

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 murre. 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 Palearctic 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 Palearctic 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 murre.

The book is well designed and executed, but

contains several lapsi such as giving the incorrect initials for L. M. Huey (p. 11) and the implication that half-grown ptarmigan breed (p. 51). On the whole it is a valuable compilation of information on the birds and general features of a region, which, due to air travel, is rapidly becoming less remote.—ROBERT W. STORER.

COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in Pacific Grove, California, on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 7-9, 1948. The program arranged by a committee of the Northern Division contained the following papers:

May 7, morning session, F. A. Pitelka presiding. Some Behavior Patterns of the Gannet, R. W. Storer; Territorial Relations of Anna and Allen Hummingbirds, F. A. Pitelka.

May 7, afternoon session, R. T. Orr presiding. Notes on the Black Brant on the East Coast of Vancouver Island, Theed Pearse; Fall Migration at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, 1947, Junea W. Kelly; Failure of the Species Concept in the Genus *Pipilo*, Charles G. Sibley; New Avian Records for the Pliocene of California, Hildegard Howard; Birds from the Jones Fauna of the Kansas Pleistocene, T. Downs; Sex and Age Variation in the Common Murre, Robert W. Storer; Observations on a Sense of Smell in Turkey Vultures, Kenneth E. Stager.

May 8, morning session, Charles G. Sibley presiding. Nesting of the Bullock Oriole on the Hastings Reservation, Jean M. Linsdale; The Nocturnal Singing of Birds, Alden H. Miller; Problems of Bird Distribution in Hawaii National Park, Paul H. Baldwin; Some Results of a Banding Study of the Plain Titmouse, Keith L. Dixon; Some Aspects of a Behavior Study of the Brewer Blackbird, Laidlaw O. Williams.

May 8, afternoon session, Charles G. Sibley presiding. Condor Courtship, Carl Koford; Song Sparrows of the San Francisco Bay Region, Joe T. Marshall, Jr.; Observations on the Seasonal Behavior of the Common Merganser, Robert T. Orr; Bathing and Roosting Habits of the California Condor, Ed N. Harrison and Frances F. Roberts; Southern Exposures, Laurel Reynolds.

At an informal meeting Saturday evening, a film entitled "A Sonoran Journey" was shown by Ed N. Harrison and Frances F. Roberts.

On Sunday, May 9, Field trips were conducted

to the Hastings Reservation and to Point Lobos State Park and neighboring coast areas.

GOVERNORS' MEETING

The 23d annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on May 7, 1948, at Class Hall, Asilomar, in Pacific Grove, California. President Alden H. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., with the following members present: W. Lee Chambers, C. V. Duff, Walter K. Fisher, W. I. Follett, Dorothy E. Groner, Ed N. Harrison, Hildegard Howard, Junea W. Kelly, Eric C. Kinsey, C. B. Lastreto, Jean M. Linsdale, Alden H. Miller, R. C. Miller, R. T. Moore, Harry R. Painton, Frank A. Pitelka, Charles G. Sibley, K. E. Stager, R. W. Storer, E. Lowell Sumner, and John G. Tyler. Guests present: Stanley G. Jewett and Otto J. Zahn. Proxies were present as follows: F. N. Bassett, H. C. Bryant, H. W. Carriker, R. B. Cowles, John T. Emlen, Jean M. Linsdale, Luther Little, Loye Miller, Sidney B. Peyton, Gayle Pickwell, J. McB. Robertson, Howard Robertson, and S. F. Wood, held by Alden H. Miller; Hilda W. Grinnell, Harold Michener, J. R. Pemberton, T. I. Storer, and A. J. van Rossem, held by Frank A. Pitelka; and Louis B. Bishop, held by W. Lee Chambers.

Minutes of the 22nd annual meeting were read and approved. The report of the Treasurer was submitted jointly by John McB. Robertson and W. Lee Chambers. Mr. Chambers called attention orally to important items of the report and trends indicated by them. At present, accounts covering the Pacific Coast Avifauna series are favorably balanced; however, with repeated increases in current printing costs this is not true of the Condor accounts. It was moved by C. B. Lastreto, seconded by H. R. Painton, that the report of the treasurer be accepted pending examination of it by the Auditing Committee.

C. V. Duff called attention to the need of initiating preparation of the fifth ten-year index, covering the years 1939-1948. A discussion of problems associated with this and earlier indices then ensued.

A. H. Miller presented the report of the editors of The Condor. Since 1947, costs of publishing The Condor have risen 30 per cent. Arrangements with the printer which have helped to limit cost rise have been reduction of amount of text in 8-point type, wider line-spacing in 8-point text, production of issues consisting only of 8-page fascicles, and reduced number of corrections on