictures, first of Crater Lake, Oregon, and then of the nesting in the heart of Hollywood of an Anna Hummingbird. This nest was built on the arm of a "Bus Stop" sign, across the street from the El Trocadero Cafe. The film showed the nest from the time the eggs were laid until the young had left. The feeding of the young by the mother bird was most interesting, as it looked as if the old bird would push her bill clear through the little ones. Dr. Davidson promised to show his pictures again, later in the year, when all the members could see them.—SIDNEY B. PEYTON, *Secretary*.

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Sunday, August 30, at 2:30 p.m., at the aviaries of W. J. Sheffler, at 535 New York Street, Hawthorn. Nearly two hours were spent under the guidance of Mr. Sheffler inspecting the different pens which housed a great variety of birds, some of them so rare that they are almost priceless, parrots of all sizes and colors, cockatoos, Grass Parrakeets, many of them in family groups, doves of different kinds, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese and rails. Magpies, crows and ravens occupied a corner of the large flying cage, and underneath them in another pen a big porcupine clambered around in some tree branches. Of special interest were the two young Harris Hawks that Mr. Sheffler took from a nest last spring in the Colorado River bottom near Blythe, and the young Saw-