

## NOTES AND NEWS

For the careful work of preparing the roster appearing in this issue credit is due John McB. Robertson. Hilda W. Grinnell assisted in the checking of the list and in reading proof.

Under the leadership of Frank A. Pitelka and in conjunction with the Business Managers, a membership drive for the Club is soon to be initiated. Suggestions are welcomed as to means of drawing into the Club an even larger number of persons than now enjoy its privileges.

The passing of Selma Werner in June, 1944, was a loss of a personal friend to many Club members. Enthusiastic to an extreme, from the time of her first interest in birds in the early 'twenties, she was also helpful in a variety of ways in sustaining the activities of naturalists' organizations. Notably, she prepared the annual index for the Condor over a period of about 10 years.

## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

"Alaska Bird Trails," by Herbert Brandt (Bird Research Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio, 1943: xviii + 464 pp., 40 pls. (12 col.), 21 text-figs.) certainly merits notice in the pages of the Condor, even though it has already been well reviewed in two American ornithological journals (Bent, Auk, 61, 1944:308-311; Sutton, Wilson Bull., 56, 1944:120-121).

As these reviewers have discussed taxonomic and nomenclatural features of the book, comment along those lines will be omitted here. The annotated list, which takes up more than a hundred pages in the latter part of the volume, is an excellent compilation of facts regarding distribution, migration, nidification, molt, etc.; it will be of much value to students of these and kindred subjects, and the careful record of specimens collected furnishes a great deal of important and definite information.

However, in the opinion of this reader, Mr. Brandt has served the dessert first. The earlier and greater part of the book, comprising the narrative of the expedition, and splendidly illustrated by paintings by Major Allan Brooks and E. R. Kalmbach, and by photos by Frank Dufresne, Olaus Murie and the author, is enthralling. This is a well written day-to-day account of happenings presented in such a graphic manner as to command the attention of the reader at the very beginning and to hold it until the last bird has faded out of the picture. It is doubtful that any real field ornithologist could read this narrative without becoming mentally one of the party on the fog- and wind-swept tundra of Hooper Bay.

The expedition was splendidly equipped, both as regards personnel and materiel. H. B. Conover, Frank Dufresne, Olaus Murie, Jack Warwick and the author were all experienced field men, and several of them were well accustomed to travel and existence in regions such as that traversed, which is, to speak mildly, inhospitable. This reader knows that the March-April trip by dog sled from Fairbanks to Hooper Bay, much of it in sub-zero temperatures, and the inclemency of the weather prevalent on the shores of Bering Sea must have been productive of considerable physical discomfort, but although these handicaps are casually mentioned from time to time, they are stressed much less than is usually customary in similar narratives. It is apparent that through careful planning, and with co-operation of the members of the party, all difficulties encountered were so handled that they affected the final success of the undertaking very slightly, if at all.

Hooper Bay, where the summer of 1924 was spent, is on the eastern coast of Bering Sea, between the mouths of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, in the heart of one of the most notable water-fowl breeding grounds in the world. The arrival of the swarms of birds from the south and the dispersal of many of them over their tundra nesting grounds are vividly described. During the ensuing breeding season fourteen species of Anatidae, fifteen of shore birds, all three species of jaegers, and numerous representatives of other avian groups were found nesting. Downy young of the Emperor Goose and Black Turnstone were collected and figured for the first time. Carefully compiled, detailed notes on nidification, behavior on the nesting grounds, and description of eggs and young of many species whose breeding habits were previously imperfectly known constitute a very worthwhile contribution to the science of ornithology.

An impoverished group of Eskimos was found at Hooper Bay, living under very primitive conditions due largely to their isolation. The services of many of these people, particularly the women and children, were secured by payments of tea and tobacco, and they proved of great importance to the success of the expedition. Not only were the Eskimos valuable for their ability to locate nests, but some of them were taught to aid in preparation of specimens. The nests found by Eskimo helpers were not disturbed by them, but were marked for later inspection by the ornithologists, a method of procedure very necessary to scientific accuracy.

Congratulations are due to the planners and members of this expedition for its important ac-