

quisition; that is, animal "specimens" are not included. This tendency is to be looked upon with favor, and should be encouraged in every practicable way.

Books, as records of facts, are doubtless far more lasting than "specimens." The latter rapidly deteriorate with time and at best are only partial records, even though originally essential for the accuracy of much of the printed record.

Incidentally a distinct service is rendered the cause of science by private book collectors, in that rare volumes are gathered from obscure and unappreciative sources, and usually renovated by re-binding as well as being housed under the safest of conditions. The lives of these volumes thus become insured for much longer time than would likely otherwise be the case. Sooner or later, too, private collections find their way into public repositories where the field of their usefulness widens.

Another factor worth considering is that collectors of books on ornithology nowadays have the satisfaction of knowing that what money they put into their hobby, if discriminatingly spent, has been well invested; the market value of even some quite recent publications has doubled or even trebled within a very few years.

Mr. Thayer's catalog is an incentive to interest on the part of others along this line, and we welcome it. The reviewer, for instance, has taken great pleasure in running over the titles in comparison with the contents of his own modest collection.—J. GRINNELL.

THE AUK.—The July number of *The Auk* sustains the usually high character of that magazine as a record of ornithological discovery and scholarship. The latter element predominates in Stone's review of William Bartram's bird migration records. The writer comes to the conclusion, based on an exhaustive study of Bartram's journals, that in the case of 26 species of the commoner birds of Philadelphia no appreciable change in the time of their arrival has taken place in the past century. This conclusion, necessitated no doubt by the data at hand, is a little surprising, not to say disappointing, for we had supposed that the unquestioned "northward trend of species" would have shown itself in noticeably earlier spring arrival as it has in extended breeding ranges.

Forbes' review of Brewster's observations on the flight of gulls (recorded in *The Auk*, for January, 1912) is little more than a dogmatic reassertion of the mathematical *impasse* which has always ended the discussion of this subject. As the author himself admits, his general denial of the possibility of the advantageous 'resolution of forces' by a bird glid-

ing against a horizontal wind does not account for all the factors in Mr. Brewster's record. It does not account, namely, for the behavior of birds so far removed from the ship that ascending currents caused by the passing ship could not have been a factor. This difficult subject is not yet susceptible of explanation, but we do need further and exhaustive records of fact.

Careful, scholarly work appears in Cameron's continuation of "Notes on Swainson's Hawk in Montana" and in Tyler's account of "A Successful Pair of Robins". By the way, what an inordinate amount of attention is being paid these days to excrementation and the parental disposal of faecal sacs! The magazines are full of it. It is all very necessary, we suppose, but one cannot help hoping that the values of this particular phase of paedolatry may be settled presently so that we can pass to pleasanter topics.

Miss Sherman's painstaking study of "The Nest Life of the Sparrow Hawk" again caps the climax of scholarly research. We have in Miss Sherman a shining example of how purposeful leisure may be profitably employed in the further consideration of some of the most familiar ornithological subjects. We hope to see one day from her pen a collected series of these stimulating bird studies.

Scholarship again is the note of Swarth's review of "The Status of Lloyd's Bush-tit as a Bird of Arizona," and his studies seem to establish the fact that *Psaltriparus melanotis lloydi* is not a bird of Arizona, and that the bird once described as *P. santaritae* was a juvenal phase of *P. plumbeus*.

Three faunal lists and a brief anatomical article conspire with "General Notes" and extended book reviews to make this a most creditable number, while Abbott H. Thayer's "periodical warning" that both he and the theory are alive and cheerfully defiant gives that touch of piquancy which we relish in the staidest of journals.—W. L. DAWSON.

BIRD-LORE has come to be a magazine of which its sponsors may well be proud, and its bi-monthly visits, indispensable now as always to conservationists, are an honest joy to all bird students whether veteran or amateur. Florence Merriam Bailey contributes the leading article to the September-October (1913) number and it is as chock full of interest as it is of information concerning the Long-eared Owl. In our opinion Mrs. Bailey is one of the most gifted and refreshing interpreters of bird-life now before the public. She has in addition to keen and disciplined powers of observation a vivacious style and that sprightly quality of imagination which makes it really worth while for us to view life through her eyes. This owl

study exhibits Mrs. Bailey in her happiest vein.

