

NOTES AND NEWS

Notices of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club recently have been sent to members. The sessions for the presentation of papers will be held in the morning and afternoon of Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, in Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. Members who plan to contribute to the sessions are urged to send in titles by April 1 to Mr. William H. Behle, chairman of the local committee, so that their papers may appear on the printed program. Sunday, April 18, is to be devoted to field trips. One, or several, trips will be arranged in accordance with the wishes of those attending the meeting. The officers of the Board of Directors have issued a call for proxies to be used at the annual business meeting. It is exceedingly important that these proxy cards be returned in the event persons cannot attend, so that a quorum may be represented and the necessary business of the club be transacted.—A. H. M.

Last year we pointed out in these columns that it was high time for someone to begin compiling the fourth ten-year index to the *Condor*, and we called for applicants for the job. We are happy now to announce that Mr. John McB. Robertson has offered himself, and been chosen by our editors, to undertake this service to the Club and to bird students generally. No one known to us is better qualified or better located to carry on the work to a successful conclusion. Mr. Robertson will doubtless elicit aid from other C. O. C. members, and we bespeak for him their wholehearted help.—J. G.

In the present issue of the *Condor* appears an extensive paper by Johnson A. Neff on the Tricolored Red-wing. This worthy study was longer than could justifiably be printed in this magazine under its regular budget. Through the efforts of the author, part of the expense of publication was contributed by persons who, for various reasons, have been especially interested in the problems connected with this species of blackbird.—A. H. M.

The Sacramento Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, formerly the Spalding Ranch, is south of Willows, Glenn County, and in the northern part of the Sacramento Valley. Its acquisition by the Biological Survey was announced early in 1937. The 10,775 acres are located especially well to contribute to refuge facilities for water birds in California. The press release contains the comment that "because the Sacramento Refuge is naturally attractive to waterfowl the Biological Survey plans little development work there. Marsh and hay lands used by the geese and ducks have a good supply of water. Small dams, dikes

and levees will be constructed, however, to impound water from spring run-offs from higher areas. The ranch buildings will be remodeled for use in administering and maintaining the refuge."—J. M. L.



Fig. 26. J. R. Pemberton, life member of the Cooper Ornithological Club and member of its Board of Governors, whose field trips for collecting and photographing birds have led him to many places in western North America and southern South America.

One of the most important contributions to avian anatomy to appear in recent months is G. E. Hudson's "Studies on Muscles of the Pelvic Appendage in Birds" (*Am. Midland Naturalist*, vol. 18, 1937, pp. 1-108, 26 pls.). The legs of one or more representatives of eighteen orders of North American birds have been dissected. The principal descriptions and the excellent illustrations that include limb cross-sections, are based chiefly upon the crow and the raven. We have reason to believe, through related studies on the pelvic limb, that the accuracy of the observations is of high order. Several errors and omissions in Shufeldt's "Myology of the Raven" are rectified, so that Hudson's work becomes the most practical and authoritative general paper on leg muscles available. The foremost contribution of the study is the projection of Garrod's system of muscle formulas to cover additional muscles and to give further aid in the definition of major taxonomic groups. Anyone attempting to determine the relationships among families and orders of birds could ill afford to neglect the data

that are presented. There is an attempt to stabilize the nomenclature of muscles by adopting the BNA names in instances where homology with mammalian muscles has been claimed. In the problem of homology, Gadow's opinions, which need confirmation, are followed closely. Muscles not so homologized, bear names taken from Gadow's descriptive system. These names are sometimes awkward and unnatural, but the same is true to even greater degree of those of Shufeldt which, conveniently, are given in synonymy. The author wisely emphasizes that the exact diagnostic peculiarities of the musculature of larger taxonomic categories are yet to be determined. Dissection of a few samples of an order gives no picture of the constancy of myological characters within the group. Thus, although Hudson's synopses of characteristics of each order are valuable, they also should stimulate additional investigation.—A. H. M.

