

Pacific Gull Color Banding Project.—During the summer of 1938, the Western Bird-banding Association, with the purpose of studying gull migration and life history, was successful in placing distinctive colored bands (as well as the usual Survey bands) on 1800 nestling gulls at the following 7 colonies:

Colony	Color Combination	
	Right Leg	Left Leg
1. <i>N. Coronado Island, Mexico</i> (off San Diego, Calif.): 153 young Western Gulls (<i>Larus occidentalis wymani</i>) banded July 21, 1938, by Mrs. M. C. Sargent and H. David Michener.	Red Survey Red	
2. <i>Mono Lake, Calif.:</i> 510 young California Gulls (<i>Larus californicus</i>) banded July 12, 1938, by Walter Nichols.	Blue Survey	Blue
3. <i>Three Arch Island, Oregon:</i> 150 young Western Gulls (<i>Larus occidentalis occidentalis</i>) banded July 6, 1938, by Reed Ferris.	Survey	Red Blue
4. <i>Haystack Rock, Oregon:</i> 675 young Western Gulls (<i>Larus occidentalis occidentalis</i>) banded July 8 and 16, 1938, by Reed Ferris.	Blue	Red Survey
5. <i>Mittlenatch Island, Gulf of Georgia, B. C.:</i> 85 young Glaucous-winged Gulls (<i>Larus glaucescens</i>) banded August 15, 1938, by Theed Pearse.	Yellow Survey	Yellow
6. <i>Yellow Island, Haro Straits, B. C.:</i> 149 young Glaucous-winged Gulls (<i>Larus glaucescens</i>) banded August 2, 1938, by Dennis Ashby.	Yellow Blue	Survey
7. <i>East Bay, Gambier Island, B. C.:</i> 75 young Glaucous-winged Gulls (<i>Larus glaucescens</i>) banded August 2, 1938, by Kenneth Alexander.	Yellow Survey	Blue

Since the value of this project will lie in adequate geographical coverage of the migratory area by competent observers, the cooperation of all bird students is welcomed in watching for these gulls. It should be remembered that during 1939 all these young gulls will have mottled gray plumage. If a bird is found dead, send the numbered aluminum Survey band to the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. If a live gull is seen, it is not necessary to capture the bird or to identify the species. Merely observe *carefully* the color combination and report, with date, exact place, and your name, to any of the following.—REED FERRIS, *Beaver, Oregon*; G. D. SPROT, *Cobble Hill, B. C.*; MRS. M. C. SARGENT, *Scripps Institution, La Jolla, California*.

NOTES AND NEWS

Because of the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in the San Francisco Bay region from June 19 to 23 of this year, it has been thought best to postpone the Annual Meeting of the Cooper Club until autumn. It may be necessary to arrange for a Business Meeting of the Club before that time, but no scientific sessions are contemplated. Club members in California are anxious to assure the success of this year's A.O.U. Meeting. Not since 1915, has the Union come to the Pacific coast, and we anticipate an excellent attendance of eastern members.—A. H. M.

Of exceptional import for bird preservationists is the article by Mr. R. A. Johnson (in *Wilson Bull.*, vol. 50, 1938, pp. 161-170, figs. 24-25) entitled "Predation of Gulls in Murre Colonies." The author's own direct observations were made in the Gulf of St. Lawrence where Black-backed Gulls and Atlantic Murres occupy nesting sites in common. These species are counterparts of the Western Gull and California Murre, observations upon which as associated on the Farallon Islands the author cites from Californian sources. The nature of Mr. Johnson's conclusions are indicated in part by the following statements of his: "So

long as man stays out of sight of the nesting murre and the population of the gulls is within reasonable limits, the gull gets for the most part only a scavenger's share of the murre eggs—mostly the abandoned ones. But, if the murre's vigil becomes weakened by any influence, such as disturbance, the former scavenger has little trouble in securing many eggs. . . . Gulls which have lost their eggs by accident, or because man has destroyed them as an attempt to control the gull population, do not appear to leave their nesting territory any earlier than those gulls which rear young. As a result of general commotion which they set up because of the loss of the first set of eggs, the fuss they make in rebuilding the nest, and the general lack of demands on their time which the feeding of young birds would preclude, they are, at times, more serious enemies to other nesting birds than individual pairs of gulls which are allowed to breed normally. . . . It is this unoccupied group of gulls that [Mr. Johnson says] I found were taking the greater portion of the unguarded murre eggs and newly hatched Eider ducklings." And further: "... By the very nature of the murre's responses to fear [which he fully describes], the gradual disappearance of that great Farallon breeding population nesting in a location exposed to gull damage was an inevitable consequence of the disturbance by human eggers." And of course there are many categories of human disturbers with objectives other than those of the old-time "eggers".—J. G.

We learn with deep regret of the death of Dr. John C. Phillips on November 14, 1938. A most effective and wise conservationist, he will be greatly missed in the high councils of wildlife protection. Dr. Phillips had been a member of the Cooper Club since 1911. He was especially well known for his excellent volumes on the "Natural History of the Ducks."—A. H. M.

"The California Woodpecker and I; a study in comparative zoology in which are set forth numerous facts and reflections by one of us about both of us", is the whimsical and explanatory title of a book by Professor William E. Ritter (University of California Press, Berkeley, xiii+340 pp., 28 figs. in text, 1938); excellent portraits of the two interesting subjects of this study are added. The author approaches the comparison of birds and men in a decidedly philosophic mood, figuratively picking up each item, examining it from every angle and looking through and beyond it. The comparison does not press far into technical detail, and much space is devoted to reflection upon the significance of elementary facts about the anatomy and physiology of birds and mammals. Philosophical discussions are difficult to evaluate and they appeal variously to readers of different tastes. To this reviewer, the

last two chapters, on the way of life in relation to mind and brain and on the author's personal outlook on nature, were especially pleasing. They admirably reflect the feeling of a true naturalist and the great satisfaction that comes to one who has lived with and knows the animal world. The first third of the book is chiefly about California Woodpeckers and deserves special attention here. Truly remarkable are the ways of life of this species. It has abandoned many of the customary instincts of woodpeckers, and gathers, stores and eats acorns in ways which are highly adaptive; yet in storing it does many things that reflect the rigidity of its instincts and the lack of thought. California Woodpeckers live in settlements. Territory is an affair of the settlement or community, not of males or of pairs. Nest-building, incubation and feeding of the young are community projects in which the participating individuals of both sexes appear to get along most amicably. The birds seem able to recognize types of oaks and spacings of trees which are specially suited to the conduct of community life. A better species for a naturalist to study can scarcely be imagined.—A. H. M.

The Bank Swallow seems likely the least numerous in aggregate numbers of any of the species of swallow occurring in California. Records of it in the ornithological literature for this state are fewest, even as appearing in the migrations. And authentically recorded sites of nesting colonies number not more than twelve all told; most of these records are for years long passed and for places now unfit for occupancy by a bird of such specialized nesting habits. Some of the older records, too, are dubious because of the chance of confusion in identity with the Rough-winged Swallow. The undersigned would be glad to receive from any Cooper Club member, definite information as to the location of any present nesting colony of Bank Swallows within the boundaries of California, with approximate number of birds comprising such colony. By "present" may be understood as meaning in 1937 or 1938.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park, San Diego, on Sunday, September 24, 1938, at 1:15 p.m. Twenty-eight members and guests gathered around a large picnic table on the lawn beside the penguin pool for a short business meeting before making a tour of the zoo.

Upon unanimous vote of the members the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting