

NOTES AND NEWS

Don R. Eckelberry has contributed a series of exceptionally instructive and artistic original drawings to illustrate his article on Mexican birds that appears in this issue.

Members may still make arrangements to attend the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California, April 21 to 23.

The valuable and extensive article on winter societies in juncos has been printed with the aid of a financial contribution from the author.

The work of the Treasurer of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be greatly lightened if members will send in their dues promptly upon receiving annual notices.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A HISTORY OF BIRDS. By James Fisher. Houghton Mifflin Company, London, Boston, 205 pp. November 9, 1954. \$3.75.

Among the British ornithologists of these days, Mr. Fisher is an excellent popular writer; that is to say that he can successfully give to the reading public in a pleasant and easily understood language a good idea of our scientific knowledge of birds as it now stands. The present work is a new and considerably improved version of his "Bird as Animals" (1939). During the last fourteen years the understanding of bird life has greatly increased and so has the experience of the author.

In his first three chapters he reviews the works of the principal bird historians of the manuscript age and of the printing age, both as students of British birds and of world-wide ornithology. The following eight chapters deal with systematics, geographical distribution, bird history, speciation, the numbers of birds, absolute and comparative, and changing populations. There is a good bibliography and a useful index.

On the whole, Mr. Fisher's treatment of the subject is sensible and satisfactory and we can recommend this work as an introduction to the study of birds. As the subtitle points out, it is a concise study of the development of birds and their relationship to man.—JEAN DELACOUR.

BIRD-RINGING, THE ART OF BIRD STUDY BY INDIVIDUAL MARKING. By R. M. Lockley and Rosemary Russell. Crosby Lockwood, London, viii + 119 pp., 55 figs. and 8 pls., with 17 halftones. Price, 9s. 6d.

Here is a small handbook useful to bird-banders and other students of birds faced with problems of marking birds. Details regarding materials and techniques are presented, not from the standpoint of bird-banding as an end in itself, but as an aid in study of life-history, migration, and homing. The topics of the five chapters are history, research values, techniques of handling and marking, techniques of trapping, and lastly advice on bands, records, and field equipment. There are three appendices. The first sets forth 50 questions which offer appropriate bases to start the novice in a serious life-history study by the ringing method; the second lists British bird observatories and describes their organization; and the third is a two-page bibliography of selected titles.

This description, brief though it is, should serve to recommend the book to all those making use of banding techniques. It is compact, well organized, and distinctly useful, particularly to beginners, but also to the more experienced who may be interested in a review of British practices.—FRANK A. PITELKA.

COOPER SOCIETY MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held on November 4, 1954, at the University of California, Berkeley. Robert I. Bowman proposed Richard W. Russell for life membership and James D. Anderson for regular membership; both new members are associated with the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley.

President Reynolds urged the members of the Northern Division again to write to their senators and representatives regarding preservation of the national parks. Donald McLean noted that plans are being considered for the expansion of industrial lands onto portions of the Alviso marshes, in Santa Clara County, California. He suggested that the Cooper Society or other groups interested in conservation lease or pur-

chase a small plot of marsh land in order to establish a preserve for the Clapper Rail and other marsh birds.

William W. Dunmire presented an illustrated lecture: "Into the Nepal Himalayas with the California Makalu Expedition."—ROBERT K. SELANDER, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held on November 30, 1954, at the Los Angeles County Museum. The following names were proposed for membership: Stuart Altmann, 9901st TU, WRAMC, Washington 12, D.C., by Thomas R. Howell; Donald De Vries Shipley, Dept. Natural Science, Long Beach State College, Long Beach, Calif., by M. D. Arvey; Alan Wilson Vaughan, 1808 Duchess Ave., West Vancouver, B.C., Canada, by Jack von Bloeker, Jr., A. Houston Barnett, 341 C. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif., Richard W. Castenholz, Botany Dept., State College of Washington, Pullman, Wash., Ralph M. Edelburn, Marshall College, Huntington, W. Va., Mrs. Paul D. Dodds, 749 Longwood Ave., Los Angeles 5, Calif., Robert H. Rhodes, 2914 Clume Ave., Venice, Calif., and Robert L. Salter, 711 Shoshone St., Boise, Ida., all by C. V. Duff.

