

NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 56. H. W. Carriger, member of the Club since June 5, 1895.

The color portrait of a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) by Allan Brooks, which appears as the frontispiece in this issue, is based on a juvenal female collected on July 19, 1942, at Okanagan Landing, British Columbia. Original notes by Brooks on color of soft parts are as follows: eye, cadmium yellow; bill and cere, blackish; soles, yellow; claws, black. The stomach contained the remains of an adult robin.

Results of elections at the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held at Omaha, Nebraska, on October 11-15, 1948, are as follows: president, R. C. Murphy; vice-presidents, J. Van Tyne and A. H. Miller; secretary, O. S. Pettingill, Jr.; treasurer and business manager, A. D. Moser; council members, A. L. Rand,

A. J. van Rossem, and J. T. Zimmer for 3-year terms, and F. C. Lincoln for a 2-year term; new fellows, O. L. Austin, Jr., T. D. Burleigh, J. C. Greenway, Jr., R. T. Peterson, and F. A. Pitelka; new members, M. Broun, A. J. Duvall, A. I. Good, C. O. Handley, Sr., G. E. Hudson, J. T. Marshall, Jr., C. K. Nichols, M. M. Peet, W. H. Phelps, Jr., J. McB. Robertson, J. O. Stevenson, R. W. Storer, A. Stupka, W. Taber, and R. E. Yeatter. The Brewster Medal was awarded to David Lack in recognition of his work on the Galapagos finches.

With the advent of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the West, it would now seem possible to make observations that would throw light on the question of how certain species of birds acquire imitations of other species. I discussed this subject some years ago (*Condor*, 25, 1923:68-69).

Soon after the Starling arrived in America it began to imitate the songs of American birds. Some of those imitations, particularly that of the Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*), are used so commonly that the call was suspected to be a natural one for the Starling, coincidentally similar to that of the pewee. Observers who know the Starling in Europe, however, state that that is not the case.

Does each individual Starling acquire imitations by hearing the bird it imitates, or by hearing its parents' imitations? If there are observers in the western states who are familiar with the song of the Eastern Wood Pewee, perhaps they will be able to tell us whether the Starlings there continue to use that call, and also how soon they begin to imitate species that are strictly western. —ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

In the past few months a number of important ornithological publications have been received at the editorial office; availability of these works should be generally known. The first three of these are continuations of much-used series.