

NOTES AND NEWS

The Cooper Ornithological Society has recently learned that it is a beneficiary in the will of the late Dr. Harry R. Painton. The Society is to receive 20 per cent of the estate which is appraised at approximately \$197,000; the money will very importantly augment the endowment reserves of the organization, perpetuating Dr. Painton's deep concern for its welfare and its publication program. Dr. Painton was one of the four founders of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1893 at San Jose (see *Condor*, 45, 1943:162, fig. 41). Following a life-time of active service in medicine, he resumed his ornithological interests in 1936. In 1940 and 1941 he served as President of the Northern Division and subsequently was President of the Board of Governors until 1946. He was elected an honorary member in 1947.—A.H.M.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society in 1956 will be held in Seattle, Washington, in late June at the time of the meetings of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. Exact dates will be announced later. The Cooper Society meeting is being held in Washington at the invitation of the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society and the University of Washington. A future annual meeting is contemplated in Salt Lake City at the suggestion of Dr. William H. Behle.

Dr. T. S. Palmer, Honorary Member of the Cooper Ornithological Society and for many years Secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on July 23, 1955, at the age of 87. He had been a member of the Cooper Society since 1904 and was known in the West especially for his participation in the initial biological exploration of the Death Valley area in 1891 as a member of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey.

Readers of this issue of the *Condor* should realize that the Whooping Cranes involved in the report by Harvey Fisher were anatomical specimens salvaged from birds that were found dead; there was of course *no* collecting of this very rare bird. Ornithologists the world over who are concerned for the preservation of the Whooping Crane will be dismayed to learn of a proposal to establish a bombing practice range next to the Aransas Refuge in Texas where apparently the

entire remnant population of the species spends the winter. Should such a development carry through despite protests to government officials, it seems likely that this will mean the end of this magnificent crane.—A.H.M.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE WATERFOWL OF THE WORLD. Volume 1. By Jean Delacour with sixteen plates in color by Peter Scott and thirty-three distribution maps. Country Life Limited, London, 284 pp., with frontispiece. September 30, 1954. Price, five guineas.

This is a magnificently prepared and published book constituting part one of a projected three-volume work on the anseriform birds of the world. It is seldom that a reviewer can wholeheartedly agree with advertising statements on the book cover, but one may in this instance subscribe without reservation to the fact that "the author and illustrator . . . are beyond question the two men with most knowledge of waterfowl in the world today . . . Both have formed world-famous [live] collections of waterfowl—Mr. Delacour at Clères in Normandy before the Second World War, and Mr. Scott at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire since the war ended."

Part one deals with the subfamilies Anseranatinae, Anserinae, and Anatinae, thus including such familiar types as tree ducks, swans, geese, shelducks, and steamer ducks. The classification naturally follows the reclassification of the order Anseriformes of Delacour and Mayr of 1945. There is only one properly called-for alteration that affects the groups here covered, namely the elevation of the Australian Magpie Goose, *Anseranas*, to a division of subfamily rank. In the treatment of groups and species the approach is that of synthesis and summarization in which opinions are expressed without full documentation. Thus the work is not exhaustive, and should critical users be inclined to reexamine the full basis for decisions, they will have to search elsewhere among many uncited items. But of course the experience of the author is such as to guarantee well supported conclusions on most issues.

The treatment includes keys, brief descriptions of species, synopses of habits, distribution, and, most appropriately, matters related to holding waterfowl as captives. Excellent maps are provided and Scott's superb comparative illustra-

tions are an artistic delight as well as useful and accurate guides to identification. Three very informative plates show downy young.

It is no criticism of the present book to remind ornithologists that research on the anseriforms is still a wide open field. For example, a complete analytical comparative anatomy of the order is not available to support or refute the details of Delacour and Mayr's classification. Also, we are only beginning thoroughly to record and catalog behavior of anseriform species and a consolidated comparative behavior of the whole group, with strong phylogenetic implications, may emerge in several decades.—ALDEN H. MILLER.

COOPER SOCIETY MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—A special meeting of the Northern Division was held at the University of California on January 27, 1955, in place of the regular February meeting. Mr. Elmer G. Worthley, Bonita Avenue, Owings Mills, Maryland, was proposed for membership by C. V. Duff.

Reports of field observations included the following: Alden H. Miller reported finding the nest and egg of an Anna Hummingbird at Clear Lake on January 22. It was suggested that early breeding of the Anna Hummingbird there is made possible by early blooming of manzanita. Dr. Miller also reported a Tree Swallow present at Clear Lake on January 22. Howard Cogswell stated that a Ross Goose had been seen at the Marina in San Francisco on the day of the Christmas Bird Census in December, 1954.

The speaker of the evening was H. J. Frith of the Australian Wildlife Survey Section, who gave a talk on "Incubation in the Megapodidae."—ROBERT K. SELANDER, *Secretary*.

MARCH.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held on March 3, 1955, at the University of California, Berkeley. The following names were proposed for membership: Mr. Thomas S. Butler, San Clemente Road, El Granada, Calif., proposed by Dr. R. T. Orr; Mrs. Betsey D. Cutler, 2128 Great Highway, San Francisco 16, Calif., proposed by Mrs. J. W. Kelly.

A. L. Curl noted a male European Widgeon at Fleishhacker Zoo in San Francisco on February

19 and Howard Cogswell reported that one, presumably the same individual, was present there on February 27. Mr. Cogswell reviewed George Wallace's new text on ornithology, "An Introduction to Ornithology." A. H. Miller called the attention of members to a recently published monograph on the Passenger Pigeon by A. W. Schorger.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Richard E. Genelly, who discussed the "Annual Cycle and Dynamics of a California Quail Population."—ROBERT K. SELANDER, *Secretary*.

APRIL.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held on April 7, 1955, at the University of California, Berkeley. The following names were proposed for membership: Mr. Robert F. Jasse, 3719 Spruce Street, Philadelphia 4, Pa., proposed by R. K. Selander; Mrs. L. N. Feenaty, 510 North Meridian Street, Apartment 101, Indianapolis 4, Ind., and Capt. Albert L. Prosser, Box H, Springvale, Maine, proposed by F. A. Pitelka; Mrs. Freda W. Berwick, Room 548 Mills Lower, 220 Bush Street, San Francisco 4, Calif., Nina Moody, 547 13th Street, Richmond, Calif., Mrs. Beth C. Snyder, 449 Nob Hill Drive, Walnut Creek, Calif., and Mrs. William Greuner, 877 Broadway, Lafayette, Calif., proposed by Mrs. J. W. Kelly.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Russell L. Congdon, who presented color motion pictures of the birds of the Malheur Refuge, Oregon.—ROBERT K. SELANDER, *Secretary*.

JUNE.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held on June 2, 1955, at the University of California, Berkeley. The members present voted not to hold a regular meeting of the Northern Division in September. The following names were proposed for membership: Mrs. E. S. Gillette, Jr., 3212 Jackson Street, San Francisco 18, Calif., proposed for Sustaining Membership, and Mrs. Ruth B. Robertson, 567 Vistamont Avenue, Berkeley, Calif., proposed by Mrs. J. W. Kelly; Capt. Merle L. Kuns, P. O. Box 192, Ramey Air Force Base, Puerto Rico, proposed by F. A. Pitelka.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. C. G. Willis of Sierra Madre, California, whose illustrated talk was "Following Birds with a Candid Camera."—ROBERT K. SELANDER, *Secretary*.