

basis of this sight record. Apparently our specimen is the only one actually taken in the State. It was high in the cottonwoods along Cherry Creek, in company of many Audubon Warblers.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). Adult male, no. 12314, May 16, 1933; Adams County, Colorado; collected by Niedrach. H. G. Smith reported observing a Chestnut-sided Warbler in a little tree claim near Barr, Colorado, on May 13, and three days later Niedrach was fortunate enough to find the bird in the same locality.—ALFRED M. BAILEY and ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, February 26, 1937.*

Notes on Eggs of the California Jay.—While collecting eggs of the Nicasio California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica oocleptica*) near Benicia, Solano County, California, in the spring of 1936, I was surprised to find sets running large in number of eggs. During my nineteen years in Benicia, it has been my experience that a set of six eggs might be located either once a season or once in two seasons. However, in the spring of 1936, nine sets of six eggs and one set of seven eggs of this Jay were taken here.

The set of seven is the first I have seen. The nest containing this large set was in a small live oak on a steep hillside six miles northeast of Benicia along the state highway, and it was constructed of sticks and weed-stems and lined with soap root. The eggs of this set are uniform in size, pattern of coloration, and incubation. Wilson C. Hanna also records a set of seven eggs of this species (*Condor*, vol. 38, 1936, p. 39).

In the vicinity of Benicia, the ratio of sets of the "red" type to sets of the "green" type is about one to four. I have taken some beautiful specimens of the former type. All of the twenty-one sets of six, and one set of seven, which I have recorded as having been taken here, are of the "green" type. This surely is not a coincidence; it seems to indicate that the Jays, in the aggregate, which lay the "red" eggs are less prolific, therefore possibly of somewhat less strong vitality, than those producing the "green" type.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, September 7, 1936.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The twelfth annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, held in Berkeley April 16 to 18, was largely attended and was marked by several features of memorable interest. The dinners, luncheons and field-trip afforded favorable opportunities for personal association; and the four half-day sessions provided a program of 28 papers presented by 26 individuals. A full report of this meeting is on our docket for printing in July *Condor*, from the pen of Laura B. Law, Secretary of the Board of Governors.—J.G.

There may prove to be great importance in taking and keeping photographs of unusual birds that are banded and released. It is a rule with many compilers of regional lists, to exclude records of rare species that are not backed by "specimens preserved." Well nigh as convincing "evidence" as the study-skin is afforded by a photograph, especially when so taken as to show the diagnostic characters of the species. Even the subspecies can sometimes be told from a good photograph. Future doubt as to correctness of identification can thereby be met convincingly. See, for example, in the last issue of the *Condor* (p. 86), Miss Frances Carter's record of the White-winged Dove at Twenty-nine Palms, accompanied by a picture of the bird banded and about to be released.—J.G.

Part X of the "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas" by Hellmayr was issued in the past month; it covers the Family Icteridae. This sec-

tion is consistent in style and treatment with other parts of this useful synopsis of the systematics of New World birds. A note by the editor of the series, Wilfred H. Osgood, indicates an early appearance of an additional part to include the Fringillidae.—A.H.M.

The *Journal of Minnesota Ornithology* is the title of a new publication devoted to the recording of facts about the bird-life of one single state. The editor is Mr. John J. Cochrane, of St. Cloud, Minnesota; volume I, number 1 (dated April, 1936), is excellently printed, typographically clean—bespeaking careful editorial attention. Most appropriately, this first issue is dedicated to Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, so long and favorably known for the thoroughness and extent of his work on Minnesota birds; indeed, the organization which sponsors the publication is "The T. S. Roberts Ornithology Club."—J.G.

The objectives of the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico concluded in February of 1936 are of the best sort and the effort in the direction of conservation which they represent is to be commended. We do not pretend to know the complexities of the negotiations responsible for the list of species considered to be migratory by the parties to the treaty. But the list as approved does contain distinct surprises. Can a bird be made migratory merely by declaration? We find in the circular recently supplied to collectors by the Biological Survey such permanently resident forms as the Clapper Rail, Black-tailed Gnat-



Fig. 39. Dr. Louis B. Bishop, Life Member and member Board of Governors, Cooper Ornithological Club; author of many publications bearing upon the systematics of North American birds.

catcher, Cactus Wren, Bridled Titmouse and Arizona Junco accorded the status of migrants. Equally inconsistent are some of the omissions in the official lists relative to migratory birds of the United States and Canada. Such a situation invites contempt among the large body of persons informed in these matters that annually report their collecting activities to the federal government. Are the legal complications so formidable that these errors can not be corrected?—A.H.M.

An amazingly large amount of printed or mimeographed literature dealing with applied natural history reaches us these days. Nearly all of this proves worth while scanning; here and there the reader hits upon definitely new facts, new ideas, or new and apt statements of well known principles. In a recent report, for March, 1937, from the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Service, which is directed by Dr. Walter P. Taylor from headquarters at the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, we read (p. 9): "The game food problem in Dallas County is not one of getting food plants to grow, but of letting native plants mature and seed. If a farmer wants game, he will have to eliminate sheep and goats from his pas-

tures or fence off and protect from grazing certain appropriate areas." The valid principle implied is that the usual type of heavy grazing is incompatible with maintenance on the same ground of any seed or grain eating birds whether of game or non-game kind. The greatest menace to the interests of the sportsman and bird-lover, aside from the over-indulgence of the former, is excessive grazing, and most grazing as now practiced is excessive. This inverse correlation, of grazing with wildlife production, holds at least as well for California as for Texas.—J.G.

The damage to birds from oil occasioned by the wrecking of an oil transport ship in the entrance to San Francisco Bay last March was particularly heavy among California Murres. Following this disaster some attention already has been given to the status of the colonies along the coast of central California. Reports from the Farallon Islands are encouraging, suggesting that the off-shore population was little affected; but the Point Reyes colony is reported to be almost non-existent. A timely endeavor during June of this year would be to make a census of breeding colonies within the area of oil damage.—A.H.M.

The Sierra Nevada Hermit Thrush is a well marked subspecies which has an extensive summer-time range along the Sierra Nevada within the boreal life-zone, mainly well above an altitude of 4000 feet. While doubtless thousands of individuals spend the summer and rear their young there, and all of this population winters somewhere south of the Mexican boundary, yet there is no record (definitely known at this writing) of an individual of this race from any California locality below, south of, or outside of, the breeding area. In other words, here is a bird for which there is no indication of lowland route of approach to, or departure from, its breeding area—despite the great amount of collecting that has been carried on at migration times. In the spring, the Sierra Nevada Hermit Thrushes simply *arrive* on their nesting grounds—can it be by a long-distance air-way high above the immediately southward terrain?—J.G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, January 28, 1937, at 8 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Miller in the chair and 95 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for December were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read by title only. Minutes of the Stanford Chapter were read. Names proposed for membership were as follows: Robert