

## NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 56. H. W. Carriger, member of the Club since June 5, 1895.

The color portrait of a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) by Allan Brooks, which appears as the frontispiece in this issue, is based on a juvenal female collected on July 19, 1942, at Okanagan Landing, British Columbia. Original notes by Brooks on color of soft parts are as follows: eye, cadmium yellow; bill and cere, blackish; soles, yellow; claws, black. The stomach contained the remains of an adult robin.

Results of elections at the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held at Omaha, Nebraska, on October 11-15, 1948, are as follows: president, R. C. Murphy; vice-presidents, J. Van Tyne and A. H. Miller; secretary, O. S. Pettingill, Jr.; treasurer and business manager, A. D. Moser; council members, A. L. Rand,

A. J. van Rossem, and J. T. Zimmer for 3-year terms, and F. C. Lincoln for a 2-year term; new fellows, O. L. Austin, Jr., T. D. Burleigh, J. C. Greenway, Jr., R. T. Peterson, and F. A. Pitelka; new members, M. Broun, A. J. Duvall, A. I. Good, C. O. Handley, Sr., G. E. Hudson, J. T. Marshall, Jr., C. K. Nichols, M. M. Peet, W. H. Phelps, Jr., J. McB. Robertson, J. O. Stevenson, R. W. Storer, A. Stupka, W. Taber, and R. E. Yeatter. The Brewster Medal was awarded to David Lack in recognition of his work on the Galapagos finches.

With the advent of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the West, it would now seem possible to make observations that would throw light on the question of how certain species of birds acquire imitations of other species. I discussed this subject some years ago (*Condor*, 25, 1923:68-69).

Soon after the Starling arrived in America it began to imitate the songs of American birds. Some of those imitations, particularly that of the Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*), are used so commonly that the call was suspected to be a natural one for the Starling, coincidentally similar to that of the pewee. Observers who know the Starling in Europe, however, state that that is not the case.

Does each individual Starling acquire imitations by hearing the bird it imitates, or by hearing its parents' imitations? If there are observers in the western states who are familiar with the song of the Eastern Wood Pewee, perhaps they will be able to tell us whether the Starlings there continue to use that call, and also how soon they begin to imitate species that are strictly western.  
—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.

## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

In the past few months a number of important ornithological publications have been received at the editorial office; availability of these works should be generally known. The first three of these are continuations of much-used series.

## CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS OF THE WORLD. VOLUME 6.

By James L. Peters. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, vii+259 pp., October, 1948. This carries Peters' great compilation through the Piciformes. Future volumes will take up the Passeriformes.

## CATALOGUE OF BIRDS OF THE AMERICAS. PART I,

NUMBER 2. By Charles E. Hellmayr and Boardman Conover. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 13 (pt. 1, no. 2): vii+434 pp., August 18, 1948. This section covers the Sphenisciformes through the Anseriformes of Wetmore's classification.

## LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN NUT-

HATCHES, WRENS, THRASHERS, AND THEIR ALLIES. By Arthur Cleveland Bent. U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 195:xi+475 pp., 90 pls., received July 20, 1948. A further valuable segment of the Bent "Life Histories."

## BIRDS OVER AMERICA. By Roger Tory Peterson.

Dodd, Mead and Company, New York, xiii+342 pp., 105 ills., October 4, 1948. An informal narrative of ornithology addressed to the amateur and designed to give him a broader understanding of himself and the birds to which he is attracted. Peterson's style captures and holds the interest of the reader. In a very simple fashion the book registers a great amount of information and sound interpretation. One should not be misled by the vagueness and mediocrity of the title.

## TERRITORY IN BIRD LIFE. By Eliot Howard.

Collins, London, 224 pp., 11 pls., 2 figs., August 9, 1948. A republication of Howard's original book of 1920, which classic work has long been unavailable.

## THE BIRDS OF KOREA. By Oliver L. Austin, Jr.

Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 101:301 pp., 1 pl., June, 1948. A valued compilation of distributional and taxonomic information. Considerable miscellaneous natural history is incorporated.

## COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held May 25, 1948, in Room 145 Allan Hancock Hall, University of Southern California. The resolution to elect Dr. Louis B. Bishop to Honorary Membership in the Club was unanimously passed. The following names were proposed for membership: Mrs. Perrine Moncrieff,

"The Cliffs," Nelson, New Zealand, Thomas H. McAllister, Jr., 3453 N.E. Hassalo St., Portland 13, Oregon, Harold F. Wing, 7165 Bunkerhill Rd., Jackson, Michigan, Hatch Graham, Jr., 10300 Viretta Lane, Los Angeles 24, Calif., and Brother Pius, F.S.C., Brothers of the Christian Schools, Napa, Calif., by C. V. Duff; Mrs. Dorothy Hobson, 1309 No. Pennsylvania St., Apt. 39, Indianapolis 2, Indiana, by Harold Michener; and Max Meinhardt, 2317½ Twenty-first St., Sacramento 14, Calif., by W. Lee Chambers. [Proposals for membership presented at the Annual Meeting at Pacific Grove in May, but not heretofore recorded on these pages were: Andrew Dawson Blalock, 24 El Verano Rd., Orinda, Calif., by Eric C. Kinsey, and Waldemar L. Wiederhoeft, 327 Butterfield Rd., San Anselmo, Calif., by Jean M. Linsdale.]

Kenneth Stager and other members reported on events which took place at the annual meeting of the Club held at Pacific Grove, May 7-9.

At the close of the meeting, Mr. Stager reminded the group of the forthcoming opening of the new Bird Hall at the Los Angeles County Museum on May 27, an event long anticipated by bird students of the vicinity.—HILDEGARDE HOWARD, *Secretary pro tem.*

## NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, September 23, 1948, in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. Proposals for membership were read as follows: Robert Keith Selander, 366 West 2nd North, Salt Lake City, Utah, by W. H. Behle; Lt. Herman Kitchen, Jr., 9th Infantry, Fort Lewis, Washington, by F. A. Pitelka; Miss Florence Morrow, P. O. Box 944, Carmel, California, by Laidlaw Williams; Neil Hotchkiss, 5704 41st Ave., Hyattsville, Maryland, and Robert I. Bowman, International House, Berkeley, California, by Alden H. Miller; Richard Henry Schaefer, 1930 Warren St., Davenport, Iowa, and Robert Herbert Hansman, 1215 Avenue F, Fort Madison, Iowa, by R. W. Storer.

Henry Childs reported a Nuttall Woodpecker and an immature Red-breasted Nuthatch in Berkeley on July 18. Mr. Kinsey again trapped a Tennessee Warbler in Marin County during the fall migration.

Dr. Robert T. Orr presented an illustrated talk on the birds of the mountains of northeastern Idaho.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Secretary.*