

a clean hand of criticism and good fellowship stretched across the intervening States?

Humanum est errare.

With sincerity and honesty of purpose, I remain,

Most respectfully,

A. O. TREGANZA.

Salt Lake City, Utah, January, 7, 1914.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE BIRDS OF CONNECTICUT. By JOHN HALL SAGE and LOUIS BENNETT BISHOP, assisted by WALTER PARKS BLISS. [= State of Connecticut, Public Document No. 47. State Geological and Natural History Survey Bulletin No. 20. 1913. Pp. 1-370.]

The authors' names are sufficient assurance of the general excellence of this, the latest state list of birds to make its appearance. Under each species is uniformly careful and methodical entry of data pertaining to the various phases of the subject here considered, a general statement of the status of the bird within the state, followed by migration dates, particulars of nesting sites and dates, unusual records, and such additional comments as seem to be called for. About half the book is taken up by the introduction and the body of the list. The remainder of the volume is occupied by various appendices to part one—a catalogue of introduced species and those of doubtful standing, a statistical summary, list of observers, and bibliography—and by part two, a treatise on the economic ornithology of the region, compiled by Dr. Bishop.

A summary of the list gives a total of 334 species for the state, divided as follows: residents, 80, summer residents, 78, winter residents, 38, transient visitors, 124, accidental visitors, 89. The long list of accidentals, second only to the transients in numbers, is probably one result of the host of observers enlisted in furtherance of the work, the catalogue of whose names occupies nearly four pages.

The portion of the report treating of the economic aspect of the subject is largely a judicious compilation of data pertaining to species occurring in Connecticut, and is undoubtedly an accurate portrayal of the relations of these birds to their surroundings. In fact the whole book strikes one as an eminently "solid" and dependable piece of work. The authors' attitude toward questionable records, well illustrated in the introduction in their protest against the acceptance of "operaglass" records of rare or unusual species, as well as in other matters, would be calculated to inspire confidence in their statements, even without a knowledge of their previous years of brilliant accomplishment in the field of ornithology.—H. S. SWARTH.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF THE SAN JACINTO AREA OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, WITH REMARKS UPON THE BEHAVIOR OF GEOGRAPHIC RACES ON THE MARGINS OF THEIR HABITATS. By J. GRINNELL and H. S. SWARTH (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 10, October 31, 1913, pp. 197-406, pls. 6-10, 3 text figs.).

In this comprehensive paper of 210 pages, are clearly set forth the results of a summer's reconnoissance in and about the San Jacinto Mountains, undertaken in 1908 by the newly organized staff of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The report embodies the work of two field parties, each of several members, the one which was headed by the authors maintained from the 18th of May to the 5th of September; and the other, under Messrs. Taylor and Richardson, from the 1st of May till July 12th. Both because of the wide experience of the leaders and the industry of their helpers, a large amount of museum material (including 1533 bird skins) was secured, and a fairly exhaustive survey was made of this interesting and topographically well-defined area. The report itself is notable as a piece of scholarly workmanship; and so far as method, accuracy, and lucidity are concerned, is unquestionably a model of its kind.

After a careful description of localities or base camps, and a brief exposition of the ecological elements involved, there appears a check-list of 169 species of birds encountered in the course of the season, followed by a carefully annotated account of the birds themselves. While each account aims primarily to summarize the status of the species from a taxonomic and ecological view point, a gratifying amount of biographical material is introduced, and our demand to know the most possible about the lesser known is commendably satisfied. Thus, we have, quite appropriately, a mere half-page devoted to the well-known Audubon Warbler, as against six pages given to the Gray Vireo, a bird about which we are still very curious.

In like manner also, the mammals, of 63 forms, are listed and described.