Dorothy Groner reported having seen a flock of 22 Evening Grosbeaks and 6 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Buckhorn Flat, Los Angeles County, on November 28. M. Dale Arvey told of a Summer Tanager seen at Recreation Park, Long Beach, on November 22. Robert Hannum reported through Kenneth Stager that on September 1, 6 Starlings had been seen just west of Rosamond, California.

Kenneth E. Stager presented a comprehensive account of his recent activities, entitled "Ornithological Investigations in Tropical Australia," illustrated with Kodachrome slides and study skins.—DOROTHY E. GRONER, *Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held on January 25, 1955, at the Los Angeles County Museum. The following names were proposed for membership: Mrs. A. J. Argante, 1404 La Sierra Dr., Sacramento 21, Calif., by Francis H. Boynton; Donald E. Burton, 171 Strathearn Rd., Toronto 10, Ontario, Canada, by Jim Woodford; Duane Carmony, 223 S. Bryan, Bloomington, Ind., and Ormond Mitchell, P. O. Box 485, Lakeside, Calif., by Jack von Bloeker, Jr.; Harald N. Johnson, M.D., P. O.

Box 429, Berkeley 1, Calif., by Junea W. Kelly; Vera Fay Lester, 415 Delno Ave., Fresno 1, Calif., by Dorothy E. Groner; Earl Kingston Lindley, 1994 Queensberry Rd., Pasadena, Calif., by Ed N. Harrison; John S. Spencer, 1640 The Strand, Reno, Nev., by Ned K. Johnson; Alfred R. Twiss, M.D., 2359 Gails Ave., Chehalis, Wash., by Kenneth E. Stager; William G. Conway, St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park, St. Louis 10, Mo., Abram Lawrence Dean, 911 Preston Ave., Blacksburg, Va., Dr. Gerald M. Hunt, 3911 Alicia Dr., San Diego 7, Calif., John C. Johnson, Jr., Dept. Zoology, Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, Okla., Kenneth Frederick Edwards, M.D., 169 Hillendale Ave., Bath Rd. P. O., Kingston, Ontario, Canada, J. D. French, M.D., Veterans Admin. Hospital, Long Beach 4, Calif., Wesley Edwin Lanyon, Dept. Zoology, Univ. Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., John R. Nevius, Jr., 1847 W. 68th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif., Charles L. Overshiner, 5321 Mt. Helena Ave., Los Angeles 41, Calif., Mrs. Dan Siemens, 5179½ Village Green, Los Angeles 16, Calif., South G. Van Hoose, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans., Austin L. Rand, Chicago Museum Nat Hist., Roosevelt Rd. and Grant Park, Chicago 5, Ill., Jeff Swinebroad, Dept. Zoology and Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, Joseph R. Werning, 105-D Martin Lane, Monroe Park, Wilmington 6, Del., Dr. Harold Gifford, 363b Burt St., Omaha 3, Nebr., and Elmer George Worthley, Bonita Ave., Owings Mills, Md., all by C. V. Duff.

Report of the Nominating Committee was given by C. V. Duff. Officers of the Southern Division for 1955 were elected as follows: Jack C. von Bloeker, Jr., president; Thomas R. Howell, first vice-president; Robert L. Taylor, second vice-president; and Dorothy E. Groner, secretary.

John H. Baumgardt reported that on May 6, 1954, he had observed a goshawk nesting in northern Inyo County. The nest which contained 4 eggs was located 40 feet up in a yellow pine overlooking a small lake at 10,000 feet elevation. On May 8, he observed a small colony of Common and Snowy egrets located 10 miles south of Bishop on a small dry lake that had been flooded by recent rains. Eleven nests were examined, five of which were those of Snowy Egrets.

Jean Delacour presented material from his new book, volume 1 of "The Waterfowl of the World"; in addition, he showed a motion picture of Cleres Park, his estate and wildfowl collection in France.—DOROTHY E. GRONER, *Secretary*.