

## NEWS AND NOTES

## 39TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society convened in Salt Lake City on 19–21 April 1968. The following people were elected as officers of the Board of Directors: Robert T. Orr, President; L. Richard Mewaldt, Vice President; William H. Behle, Secretary; Jane R. Durham, Treasurer; James G. Miller, Assistant Treasurer; James R. King, Editor of *The Condor*. William H. Behle, Jane R. Durham, and Ed N. Harrison had previously been elected by mail ballot to serve three-year terms as Directors.

Newly elected officers, members, and representatives of the Council are as follows: Ned K. Johnson, President; Kenneth E. Stager, Vice President; Stephen M. Russell, Secretary; Tom J. Cade and Ralph J. Raitt, members; Nicholas E. Collias, representative to the A.O.U.

Several additional actions of general interest were taken by the Board of Directors and the Council. The following publications in the Pacific Coast Avifauna Series were authorized: Sixth Ten-Year Index to *The Condor* (1949–1958), prepared and edited by Jack C. von Bloeker, and volume 3 of *Life Histories of Central American Birds*, by Alexander Skutch (John Davis and Gene Christman, Editors). Tom J. Cade was elected as Editor of subsequent volumes of the Pacific Coast Avifauna.

The University of Arizona at Tucson was selected as the site of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Society, to be held on 25–27 April 1969, with Stephen M. Russell as Chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements.

William H. Behle and Thomas R. Howell were elected as Honorary Members of the Society.

Awards won for the best papers presented by persons not holding a doctoral degree in biology were as follows: A. Brazier Howell Award, Stephen F. MacLean, Jr., for his paper on "The utilization of body fat by breeding arctic sandpipers"; Frances F. Roberts Award, Clayton M. White, for his paper on "Annual lipid cycle and related factors in resident Alaskan Redpolls."

At the scientific sessions of the 39th Annual Meeting the following papers were presented.

The social system of the Lapland Longspur, by Frank A. Pitelka and Thomas W. Custer.

Foraging behavior and niche differences in the Rock Wren and Canyon Wren, by John P. Tramonano.

Foliage use by birds of the oak-juniper-pine woodland in southeastern Arizona, by Russell P. Balda.

Foraging behavior of the White-eyed Vireo in winter, by Penny Brody Williamson.

Migratory behavior of the Elf Owl, by Carol M. Tellez.

Timing and routes of fall migration in the Hammond Flycatcher, by Ned K. Johnson.

A proposal for distributional mapping of birds in the West, by Miklos D. F. Udvardy.

Sympatric Breeding of Red-breasted Meadowlarks in Argentina, by Lester L. Short, Jr.

Some behavioral relationships between Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees in winter, by Michael E. Minock.

Ethological isolation of Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, by Keith L. Dixon.

Annual lipid cycle and related factors in resident Alaskan Redpolls, by Clayton M. White.

The accessory pygostyle bones of Falconidae, by Frank Richardson.

Roosting behavior of White-throated Swifts, by Richard Beidleman, Michael Johnston, and Carlyn Nelson.

Nesting ecology of the Great Horned Owl in the Great Basin desert, by Dwight G. Smith.

Biochemical relationship of turnstones to the Scolopacidae, by F. C. McCollum and A. C. Wilson.

The taxonomic position of two species of *Rhyticeros* as indicated by the Mallophaga, by Robert E. Elbel.

Dominance—Subordination in caged groups of House Sparrows, by John Rowe Watson.

Winter Flock Formation in Rio Grande Turkeys, by C. Robert Watts.

Density differences and territorial behavior in sandpiper populations on arctic and subarctic tundra, by Richard T. Holmes.

Recent studies on torpor in the Poor-will, by J. David Ligon.

The adaptive value of sexual size dimorphism in Least Sandpipers, by Joseph R. Jehl.

Factors affecting reproductive rates in the Rufous-winged Sparrows, by Robert D. Ohmart.

The adaptive significance of variations in clutch-sizes and periods of sexual maturity in the Anatidae, by Paul A. Johnsgard.

Studies on raptor ecology in western Utah, by Joseph R. Murphy.