From a taxonomic standpoint this paper gives much ground for satisfaction, and leaves little to be desired. To our distinct relief there are no new forms described, not even a sub-species. Better than that, the abundant material secured enables the authors definitely to discredit, at least as birds of California, several alleged varieties which have hitherto cumbered our check-lists: *Oreortyx picta confinis*, *Aphelocoma californica obscura*, *Vireo vicinior californicus*, and *Sialia mexicana anabelae*. Most astonishing of all, the Gray Flycatcher, *Empidonax griseus*, which used to bulk so large in south-

ern California (as a producer of much desired and expensive eggs), and which filled four pages of Mr. Grinnell's San Bernardino report, has dwindled to a mere mention of four nondescripts caught during migration. "The collection includes four small flycatchers taken near Cabezon at the northern base of the mountains which we have, with some hesitation, placed in a different category from the breeding *E. wrighti* of the higher elevations". *E. wrighti*, on the basis of 36 specimens, is conceded to be the breeding bird of the San Jacinto Mountains. "Apparently nothing is known of the nesting habits of *E. griseus*, the published breeding ranges being mere general statements with no precise data to support them." There be those of us who know what a pang this acknowledgment costs the authors of the San Jacinto report, and precisely on this account we honor their scholarly integrity,—an integrity which depends first of all upon a *willingness to face the facts*.

We have here renewed evidence of able, trustworthy leadership, and we are prepared to give, henceforth, an even more implicit obedience to Grinnell and Swarth's taxonomic decrees.

Several interesting cases of overlapping or interpenetrating faunæ are brought to light; thus, Cactus Woodpecker, *Dryobates scalaris cactophilus*, a characteristic Colorado Desert form, is discovered at Vallevista at the Pacific base of the mountains. While the Desert Quail (*Lophortyx gambeli*) halts circumspectly at the edge of the desert, the Valley Quail (*L. californica vallicola*) spills out of its chaparral and mingles freely with its congeners. In general, the San Diegan Pacific species are more presuming than their kinsfolk; for the Anthony Towhee, *P. crissalis senicula*, overlaps *P. aberti*, and *P. m. megalonyx*, an Upper Sonoran species, coquettes with the open places. The most notable example of all, however, is furnished by the San Diego Song Sparrow, *Melospiza m. cooperi*, which Messrs. Grinnell and Swarth found firmly established amid desert surroundings (albeit with local riparian associations) in lower Palm Canyon. These and similar occurrences among the mammals lead the authors to philosophize upon "The Behavior of Geographic Races on the Margins of their Habitats". The conclusions reached are sound ones, and present fascinating vistas of suggestion, but their adequate consideration is beyond our present space.

An excellent table of comparisons between the boreal faunæ of San Jacinto Peak and related mountain masses to the northward is presented and certain conclusions reached which are stated in the form of laws. It will

be, perhaps, of as great interest to those who do not have access to this paper, to compare the San Jacinto area broadly with the San Bernardino Mountain district, already so carefully studied by Mr. Grinnell*. The present paper reports 169 species as against 139 for the San Bernardino area. Of these, 42 were not found at all in the San Bernardino Mountains; but when we have eliminated migrants, casuals, and species common to the desert base of both ranges, as well as those which, through lack of opportunity or completeness of observation, rather than by reason of actual difference in geographical range, were not reported from the San Bernardino Range, we find only two species, *Vireo vicinior* and *Polioptila californica*, which do not venture north of the San Jacintos.

On the other hand, although the San Bernardino list contains only 12 names which do not appear in the present list, 7 of these are significant as being those of species not known to breed as far south as the San Jacinto Range. They are: *Otus flammeolus*, *Chordeiles virginianus hesperis*, *Amphispiza nevadensis canescens*, *Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis*, *Planesticus migratorius propinquus*, *Sialia currucoides*, and *Myadestes townsendi*. It is notable that four of these should be Upper Transition and Boreal Turdines, which thus find on the flanks of "Grayback", San Jacinto's elder and more favored brother, their southernmost Pacific breeding station. It is not impossible that the Townsend Solitaire may yet be found on San Jacinto, but the remaining three are certainly absent.

This San Jacinto bird-book, as it deserves to be called, is a mine of information for the bird student, from whatever angle it is viewed. It is so good, that one who loves birds better than he does bird-skins cannot help wishing that half as many bird-skins might have served these insatiable scientists, so that there would have been time left to observe and to record more life-histories. It is not enough to say, "Let others do that", for there are not in the West two other more gifted observers of birds than Messrs. Swarth and Grinnell. Of Mr. Grinnell, especially, I cannot forbear to say that some of his recent biographical sketches evince a keenness of insight, and bring out a wealth of first-hand information which mark him as potentially the foremost biographer of Western birds. We learn from this volume that the authors took seventeen "specimens" of the Gray Vireo; yet I submit that the six-page biography is worth sixteen of them. Twenty-six specimens of the Black-chinned Sparrow

* "The Biota of the San Bernardino Mountains", by Joseph Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool. vol. 5, December 31, 1908, pp. 1-170, pls. 1-24).

will be eventually consulted by two or three specialists, but a four-page biography in place of two might have gladdened twenty-six hundred readers. Sixty specimens of the Sierra Junco! Is human life (not to mention bird life) worth so little?

