

## RECORD OF BIRDS BANDED

(Bands: 28811-28819, 48101-48119, 52201-52230, 56421, 56426.)

J. E. Law, at Berkeley, Calif., February 22 to March 25, 1921:

*Zonotrichia coronata*, (3) 52206,-10,-11.*Junco oreganus* (subsp.), (12), 48101-48112.*Passerella i. fuliginosa*, (2) 52207,-09.*Passerella i. sinuosa*, (1) 52204.

At Bluff Lake, San Bernardino Mts., Calif., August 21 to 30, 1921:

*Junco o. thurberi*, (9) 48113-48119, 52212,-13.*Passerella i. stephensi*, (1) 52219.*Pipilo c. crissalis*, (4) 52201,-02,-08, 56426.*Pipilo m. falcifer*, (2) 52203,-05.*Ixoreus naevius* (subsp.), (1) 56421.*Oreospiza chlorura*, (25) 28811-28819, 52214-52218, 52220-52230.

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

It seems curious, when one comes to think of it, how prevalent has become the notion among amateur observers of birds that the field-glass is an indispensable part of their equipment. There is, to be sure, no question but that the field-glass is very helpful to many individual observers, and that for purposes of patient and *detailed* study of the behavior of birds in the wild it is truly essential to the few persons who engage in such close studies. But the claim that the field-glass is at all "necessary" to the average run of field observers is, we believe, unjustified. We even aver that addiction to the use of the instrument in question is a hindrance rather than a help in the enjoyment of birds out-of-doors, as well as in the gathering of many of the facts of scientific value concerning them. Our point is that birds out-of-doors are things that in better degree than most other living beings can be seen and watched with the unaided human eye. And what humans need right now is to exercise their senses of sight and hearing in normal fashion—to get away from all those artificialities which go to make up the oppressing burden of "civilization". Bird study afield should take its place as a wholly *natural* recreation, because the nervous and muscular activities which it brings into play are of primitive sorts. Their exercise will tend to restore the proper balance of mind and body, in just so far as they are used in a perfectly normal way. The use of glasses, save in cases of injury or disease on the part of the observer, detracts from the full measure of benefit to be derived. As regards the element of sport in identifying species, there is surely far more "good fun" in naming the birds without the use of any artificial device. Furthermore, the person who is dependent only on his naked eye can make a bigger census both of individuals and species. At least, the most accurate and at the same time rapid bird-counter we know personally,

uses no glasses. And as for gathering facts in regard to behavior of birds, dependence upon glasses means cutting out a lot of the horizon, failure of appreciation of goings on at large while focussed upon details. We have been impressed with the number of things our opera-glass companion did *not* see, at least as much as with the number of things he said he saw that we without glasses had failed to see!

Attention is directed to Mr. Law's note upon bird banding on page 196 of this issue. Here is a method of bird study that should appeal to those who wish to contribute observations of value, yet without killing birds. The possibilities of such work have already been well demonstrated by Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin (see his *Bird Banding by Means of Systematic Trapping*, Proceedings Linnaean Society of New York, December, 1919; Recent Returns from Trapping and Banding Birds, *Auk*, April, 1921, pp. 228-237; *The Marriage Relations of the House Wren*, *idem*, pp. 237-244). The United States Biological Survey stands ready to cooperate with anyone taking up the work, and THE CONDOR, through Mr. Law, will supply space in its columns for the record of birds as banded locally and of banded birds later recorded.

In building their new home, at Jennings Lake, near Portland, Oregon, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Finley have provided a concrete vault for the safe housing of films and records. Their collections now contain close to 200,000 feet of movie negative of birds and mammals, as well as some 10,000 still-life negatives. Last spring and early summer were spent in southern California where some good pictures were secured.

A most deplorable piece of bad luck happened to Mr. Allan Brooks the past summer, of which we only recently heard in a

roundabout manner. Fire broke out in his workshop at Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, and destroyed a part of his ornithological collections including some 2000 skins gathered in his boyhood years. Mr. Brooks's hands were pretty badly burned, but their recovery has been rapid and practically complete, so that his capacity for drawing is in no degree lessened, as might have been feared.

The index to the current volume of THE CONDOR appearing in this issue was prepared by Mr. J. R. Pemberton in his usual painstaking manner. To him we extend our best thanks.

The National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C., has issued as its First Memoir, Volume XVI, a brochure entitled "Lower California and Its Natural Resources"; author, Edward W. Nelson, Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey. The contribution is of quarto size and comprises 112 pages and 35 plates. Our copy was received July 5, 1921. Rarely have we read a more fascinating work, for it was written by a true naturalist, based upon personal field experience, and is a straightforward, informative account. In 1905 and 1906 Dr. Nelson accompanied by Mr. E. A. Goldman traversed the entire peninsula of Lower California, their route being shown on an excellent map constituting one of the plates in the report under review. Topography, climate, plant life, animal life, faunal districts, life zones, history of explorations, and agricultural features are among the topics dealt with. The splendid photographic reproductions supplement the text. Lists of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians are given for the different areas. And there is a colored map of the life zones. The paper terminates with a very full bibliography of titles relating in general to Lower California, and to its vertebrate zoology in particular. Because of the immediate contiguity of the territory covered by Dr. Nelson's monograph, ornithologists in the southwestern United States will want to acquaint themselves promptly with this notable contribution.

The death of Judge Edward Wall occurred at San Bernardino, California, September 23, 1921. He was born in the same city, June 29, 1873. "Ed" Wall, as he was familiarly known, was one of the early members of the Cooper Ornithological Club, back in the 90's, though his membership subsequently lapsed for a time. In those early years he was one of the "collecting fraternity" which thrived in the neighborhood of Riverside, Redlands and San Bernardino, and from whose ranks came several men of

recent scientific eminence. Ed Wall, however, specialized in journalism and in the law, in which fields he won marked recognition. For the past six years or so, Judge Wall's early inclinations toward bird study were reasserting themselves, as attested by reaffiliation with the Club (in 1913) and by articles which have appeared under his authorship in THE CONDOR.

Mr. C. de Blois Green spent some weeks during the past summer upon Porcher Island, near Prince Rupert, British Columbia, in search mainly of eggs of the Marbled Murrelet. He was successful in learning hitherto unknown facts regarding the breeding of this elusive though common bird, the eggs of which have not yet, to our knowledge, been taken.

Part XII (vol. II, pp. 257-352, pl. 6) of Witherby's "Practical Handbook of British Birds" was published on October 5, 1921. In all respects, the issuance of this work begun some three years ago is proceeding according to announcement (see Condor, XXI, 1919, p. 174). Six more parts are in prospect. The present installment includes most of the ducks, and from the American standpoint is of special interest as affording detailed description of the eclipse plumage in many of our own species and as discussing the status of American and Old World races where such occur. For example, the American Pintail is commented upon under the accepted name *Anas acuta tzitzihoa*.

Mr. R. H. Palmer, formerly of Pocatello, Idaho, and more recently of the University of Washington, Seattle, has gone to the City of Mexico, where he has received a commission to carry on geological work for the Mexican Government. He plans to embrace the opportunity of doing some ornithological collecting as well.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

FIRST INSTALLMENTS OF DAWSON'S BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA.—The first two "parts" of "The Birds of California", by William Leon Dawson, reached our office on February 23 and March 16, respectively. Each part comprises 64 pages of main text, the two together being paged continuously from 1 to 128, inclusive. There is naturally as yet no title page to be cited; the covers with their announcements are to be considered merely temporary—in the nature of publisher's advertising, as is the customary thing in similar cases.

In addition to numerous half-tone illus-