

living things, a fellowship that is very real. He sees that in structure, in habits, and in impulses, his wild neighbors often seem much like himself.

"It should never be forgotten that they share with man also the joy of living. No man can possibly get as much pleasure from water as does a porpoise or an otter. However perfect his equipment, man can never be attuned to flying like the terns, the swallows, and other birds whose pliant grace, in calm or storm, is marvelous

"That wildlife enjoys living in general as much as man, and probably in many ways even more, is a thought that should never be entirely out of mind. Man assumes dominion over wildlife and exercises it as he can, but in so doing he should as far as possible in the case of every creature respect its right to existence, to its chosen home, and to undisturbed enjoyment of its way of life. As has been so often, but not too often, said, in following out ideas for readjusting wildlife and its environment, man should do only what is necessary and no more."

The Boston Society of Natural History announces that original unpublished essays on any subject in the field of ornithology are eligible for the Walker Prize competition for 1942. For details apply to the Secretary, 234 Berkeley St., Boston, Massachusetts, after August 15, 1941. Manuscripts are due on May 1, 1942.

Announcement is made by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History that Dr. Harry C. Oberholser has accepted the position as Curator of the Ornithology Department of that museum. Dr. Oberholser has been consultant to the department for some time and now upon his retirement from the Fish and Wildlife Service takes up the position formerly held by Dr. John W. Aldrich, who joined the wildlife service in Washington.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

Roger Tory Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Birds" (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston; May, 1941; xviii+240 pp., 42 pls. in black and white, 5 col. pls. + col. frontispiece, 40 figs. in text) accomplishes three noteworthy things which should place it high in the esteem of ornithologists of the western states. First, it covers the Rocky Mountain region and the southwestern deserts which were not included in Hoffmann's excellent handbook. Thus is brought into compact form the treatment of all birds of the United States west of the Great Plains (included are the western edge of the plains and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas). The second feature is the extension of Peterson's series of black and white illustrations of field characters to western species. His selection of the essential in these

diagrams, for which he is justly renowned, is, as usual, good. Even the most experienced field ornithologist is likely to find that Peterson has turned up some helpful clues that will prove a boon. Third, substantial progress is made in clarifying the subspecies problem for the beginner. The hopeless confusion that results from the names of the current check-list, which so often completely obscure specific units, is met by supplying a good set of names for full species, together with a list of the names of subspecies, so that a novice may sort out the tangle of racial names to which he may have been exposed. Furthermore, the ridiculousness of most field identifications of races, and the scientific inaccuracy of them are nicely brought out. Only a few races that are possessed of obvious field characters are selected for particular treatment.

Peterson makes it clear in the introduction that his book does not replace, but complements, Hoffmann's handbook. A student needs both. Peterson's guide will serve better for identification, because of the plates, but it does not include in comparable degree the natural history—details of distribution, habitat, behavior, and song—of which Hoffman through long western field experience could speak. Nor does it provide as much assistance in learning of postures and attitudes of birds as do the Allan Brooks drawings in the Hoffman guide.

Although Peterson draws attention to the sharply marked habitats and zones in the western United States, actually only limited help is given the beginner in these matters. To illustrate, the statement that the *Phainopepla* breeds "chiefly in arid lowlands" does not go far enough to provide appreciable aid. But such limitation is deliberate and no doubt a practical necessity; in many instances the essence of the habitat is clearly indicated.

Considering the time involved in preparation of the guide we encounter few errors. Sample items that have been noted or that have been brought to my attention are as follows: the breeding ranges of the Gadwall and Cinnamon Teal should be outlined to include central and southern California, respectively; the winter range of the Varied Thrush should include coastal southern California; not all Chestnut-backed Chickadees have rufous sides as stated, the absence of which in *P. r. barlowi* might well have served as a diagnostic character for this race, for it can easily be identified in the field. Elimination of the awkward and unnecessary possessive endings on names of birds would have pleased western students as conforming with prevailing custom on the Pacific coast.

