

## NOTES AND NEWS

The colored life-size portrait of the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) by the late Allan Brooks, reproduced as the frontispiece of this issue, is based on a specimen in his collection. Its label is typical among Brooks' own specimens and provides the following information: The hawk, an adult male, was shot at its nest on April 4, 1939, in Madera Cañon, at 7500 feet, Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona. Nest-building was underway on that date. The hawk weighed 1 pound, 7½ ounces. Its stomach contained scales of a lizard (*Sceloporus*). Colors of soft parts were: eye, dark warm sepia; eyelid, pale yellowish on edge; orbital ridge, cere, gape, and feet, cadmium yellow (medium); bill, black, paler at base of both mandibles.

The original of the frontispiece is one of a small series of color portraits, black-and-white sketches, and pencil drawings donated generously by Mrs. Marjorie Brooks and Allan Cecil Brooks to the Cooper Ornithological Club and exhibited at its annual meetings in Los Angeles, in May, 1947. The collection consists entirely of previously unpublished work contained in Brooks' sketchbooks. Even though he probably thought of these sketches and paintings as only preliminary ones, they impress us as real additions to the record of his work. Two items from this collection were published last year: a black-and-white drawing of the head of a Horned Owl (*Condor*, 49, 1946: opposite page 137), and a pencil sketch of a group of Canada Geese (same volume, opposite page 217). Reproduction in *The Condor* of several colored paintings by Brooks is made possible through donations by members of the Cooper Ornithological Club toward a special fund set up for this purpose.

At a recent meeting of the Club's Board of Directors, authorization was given for appointment of Robert W. Storer as Assistant Editor on the staff of *The Condor*.

Numerous requests for ornithological reprints and bird books have recently come to this country from European ornithologists who have lost their entire libraries in consequence of the war. The desire for ornithological literature among these colleagues (bird lovers as well as professional ornithologists) seems to be as great as that for food and clothing. Perhaps you have a dozen or two extra reprints of some of your papers which you could spare. Papers dealing with any aspect of the general biology of birds, particularly life-history studies, are especially welcome. It would be much appreciated if you would mail such reprints to Ernst Mayr, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 24, New York, or to Frank A. Pitelka, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley 4, Cali-

fornia. Please mark packages "A.O.U. Relief Committee." All reprints so received will be distributed at once among active European bird students.—AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION RELIEF COMMITTEE.

The November issue of *British Birds* (vol. 40: 322-325) carries an article entitled "Cabinet Colour-changes in Bird-skins and Their Bearing on Racial Segregation," by Reginald Wagstaffe and Kenneth Williamson of the Yorkshire Museum. We quote from their article: "Although the occurrence of post-mortem changes in the colours of bird and mammal specimens has been noted by other workers . . . , it is evident to us that the grave seriousness of its implications in systematic work has not been fully appreciated . . . . In a good many instances the significance not only of the time-hallowed holotype, but of all primary types, is greatly diminished. The claim that this, or that or the other, 'has been compared with the type,' can no longer be accepted as irrefutable evidence of the validity of any colour-differences observed. [Italics ours.] The types of some races, in which structural differences are not involved, may prove to have no longer any but historical importance . . . . For all practical purposes, however, it seems that a greater significance must be attached to the type-locality than has been the case hitherto, for until these changes can be averted, the substitution of holotypes and paratypes in affected cases by fresh topotypical material at intervals of a few years, will become essential if reliable comparative work is to continue, and the fundamental tenets of taxonomic procedure upheld."

It is appropriate to this, the Fiftieth Anniversary Volume of *The Condor*, that we look back over records of past decades to recall some events in the history of the Club and its members, as revealed by news items from editorial pages.

1900—"As an illustration of the knowledge accruing from proper collecting in the field, we might call attention to the communication of Mr. Jos. Mailliard in this issue on color changes in the crown of certain of the *Picidae* . . . . This demonstrates the necessity of collecting in series at proper seasons, and it would seem that all unbiased ornithologists must concede that the results amply justify such collecting" (p. 22). [C. Barlow.]

"Wilfred H. Osgood of the Biological Survey . . . with Edmund Heller . . . has returned from a successful expedition into British Columbia where large collections of zoological and botanical specimens were made. The expedition worked from Vancouver Island north to Unalaska . . . ." (p. 145).

"The [R. H.] Beck Expedition to the Galapagos Islands . . . will sail from San Francisco about Nov. 15" (p. 145).