John Woodcock shows a splendid photograph of Sharp-tailed Grouse obtained by him in Manitoba and we rejoice with him, in a page and a half of print, that this difficult and decreasing bird has been brought to camera. Maunsell S. Crosby has a few crisp notes on a pair of Holboell Grebes captured and photographed at Rhinebeck, N. Y., and Arthur A. Allen of Ithaca details an entertaining experience with a pair of nesting Blue-headed Vireos.

The Migration and Plumage studies are concerned this month with the Harris and the Golden-crowned Sparrows. In this connection we are pained to note a glaring inaccuracy in the descriptive title of the colored frontispiece. The plate in question is a well executed piece by Louis Agassiz Fuertes depicting an adult and an immature bird of each of the above-named species. The adult in each instance is labelled "adult male," and the immature bird (whether male or female, matters little) is declared to be an "adult female." Of course this blunder is not chargeable to Fuertes who knows his birds as we know our letters, nor to Chapman who refers to the figures correctly in his text further on. It must be due, therefore to some irresponsible third party to whom this important task was entrusted. In a magazine which caters especially to youth and from which our young people are likely to receive impressions which cannot be shaken off, such a misleading signboard at the beginning of the path is peculiarly unfortunate.

In reviewing our own CONDOR (July-August, 1913) the veteran critic, "T. S. P.," to whom we owe an ancient debt of gratitude for generous consideration and liberal praise, devotes considerable space to Dawson's article, "The All-Day Test at Santa Barbara" and expresses his dissatisfaction with methods and tendencies therein displayed. In the first place he deprecates the use of the automobile as an aid to bird study, though whether he considers that this device takes an unfair advantage of the birds or whether he harbors the suspicion, in common with certain clergymen, that "one of the automobile crowd" must, *ipso facto*, be addicted to high balls and therefore liable to see birds double, our reviewer fails to state. Moreover, he suspects the "accuracy of results when Sandpipers, Linnets and Redwings are recorded by hundreds, when only eight meadowlarks and four English Sparrows were observed in comparison with 40 Black-headed Grosbeaks." This is amazing, perhaps, to one not thoroughly conversant with local conditions at Santa Barbara; nevertheless we need only to remind "T. S. P." who *was* a Californian

that Sandpipers, Linnets and Redwings are precisely the birds one does see by hundreds; that Meadowlarks are busy feeding first broods by May 5th and so are silent and secretive; that Black-headed Grosbeaks were excessively abundant last spring; and that presumably because of the pre-occupation of the field by Linnets, the English Sparrows have never found effective or numerous lodgement in Santa Barbara. One has actually to *hunt* for them. Beyond this, however, there seems to be a real ground of misunderstanding as between Palmer and Dawson as to what constitutes the proper object of an all-day test. Dr. Palmer is influenced by the Bird-Lore census standards where enumeration of *individuals* has always been deemed the important thing. Dawson has always stood for the enumeration of *species* as the important thing in these all-day tests and he designated the results so obtained as *horizons* some time before "bird censuses" were talked of. The figures placed opposite the names in the CONDOR list were, therefore, approximate and not intended for summation, although the writer was, perhaps, at fault in not having so noted. That this is the ground of misunderstanding appears further. "Rather it would seem that combined observations of several persons in a definite area where each could take time to cover his territory thoroughly and follow up and observe the various birds, would give a better idea of the number of species and individuals present on a given date." No doubt, but that is to change essentially the character of the institution under consideration and to criticize it not for what it is but for what it is not. An extended and painstaking census is one thing, and a very good one in its way, but a "bird horizon" is a different thing and also very good. In a bird horizon one tests not only the resources of a given region but he tests his own resources, his ability to find the birds and to recognize them when found under certain definite limitations of time. It is, confessedly, a sort of sporting proposition, bearing about the same relation to the year's work in ornithology that horse racing does to plowing. Plowing is doubtless to be commended both in man and beast, nevertheless the evolution of the horse is supposed to owe more to the incentive of the track than to the ancient furrow. And, anyhow, bird horizoning as an occasional indulgence does give zest to the ornithological pursuits whether detailed or general.

