

A near approach to flying underwater came to my attention while I was watching an ouzel at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall. The bird was foraging on the very brink and was inadvertently swept over the fall. The ouzel dropped perhaps thirty feet in the swirl of mist, came out flying and returned to its former position. The ouzel appeared not the least disturbed by what had seemed to me a perilous adventure.

Does any bird use its wings both for swimming and for flying?—CHARLES W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, November 20, 1937.*

**Cowbirds in Western Nevada.**—On May 30, 1938, I observed five cowbirds (*Molothrus ater artemisiae*), three males and two females, in a field on the old road to Verdi, about two miles west of the Reno (Nevada) city limits. They were watched with an 8×30 glass at a distance of fifty feet, for twenty minutes. Two males were conducting a sort of dance, with feathers ruffed at nape, in apparent courtship of one of the females. Had identification by the brown head of the males and the short stout bills not already been made, it would have been simple when a pair of Brewer Blackbirds alighted to feed with them.

This appears to be an unusual record for western Nevada. Jean Linsdale in "The Birds of Nevada" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936, p. 116) shows only one record for Washoe County, that of an adult male obtained by Ridgway at the Truckee reservation, on June 2, 1868.—DRYDEN KUSER, *Reno, Nevada, June 16, 1938.*

**Hutton Vireo with Young in February.**—On February 26, 1938, while studying birds in the hills back of Whittier, California, I was surprised to see a Hutton Vireo (*Vireo huttoni huttoni*) approaching a nest. This was situated on the extreme end of an oak limb, pensiled, and in an exposed position. It was approximately 20 feet from the ground. The nesting tree was in the center of a group of oaks on a hill side.

The nest was of the usual Hutton Vireo type, made of fine fibers covered with green moss and lined with fine grasses. Unable to reach the nest, which I supposed to be ready for eggs, I climbed a nearby oak and with the aid of field glasses obtained a good look at the nest and its occupants, namely, four baby vireos, which were probably a day or two old.

On March 14, I returned to the nest, to find it empty and the four young birds in a nearby elderberry tree. I caught one of them and it perched on my hand for some time. The parents were anxious as to its well-being and came very close to me. The young bird finally heeded their frantic calls and flew back into the tree. At this time an industrious pair of Green-backed Goldfinches was removing the nesting material from the vireo's nest and placing it in their own nest in a nearby tree.—E. M. HALL, *Whittier, California, June 9, 1938.*

**Harris Sparrow at Buena Park, California.**—In the late afternoon of April 23, 1938, a Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) was noticed in company of a small flock of Gambel Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) that were coming to the feed trays in our back yard. During the next four days it was observed at close range a number of times and it was last seen about 5:00 p.m., April 27. The last Gambel for the season was seen on April 28.—JOHN McB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, May 30, 1938.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

Readers of the *Condor* familiar with John L. Ridgway's ability as an illustrator will be glad to know of his recent book on "Scientific Illustration" (Stanford University Press, 1938, xiv +173 pp., 22 pls., 23 figs. in text). This is a manual which begins with the simplest fundamentals of the subject and treats ultimately the special problems and customs in many separate fields of science. To anyone, whether ornithologist or not, who contemplates publishing in scientific journals, this volume will give points of good advice. The plates illustrating lighting effects, arrangement of figures, and types of reproduction are excellent examples of the principles discussed.—A. H. M.

The late Junius Henderson, known so pleasantly to many Cooper Club members, and an

extensive contributor to the *Condor* from 1906 to 1927, is accorded fitting remembrance in a special number of the *University of Colorado Studies* (vol. 25, no. 2, March, 1938, pp. 117-160; Boulder, Colorado, price \$1.00). His was a truly broad scientific interest. He worked untiringly in geology, paleontology, conchology, and ornithology; he published importantly in all these fields, as well as, in a lesser way, in mammalogy and ethnology. Aside from the absorbingly interesting biographical portion of the present memorial, a permanently useful feature is the complete bibliography, enabling a student in any one of the several fields, quickly to locate whatever Henderson may have written within its scope. At the time of his death, November 4, 1937, Henderson was Professor Emeritus in the University of Colorado. Appropriately, four of his

colleagues have united their appreciative efforts in preparing this memorial: Hugo G. Rodeck, Philip G. Worcester, Theodore D. A. Cockerell, and Gordon Alexander.—J. G.

"The Birds of El Salvador," by Donald R. Dickey and A. J. van Rossem, was issued in the Zoology Series of the Field Museum of Natural History in late March of this year. The volume (no. 23) is a major contribution to the ornithology of Central America and deals with a section of tropical birdlife which has been poorly known except as the preliminary papers of the authors have described it. The work comprises 609 pages, 29 figures (chiefly maps), and 24 plates. It is essentially van Rossem's writing, but the joint authorship affords appropriate recognition of Dickey's interest and support of the project until the time of his death in 1932. El Salvador is a small country and the study of its bird-life has required consideration of problems in adjoining areas. This has added materially to the scope and usefulness of the paper. The avifauna is typical of the arid tropical zone of the Pacific slope. The accounts of species include not only matters of taxonomy and distribution, but much valuable information on nesting, habitats, and plumages. One is impressed with the advantages gained through van Rossem's own extensive field work in the country. Most of the birds collected were prepared by him. Ideally, all such reports should be similarly grounded in the field experience of the author.—A. H. M.

"A profession is a body of men who voluntarily measure their work by a higher standard than their clients demand. To be professionally acceptable, a policy must be sound as well as salable. Wildlife administration, in this respect, is not yet a profession." (Aldo Leopold, in *Outdoor America*, Official Publication of the Izaak Walton League of America, vol. 3, no. 3, January, 1938, p. 3.) This is just one out of many sagacious sayings in recent issues of this vigorous exponent of conservation.—J. G.

