

oreganus that has wandered to this southern point it is a fact in migration worthy of more emphasis than it has received. It is a pity that in this case at least the author did not discuss more in detail the migration and winter habitat of these particular subspecies, for unquestionably New Mexico is far beyond the normal winter range of *oreganus*. In one place the statement is made that "it is easy to realize that the naming of winter specimens taken perhaps far from their breeding range involves careful matching and measuring of skins and, in a good many doubtful cases, merely clever guessing at the name most applicable." As the type specimen of *shufeldti* may be admitted to be one of the "doubtful" cases it is questionable if the substitution of the name *couesi* on the above basis will be at once accepted as a final settlement of the *connectens-shufeldti* problem.

Under *Junco oregonus* (pp. 293-294) there is a discussion of certain nomenclatural principles (applied in particular to the classification of a large series of breeding birds from Eldorado County, California), in which the author clearly states his attitude toward the naming of individual specimens. In the series in question, taken well within the range of *Junco o. thurberi*, certain percentages are declared to be indistinguishable from *oregonus* and *couesi*. As the conclusion of a discussion "whether the name we are using applies to the bird or to the locality," the statement is made that "I do not see how we can escape the necessity of calling a specimen *oregonus* or *thurberi*, or any other name, if it shows the characters of the form, no matter where it is taken. We must name a bird by the plumage it is wearing not by the one that it ought to be wearing because it has been captured within the bounds assigned to another geographical race." There is room for argument here (personally the reviewer does not agree with the statement made), and apparently in the case in question the author has not had the courage of his convictions to quite a sufficient degree to follow them to a logical conclusion, for the ranges of *oreganus* and *couesi* are not defined by him so as to include the point from which these specimens were collected.

In the *Junco oregonus* group the range of *couesi* is given as including Vancouver Island. On the map (page 304) showing the distribution of species and subspecies, the dividing line between *oregonus* and *couesi* crosses the center of Vancouver Island, an impossible line of demarcation. (Incidentally it may be pointed out that there is no explanatory caption attached to this map, and that the labels affixed to the ranges of *couesi*, *thurberi* and *pinosus* [3b, 3c, 3d] do not correspond with the lettering used on page 292, which is again different from that near the head of page 291.) Extensive se-

ries of juncos in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology from Alaska, Vancouver Island, California and Arizona do not bear out the idea of a race on Vancouver Island different from the Alaska bird and wintering in Arizona.

After the protest in the introduction that ornithology is "suffering from an indigestion of names," the genus *Junco* in particular having endured much from the prevalent "tendency hastily to apply names to every sort of variation, letting the facts catch up with the names as best they may", it is a little surprising to find farther on in the paper not only the description of "*Junco oregonus couesi*" (which seems to require some additional support beside that here given it) but also the terms "*cismontanus*" and "*transmontanus*" (page 295), casually introduced but applied to recognizable birds from specified localities, and hence certainly to be taken into consideration in any study of the nomenclature of the juncos of the regions involved!

The foregoing comments are all made from the point of view of one turning to this paper partly to obtain specific information, partly from a feeling of interest in the author's viewpoint, and finding, as above specified, various points open to discussion. Of the excellence of the contribution from a philosophic standpoint it is hardly necessary to speak, but a quotation from a review by Edgar Allan Poe on a quite different sort of publication may be taken as expressing the present reviewer's attitude: that excellence "is not excellence if it need to be demonstrated as such. To point out too particularly the beauties of a work, is to admit, tacitly, that these beauties are not wholly admirable. Regarding, then, excellence as that which is capable of self-manifestation, it but remains for the critic to show when, where, and how it fails in becoming manifest; and, in this showing, it will be the fault of the book itself if what of beauty it contains be not, at least, placed in the fairest light."—H. S. SWARTH.

CATALOGUE | OF | BIRDS OF THE AMERICAS
AND THE ADJACENT ISLANDS | IN FIELD MUSE-
UM OF NATURAL HISTORY | (six lines) | By |
CHARLES B. CORY | CURATOR OF DEPARTMENT
OF ZOOLOGY. | Part II, no. 1, March, 1918, pp.
1-315, 1 plate (colored).

