

NOTES AND NEWS

Frequently popular scientific publications carry articles stating that a goose, swan, condor, eagle or some other large bird (other than ostriches) has been known to break a person's arm or leg by a blow of the wing. We know of no well authenticated instance. This note is published at the suggestion of a reader in the hope that some of our Club members can adduce evidence on the subject.

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology receives many inquiries about birds and other vertebrates from naturalists now in the armed forces. There also have been numerous requests for assistance in obtaining literature. Since entrance of our forces into the Philippines several requests have come for R. C. McGregor's "A Manual of Philippine Birds" and M. Hachisuka's "Birds of the Philippine Islands." The staff has been unable as yet to obtain copies of these works. If any Cooper Club member has copies which he is willing to loan or sell to service men in the South Pacific, please write to Seth B. Benson, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, giving details as to price, and he will make the necessary arrangements as to payment and transportation. Do not send the books until notified unless they are to be gifts or loans. Any assistance in obtaining these and similar books will be appreciated by the men in the service.

A paper which may escape the notice of students of Pacific Coast ornithology is B. F. Osoria Tafall's "La Expedicion del M. N. 'Graciosa' por Aguas del Extremo Noroeste Mexicano" (Anales de la Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biologicas [Mexico, D.F.], 3, 1944:331-360). This survey of guano production in northwestern Mexico contains many notes on the bird-life of islands near the peninsula of Baja California.—F.A.P.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A noteworthy contribution to western ornithology is A. M. Woodbury and H. N. Russell, Jr.'s, "Birds of the Navajo Country" (Bull. Univ. Utah, 35, 1945:1-160, 8 figures + map). This paper is essentially a faunal summation of the heretofore poorly known bird-life of southeastern Utah and northeastern Arizona. The authors and other field investigators whose names are listed participated in a series of "Rainbow Bridge-Monument Valley Expeditions" in the years 1933-1938. Their field data and specimens together with specimens in other collections and records in the literature form the basis of this report.

Apparently most of the specimens collected by Woodbury *et al.* are deposited at the University of Utah.

The main text of this paper consists of species accounts in each of which are given, insofar as possible, a general statement as to relative abundance and local occurrence, a summary of specific observations, notes on nesting and habitat relations, and a list of specimens. Much worthwhile information is condensed in these accounts. The introductory section includes a historical resumé of expeditions and investigations, a separate chronological list of expeditions, brief descriptions of major habitats, and a check-list of species and races. All of the major climatic and vegetational zones of southwestern mountains are represented in the Navajo area, bounded, in general, to the west and north by the Colorado and the San Juan rivers, to the south by the Little Colorado, and to the east by the Carrizo and Lukachukai mountains. By my count, based on Woodbury and Russell's check-list, the avifauna of the Navajo region includes 92 non-passerine and 115 passerine species. The status of 17 additional species is uncertain. The report is perhaps most valuable for information on the birds of the piñon-juniper woodland or "pigmy forest," which, "despite its irregularities, . . . seems to be more extensive and covers more area than any other single cover type in the Navajo Country." A bibliography and an index to common names are provided.—FRANK A. PITEKKA.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order by President Robert C. Miller at 8 p.m., Thursday, January 25, in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about 45 members and guests present. Two proposals for membership were read: Miss Lois Hanscom, 72 Panoramic Way, Berkeley 4, California, by Amelia S. Allen, and Mr. John B. Hamilton, Winchester Canyon, Goleta, California, by Richard M. Bond.

Dr. Benson, chairman of the nominating committee, reported the nomination of the following: for president, W. I. Follett; vice-president, Sumner C. Brooks; corresponding secretary, Hilda W. Grinnell; recording secretary, Alice S. Mulford. As there were no nominations from the floor, Lewis Taylor moved that the secretary be authorized to cast a unanimous ballot electing the nominees. The motion was seconded and

passed. Dr. Miller then greeted the new president and handed him the "Order of Business" as his badge of office.

