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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

A meeting of the Committee on Arrangements for the 1915 Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union in California was held at the residence of Mr. Joseph Mailliard in San Francisco, September 19, 1914, with all members present, and also President A. K. Fisher. Any question of failure in carrying out the original plans, owing to the war or any other cause, was emphatically disclaimed. A plan of publicity was outlined, by which to reach all American students of birds with a view to clearly setting forth the attractions of a western itinerary to include the joint A. O. U.—Cooper Club meeting in San Francisco. For instance, it is proposed to organize several local field excursions, of interest alike to visitors from within our own state, and to those from other states. One of these would include the Farallon Island bird rookeries; another the breeding grounds of ibis, stilt, avocet, and ducks at Los Baños; another the Sierra woodlands at Lake Tahoe. Each of these localities, and others in mind, will by the latter half of May be at their height of attractiveness. The Program Committee is also actively at work. Members of both the Cooper Club and the A. O. U., having in mind the preparation of papers, illustrated or otherwise, should announce their inten-

tions to Prof. Walter K. Fisher, Chairman, Palo Alto, California.

Dr. Harold C. Bryant, Assistant Curator of Birds in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and President of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club, has been placed in charge of the new Bureau of Education just established under the auspices of the California Fish and Game Commission. This bureau will dispense information relating to game by means of correspondence, public illustrated lectures, and by the issuance of bulletins on the status of game. Laws, though necessary, are not so effective for the protection and preservation of game as an enlightened public sentiment. This new move of the Commission is to be heartily commended by all interested in conservation, for it will hasten the day when protective laws enforced by police patrol will be comparatively unnecessary. Bryant's first bulletin, called "California Fish and Game", appeared the last of October. The Bulletin will be sent free upon application to any citizen of California. Dr. Bryant's address continues to be Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.

Visitors to California the past summer and fall have included an unusual number of the more prominent Eastern bird people. A number of Pacific Coast students had the privilege of meeting or renewing acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bailey. Mrs. Bailey is, as ever, actively on the lookout for information additional to, or emendatory of, her already standard Handbook of Western Birds. Mr. E. W. Nelson made flying visits to many sections, from Vancouver to Los Angeles. Dr. C. Hart Merriam, as usual of late years, spent a few weeks at his delightful summer place at Lagunitas, Marin County. Dr. A. K. Fisher made a hasty reconnaissance of several western states in connection with the economic work of the United States Biological Survey.

Mr. Tracy I. Storer, Secretary of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, has been appointed to an assistant curatorship of birds in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. His research work will have to do with the study of the game birds of California already under way under the auspices of the Museum.

At the present writing (November 9) the fight for non-sale of game in California appears to have been lost. However, the count of votes is still going on, and the final returns may switch the results back again. Whatever the outcome, it has been an up-hill contest, and great credit is due the officers of the California Associated Societies, particularly its President, Dr. W. F. Badé, and its Secretary, Dr. W. P. Taylor. The latter, with a corps of helpers, distributed printed matter to the voters of the state as follows: 20,000 Western Wild

Life Calls, containing full information on the non-sale of game; 95,000 cards, urging a vote "yes" and containing skeleton argument; 49,000 circular "letters to voters"; 8,200 multigraphed, personally signed letters. In addition hundreds of letters were mailed as a part of regular correspondence. Three separate batches of pertinent paragraphs were sent to the 825 newspapers of the state. Many special articles were prepared, and published by various magazines and newspapers in the state. Street car advertising was resorted to in several of the large cities. More than one hundred lectures were given under the auspices of the campaign, latterly accompanied by moving pictures. All in all, it is believed that fully one million of the citizens of California were acquainted with the reasons for the no-sale law and urged to vote favorably upon it.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

GAME PROTECTION AND PROPAGATION IN AMERICA. A HANDBOOK OF PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR OFFICIALS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE CAUSE OF CONSERVATION OF WILD-LIFE. By HENRY CHASE (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London, September, 1913, v, pp. 1-238).

If courses in game protection and conservation should be given in our universities and colleges, and there is no question but that they should be a part of the curriculum, it would be difficult to find a suitable textbook. The best thing we have yet seen which would be available for such use is a recent book by Henry Chase entitled: "Game Protection and Propagation in America." Mr. Chase, with his long experience as a game warden, is well qualified to write "a handbook of practical information for officials and others interested in the cause of conservation of wild-life."

One of the strongest chapters in the book is the first one, entitled "Educating the Public—A foreword." In this chapter Mr. Chase points out that the most pressing need of the hour to forward the great movement of conservation of wild-life is *education*. He states further: "The Federal authorities are always happy, and it is their duty, to co-operate with those of the states in their work for better game protection. So it is manifest what should be done. Connected with the game department in each State there should be a bureau of education and publicity, presided over by an expert. With these bureaus co-operating with each other and with the national one, a campaign of education along correct lines can be conducted which will accomplish more and better results in a few years than has been done altogether in the past. This plan would be no experiment with which to waste state funds either. It has now had

the benefit of years of trial; it has been systematized; it has a well-defined and definite course to pursue, and has not been found wanting in efficacy. Unquestionably, nothing can be of more value to the cause of game protection at this time than a systematic campaign of education conducted officially by the game department in every state in the Union, and an extension in the work on that line now being performed by the federal bureau. It is earnestly to be hoped that such a campaign may be started forward."

Certainly Mr. Chase has gotten at the root of the matter, for when the value of birds and the need of their protection and preservation is really appreciated, protective laws will be comparatively unimportant.

The following chapter headings give a good idea of the scope of the book: Why Protect the Game?; Relations of Birds and Mammals to the Natural Resources; Present Meaning of the Term "Game Protection"; Brief Survey of Game Legislation in America; "Sane, Simple and Scientific Game Laws"; Federal Protection of Migratory Birds; Protection of Birds by International Treaties; State Laws and Their Enforcement; Field Work of Game Officers; The Right of Private Property in Game; Re-stocking Game Covers; Propagation of Game Fish; Feeding Game During Severe Winters; and, Hunting Accidents. An appendix furnishes a typical constitution and by-laws for game clubs.

To anyone seeking knowledge of game protection and propagation in America no better source can be found than this excellent treatise by the well known author of "Powers, Duties and Work of Game Wardens," "Modern Doctrine of Game Protection," and "Private Preserves in America."

—H. C. BRYANT.

THE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD: A STUDY IN THE ECOLOGY OF A CAT-TAIL MARSH. By ARTHUR A. ALLEN. Zoological Laboratory, Cornell University. Reprinted from the Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York. Nos. 24-25, 1911-1913, pp. 43-128, pls. 1-22. Issued April 15, 1914.

The paper here reviewed is one of that very desirable but as yet relatively rare type of contribution setting forth the biology of a single species. It is also a very good example of that type and introduces several novel features which students working along similar lines might adopt to advantage.

The observations upon which the present paper are based were made at Renwick