When completed this work will supply bird students for the first time with a complete catalogue in check-list form of the birds of the western hemisphere. The species are listed in the following manner: Scientific name first, with authority, followed by the English name; citations, the original description with the type locality, and of a few of the more important references—to works of monographic character, with colored plates, or with important distributional or nomenclatural subject-matter; ge-

ographic range of the form, concisely stated; the number of specimens in the Field Museum, with the localities represented. An asterisk preceding a species name indicates its representation in the Museum collection (needlessly it would seem, since the specimens are listed), and a dagger preceding the number of specimens indicates that some are available for exchange.

Descriptions are given of such species and subspecies as are not included in Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America" and the "Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum". This is one reason for the publication of Part II prior to Part I, which will await the completion of Ridgway's work, thereby covering forms already described by the latter, and avoiding duplication of labors.

In the present volume the birds of special interest to ornithologists of North America are the owls, kingfishers, goatsuckers, and hummingbirds. Recent studies are given liberal recognition, and many forms denied by the A. O. U. Committee, or else not passed upon by that body, are listed with brief comment upon their status. In this connection attention may be called to the remarks about *Cryptoglaux acadica brooksi* (page 37, footnote) as common-sense comment upon a previously muddled situation.

The ranges of the hummingbirds of western North America as given are not quite so shaky as in the A. O. U. *Check-List*, but the author "hedges" by not differentiating between breeding range and distribution at other seasons, lumping all under general statements. It is in just the manner in which this discrimination is made that the A. O. U. *Check-List* is so largely at fault. Of minor errors of the kind that seem bound to creep into a book of this nature, attention may be called to the following, as pertaining to western birds: On page 297, San Bernardino is misspelled twice in different ways, and Santa Margarita Island is wrongly described as adjacent to the coast of southern California. On page 29 the name *bendirei* is consistently misspelled on each of the several occasions on which it is used, and on page 44 *hoskinsii* is similarly misspelled. On page 129 Marin County is misspelled in giving the type locality of *Phalaenoptilus nuttalli californicus*. These blunders are not apt to give any trouble to Californian ornithologists, but misspelled locality names are frequently bothersome to students at a distance, investigating a region with which they are not familiar.

To bring together and to systematize the data necessary to a work as comprehensive as this "Catalogue" is an undertaking of no small dimensions, and ornithologists have occasion for gratitude to the author compiling such a hand-book, as well as to the institution that sponsors it.—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on the evening of January 17, 1918, at eight o'clock. Dr. Evermann was in the chair. There was an attendance of 43, the following members being present: Messrs. Bryant, Carriger, Davis, Dr. Davis, Dixon, Evermann, Grinnell, Hansen, Kibbe, Lastreto, Snyder, Swarth, van Straaten, and Wheeler; Mesdames Allen, Bamford, Ferguson, Grinnell, Gunn, Kluegel, Knappen, Meade, Parsons, Randolph and Schlesinger. Among the visitors were Mrs. Evermann, Miss Ferguson, Mrs. Wheeler, Mr. Meade and Mr. Schlesinger.

The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved and Mr. van Straaten was elected to membership in the club. Dr. R. M. Leggett, 607 Butler Bldg., San Francisco, was proposed for membership by Mr. Harold Hansen, and Mr. Adrey Borell, Route H, Box 31, Fresno, by Mr. J. Grinnell. The resignation of Mrs. Margaret Boardman was accepted.

A motion was carried that nominees for office for the coming year be elected by acclamation. Mr. Lastreto presided, while the club elected Dr. Barton W. Evermann, president, Prof. J. O. Snyder, vice-president, Mrs. A. S. Allen, secretary, and Mr. A. S. Kibbe, representative on the committee for the conservation of wild life.

Prof. J. O. Snyder then spoke on the "collecting of birds' eggs and the training of a naturalist", making a plea for the protection of the divine spark in the small boy, training him in proper methods of collecting material and tabulating information. After some discussion the club adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

FEBRUARY.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, February 21, at 8 P. M. As both the president and vice-president were absent Mr. Lastreto was asked to preside. The following members were present: Messrs. Anderson, Bryant, Cooper, Dixon, Grinnell, Hansen, Kibbe, Leggett, Lastreto, van Straaten, Swarth, Wheeler; Mesdames Allen, Bamford, Davidson, Ferguson, Grant, Grinnell, Gunn, Head, Knappen, Kibbe, Lombardi, Parsons. Visitors: Messrs. Austin, Hunt, Lombardi, Miss Ferguson, Miss Griffith, Mrs. Gunn, and Mrs. Wheeler.