1910—"We take this opportunity of calling attention to the very great value to American ornithology of the review department of *The Auk* . . . We have come to feel assured that practically nothing has escaped notice in its review columns; and if the review notice that we are after and do find, is critical and above the initials 'J. A. A[llen].,' with what close attention is it read" (p. 47). [J. Grinnell.]

"We are in receipt of an announcement of the organization in New York City, on December 8, 1909, of the American Bird Banding Association, the object of which is 'the banding of wild birds and the recording of accurate data on their movements.' . . . This method of study, tho new in this country . . . promises interesting results . . ." (p. 81). [H. S. Swarth.]

"The first expedition of 1910 to take the field in the interest of the . . . Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, left on February 13. The party is headed by Mr. J. Grinnell, who is assisted by Messrs. F. Stephens, J. Dixon and H. Jones; the field of their endeavors is the valley of the Colorado River . . . The same trip was made by Dr. Elliot Coues, years ago, when the country was new and unknown . . ." (p. 81).

1920—"It is a source of gratification to those who have given time and energy in promoting the welfare of the Cooper Club to learn that several of the members . . . some time ago started an endowment fund for the Club. A committee, consisting of J. E. Law, W. L. Chambers and A. B. Howell, has now been elected to take charge of the soliciting of contributions to this fund . . . the interest on which is to be used for the purposes of enlarging *THE CONDOR* and publishing *Avifaunas*" (p. 44). [J. Grinnell.]

"Doubtless many bird students join us in our feeling of dismay regarding the very great number of new names and combinations of names being proposed in current literature . . . Very many of these changes are due to splitting of genera or else to the introduction of trinomials on the ground of supposed intergradation through individual variation. Both of these practices are of a sort to be closely dependent upon personal opinion and not upon well definable conditions in nature" (p. 44).

"The National Parks Service is this year inaugurating a system of instruction in natural history for visitors to Yosemite National Park. Two members of the Cooper Club [Dr. H. C. Bryant and Dr. L. H. Miller] will conduct this work during the season of 1920" (p. 112).

"The W. Otto Emerson collection of bird skins, numbering about 5500, has been purchased for the California Academy of Sciences by two public-spirited members of that body, Messrs. John W. Mailliard and W. H. Crocker" (p. 207).

"Collectors should bear in mind that for many reasons the autumn season is the most favorable time of the year for securing specimens. Plumages are then complete and unworn . . . Adequate value, scientifically, is to be secured from a dead bird, only by recording, in addition to the usual data, its weight, its age (as determined from the condition of the skull), and the colors of the soft parts . . ." (p. 192).

1930—"The Cooper Ornithological Club was represented formally at the Seventh International Ornithological Congress . . . in Amsterdam. The Club's delegates were: Mr. Harry S. Swarth, who also spent part of the summer working in the museums in London and Tring; . . . Dr. Casey A. Wood . . . and Dr. Alexander Wetmore . . ." (p. 266).

"We know, not one, but at least three individuals, who dislike the Mockingbird. By such persons, the Mockingbird, blatant, loud of voice, not content to announce itself only by day, is an irritation, to be gotten rid of in any neighborhood. Some other people hate Blue Jays; others are offended by the aggressive attitude of Brewer Blackbirds in the nesting season and demand to be rid of them; . . . and so it goes . . . Logically, if all such complaints are to be heeded, then the only thing to do is at once to undertake wholesale extermination of every living wild bird and mammal! . . . The tendency manifest in various directions promptly to yield to pressure from minority interest to eradicate 'pests' can, we think, lead directly or indirectly only to the complete wiping out of a large part of our native fauna.—J. G[rinnell]." (p. 266).

"The Cooper Club's business staff has been augmented by the addition to it of Mr. John McB. Robertson . . . [He] will take over from Mr. W. Lee Chambers certain of the routine that has fallen to the latter's lot in increasing measure. . . . It should be fully realized by our membership that every hour of service rendered by each of our business managers is an outright gift to the Club . . ." (p. 74).

1940—"Realizing that ignorant or wanton shooting of this beneficial bird [the White-tailed Kite] is a considerable factor in its depletion, Mr. Laidlaw Williams and I have for several years advocated an attractive poster which would . . . make a plea for its preservation . . . It is thought that broader education, along these lines, of individuals likely to see kites will work for the birds' protection . . . —James Moffitt" (p. 310).