

## NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 53. Hoyes Lloyd, president of the American Ornithologists' Union, 1946-1948.

The colored frontispiece portrays a Red-breasted Chat (*Granatellus venustus francescae*) painted by Andrew Jackson Grayson. In January, 1865, Grayson made a trip to the Tres Marias Islands, México, and collected the specimens on which the painting is based. This race of the species was named for Grayson's wife, Frances, by Baird. The following extract pertinent to this chat is taken from Grayson's manuscript on the "Birds of the Pacific Slope," volume 1, pages 152-154:

"Habitat Tres Marias Islands near the coast of Mexico in latitude  $21^{\circ} 30'$  and longitude  $106^{\circ} 30'$ .

"This remarkable and handsome little bird seems to be peculiar to the islands of the Tres Marias. Not having elsewhere met with it, nor seen any published account of it, it may be a bird new to ornithology.

"It is not common or abundant even on the islands, and is peculiar in its habits.

"I always found it in the low underbrush hopping about among the decayed brush near the ground in search of insects. It may be seen at

every move jerking up and spreading its tail like a fan—at the same time its head motionless and bent towards the ground and its wings somewhat recumbent as if looking intently for its prey, seldom uttering a note. This is almost its constant habit, as I had a good means of observing from the fact of its docility, allowing me to approach very near without much apparent concern at my presence.

"It is not so active as the generality of titmice, but its characteristics are not dissimilar in many respects.

"In classifying it as belonging to the Paridae, I do so without having any means of reference or specimens for comparison. Such being the case I may be mistaken and will be pleased if corrected. If it is a *Parus*, it is a very remarkable species as well as a very handsome one." [Grayson had at first thought this bird to be in the genus *Parus* and suggested for it the name *Parus rosea*. It is, of course, a warbler, family Parulidae.]

Howard L. Cogswell and Keith L. Dixon have recently assumed duties as Assistant Editors of the Condor.

We report with deep regret the death of three leaders in western ornithology and in Cooper Club affairs:

Henry W. Carriger, an honorary member of the Club and past president of the Northern Division, was for over fifty years a thorough student of the birds of central California and assisted importantly in the business affairs of the Club.

Harold Michener, an honorary member of the Club and past president of the Southern Division, for a long period led, with Mrs. Michener, in the development and pursuit of bird banding on the Pacific coast and contributed many highly significant articles on behavior, plumage, and the seasonal occurrence of marked birds.

Adriaan J. van Rossem, past president of the Southern Division of the Club, and lately a member of the board of directors, was of world-wide reputation as a taxonomist and nomenclaturist and was particularly skilled in the classification of the birds of the Pacific coast, México, and Central America. He was a recipient of the Brewster Award. To the very last he remained an active and extremely enthusiastic field investigator.

At the Sixty-seventh Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, in Buffalo in October, 1949, the following were elected fellows: Dean Amadon, John T. Emlen, Jr., George H. Lowery, Jr., J. Dewey Soper, and R. M. Strong. Persons elected to the class of full membership were: John H. Baker, George A. Bartholomew, Jr., Harvey Brackbill, Charles L. Broley, Edward B. Chamberlain, William B. Davis, Frank L. Farley, William E. Godfrey, Joseph C. Howell, Junea W. Kelly, R. J. Longstreet, Seth H. Low, Thomas H. Manning, Harold D. Mitchell, George A. Petrides, Chandler S. Robbins, Charles G. Sibley, Robert E. Stewart, Charles Vaurie, Laidlaw Williams. Honorary fellows were Robert A. Falla, Alessandro Ghigi, and R. E. Moreau. Officers of the preceding year were reelected. New council members were Ira N. Gabrielson, Ludlow Griscom, Ernest Mayr, and A. W. Schorger.

Applications for the 1950 Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant of \$100 are now in order. Information may be obtained from the June, 1948, issue of the *Wilson Bulletin*. Details and application blanks may be obtained from the chairman of the committee, Dr. Charles G. Sibley, Department of Natural Sciences, San Jose State College, San Jose, California.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS ANALYZED THROUGH SLOW-MOTION PHOTOGRAPHY. By John H. Storer. Cranbrook Institute of Science Bulletin No. 28, xvi + 94 pp., frontispiece and 176 figures. Cloth binding. \$2.50.

As a photographer whose beautiful slow-motion pictures of birds in flight are outstanding, Mr. Storer is well qualified to describe the intricate movements of birds in flight. In this compact book he endeavors to explain, in terms of simple aerodynamics, the movements of the feathers and wings of birds as revealed by his photographs. The analogy between bird and plane is more strongly emphasized than in any previous book on this subject.

The principles of the aerodynamics of the aircraft wing which the author feels to be important in the flight of birds include lift, drag, flaps, slots, pressure distribution, tip vortex, and loading. Dihedral angle, of seeming importance in soaring, is not mentioned. In the section entitled "The bird's flying equipment," feather and wing structure and wing adaptations are discussed. Here the main variation from previous works is that the

propeller-like action of the primaries in flapping flight is emphasized. The primaries act like a variable-pitch propeller and at times the bird "becomes a helicopter." The last section, comprising two-thirds of the book, is entitled "Flight," and includes discussions of landing, takeoff, soaring, speed, and maneuverability. Finally there appear a one-page glossary, a three-page index, and a list of ten references.

Most of the failings of the text involve the references. Extensive works on bird flight such as those by Horton-Smith, Hankin, or Headley are not mentioned. No references on flight antedating 1937 are considered. The basic questions raised by previous workers, such as whether birds can soar in a horizontal wind of varying velocity and exactly how a soaring bird steers, remain unanswered. No references are given for many statements which one might want to verify, such as those that the space between the wing and tail acts like an airplane slot, that some birds cannot take off or land without the alula, and that birds flying in formation use the energy from the wing tip vortex of the bird ahead. It is confusing to find Poole's term "wing ratio" used interchangeably with the established term "wing loading," for these terms denote reciprocal values. It is stated (p. 75) that Poole found that the heavier sex has a lower "aspect ratio" whereas the cited author was referring to wing ratio. The dates given for the works of Poole and Graham are different in the text and in the list of references. Some of Cooke's questionable records of speed, such as 180 miles per hour for a Duck Hawk, are repeated.

The work of Woodcock correlating observations of the soaring of gulls with experimental patterns of rising air currents over a uniform source of heat is cited at length to explain soaring over the ocean at altitudes above obstruction currents. Previous authors have explained such soaring in terms of the increase of wind velocity with altitude. Observations of soaring in the tropics in the absence of wind, such as those made by Hankin, might well be reexamined in the light of the findings of Woodcock.

Most of the figures are halftones, one and one-half by two inches in size, evidently enlarged from 16-millimeter motion picture film. These pictures are adequately sharp to illustrate the text although they lack definition. About one-half of the pictures of birds are of the American Egret. The designation of the time between exposures in a series is variously given in frames, in fractions of seconds, in both, or in neither.