

NOTES AND NEWS



Nelson K. Carpenter, member of the Cooper Ornithological Society since 1901.

The editors of *The Condor* have had the benefit of counsel from the Editorial Advisory Committee in the past two years which has helped substantially in the program of publication. When this committee was set up in 1951, a rotating participation in it was envisioned. Two new members take part this year, namely John T. Emlen, Jr., and Ian McT. Cowan. To the continuing members and to those participating in the past the staff expresses its appreciation of important aid given.

Beginning with this issue of *The Condor*, the supplementary title of the journal takes account of the change of the name of our organization to Cooper Ornithological Society. When this change was duly voted at the business meeting in May, 1952, a large majority of those present or sending in proxies favored the change. In calling for votes by proxy no arguments were presented for the change, because it was desired that the vote be registered without pressure from the boards of governors and directors who had studied the matter. Once the decision had been reached it became evident that many in the organization although agreeable to the change did not fully know the reasons for it that had been considered by the board of governors. The basic reason was to avoid misunderstanding about the nature of

the organization. In academic, scientific and fiscal circles a club is frequently regarded as a social or non-scientific group primarily; explanations had to be made to various institutions that our group was a scientific society, eligible for tax-free status, and without political or social objectives. The organization many years ago outgrew the period when it was a local club of young men who collected birds and birds' eggs. It became a scientific society in the correct sense of the word and published a journal of national and international interest. A correct designation adopted with no thought of altering the informal and friendly spirit of the organization seemed preferable to the preservation of an outmoded name merely for the sake of tradition.—A. H. M.

The painting of the Collared Micrastur (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) reproduced in this issue is the twentieth painting by Andrew Jackson Grayson to appear in the *Condor*. Grayson painted this hawk at Mazatlán, México, from a specimen collected there in 1864. This species inhabits dense lowland forests of the American tropics. It is shown with a thrush, probably *Turdus rufo-palliatu*s, which it had recently captured.

We learn with regret of the death of Clark P. Streater on November 28, 1952, in Santa Cruz. Mr. Streater, who was a pioneer collector in the west since the 1880's, had recently been elected an honorary member of the Society.

Cost of publishing extensive tabular material in connection with the paper by Dr. Oakeson has been met by special subsidy.

MORE TROUBLE FOR THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR

On November 24, 1952, the California Fish and Game Commission granted a special permit to the San Diego Zoo to capture a pair of California Condors. This was done despite the vigorous objections of C. V. Duff and the undersigned, and of Milton Hildebrand representing the Sierra Club. John H. Baker of the National Audubon Society also protested but his statement was not available in time for the Commission's meeting, as the action was taken on rather short notice. Granting of the permit was recommended by the Bureau of Game Conservation.

It was contended by those objecting that the extensive research report now in press by Carl

B. Koford fully demonstrates the precarious position of the California Condor and shows that any tampering with the small surviving population is dangerous. Facts derived from Koford's report were presented in the form of letters; indeed the whole report could have been consulted at the library of the University of California had the wildlife technicians of the Bureau of Game Conservation cared to do so. It is curious that the Bureau, which purports to put much stock in research as a basis for managing wildlife, should in this instance deliberately ignore a well documented study, relying instead on casual observation and opinions to the affect that there are plenty of condors and that removing a few would do no harm.

The natural desires of zoological gardens for examples of rare species are perfectly understandable human and organizational aspirations, but at times these must be countermanded when a species is in really precarious state and when it can not possibly be aided as a natural living entity by the keeping or even the breeding of captives. It is a dubious honor to a zoo should the last of a species ultimately die on its hands. But the most disheartening aspect of this whole matter is that the administrative and law-enforcing body charged with conservation in the state of California has chosen, legally to be sure, but without recourse to the most thorough research and the full study of it, to take an action that might prove to prejudice the perpetuation of the California Condor. This is not the place to present a full review of Koford's findings, for his monograph will soon be available as Research Report No. 4 of the National Audubon Society. From it conservationists may judge of the wisdom of this action of the California Fish and Game Commission.—Alden H. Miller.

COOPER SOCIETY MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Society was held on May 27, 1952, at the University of Southern California. The following names were proposed for membership: William F. Clements, 510 S. Spring St., Los Angeles 13, Calif., by Robert T. Moore; John D. Cunningham, 1311 5th St., Santa Monica, Calif., by Francis H. Boynton; M. Christine Davenport, 817 Terraine Ave., Long Beach, Calif., by Ross Hardy; Eileen Louise Mair, International House, Room Y-40, Berkeley 4, Calif., by C. V. Duff; Ollie Daytona Brown,

8964 Wonderland Ave., Los Angeles 46, Calif., and Albert E. Hildinger, 1801 Lucile Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif., by Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr.

J. R. Pemberton spoke on his recent trip to Africa, and showed colored slides.—DOROTHY E. GRONER, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Society was held on September 30, 1952, at the University of Southern California. The following names were proposed for membership: Edward L. Hansen, 1087 "H" St., Arcata, Calif., by Mrs. J. Q. Burch; F. Herrick Herrick, 7816 Amestoy Ave., Van Nuys, Calif., by Ed Harrison; Harry McClure Johnson, Zoology Dept., Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., by K. E. Stager; Frank Juskiewicz, 726½ Simpson, Ft. Morgan, Colo., and Miss Marjorie McGranahan, Box 838, Folsom, Calif., by F. H. Boynton; Gordon E. Lund, 839 4th St., Prince Albert, Sask., by W. J. Sheffler; Ralph E. Ramey, Jr., 1140 W. Ashby Pl., San Antonio, Texas, and Arthur R. Thompson, 879¼ Lookout Dr., Los Angeles 12, Calif., by J. C. von Bloeker, Jr.; Roy Garland Robinson, Jr., 925¾ W. 36 Pl., Los Angeles 7, Calif., and O. C. Willis, 243 W. 71st St., Los Angeles 3, Calif., by Wade Fox, Jr.; Robert Winter, 4671 Harvey Ave., Fresno, Calif., by Henry Childs; Lt. William H. Adams, R.F.D. 2, Box 246, Selma, Alabama, Newell Charde, 1518 E. Wilson, Glendale 6, Calif., Raymond J. Fleetwood, 324 N. 6th St., Socorro, New Mexico, Dr. Jack Lewis Gazzola, 1302 5th Ave., San Rafael, Calif., William Harold Kaeane, 127 Ruby St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Muriel Kaminsky, 1213 Robertson Way, Sacramento 18, Calif., P. W. Louwman, % Dier-enpark "Wassenaar," Wassenaar near The Hague, Holland, William B. Murphy, 522 Hillgreen Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif., F. L. R. Roberts, M.D., 925 Wakefield, Corona, Calif., Dr. Oliver K. Scott, 437 E. 13th St., Casper, Wyo., G. Donald Sparkman, Jr., Hill Farm, Coatesville, Penn., Dr. Benj. Svoboda, 1711 N. Dillon, Los Angeles 26, Calif., Mrs. O. H. Wallin, 11543 36th N.E., Seattle 55, Wash., John Overby Watkins, M.D., 359 Pine St., Spartanburg, N.C., John H. Wentz, 5628½ Carlton Way, Hollywood 28, Calif. Ynez Yna Whilton, 10390 Ashton Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calvin Wilson, 589 E. 13th South, Salt Lake City, Utah, and William Andrus Wooten, P.O. Box 407, P.O. Bldg., Eureka, Calif., by C. V. Duff.

Dr. William R. Fish, speaker of the evening, illustrated his work in analyzing and recording bird song.—DOROTHY E. GRONER, *Secretary*.