To obscure the value of this book through mention of a few shortcomings would be wholly wrong. Peterson has done a great service to ac-

tive and prospective bird students in a large section of the country by working up this guide. Also, he has taken an important stand in favor of less emphasis on subspecies on the part of the field amateur, which attitude expressed in a book of this kind we may expect will have a distinctly beneficial effect.—ALDEN H. MILLER.

Two contributions on the subject of attracting birds have been received which deserve review, but because of limited space, they can merely be brought to notice here. "Bird houses, baths and feeding shelters, how to make and where to place them" by Edmund J. Sawyer, is a completely revised third addition of a bulletin issued by the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan (1940; 35 pp.; 20 cents). More comprehensive is "The Audubon guide to attracting birds," edited by John H. Baker (Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., Garden City, N. Y.; xviii+268 pp., illus.; \$1.50) which treats of photography, banding, planting, waterfowl areas and sanctuaries in addition to bird houses and baths.—A. H. M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Friday, April 11, to Sunday, April 13, 1941, at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California. On Friday morning the meeting was opened by E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., president of the Northern Division, and a welcome extended to members and visitors. George Willett spoke in response for the members of the Southern Division.

After the annual business session, the following papers were presented: Light versus activity in the control of the sexual cycle of birds: the role of the hypothalamus, by Albert Wolfson; Observation of a condor in the San Jacinto Mountains, by Richard H. May (read by J. S. Dixon); The passing of the Shasta vulture, by Loye Miller; Variation in *Dendragapus* in the Coast Range of California, by James Moffitt; A fossil flamingo from the Miocene of North America, by Alden H. Miller.

Friday afternoon: Peregrine falcon populations in western North America: a request for information, by R. M. Bond; Problems of wild turkey management in Missouri, by A. Starker Leopold; Is there mimicry in the feeding behavior of birds? by Junea W. Kelly; Pairing responses of free-living valley quail to hormone pellet implants, by F. W. Lorenz and J. T. Emlen, Jr.; Feeding habits of the black oyster-catcher, by J. Dan Webster; Food of the spotted owls at Whitaker's Forest, Tulare County, by Joe T. Marshall, Jr.

In the latter part of the afternoon, members

and friends visited the gallery of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where the scientific collections were open to inspection.

Saturday morning: The working day of the robin, by Robert C. Miller; Territorial behavior of the American woodcock (*Philohela minor*), by Frank A. Pitelka; Habits of the Mearns quail, by Loye Miller; Experimental analysis of the breeding cycle in the tricolored red-wing, by John T. Emlen, Jr.; The nesting of the ptarmigan on Mount Baker, Washington (illustrated), by William T. Shaw; Variation in *Corvus corax* in North America, by George Willett; Notes on the roosting habits of the chestnut-backed chickadee and the Bewick wren (illustrated), by Laidlaw Williams.

Saturday afternoon: Highlights of condor watching, by Carl B. Koford; The federal wildlife restoration program (illustrated by the motion picture, "Haunts for the Hunted"), by Stanley G. Jewett; Bird life in the eastern Mohave Desert (illustrated), by David H. Johnson; "Galapagos," a film taken on the Lack-Venables Galapagos Expedition of 1938-39, by Robert T. Orr.

On Saturday evening, approximately 90 members and guests attended the annual dinner at the Berkeley Women's City Club. Mr. Andrew Shirra Gibb presented his excellent motion pictures in color of birds taken in the vicinity of Monterey.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business session of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, California, at 9:30 a.m., Friday, April 11, 1941, with Vice-president Alden H. Miller in the chair and George Willett acting as secretary.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1940 were read and approved.

The Chairman appointed as a committee to examine proxies, John McB. Robertson, Chairman, John T. Emlen, Jr., and Jean M. Linsdale, and as a committee to present nominations for Directors for the ensuing year, John G. Tyler, Chairman, Loye Miller and Joseph S. Dixon.

The meeting then adjourned to meet in the same room at 9:00 a.m., April 12, 1941.

The business session was resumed at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 12, 1941, in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, California, with Vice-president Alden H. Miller presiding.

The Proxy Committee reported that, of a total membership of 891, 77 members were present in person and 414 were represented by proxies. The Chairman therefore declared a quorum present.