

NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 47. Ralph Arnold, member of the Club since October 3, 1893.

The colored portrait of a Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) by Allan Brooks, which appears as the frontispiece in this issue, is based on an adult bird taken in June, 1939, at Okanagan, British Columbia. Original notes by Brooks on color of soft parts are as follows: eye, scarlet; cere, orbital ridge and eyelid (narrowly), greenish yellow; gape and feet, light cadmium yellow.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS OF ARCTIC ALASKA. By Alfred M. Bailey. Colorado Museum of Natural History, Popular Series, Number 8, April 1, 1948, 317 pp., 102 figs., one map.

Although primarily a distributional list of the birds of the Arctic slope of Alaska, this work includes a valuable chapter on the vegetation of the Arctic slope by Joseph Ewan, a history of ornithological work in this area, the author's firsthand account of migration along the Arctic coast, and a running narrative of the work of field parties of which he was a member. Persons working with birds collected in this area will find particularly useful the taxonomic notes, sketch map,

gazeteer, and bibliography of over 150 titles. The illustrative material consists of over one hundred photographs, some of which have been retouched. Of particular note are those of the nests and eggs of northern birds and of migrating flights of eiders and murres. Pictures of some of the more common tundra plants, habitat and travelog shots, and portraits of the field workers who contributed most of the study of this area are also of considerable interest. Of questionable value are photographs of dead birds and of museum habitat groups.

The region covered consists largely of tundra, though some wooded areas in the drainage of Kotzebue Sound are included in the report and materially increase the number of forms recorded. One is frequently over-impressed by the number of Palaearctic forms recorded from northern Alaska; hence it may come as a surprise to find that of slightly over two hundred forms listed from this area, only thirty-one are Asiatic and two of this number have yet to be collected in northern Alaska. Of the forms listed as accidental or rare, only approximately 28 per cent are Asiatic. This is what might be expected on the basis of probability, but there is a strong tendency to remember most easily the stragglers from the Palaearctic Region because they do not (in most cases) occur elsewhere in North America.

Of the many reasons for publishing carefully prepared, comprehensive regional lists, not the least important is that of pointing out what lines of future research may prove most fruitful. It is in this and in providing a foundation for such work that Bailey's book will have its greatest value. Reading it, one is struck by the need for study of such problems as those of the areas of overlap of the ranges of Eurasian and American forms such as the Pacific and Green-throated loons, which are elsewhere allopatric; the relative abundance of the various species of shorebirds with respect to the size of the bird and to habitat preference; comparisons of the behavior and feeding habits of many forms on their wintering and summering grounds; and the isolating mechanisms in breeding behavior which prevent the hybridization of such sympatric species as the two species of murres.

The book is well designed and executed, but