

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The regular July meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club will be postponed until Wednesday evening, August 3, 1921. This is done in order to relate the meeting to the sessions of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which will be held at Berkeley, August 4 to 6, 1921. The business meeting of the C. O. C. will be held at 7:30 P. M., and the program will commence at 8 P. M. The two papers thus far assured are: "The Pelican Colonies of Pyramid Lake" by Barton Warren Evermann; "The Principle of Rapid Peering, in Birds" by Joseph Grinnell. Visiting ornithologists will be able to join in the various excursions which are being planned in connection with the general meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Eugene Law are doing vertebrate field work again this summer in the Chiricahua Mountains, southeastern Arizona. Mr. Donald D. McLean is serving as Mr. Law's assistant, and the party keeps in touch with the outside world through the kind offices of our fellow Cooper Club member at Dos Cabezas, Mr. Frank H. Hands.

We are not infrequently called upon to recommend a few of "the best" books on birds for a beginning student to own, said student being of the type who is ambitious to qualify in due time as a serious ornithologist. Of course the number must be strictly limited and the factor of scholarly standards be kept foremost in consideration. Here are the four works we have, on occasion, nominated: Coues' "Key to North American Birds"; Newton's "Dictionary of Birds"; Pycraft's "History of Birds"; Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds" (with Bent's continuation of the same so far as it has appeared). Perhaps someone else will have different ideas on this score. We invite comment.

Various interesting bits of news have come to the ears of the Editors lately and some of them we hereby pass along. Mr. Harry Harris, of Kansas City, is reported to be at work upon a biographical index to the *Ibis*. There is also a persistent rumor current to the effect that Missouri is to lose Mr. Harris,—California to be the gainer. Part II of Mr. A. C. Bent's "Life Histories" is in press, and the manuscript of Part III is completed. The Treganzas (Mr. and Mrs. A. O.) are actively promoting popular interest in birds among the boy scouts, clubs, and schools of Salt Lake City. Prof.

Arthur A. Allen, of Ithaca, has had remarkable success the past spring in rearing broods of Ruffed Grouse. Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin has recorded further startling revelations this summer concerning the domestic relations of the house wrens on his place near Cleveland. Mr. R. H. Beck is giving a good account of himself among the South Sea islands, whence he has already shipped in to the American Museum of Natural History several consignments of rare bird skins.

## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

SAUNDERS ON THE BIRDS OF MONTANA.\*—This report, the first complete notice of the birds of Montana, consists mainly of an annotated list of all species of recent birds known to have occurred within the State. The main list numbers 332 species and subspecies, including all currently recognized indigenous forms known to occur. Species noticed under secondary headings are as follows: Recently Extinct Species, one (Passenger Pigeon); Introduced Species, four; and Hypothetical List, thirteen, species which have been recorded but the status of which is questioned, owing to possible errors in identification. There is also presented a supplemental list of nine subspecies which have been described but are not generally considered as valid.

We consider this report to be one of the best lists ever prepared for a western State. The allocation of old records, by no means an easy matter, seems to have been exceptionally well done, and the very large amount of field work accomplished by the author places to his credit a much greater proportion of the notes than is usual in such undertakings. Its appearance places the ornithology of Montana on a basis far in advance of similar work in any other of the larger and more sparsely settled States, with the exception of Arizona, and many years are likely to elapse before a more complete exposition of the bird life of the State appears.

The introductory part comprises about twenty-five pages. The introduction proper,

\*A Distributional List of the Birds of Montana, with Notes on the Migration and Nesting of the Better Known Species. By Aretas A. Saunders. Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 14. 194 pages; 1 map and numerous figures. Published by the Cooper Ornithological Club, Berkeley, California, Feb. 1, 1921.