Mr. Robert Storer mentioned an article by Walter A. Weber, "Wildlife of Tabasco and Vera Cruz," in the February National Geographic, which contains colored plates of birds. Dr. Benson reviewed Grinnell and Miller's "The Distribution of the Birds of California" and Ernst Mayr's "Birds of the Southwest Pacific."

Field observations included: a report by Dr. L. A. Elmore of a Fox Sparrow eating a laurel fruit on Rose Walk, Berkeley, and of a Horned Owl eating pigeons; announcement of a Short-eared Owl at the Aquatic Park on January 23 and 25 by Miss Grace Crowe; observation of a House Wren on the Berkeley Campus on January 21 by Mr. Robert Storer; Mrs. J. W. Kelly said Angelo Hewetson had seen 42 Semipalmated Plovers in Alameda on January 6 and she saw 40 the next day.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. Robert C. Miller, discussed "The Influence of Birds on Human Civilization," mentioning several historical incidents, including the importance of the study of bird flight in the development of the airplane in idea and actuality, ornithological references in common expressions and words, sociological and economic behavior of birds, and the benefits accruing to the individual human who takes an interest in birds.

Adjourned.—ALICE S. MULFORD, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, December 26, 1944, at 8 p.m., in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, with A. J. van Rossem presiding and 20 members and guests present. The Secretary being absent, the President appointed George Willett to perform the duties of that office. The President then appointed Hildegard Howard, Irwin D. Nokes and George Willett as a committee to submit nominations for officers for the coming year.

The first speaker of the evening was Dr. John E. Cushing, Jr., whose subject was "Traditions of Bird Behavior." Many phases of behavior, both traditional and inherited, were mentioned, among them being mating preference, reaction to enemies, ability to recognize danger calls, food preferences, etc. Also some features of behavior in

their relation to evolution, and others in their relation to game management were discussed.

At the close of Dr. Cushing's talk and the discussion arising therefrom, the President introduced Mr. Telford H. Work, of the Northern Division, who had appeared unexpectedly, bringing with him several reels of fine colored motion pictures of birds. These included life history studies of Turkey Vulture, Prairie Falcon, Horned and Barn owls, and banding operations in the Caspian Tern colony on San Francisco Bay. They were excellently presented and much enjoyed.

Adjourned.—G. WILLETT, *Acting Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order by Vice-president Ed Harrison at 8 p.m., Tuesday, January 30, 1945, in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Proposals for membership were read from the following: Carl Stromgren, Box 742, Newton, Iowa, by W. Lee Chambers; James Robert Caldwell, Willow Creek, Alberta, Canada, by W. Lee Chambers; Bruce Arthur Krug, % International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, Dominion Building, New Westminster, B.C., proposed by Theed Pearse; Byron E. Harrell, 1594 Stanford Avenue, St. Paul 5, Minnesota, by Mrs. N. Edward Ayer; Herbert Archibald Proctor, 1700 Monte Vista Street, Pasadena 4, California, by A. J. van Rossem; Harold Leader, 2830 Motor Ave., Los Angeles 34, California, by Walter W. Bennett; Fred F. Nye, Box 869, Brownsville, Texas, by Sidney B. Peyton; Mrs. Esther Sym Henrie, 466 Franklin St., Napa, California, by Mrs. Ruth Wheeler; Carlton M. Herman, 1060 Cragmont Ave., Berkeley 8, California, by Sherwin F. Wood; Paul Eugene Belcher, 988 Jefferson Ave., Akron 2, Ohio, by W. Lee Chambers; and Doris Huestis Speirs, 92 McIntyre St., W., North Bay, Ontario, Canada, proposed by John McB. Robertson.

New officers were unanimously elected for the year 1945 as follows: president, Walter W. Bennett; vice-president, Ed N. Harrison; secretary, Miss Dorothy Groner. Moved by C. V. Duff, seconded by Mrs. Mary V. Hood, and duly carried, that the membership express their appreciation for the good work during the past year of the retiring officers.

The discussion which followed centered about the subjects of ornithological journalism, field observations of members and future program material.

Adjourned.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Secretary*.