

which are widely scattered, often effectively hidden, in various publications other than the regular ornithological journals.

Ornithological work we happen to know to be in progress relative to western North America includes the following: By Joseph Mailliard, further studies on the local migrations and distribution of birds in the northwest coast district of California; by Walter P. Taylor and Prof. W. T. Shaw, the distribution and habits of the birds of Washington; by Joseph Grinnell and Tracy I. Storer, the natural history of Yosemite birds; by Allan Brooks and Harry S. Swarth, the distribution and systematic status of the birds of British Columbia; by Donald R. Dickey and A. J. van Rossem, the systematic status of various birds of southern California; by J. Eugene Law, the birds of the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona; by Loye H. Miller, the fossil birds of the McKittrick asphalt deposits; by Joseph Grinnell, the birds of Death Valley.

An editorial in the Berkeley "Gazette" for April 24, 1922, is so good, the points made appeal to us as so well taken, that we give the gist of it here. "The Department of Agriculture is now experimenting with various kinds of gas as a means of destroying noxious insects, mammals and birds. . . . A test is to be made, probably with chlorine, on the destructive blackbirds of the Imperial Valley. The plan is to overwhelm them with a gas cloud at night while they are roosting in the marshes. Other plans contemplate the slaughter of grasshoppers, locusts, etc., by similar clouds, used precisely as the gas was used against hostile armies. It is a hopeful adaptation of destructive weapons to constructive purpose, but one to be used with extreme caution. Aside from the danger to the wielder of the weapon, there is the same objection to gas in peace as in war—it is likely to kill noncombatants along with enemies. This is true alike of mammals, birds and insects. The gas may annihilate them all, the beneficent along with the rest, and often it is difficult to say in which class any particular creature belongs. Many a well-meant effort at riddance of a pest has brought a worse evil, by interfering ignorantly with the fine balance of nature. Any farmer contemplating a gas-cloud assault along his crop front had better wait until the experimenting has gone farther."

Everyone who has any sympathetic regard for the sport of bird photography should see the illustrated article by Robert B. Rockwell and Clark Blickensderfer, in *Natural History* (American Museum of Natural History, New York, xxi, 1921, pp. 626-638). Remarkable success was won by

these men in picturing the home life of the elusive Saw-whet Owl in the mountains of Colorado. The eighteen excellent photographs published with the article betoken a degree of patience and skill that only a person who has made attempts along similar lines can fully appreciate.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

PHILIPPINE BIRDS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. By Richard C. McGregor and Elizabeth J. Marshall; with illustrations by Macario Ligaya. Manila (Bureau of Printing), pp. 1-138, many plates (colored) and text figures.

Thirty presumably common species of Philippine birds are treated in brief chapters, giving for each certain outstanding features of its life history. The book is written "for boys and girls", as indicated by the title, and apparently for very small boys and girls. Brief appendices giving additional information regarding the birds described, and with references to bird literature, will be valuable to teachers using the volume as a text book. This is a new departure for the senior author, in rather startling contrast to the technical articles with which we are used to associate his name. It brings to the mind one feature of a cartoon that appeared in *THE CONDOR* of March, 1901.—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on April 27, 1922, at 8 p. m. President Swarth was in the chair, and the following members were present: Mesdames Allen, Bennet, Blake, Bogle, Culver, Davenport, Flinn, Grinnell, Mead, Reygadas, Thomson and Van Gaasbeek; Messrs. Bell, Dixon, Evermann, Grinnell, Willard Grinnell, Mailliard, Miller, Storer, Strong, Torrey and White. Among the visitors were Mrs. Evermann, Mr. and Mrs. Hagedoorn, Mrs. Thomson and Prof. Kingsley.

After the reading and approval of the March minutes, the minutes of the Southern Division for February and March were read. Mr. Vernon L. Tenney, 2536 Etna Street, Berkeley, was proposed for membership by Dr. William F. Bade.

Professor Kingsley then gave an account of naturalists he had known, using photographs for illustrative material. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.