

farther from it, in such a place as Wild Cat Canyon, I do not know. Finding of the Santa Cruz Song Sparrow is worthy of note because no bird remains were found in the pellets from Wild Cat Canyon.

The nature of the food of the Barn Owls living in the church tower indicates that they fed in the Berkeley Hills to the eastward. At his home at 300 Panoramic Way, which is at the eastern margin of the residential district and well up on the west side of the Berkeley Hills, the writer has heard as many as seventeen Barn Owls pass over, or near, his house on a summer's evening. All these birds were flying east or west, never, so far as noted, north or south, thus suggesting that they were birds making trips between their foraging-grounds in the hills and their young at roosts in the city. Indeed, on two occasions, a Barn Owl was seen carrying some mammal of pocket gopher size westward down the hill. These facts and knowledge of the existence of several occupied roosts of Barn Owls in buildings on or near the University of California Campus argues the existence of a large local population of these birds. Probably these owls are less seriously molested by man than those in the open territory outside the city limits; for these latter, as on occasion the writer has seen, provide irresistible targets for hunters. Taking account of the large area in the East Bay region that is built up and that provides shelter and nesting sites for this concentrated population of Barn Owls, it is conceivable that the rodent population in the Berkeley Hills, especially in the territory immediately adjacent to the eastern city limits, would be appreciably reduced by the foraging activities of these birds.

It is a fact that meadow mice are fewer along the eastern city limits than farther east. Near the crest of the Berkeley Hills, from one to one and one-half miles east of the city limits of Berkeley, counts of individuals of California Meadow Mice, seen per hour of walking during afternoons and evenings, indicate a population three times as dense as similar counts indicate to exist at most places within one-half mile of the city limits where Barn Owls frequently have been seen foraging. It is not, of course, known that Barn Owls alone are responsible for the lesser number of mice in the area mentioned; in fact, it is inferred that they alone are not responsible. For one thing, cats are more numerous about the city limits than one or two miles outside, and they feed partly on mice. Nevertheless, the Barn Owls constitute one of the conspicuous factors limiting the mouse population.

Just what human values attach to this interrelation, I am not certain; but the utilitarian-minded will infer that this belt, with a relatively small meadow mouse population along the city limits, functions as a protection to the well-watered, green lawns in the city. These lawns the meadow mice would seriously damage during the dry season, if a sufficient population could exist in proximity to them. Thus a possible conclusion is that, in Berkeley, a sufficient population of Barn Owls is one factor in maintaining attractive lawns!—E. RAYMOND HALL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, September 8, 1927.*

Notes from the Three Barkerville Banding Stations.—The banding stations of this promising group, described by Mr. McCabe in the July, 1927, number of *THE CONDOR*, already have furnished some notes worthy of record.

Under date of May 5, 1927, Mr. J. D. Cochran writes: "The condition of the spring birds in this locality may be of interest. During April 16, 17 and 18 we experienced a bad storm, the thermometer dropping to two below zero. The Game Warden reported many dead birds along his route, though we found only two near our feeding station; perhaps this was due to the fact that we fed very heavily and did no trapping for banding during the storm. In both cases the bird found dead was empty of crop and very poor, apparently having just arrived. Birds banded previous to the storm had some difficulty with the ice and snow balling up on the band; however, I discovered no ill results from it.

"During the ten years in which we have afforded the birds a feeding station we have never before seen such a variety in attendance. Although the spring is late, according to our records dating back ten years, the birds are arriving at their usual time. So far we have banded 100 Gray-crowned Leucostictes, besides a number of Gambel Sparrows, Song Sparrows and a few other birds."

Writing on June 8, 1927, Mr. T. T. McCabe says that during the month following their return from California, April 7 to May 7, Mrs. McCabe and he banded about 1100

birds; and Mr. Edwards recently had an S. O. S. call for an emergency supply of bands, so they must be keeping up the good work. Mr. McCabe writes: "Yesterday we rode twenty-three miles, largely through willow, and it is no exaggeration to say that for every twenty yards there was a Rufous Hummingbird, many of them doing their amazing courtship performance. Whether it is a case of arrested migration (the spring has been very late) or whatever the cause, this is a year out of a century as far as birds go." In a later letter Mr. McCabe reports that between 300 and 400 birds have been banded this spring at the station of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wendle.

These stations are doing splendid work. We are looking forward to valuable results in regard to the movements of their birds from station to station, and we strongly hope that they will get some of the birds banded at southern stations and vice-versa. Already Mr. Cochran reports the recapture at his station of a Junco which had been banded at the McCabe station eighteen miles away.—HAROLD MICHENER, 418 Elm Avenue, Pasadena, California, July 22, 1927.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Our fellow member, Mrs. F. T. Bicknell, of Los Angeles, has brought forward an issue which should interest bird students, generally, whether or not resident in California. As yet, there is no "state bird" for California. Kansas has the Meadowlark, Texas has the Mockingbird; what bird should be named as California's State Bird? We have heard numerous suggestions already; and we have our own ideas. Among the candidates mentioned the California Condor looms; but this bird is not associated in the layman's mind with the poppies! No doubt whatsoever the Wren-tit is ornithologically the most unique bird of California; but it is not widely known to the bird-loving public. The Canyon Wren is another suggested species; but it is of exceedingly local occurrence, and therefore known to but few people. Now, as an undoubtedly useful step toward the ultimate selection of a State Bird for California, the Editor of THE CONDOR hereby invites a postal card vote from members of the Cooper Ornithological Club everywhere. Nominate your choice and send your nomination to THE CONDOR Editor, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, not later than January 1, 1928. Give, briefly, reasons that you would urge for your candidate. In the following number of THE CONDOR we will give the result of the vote and a summary of the reasons.

For the past several years we have received greatly appreciated assistance in preparing the annual index to THE CONDOR from Mr. Frank N. Bassett. This year, Mr. Bassett was excused from this service, on excellent grounds; and we had to seek help elsewhere. To Mrs. Amelia S. Allen we are indebted for preparation

of the Index to Volume XXIX, appearing as part of the present number.

Americans have welcomed the opportunity this fall of making the personal acquaintance of several world known ornithologists from abroad. Various ornithological centers on both coasts have been visited by Mr. Jean Delacour of Paris, Mr. M. U. Hachisuka of Tokyo, and Mr. Gregory M. Mathews of London. It has been a real pleasure to meet these accomplished gentlemen. Also, the conversations held have availed much of practical benefit. Exchange of views has measureably enlarged our own grasp of certain general questions in our field of science.

Our January issue, already in press, will be the largest single number in the history of our magazine. It will be occupied largely by Mr. Harry Harris's exhaustive "Biography of Robert Ridgway", this to be accompanied by fifty illustrations. This contribution, we are confident, is literarily and historically of high order of merit and will be widely read and appreciated, especially by the hosts of friends and admirers of Mr. Ridgway himself.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

HENDERSON'S "PRACTICAL VALUE OF BIRDS".*—This volume proves to be the most useful book yet available for supplying information in economic ornithology. The tenor throughout is calm, sane, non-sentimental. There is no element of disputation; indeed, moot ground appears to

* The | Practical Value | of Birds | by | Junius Henderson | Professor of Natural History and Curator of Museum, | University of Colorado | New York | The Macmillan Company | 1927; demy 8vo, pp. xii + 342; \$2.50. Our copy purchased August 9, 1927.