The value of such a magazine as *Bird-Lore* in bringing new talent to the front is clearly shown in an article describing "A Pet Road-runner," by George Miksch Sutton, a lad of 15. Here is a clever, promising piece of work and we confidently expect to see "Mas-

ter" Sutton take rank as "Mr." among the trained reporters of bird life.

The bird biography for this issue is by Witmer Stone and is concerned with the Catbird. Mr. Stone does his four page stunt conscientiously and hits off the character of the bird with scientific accuracy as well as verbal distinction. The economic homily at the end of his treatment is pleasantly sugared and his concluding paragraph of appreciation leaves us with hearts thoroughly warmed towards his hero.

Stone knows his Catbird. We wish we could say as much for the artist who paints him. Bruce Horsfall's plate of the "Catbird" is just another colored representation of two bird-like objects—nothing more. They are not "Catbirds." Paint them brown and they might pass for languid wrens. Paint them green and they would do for Warblers badly stuffed. Candidly now—and however regretfully—one wonders why Horsfall persists in trying to paint birds.—W. L. D.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, Thursday evening, October 30, with President Law in the chair and the following members present: Messrs. Chambers, Daggett, Grey, Howell, Judson, Law, Miller, Morcom, Rich, Snyder, Swarth, Van Rossem, Willett, Wood, and Wyman.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, followed by the reading of the Northern Division minutes for October. The following were elected to membership in the Club: W. C. Bradbury, Denver, Colorado; J. W. Eggleston, Los Angeles; C. B. Lastreto, San Francisco; H. A. Edwards, Los Angeles. New names submitted were: Allan J. Stover, Corvallis, Oregon, proposed by Geo. F. Sykes; E. F. Pope, Colonesneil, Texas, proposed by H. W. Carriger; Amelia Sanborn Allen, Berkeley, proposed by J. Grinnell.

At the request of Mrs. E. H. Husher announcement was made that the Mozart Theatre, 730 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, had agreed, by an arrangement with the Audubon Society, to exhibit moving pictures of birds during the last week of each month.

The action of the Northern Division in regard to the proposed conservation congress to be held in San Francisco in 1915 was ratified, and the president and secretary of the Southern Division were authorized to sign the letter which had been drawn up by the Northern Division's committee for transmittal to various institutions and individuals.

Business disposed of, Mr. Willett entertained the Club with some of the experiences of his past summer's work in southeastern Alaska. He exhibited skins of the Dixon Rock Ptarmigan and the Alexander Willow Ptarmigan, adults and young in summer plumage, and also a series of photos taken during the summer.

Mr. Wood told of a disastrous mortality to which he found nestling birds subject in the late summer in the vicinity of Prescott, Arizona. The blow-fly of the region was found laying its eggs on the newly-hatched young, the resulting larvae boring under the skin and there feeding on the living flesh. Mockingbirds were especially studied, though other species also were observed thus afflicted, and it seemed to be a common and widespread source of suffering to the late hatched broods.

Mr. Howell spoke briefly of his season's collecting in southeastern Arizona. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—A meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Cal., on Saturday evening, August 9, 1913. Vice-president H. C. Bryant presided with the following members present: Messrs. Boyce, Clarke, Cooper, Emerson, A. K. Fisher, W. K. Fisher, J. Grinnell, and Storer. Mesdames Allen and Cooper and Messrs Belt, Parker, and Martens were present as visitors.

Dr. A. K. Fisher as speaker of the evening told of some of the work of the Biological Survey along the lines of economic mammalogy and ornithology. He first told of the work being done toward checking the increase of harmful rodents and of the results obtained in that work. Of particular interest to the members of the Club were his remarks on the work which is now being done in examining the stomachs of various species of birds. From these examinations the Survey has among other things determined the commoner food plants of the game birds and a plan has been formulated to establish farms for the propagation of these food plants so that the seed may be distributed to the various parts of the country. By this and other methods it is hoped that some of the now transient species may be induced to breed in local areas.

No business was transacted at the meeting. Adjourned.—TRACY I. STORER, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in Room 101, East Hall, University of California, Berkeley, on