

sists of Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, of the United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., Chairman, representing the American Ornithologists' Union; Mr. Harry Harris, Box 123, Eagle Rock, California, representing the Cooper Ornithological Club; and Mr. Percival B. Coffin, 39 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois, representing the Wilson Ornithological Club.

The active campaign for the fund is about to be launched, and all persons interested in wild life conservation as well as all bird lovers are urged to contribute. Let us all thus assure the perpetuation of Bird Haven as a wild life refuge and at the same time repay our debt to Robert Ridgway. Remittances should be made out to the Ridgway Memorial Fund and may be sent to any member of the above mentioned committee; but California contributions should all be sent to Mr. Harry Harris, Box 123, Eagle Rock, California.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS OF WESTERN CANADA, by P. A. TAVERNER. (Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, Canada; Museum Bulletin no. 41; Biological series, no. 10; September 15, 1926; 380 pp., 84 colored plates, 315 text figs. Prices: 75 cents, paper cover; \$1.25, cloth.)

This will take its place as companion volume to the same author's previously published "Birds of Eastern Canada", the two together forming a satisfactory manual to the birds of that whole immense country. "Birds of Western Canada" covers the region from the Ontario-Manitoba boundary westward, including every species known to have occurred there. The book was prepared primarily as a "popular" manual, to convey information to an intelligent public, but one knowing little or nothing of the technicalities of ornithology. This purpose in the main has been excellently carried out; in fact the few criticisms that have suggested themselves to the reviewer are of such minor points and of such slight moment that there seems no need of dwelling upon most of them.

Introductory pages outlining the purpose and scope of the book are followed by explanatory comments upon such subjects as classification, nomenclature, geographical distribution, migration, the varied methods of bird study, and ornithological literature. A "key to the birds of western Canada" precedes the general accounts of the species. Under each species

are found in small type: the English name, scientific name, total length in inches and decimals, a brief description of the species (sometimes omitted when there is an illustration), "distinctions" (the salient points of the species as seen in specimens in the hand), "field marks" (features to be used in identifying the living bird), a brief description of the nest and its situation, "distribution", and, where more than one form is concerned, brief comments upon the several subspecific races. The large-type paragraphs deal mostly with features of the life history and of the economic status of the bird. Of the numerous colored plates, the majority are by Allan Brooks. The line drawings found throughout the text, in excellent supplement to the printed descriptions, are, I believe, mostly, if not altogether, the work of the author himself. A surprisingly large number of species are figured in the colored plates. Each plate includes two pictures. In some cases a picture includes two species or subspecies, and, wherever more than one figure of the same species appears, different plumages are shown. Although the pictures are small the artist's skill has brought out the salient points to be emphasized, and as the engraver, too, has done his work well, these illustrations are all that could be desired.

As the author emphatically states in his introduction, the Latin name, as here used, is always binomial. Subspecies are not accorded formal entry but are subordinated to mention in an explanatory paragraph. For the most part this is well enough; whether it will be entirely satisfactory remains to be seen. As examples of questionable treatment, the author's adherence to the rulings of the A. O. U. Committee on nomenclature obliges him to lump under single heads such widely diverse birds as the Slate-colored and Oregon Juncos, the several White-crowned Sparrows, and the equally diverse subspecies of Fox Sparrows and of Song Sparrows. Now, however the scientist may individually regard "degree of difference" as a criterion for specific separation, there is no doubt that the lay observer who turns to a "popular manual" for information will not be aware that there is any other criterion to apply. He will be puzzled, and some of us, who, for example, believe that the afore-mentioned Juncos are two distinct species, will sympathize with him. However, I am by no means inclined to quarrel with the author in his manner of meeting the difficulties

of nomenclature; quite the contrary, for in such a publication as this subspecies should unquestionably be accorded a very subordinate position. Mr. Taverner may, in fact, in this instance, ride his own particular hobby with little danger of colliding with any one. If he is in fault at all in the details mentioned—a debatable question—it lies in his attempt to follow consistently the rulings of some one accepted authority.

In any event, the user of the book will probably find it remarkably satisfactory in giving him the name and other information about the birds he sees. Too much can not be said in praise of a governmental policy that places a volume like this within reach of every one interested in the subject. It is a book for practical use, and it is also a beautiful volume, to be cherished in any library.—H. S. SWARTH, *Berkeley, California, November 27, 1926.*

BOOK NEWS.—A. L. Thomson's "Problems of Bird-migration", of which we spoke enthusiastically last year (*Condor*, xxviii, pp. 186-187), has now been issued by an American publisher (Houghton Mifflin Company of Boston, 1926, price \$5.00). In our estimation this book supplants everything else to date as an authoritative digest of the facts and theories of bird migration.

H. E. and A. H. Walters' "Wild Birds in City Parks" has just appeared in its "Twelfth Edition, Revised" (The MacMillan Company of New York, 1926, price \$1.50). Evidently this book meets a popular demand, and scrutiny of it shows it to possess an exceptional degree of excellence, in its class, on both instructional and factual scores.

A book of obvious value to the aviculturist is Emilius Hopkinson's "Records of Birds Bred in Captivity" (H. F. & G. Witherby of London, 1926, price 15 s.). Also from the geneticist's point of view is this book of interest, in recording a great number of hybrids, some of astonishingly diverse parentage, such as the two *families*, the Weavers and Finches (though perhaps not on the best of evidence—see page 192).—J. G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the Museum of Verte-

brate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, on August 26, 1926, at 8:00 P. M. President Allen was in the chair and about seventy-five members and guests were present. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Reading of the minutes of the Southern Division for July was omitted.

As chairman of the committee appointed by the President, Mr. Swarth read the following resolutions and moved that they be adopted:

INASMUCH as in the death of Augustus Sayre Kibbe on August 21, 1926, the Cooper Ornithological Club has suffered the loss of a member who, in an unobtrusive way, had proved himself an important factor in the well-being and progress of the Club; upon whom we had learned especially to depend for sane and practical guidance in all matters concerned with wild life conservation; and who stood deservedly high in the esteem and affection of all of us; be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club hereby place on record this statement of our feeling of grief at the loss we have sustained, and of sympathy with Mrs. Kibbe in the sorrow that has come to her; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary convey to Mrs. Kibbe a copy of these resolutions.

(Signed) Harry S. Swarth, Harold C. Bryant, Barton Warren Evermann, Committee.

Dr. Bade seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

Mr. E. Raymond Hall reported seeing a Poor-will in Strawberry Canyon. Mr. R. H. Palmer reported having been told, when in the state of Washington last summer, of a sea bird which divides its time daily between the ocean and the mountain glaciers forty miles inland and asked if anyone could give him a clue as to the identity of the bird. Mr. George Haley advanced the theory that the birds may seek the glaciers in order to feed upon "glacier worms", annelids once believed to be mythical but now, according to Mr. Haley, given their rightful place by zoologists. Beyond this hint, Mr. Palmer's problem remained without elucidation.

Mr. Joseph Dixon presented the evening's program, telling "The Surf-bird's Secret". A splendid series of lantern slides illustrated the speaker's description of the mist-drenched mountain ridges of the McKinley National Park, where the father Surf-bird rears his young close by the trails of mountain sheep. At the close of the meeting all the oologists present were afforded an opportunity to see the first set of Surf-bird's eggs to be recorded, eggs now the property of Mr. John E. Thayer of Lancaster, Massachusetts, whose enthusiasm and financial aid helped make possible the expedition which resulted in their discovery.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary.*