Roosting areas of wintering Bald Eagles in western Utah, by Clyde C. Edwards.

Mortality of raptorial birds in western Utah, by David H. Ellis.

Studies on a pox virus from the Starling in Pennsylvania and Maryland, by Francis S. L. Williamson.

Plumages and molts of the White-tailed Ptarmigan, by Clait E. Braun.

A study of adipose tissue during fat depletion in spring migrant birds, by David L. Hicks.

The utilization of body fat by breeding arctic sandpipers, by Stephen F. MacLean, Jr.

Influence of DDT and dieldrin on the reproduction of American Sparrow Hawks, by Richard D. Porter and Stanley N. Wiemeyer.

Behavior and physiology of broodiness in female Redwinged Blackbirds, by Larry C. Holcomb.

Status of some introduced birds in Hawaii, by Richard C. Banks.

Changing Status of the birds of Guam, 1945–1967, by Ronald A. Ryder.

The nature of responses of closely related sparrows to recorded distress calls, by Raymond A. Stefanski and J. Bruce Falls.

Comparative water economy of two species of spizellid Sparrows, by E. Linwood Smith and Robert D. Ohmart.

Cecal function in Sage Grouse nutrition, by J. G. Nagy and T. A. Barber.

Biosystematics of the Mexican *Piculus* complex, by Luis Felipe Baptista.

Arctic Alaskan raptor populations: A resurvey, by Tom J. Cade and Clayton M. White.

An analysis of Central American bird distribution, by Thomas R. Howell.

The behavior of Bicolored Antbirds, by Edwin O. Willis.

## MEETING OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION

Carl Bock was the featured speaker at the meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Society held at Berkeley on 9 March 1968. His topic was "The ecology of the Lewis Woodpecker."

## CHANGE IN PAGE-CHARGE POLICY

The Council and Board of Directors in their April meetings authorized a change in page charges in conjunction with the change in the format of *The Condor*. Beginning with volume 70 of the journal, authors will be charged \$35 for each printed page beyond a maximum allowance of 20 pages. In view of the fact that the new format accommodates about 40 per cent more manuscript material per printed page, this new policy represents a significant liberalization of the maximum allowance. The page charge beyond the allowance represents about 90 per cent of the current cost of publication.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The name and breeding-place of Hornby's (or the "Ringed") Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma hornbyi*.

Sir:

On working through a recent number of *The Condor* (70:87-88) we were interested to observe a report by Eric Mills of a "Ringed Storm-Petrel off the north-west coast of South America," a title which in the Old World is liable to be misconstrued as a report of a banded *Hydrobates pelagicus* in a new and unexpected ocean. While any misunderstanding is of course soon cleared up by reference to the text, the name, which was new to us despite many years of scrutiny of the world literature, could cause trouble in bibliographies, and we should like to urge both the more inventive compilers of regional check-lists and the authors of notes to exercise more care over the names that they use. It would perhaps help if they could at least also mention, if only as alternatives, the names found in the more familiar textbooks, such as R. C. Murphy's "Oceanic Birds of South America" (1936) for the region in question, or especially W. B. Alexander's "Birds of the Ocean" (preferably the second edition, 1955) for all seabirds, and perhaps scientific names as well. While it is perhaps understandable that some people may object to eponyms commemorating English admirals, the series of descriptive names for seabirds recently introduced by certain authorities on South American landbirds are rarely either shorter or more helpful for identification than the established names, and we are sorry to see them changed.

In addition to the records of the discovery of mummified adult and immature *O. hornbyi* in the nitrate beds around Taltal and S. Luisa, Chile, quoted by Dr. Mills, there are some more in the Department of Paleontology at the British Museum (Natural History). One series of two heads and six mummies presented by Major R. I. Ricardo-Seaver in 1904 also came from Taltal, south of Antofagasta, a second series of two more heads and four mummies presented with them come from an unnamed nitrate bed at 5,000-6,000 ft. near the coast of Peru, and a third

undated series of fragments presented by R. W. Roberts came from "cavities under the so-called caliche, or raw material of the nitrate of soda deposits" at 2,800 ft. in the province of Tarapaca, northern Chile, between the previous two localities, so that it seems likely the birds occur all along the coast ranges. The mummies, preserved by the saltpetre, could be of any age from a few decades to may millennia, and are so well preserved that the birds must surely have been nesting, and died, on the spot, and it seems reasonable to expect that others must still nest nearby.

