

NOTES AND NEWS

Despite seemingly adequate provision by the United States Department of Agriculture for supplying bird bands, wild birds often are found bearing odd types of band that cannot be identified. Recently, at the south end of Salton Sea, in Imperial County, California, we were given a band taken from a bird, supposed to be a Marsh Hawk, killed in that vicinity within the past year. The band is a metal one with the number 84 stamped on it. If any reader of the *Condor* can supply any clue to the identity of this band, it will be greatly appreciated.—J.M.L.

Wright M. Pierce, member of the Cooper Ornithological Club and of its Board of Governors, died in April of this year. One of Wright Pierce's most outstanding qualities was his desire to help and befriend young naturalists. His spring field trips into the desert region of southern California were high points in the experience of those fortunate to accompany him. Possessed of a keen eye, he could spot a motionless bird or a nest half hidden in the foliage long before most people would catch sight of it. He was careful and precise in making his records, and on col-

lecting trips he was an indefatigable worker in spite of the severe physical handicaps which he endured but to which he never referred. Aspiring youngsters with whom he came in contact appreciated these qualities and tried to emulate them with the result that his influence has in more than one case been perpetuated in the younger generation of ornithologists.—E.L.S., Jr., and A.H.M.

We are so accustomed to human-made structures that hinder the watching of birds that any which have an opposite effect merit special mention. Among the latter type in the San Francisco Bay region the two recently opened bridges and the new approaches to them have already provided some new areas of habitat and increased accessibility to other areas that have been hard to reach in the past. Establishment of the Regional Park in the East Bay hills has opened large acreages of wild land which in the past has been closely guarded against trespassing. With these incentives for more thorough exploration of the region, we anticipate a renewed enthusiasm on the part of naturalists in recording facts of occurrence of birds.—J.M.L.



Fig. 53. The late Wright M. Pierce, long-time member of the Cooper Ornithological Club; author of leading article in this issue of *Condor* (p. 137); photographed May 28, 1932, in bottomland of Santa Ana River, near Riverside, California, where a nest of Red-bellied Hawk was being visited; one of nest occupants included in picture.

We venture to try another postcard vote of Cooper Club members on a question of the day. The nature of this question is one that surely makes our membership well qualified to express an opinion worth learning. We refer to the moot question, Shall there be legally declared an extended and complete close season on waterfowl (ducks and geese), involving two or more years? The converse question is, Shall there continue to be an open season of more or less duration on waterfowl each year? Each one of us has been flooded with literature advocating one course or the other. Many of the angles have been ably argued, by prominent sportsmen and spokesmen for their organizations, by spokesmen for state and federal agencies, by representatives of conservation organizations, but not so vocally by free-lance ornithologists. The case, we believe, is adequately before us; let's vote, as an expression, each, of his personal judgment in the matter. Therefore will each Cooper Club member send to one or another of the *Condor* editors a postcard on which is indicated unmistakably his present stand. Signature is necessary, so that we may check off names from our membership roster. Out of 900 who might respond, surely there will be enough votes from this specially qualified group to give a fair indication of ornithological opinion. Cards should reach the editors before September 1, so that announcement of results may be made in our September issue.—J.G.

Several agencies have combined their resources in making and publishing an extensive report on "A Survey of the Resident Game and Furbearers of Missouri." This study, under the authorship of Rudolf Bennitt and Werner O. Nagel, was issued in *The University of Missouri Studies* (vol. 12, no. 2, 1937, pp. 1-215). The kind of inventory represented is needed for every part of the continent, and the need is immediate. The great changes being made in the land not only upset the adjustments of animals and plants to local conditions, but they hinder the accumulation of records such as the Missouri report includes. Apparently the type of investigation begun in this survey is to be extended on a broad basis, for it is announced (p. 194) that a \$42,500 wildlife research building has just been completed at the University of Missouri, a 2300-acre experimental tract of land is being developed, and there is already a growing program of wildlife research. How many other states can show as tangible results from activities in behalf of wildlife?—J.M.L.

"A Population Study of the Song Sparrow" which is volume I of "Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow," by Margaret Morse Nice, was recently published in the *Transactions of the Linnaean Society of New York* (vol. 4, April,

1937). It deals with the bird and its environment, its ecology, migration, territory, and reproduction, all from a somewhat statistical point of view, and finally with survival problems. Even though a great deal of the material has been published previously and the major conclusions anticipated, there is a distinct advantage in having all the information gathered in this eight-year study summarized in a single paper. Not only is the history of one colony of song sparrows given in great detail, but correlated information from other studies is cited, so that the work is really a text book of a large share of recent study of birds by banding. One major conclusion epitomizes a valid criticism of theories on population questions—"they all present too much theory based on too few facts. Their authors generalize too much, simplify too much."—J.M.L.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS NORTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, March 18, 1937, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and 75 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Names proposed for membership were: Miss Kathryn Buchanan, 2620 Durant Ave., Berkeley, by Frances Carter; Allan D. Cameron, 1785 North El Molino, Pasadena, by Frank Richardson; Miss Helen L. Gilliam, 473 Haddon Road, Oakland, by T. Eric Reynolds; Paul Illg, Pinole, California, by Frank Richardson; Alfred L. Killam, 30 Oval Road, Oakland, by Donald S. Brock; Vincent Mowbray, 5052 Fairfax Ave., Oakland, by E. L. Sumner, Sr.; Miss Marjorie Olney, 2720 Elmwood Ave., Berkeley, by William B. Richardson; Thomas L. Rodgers, 1709 Lincoln Street, Berkeley, by Jean M. Linsdale.

Mr. Moffitt spoke a few words in memory of the late Frederic H. Kennard, of Massachusetts, a member of the Cooper Club since 1911.

Mr. Dixon reported on the meeting of the permanent Wild Life Federation at St. Louis, Missouri, March 1 to 4. Forty-one states were represented. Although organization of the federation in California has proceeded slowly, he expressed optimism for its future here.

Field observations were opened by Dr. Harry R. Painton, president of the Stanford Chapter. He told of a field trip with the Audubon Society to Uvas Valley, near Almaden, California, and compared observations with those made by him on a similar trip in 1893. Mr. Moffitt gave a number of observations from Humboldt and Del Norte counties, suggesting that previous scarcity of records from that region might be