

## NOTES AND NEWS

This year's annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held at Los Angeles on April 8-10.

The name of the recently elected treasurer and business manager of the American Ornithologists' Union, incorrectly reported in the last issue of the Condor, is R. Allyn Moser.

### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

**ISLAND LIFE: A STUDY OF THE LAND VERTEBRATES OF THE ISLANDS OF EASTERN LAKE MICHIGAN.** By R. T. Hatt, J. Van Tyne, L. C. Stuart, C. H. Pope, and A. B. Grobman. Cranbrook Institute of Science Bulletin No. 27: xii+179 pp., frontispiece and 43 figures. Cloth binding. \$4.00.

This is an attractive volume, as fine a job of book-making as it is a report of field work completed. The text deals with animal geography, specifically the mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians of the islands in Lake Michigan lying off the northwest shores of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The islands total eighteen and vary in size from Beaver Island, which is 58 square miles in extent and supports hardwood forest, to Pismire Island, a gravel bar of two acres. Geological and cultural histories of the region are also considered. The book is a product of joint efforts in the field of the Cranbrook Institute of Science and the University of Michigan in the years 1937 to 1944, and it should be of interest to students of insular faunas anywhere.

The section of the book dealing with birds, pages 69 to 114, was written by Van Tyne. The bulk of these pages is occupied by a carefully prepared annotated list summarizing all distributional records. Of the 152 species recorded on the islands, 52 breed on Beaver Island and on at least one to six of the others. Fifteen additional species are known to breed on Beaver Island only. Van Tyne points out that the avifauna of these islands is poorer in species than that of the adjacent mainland, yet absences of particular species cannot always be explained by lack of suitable habitat. Thus, Redstarts and Oven-birds occur in forest where Least Flycatchers and Wood Pewees would also be expected, but the latter species are not found. Sixteen species which breed on the mainland are absent on the islands except in migration when only five of them occur. Five additional species which are present as migrants on the mainland were not found on the islands. Only

two species display any geographic variation: The Eastern House Wren occurs on the more southern islands, the Western House Wren on the more northern ones. Some distinctions, not recognized nomenclaturally, are also made between mainland and island populations of the Red-wing.

Following the distributional sections, there is a brief chapter on modification of habits shown by island populations of several species. The terminal chapter on factors of distribution reviews the evidence for time, mode, extent, and sources of island invasions and the problem of depauperate faunas. It is shown, for example, that island animals frequently occupy cover types which they do not use on the mainland. Although faunal composition varies with ecological diversity of terrain and plant cover rather than with absolute area, the species:communities index fluctuates in a table correlating numbers of plant communities with numbers of animal species, indicating that, at least for the four vertebrate classes considered, the composition of these insular faunas is to a certain degree hit-and-miss. No ideas or concepts new to animal geography emerge in this study, but it does serve to put on a more sound basis several concepts perhaps too freely thrown about in discussions of insular faunas, and it is obviously an important contribution to the biological record of the region of northern Lake Michigan.

The volume closes with an appendix listing vertebrates found on each island, a bibliography of 75 titles, and an eight-page index. The text is well organized, accurate, and clear; its style is admirably modest. The illustrations are excellent.  
—FRANK A. PITELKA.

**THE BIRDS OF TROPICAL WEST AFRICA. Volume 6.**

By David Armitage Bannerman. The Crown Agents for the Colonies, London, xxxix + 364 pp., August, 1948.

Resumption of the publishing of this important series of books, after an interval of eight years since volume 5, should be especially noted. For a review of the first volume which describes the work and indicates its excellent qualities, see Grinnell, Condor, 33, 1931:132-134. Volume 6 covers the Paridae, Corvidae, Sturnidae, Zosteropidae, Nectariniidae, Certhiidae and Fringillidae. Two more volumes are contemplated.—ALDEN H. MILLER.