W. R. P. Bourne  
M. P. Harris

(Editor's note: In the interests of propriety it should be mentioned that *Oceanodroma hornbyi* was designated as Hornby's Petrel in the manuscript as submitted by Dr. Mills. The name was subsequently changed, through editorial fiat, to the controversial form.)

Sir:

W. R. P. Bourne has very courteously sent me a copy of a letter on the Ringed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma hornbyi*) in which he and M. P. Harris comment on English names of sea-birds "introduced by certain authorities on South American land-birds"—evidently referring to R. M. deSchauensee's "The Species of Birds of South America" (1966), a work in the preparation of which I participated. The choice of vernacular names presents problems, on which there is understandable difference of opinion. Changing the names of *well-known* species should usually be avoided; but often what is involved is selection among competing names. I agree that it may be helpful for authors to give alternative names in the case of some sea-birds, especially those with a wide distribution in areas where other names may prevail. But Ringed Storm-Petrel for a little-known, exclusively South American, bird seems a useful name, not only being shorter than "Hornby's," but actually diagnostically descriptive—something rarely practicable. *O. hornbyi* is the only storm-petrel combining a whitish collar about the neck and a dark chest band. It seems a rather far-fetched objection to suggest that Old World readers might misinterpret the capitalized "Ringed" as meaning a petrel with an artificial band on its leg; Old World literature uses "Ringed" as the specific epithet for a number of species, e.g., Ringed Plover, Ringed Dove. "Banded," too, is regularly used in names without confusion by Americans.—Eugene Eisenmann, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y. 10024.

## BOOK REVIEW

**The Birds of Chile and Adjacent Regions of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru.** A. W. Johnson. Buenos Aires, Platt Establecimientos Gráficos S. A. Vol. 1. 1965. Pp. 398; 44 colored plates by J. D. Goodall; drawings, maps, and photographs. Vol. 2. 1967. Pp. 447; 60 colored plates by J. D. Goodall; drawings, maps, and photographs. Obtainable from The Pierce Book Company, Winthrop, Iowa. Vol. 1, \$19.50; vol. 2, \$22.50.—The present work is an up-to-date English version of "Las Aves de Chile," by Goodall, Johnson, and Philippi (1946 and 1951) and the supplements thereto (1957 and 1964). Although

largely derived from the data presented in the earlier work, considerable material has been added and this is much more than a mere translation.

Volume 1, which covers from the Spheniscidae through the Stercoraridae, includes concise introductory sections on physical geography, climate, zoogeography, speciation, migration, topography and measurement, and classification and nomenclature. The first two sections are repeated in volume 2, which covers the Laridae through the Fringillidae. Volume 2 also contains a series of maps outlining in detail the "adjacent regions of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru" which were not specified in the first volume. These introductory sections convey a clear picture of the topographical isolation of Chile and provide a background for the high degree of endemism present in the Chilean avifauna which is shared in some species with adjacent southern Peru or southern and southwestern Argentina. General accounts are given for families which are of more than accidental occurrence in Chile. There are also general accounts for certain genera which are of particular interest (e.g., *Chloephaga*, *Pteroptochos*, *Muscisaxicola*). Individual accounts are given for monotypic species and for those races of polytypic species which occur in Chile and environs. These accounts include information on distribution, both in Chile and, in less detail, for the remainder of the range. Measurements are given, but not separately for each sex. In the families through the Picidae, descriptions of each form are given in the main body of the account; for the Passeriformes there is a separate (and more conveniently used) section on description for each form. The main text of each account emphasizes general nature of occurrence (both spatial and temporal), and nesting biology. Thus, the information presented deals almost entirely with gross appearance, general distribution, and nesting biology (as opposed to breeding biology), precisely the first types of information to be gathered about any extensive and poorly known avifauna.