In like manner, we should have been delighted with a fuller series of photographs to illustrate the constant references to "associations" and botanical as well as topographical features, if these ardent mummifiers of 37 Costa Hummers and 38 Audubon Warblers and 51 Western Bluebirds could have spared the time from these mortuary rites. The half dozen photographs which are shown are excellently chosen, and greatly enhance the interest of the text, as do the map and profile diagram.

Of minor criticisms none offer which reflect in any degree upon the accuracy or wholesomeness or scientific worth of this finished contribution to knowledge. The reviewer deprecates the use of lower case letters for the vernacular names of birds, as being not only ungrammatical and vague, but ill-proportioned and offensive to the eye. Witness this from page 292: "The warbling, Cassin and Hutton vireos are arboreal foragers"; or this cryptogram: "but the least is riparian, while the gray is distinctly a dry-slope forager". Also the reviewer is of those who resent the attempted change of the long-established and logical term "summer resident" in favor of "summer visitant". If a bird does not reside where she rears her young, then she has no home or country. Am I only a "winter visitant" at Santa Barbara, because I spend four months at home and eight, or thereabouts, afield? The State holds otherwise and so does common sense. *Aber hoch der San Jacinto Report!*—W. L. DAWSON.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Southern Division of the Club was held at the Museum of History, Science, and Art, Thursday evening, December 18, 1913, with President Law in the chair. Those present were Messrs. Brown, Chambers, Daggett, Grey, Law, Miller, Morcom, Rich, Swarth, Willett, Wood, and Wyman. Fordyce Grinnell, Jr., was a visitor. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved, followed by the reading of the Northern Division November minutes. New members were elected as follows: F. R. Decker, Pross-

er, Washington; G. H. Lings, Nyack, New York; Edwin S. Parker, Berkeley; P. C. Dutton, Stone Staffs, England. One new name was proposed: Finlay Simmons, Houston, Texas, presented by W. Lee Chambers. The election of new members by the Northern Division, as given in the minutes of the November meeting, was ratified by vote of this division.

The action of the Northern Division in regard to questions arisen in connection with the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies, was approved, as it was evident that the Southern Division would be unable to participate in a meeting held at Seattle. The dues of the Club to the Association were ordered paid.

Nominations for officers of the Division for 1914 were now in order. The present incumbents (President, J. Eugene Law; Vice-president, Howard Robertson; Secretary, H. S. Swarth) were placed in nomination by F. S. Daggett, seconded by L. E. Wyman. After some discussion the nominations were declared closed.

Mr. F. Grinnell showed some photographs of California naturalists, including a likeness of one of the Club's honorary members, Lyman Belding, taken in 1882, at a time when he was doing much active bird work within the state. Mr. Miller exhibited a skin of the Slender-billed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) recently taken by himself at Hyperion Beach, Los Angeles County, the second record for southern California. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The January meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, Thursday evening, January 29, 1914, with President Law in the chair, and the following members present: Mrs. E. H. Husher, and Messrs. Blain, Chambers, Daggett, Dial, Edwards, Eggleston, Esterly, Grey, Judson, Law, Layne, Morcom, Rich, Robertson, Snyder, Swarth, Wood, and Wyman. Visitors in attendance were Mrs. Minerva J. Fargo, and Miss Wood.

The Southern Division minutes for December were read and approved, followed by the Northern Division minutes for the December and January meetings. One new member was elected, Mr. Finlay Simmons, of Houston, Texas. New names proposed were: Mrs. Minerva J. Fargo, of Los Angeles, and Miss Ada Wilson, of Pasadena, presented by Mrs. E. H. Husher; C. G. Stivers, of Los Angeles, and L. R. Reynolds, of San Francisco, by J. Grinnell; Miss Helen Powell, Berkeley, by W. F. Bade; Miss Etta V. Little, Los Angeles, by H. C. Bryant; Luther Little, Los