

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 measurably 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.

have been pretty well avoided, or else differing opinions are cited without sides being taken. A vast amount of basic detail is given in small compass; and this is fortified by an abundance of original citations, together with an exhaustive terminal bibliography.

Professor Henderson gives a broad interpretation of the word "practical": "Whatever tends to make the world better and happier; whatever ministers to the esthetic longings of the human soul; whatever leads the thoughts of men and women for the moment from the sordid pursuit of gain or from the race for personal aggrandizement to beauty in any form; whatever entices tired and care-worn people for a time from the shop, or office, or store, or mine, or quarry, and brings them into closer contact with the beauty, grace and charm of things out-of-doors; is of direct material value to the human race, even though that value may not be measureable in yards, acres, tons, bushels or dollars." With this definition everyone, surely, will heartily agree.

The reader finds the work of special students of the food of birds, such as McAtee, Beal, Kalmbach and Wetmore, summarized, so that essentials are available in small space. The author has also gone through the entire literature relating to this subject with extreme thoroughness. The reviewer knows pretty well, for instance, the content of the 28 volumes of THE CONDOR, and he has been unable to recall anything really important that is omitted and that should have been considered in a book of the present nature. For example, we find reference to Bassett's observation of siskins shelling grubs from leaf-galls; to McGregor's observation of woodpeckers as fly-catchers; to Law's record of a Road-runner killing a Golden-crowned Sparrow in a bird trap; to Tyler's itemization of the food of Barn Owls; and to Wyman's interesting case of a Red-tailed Hawk capturing pigeons. In Henderson's book we have an excellent illustration of how widely scattered observations may be gathered together into one volume where available in connection with a single field of significant fact and special bearing.

In a book of less than 350 pages the reader cannot expect to find exhaustive treatment of all of the numerous subjects dealt with. But we do find a fair digest, as well as a guide to numerous sources. Some of the subjects summarized are as follows: the balance of nature; the function of birds in nature; complete protec-

tion of birds not desirable; birds as enemies of injurious mammals; birds as disease carriers; remedies. These are only a few of the chapter headings.

Henderson's book is not one that will appeal to the sentimental bird lover. It will, however, meet in admirable measure the needs of the general ornithologist, the teacher of biology in colleges and high schools, the forest zoologist, and the economic entomologist.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California, August 12, 1927.*

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, on August 25, 1927, at 8:00 p. m. In the absence of president and vice-president, Mr. Lastreto was asked to occupy the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for July were read.

The following proposals for membership were made: Mary S. Albro, 1801 Highland Place, Berkeley, California, proposed by Susan E. Chattin; Ruth E. Bailey, 1022 Spruce Street, Berkeley, by Wm. E. Ritter; William H. Burt, Berkeley, by E. Raymond Hall; Jean Delacour, Chateau de Clères, Seine Inférieure, France, by Margaret W. Wythe; Masa Ujii Hachisuka, Mita Shiba, Tokyo, Japan, by Margaret W. Wythe; Mrs. Vivian Reif, 2033 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, by Roswell S. Wheeler; Josephine E. Smith, 1801 Highland Place, Berkeley, by Margaret W. Wythe; R. A. Stirton, Berkeley, by E. Raymond Hall; George C. Wood, Danville, California, by J. Grinnell.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly reported the nesting of White-throated Swifts at Leona Heights Quarry, near Oakland, and stated that at least twelve of the birds had been seen. Mr. H. S. Swarth spoke briefly of Thomas Bridges, of the part he carried in the growth of early California ornithology, and of his death at sea on September 9, 1865, and his burial in an unmarked grave in San Francisco. Mr. Swarth stated that he had been urged by Dr. Theodore S. Palmer to bring before the Northern Division the suggestion that certain scientific societies about the Bay unite to erect a suitable memorial above the grave. Mrs. Kibbe stated that the Audubon Association