An article the reading of which proved exceptionally entertaining to our type of mind appeared in the *Wilson Bulletin* (vol. 48, 1936, pp. 203-215) under the title "The First Descriptions of North American Birds." In this article the writer, Prof. O. A. Stevens of North Dakota Agricultural College, tabulated the species described by each of the earlier authors and gave additional information of interest. Recently we took opportunity to check over the names of North American birds first launched by Linnaeus in the 10th (1758) and 12th (1766) editions of the *Systema Naturae*. We followed the references as given in the 4th edition (1931) of the A. O. U. Check-list and found that in the 10th edition of Linnaeus, 153 of the species on the A. O. U. list had been first named by him, and in the 12th, 51 additional species. These figures are close to those given by Stevens, the differences being accounted for in part by the fact that we counted in all the "accidentals" and "introductions." As pointed out by Stevens, Linnaeus had no first-hand information on exclusively American birds, having got what diagnostic materials he required from Catesby, Edwards, Brisson, and other non-binomial authors.—J. G.

Announcement on the back cover of this issue of the *Condor*, of temporary reduction in prices of Cooper Club publications, provides an opportunity to fill out sets which is not likely to be repeated. Persons who make field observations on birds in any of the districts covered in the *Avifauna* series can scarcely afford to be without the numbers which pertain to their areas. The chief interest in much of our bird watching comes through comparison of our findings with previous records from the same neighborhoods.—J. M. L.

The sad word comes of the death of Frederic H. Kennard, at his home in Newton Centre,

Massachusetts, February 24, 1937. A member of the Cooper Ornithological Club since 1911, he has long been known to us as one of the most cheerfully helpful and sympathetic of our eastern representatives. He belonged to that potent group centered at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, which has been consistently productive of good ornithology and influential in guiding current thought.—J. G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held November 24, 1936, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, with President Little in the chair, and 46 members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for September and October were read by title only. Proposals for membership were: Edward M. Hall, P. O. Box 84, Whittier, Calif., by Sidney B. Peyton; Kemuel Anderson, 949 S. Gramercy Place, Los Angeles, by Loye Miller; Hatch Graham, 10300 Viretta Lane, Los Angeles, by R. B. Cowles; Boyd McLeod, 145 S. Beachwood Drive, Los Angeles, by Mrs. J. Eugene Law.

The following proposal for Honorary Membership was read:

The unique and uninterrupted service of W. Lee Chambers for nearly forty years in the interest of the Cooper Ornithological Club is too well understood by the entire membership to need elaboration here. To state merely that this officer has throughout these long years stood silently, but smilingly, alone as a bulwark against which financial buffetings have broken in vain assaults on our publishing machinery, seems sufficient to warrant whatever expression of confidence and appreciation lies within our power to bestow. Lee Chambers has never wavered in his loyalty and devotion to western ornithology and to Cooper Club interests. A singularly sound and shrewd business judgment combined with a never-failing enthusiasm in furtherance of the publication of worthwhile manuscript material over the Club imprint has been of the most vital importance alike to the organization and to the Science. His own vicarious contributions to avian bibliography can be attested by all who have experienced his wide and diversified knowledge of the literature of birds, no less than by those who know of his energy and foresight in fostering the publication of this most important, though often neglected, class of material. His uniform courtesy and thoughtful kindnesses as host to countless visiting ornithologists have been no small factors in making Club sociability known far and wide for its warmth and sincerity.

In view, then, of his life of devotion to the organization and to western ornithology, Be It RESOLVED that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of W. Lee Chambers to Honorary Membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club, and, be it RESOLVED that Mr. Chambers be furnished with a copy of these resolutions.

Signed by Wright M. Pierce, Joseph Grinnell, Harry Harris, Louis B. Bishop, George Willett, Howard Robertson, Guy C. Rich, Loye Miller.

R. B. Cowles reported, on the sardine question, that the committee had decided, after investigation, that nothing should be done for the present. A letter from the State Fish and