

NOTES AND NEWS

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club has been planned for the spring, probably in late March or in April, in San Diego, California. Recent inquiry of Clinton G. Abbott assures us of the continued desire of the Natural History Museum there to play host to the Club. In spite of war-time conditions it is reported that we can carry forward our scientific program and that out-of-town members can be taken care of. Perhaps one of the chief duties of those not actively drawn into defense work is to maintain and advance our scientific and scholarly institutions, thus preserving these things which have been destroyed or unrecognizably altered in many sections of the world. We admire Mr. Abbott's urge to carry on, and all members who can should plan to participate in the annual meeting.

We learn with deep regret of the passing of Charles Michael on December 30, 1941. He was an acute and understanding observer of animals, who wrote but a fraction of what he knew and yet contributed a number of excellent articles on California bird-life, particularly of the Yosemite Valley. The names of the Michaels have correctly become a tradition in the natural history of the Yosemite. We can but reflect poignantly on early trips afield with Charles Michael and on the complete satisfaction and comfort he took in the out-of-doors, attitudes which happily were imparted to his companions.—A. H. M.

Readers of the *Condor* are already familiar with some of the early experiences of the Lofberg's at Florence Lake, in the southern Sierra Nevada. A more extensive story of the growth of their alliance with the wild creatures which came to them is now available in a book. The change in attitude of two persons, snowbound two-thirds of the year, from uncertain suspicion and antipathy toward wild animals to sympathetic understanding and active concern with their problems is traced. The coyotes provide such a remarkable plot that a reader, once started, follows it to the end. The book, *Sierra Outpost*, by Lila Lofberg and David Malcolmson, was issued in 1941 by Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, Inc., New York.—J. M. L.

To our surprise and pleasure, the fifth and final volume of the highly important *Handbook of British Birds* (London, H. F. & G. Witherby) has made its appearance on schedule, so far as we can judge. It was issued in September of 1941, little more than a year following the fourth

volume. The authors, Witherby, Jourdain, Ticehurst and Tucker, in this last section deal with the Lari, Alcae, Ralliformes and Galliformes. British birds may seem a remote subject to western ornithologists, but the general values in this handbook for any serious student of birds of the northern hemisphere can not be too highly stressed.—A. H. M.

It is not as a rule necessary to review articles appearing in other ornithological journals readily accessible to readers of the *Condor*. However, scientific conscience compels us to comment on one aspect of a recent paper by A. M. Woodbury entitled "Animal Migration—Periodic-Response Theory" (*Auk*, 58, 1941:463-505). This survey of migration may be useful to those not well read in the field but it is marred by unwarranted claims of novelty for the ideas set forth in the discourse. Antecedent books and articles by numerous competent writers in the fields of migration and periodicity have provided the ingredients and essentially the synthesis of the concept that is offered.—A. H. M.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A continuation of Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America" is now before us in tangible form as Part 9 of this work (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 50, Part IX, 1941 [our copy received October 28]: ix + 254 pp., 16 figs. in text; 40 cents). This volume has been completed by Herbert Friedmann who has utilized in so far as possible the diagnoses and synonymies left in manuscript form by Ridgway, and by Charles W. Richmond who contributed to these phases of the first eight volumes. In spite of the use made of earlier material and the co-authorship of Ridgway and Friedmann, Part 9 is likely to become known, correctly, as Friedmann's work built on Ridgway's plan. Part 9 is less than half the size of the smallest of preceding sections and includes treatment of only four relatively small groups: the cranes (Gruidae), the rails (Rallidae), the sun-grebes (Heliornithidae) and the sun-bitterns (Eurypygidae). Friedmann explains that he reduced the size of the volume to permit immediate publication. We take this to mean that its total scope was reduced but that there were no reductions within the accounts of individual species.

Although the plan of the work is like that of the preceding part issued 22 years ago, there are a few innovations. A distinct improvement is the placement of drawings of heads, wings and