Mr. Hooper's account of a blue-jay shoot in the present issue of the *Condor* (p. 162) brings out clearly that it is the recreation or sport motive that primarily actuated the affair. And, upon reflection, why was it not "morally" quite as justifiable as the concentration of shooters on *quail* on the opening day of last quail season? It was, unquestionably, the sport or recreation involved in the hunt that counted with so many men in both instances. The bit of meat in the quail bodies, save perhaps for a certain traditional association of ideas, surely did not greatly outweigh the quail as an objective. With the continuing reduction of all native *game* birds, so called, it does look as though the present trend



Fig. 44. Walter Penn Taylor, member of Cooper Ornithological Club for 33 years; now Senior Biologist, U. S. Biological Survey, in charge Texas Cooperative Wildlife Service, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas; sturdy exponent of conservation as based on sound biological understanding.

on the part of sportsmen's clubs and game commissions to promote "vermin" hunts might be the inevitable and, indeed, rational recourse. A lively article in *Colorado Conservation Comments* (vol. 1, no. 2, March 15, 1938, p. 11) is entitled "Croak the Crow" and illustrates the point of view. Excerpts: "Fellows, we are passing up a great sport! There are enough birds in northern Colorado to keep the sportsmen busy (and broke, buying shells) from December to May. . . . Here's a chance to match wits with a bird that sure knows what the word 'caution' means. . . . Besides furnishing sport that is real sport, just think of the good you will be doing for next year's crop of ducks. . . . Better get the fever. Every crow croaked saves a score or more of duck eggs and fledglings [*sic*]." Observe the note of justification! Speaking personally, the under-initialed can see no more, no less, reason for killing crows and jays than doves and quail, though he confesses that the latter appeal to him, *alive*, more than the former, on sentimental ground. Quail and doves occupy a place in one's mind more along with meadowlarks and orioles and vireos—a bit the better to see and hear, and

to enjoy alive. The major fault with the jay and crow shooting is that it often is done in the other birds' breeding season—with no inconsiderable margin of hazard to other things, both game and non-game, that fly or run. If there must be "vermin", let us have an open season on these so-called predators, regulated to coincide with the season on "game" species!—J. G.

Through the years we have witnessed a long series of impressive projects undertaken in the general natural history field, usually by groups of persons or by organized agencies. These often have been announced extensively—reams of outlines and prospectuses issued. Continuance of actual work on a well-considered plan has in some cases been of adequate duration, leading to genuinely worthy results, of lasting value to science. On the other hand, all too frequently, serious activity has been brief-lived; announcements of "progress" have been less and less frequent; finally the idea of "something under way" has been lost to our consciousness—save as through delving among old papers it may be recalled to mind. Especially do "cooperative" enterprises now appear, in the light of past observation, as projects of dubious promise. It looks as though, in the human species, *individual* enterprise, opportunity sought out by the individual and taken advantage of through individually exercised industry and intelligence, most often makes for real accomplishment of aims. *We are not ants!* Our evolutionary line has not led us into that form of social behavior. So, with ornithological work, in whatever subfield, let the person who does not happen to be "attached," take heart; there is yet hope of distinguished success for the free-lance worker!—J. G.

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS NORTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, March 24, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and about 65 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Richard G. Dahl, 5061 Congress Avenue, Oakland, was proposed for membership by Alden H. Miller. President Emlen announced a regular meeting of the Northern Division in April, and also spoke of a lecture to be given by Dr. A. A. Allen in San Jose on April 13, under the auspices of the Audubon Society. Mrs. Kelly exhibited sheets of wildlife stamps and spoke of the desirability of their sale now, this being Wildlife Week, for the support of the Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Grinnell reported on the latest publication, Volume I of "The Handbook of British Birds,"

by Witherby, Jourdain, Ticehurst and Tucker. Citing model examples from this new work, Mr. Grinnell emphasized the desideratum of simple, concise phraseology in expressing the manner of occurrence of birds.

Mr. Miller initiated the field observations with a report of the arrival of Cliff Swallows at the Life Sciences Building this morning, March 24. Mr. Brown reported a Rough-winged Swallow seen at the Berkeley Stadium this morning. Mr. Durham spoke of the continued presence until recently, of numbers of various waterbirds at Isabel Point, Contra Costa County. In a report upon many dead birds, including numerous gulls, found along a stretch of the Berkeley waterfront at the end of the 1937 duck season, Mr. Sibley emphasized the great need for control of shooting along the Bay.

Mr. E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., the scheduled speaker of the evening, was unavoidably absent. Mr. Joseph Dixon, kindly assuming the responsibility, gave an adequate and interesting account of the Third North American Wildlife Conference, recently held in Baltimore. He dwelt upon the commendable work of the Hudson Bay Company in beaver conservation, and sketched the variety of other subjects discussed. The significance of the conference as a meeting place for all wildlife agencies, and the interest demonstrated, afford definite encouragement even to conservationists who are naturally pessimistic.

Adjourned.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *Acting Secretary*.

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, April 28, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and about 130 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read in part. Names proposed for membership were: C. M. Goethe, Capital National Bank Building, Sacramento, California, by J. Grinnell; Eastham Guilo, Papeete, Tahiti, by Eric C. Kinsey; Aldo Starker Leopold, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, by Alden H. Miller; Leonard Penhale, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, by Robert T. Orr.

Mr. Albert Wolfson announced that a number of Oregon Juncos, which normally migrate northward in April, had been held over and would be released in breeding condition toward the end of May, to determine whether or not they would then migrate. These birds have been marked with a large feather attached to the upper tail coverts, and persons seeing any Juncos so marked are requested to report the occurrence, including if possible the color of the feather, to Mr. Wolfson at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Mr. Miller