To readers living in countries which are relatively advanced ornithologically, such information may appear to be "bare bones," but when one remembers that much of the taxonomic information, and by far the greater part of the natural history, presented in these volumes has been gathered by the author, his co-workers J. D. Goodall and R. A. Philippi, and their younger colleagues Dr. F. Behn, W. R. Millie, and Luis E. Peña, the amount of information made available is truly impressive. One must also remember that field ornithology can be extremely arduous in a country which ranges from the virtually lifeless desert of the north to Cape Horn, and from the sandy beaches to the crest of the Andes. Such phrases as "After a steep climb to an altitude of 16,000 feet . . ." induce acute cyanosis in one who cut his teeth on Eaton's "Birds of New York." And many of the most interesting species occur in the high Andes. In this connection, the reader is frequently impressed with the apparently sound knowledge of much of the high-altitude avifauna demonstrated by the resident Aymará Indians. Time and again the author acknowledges his debt to these hardy people for information which he and his colleagues later corroborated.

The colored plates by J. D. Goodall are not finished products, but they serve to illustrate field marks and the type of terrain in which one is likely to encounter the species portrayed. Thus, they are a perfectly functional adjunct to the text descriptions. There are a few minor points at which one can carp. For example, the author has apparently missed some of Rodolfo Escalante's papers; consequently, the

ranges given for the Black-necked and Coscoroba swans, and for the Sheathbill are in error. On p. 243 it is stated that "stray individuals [of *Buteo polyosoma exsul*] sometimes fly across the 50 miles that separate Masafuera from Masatierra and return the same day." It would be interesting to know the nature of the evidence supporting this statement. And as a synthetic Californian of long standing, I must challenge the statement on p. 235 that ". . . the Andean Condor is definitely the largest flying bird, surpassing in average measurements even its Californian cousin . . ." when data presented by Herbert Friedmann (1950, *The Birds of North and Middle America*, part XI, p. 53) suggest otherwise. But "The Birds of Chile" supplies a great amount of basic natural history and taxonomic information, provides very helpful material on field identification, and, because of the relaxed and pleasant style of the author's writing, gives a very good "feel" for a superb country and its highly interesting avifauna. What more could one ask for?—John Davis.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Among the publications recently received by the editorial office, the following are noted as having particular interest for avian biologists.

**The Birds of South Vietnam.**—Philip Wildash. 1968. Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vermont, and Tokyo, Japan. 234 pp., 25 color plates depicting 213 species, 21 line drawings of birds, plus a map of South Vietnam. \$7.50 (clothbound).—Each of the 586 species of birds allocated to South Vietnam is treated briefly in terms of habits, general distribution, and field marks.

**Birds of Hawaii.**—George C. Munroe. 1960 (Revised Edition). Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vermont, and Tokyo, Japan. 192 pp., numerous halftones, and 23 color plates by Y. Oda, depicting about 150 species of birds. \$5.00 (clothbound).—This is essentially a reprinting of the out-of-print edition of 1944. An appendix brings the taxonomy up to date. The species of birds known in Hawaii up to 1944 are considered under the categories of native sea and forest birds, stray visitants, and imported species.

**Flashing Wings: The Drama of Bird Flight.**—John K. Terres, illustrated by Robert Hines. 1968. Doubleday & Co., New York. xiv + 177 pp. \$4.95 (clothbound).—Behind the lyric title of this book lurks an excellent semitechnical account of the aerodynamics of flight and the attributes of birds as flying machines.

**Whitewings/The Life History, Status and Management of the White-winged Dove.**—Edited by Clarence Cottam and James B. Trefethen, illustrated by Bob Hines. 1968. D. Van Nostrand and Co., Princeton, N.J. xv + 348 pp., two color plates, numerous sketches, and 59 halftones. \$7.50 (clothbound).—This attractive book is a species monograph in the best tradition. It summarizes the biology of *Zenaidura macroura* in the southwestern United States, Latin America, and the islands of the Caribbean Sea. At \$7.50 the book is a notable bargain.