

A stockman, riding after cattle in the mountains some fifteen miles southwest of Caliente, found many of these birds helplessly marooned in the snow. A few scattered individuals (probably of the same species) were found as far south and west as Las Vegas, Nevada. A high school teacher of Enterprise, Utah—some forty-five miles east and north of Caliente—writes that “several hundred Grebes dropped in the streets” of Enterprise during this same night. Several hundred more were reported being found in the snow at Uvada and Modena, Utah.

Five specimens of *Colymbus n. californicus* were sent to me from Caliente, Nevada, and Enterprise, Utah. All the fallen birds were regarded as being of this species. However, inasmuch as grebes experience such difficulty in rising from the land, many of those that flew on south may have been some other species of waterfowl. Those that did not fly off were often observed picking feathers from their breasts and eating them. They were fat; however, nothing but feathers was found in the stomachs of those examined.

It is only conjecture to say from which bodies of water the birds left to go on this fatal migratory flight. Possibly many came from the area of the Bear River Marshes and Great Salt Lake, Utah. The writer observed many grebes there in November. As the marshes became frozen over the birds may have gone farther out on the saline water of the Great Salt Lake to feed upon brine shrimps. The fresh-water lakes of northern and central Utah were frozen over two or three weeks prior to this flight of the grebes.

It would be interesting to speculate as to the causes of such a general and complete migration. The evening of December 12, the air was comparatively warm and still. By midnight a general and heavy snowstorm set in. The birds appeared to be in large flocks and were probably following down the Meadow Valley Wash on their way to the Pacific coast of southern California or to some inland lake near there. The bright lights of the railroad yards at Caliente may have attracted them there.

This unusual occurrence seems further to indicate that the grebes are much more numerous in the west than we had hitherto believed they were. It further points to the fact that they often migrate at night time. It also shows that many are very late migrants.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, January 21, 1929.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The fourth annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in San Francisco and Berkeley, on Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18, 1929. Sessions for the presentation of papers will be held in the mornings and afternoons, and the evening schedule includes the annual meeting of the Board of Governors and a dinner for members of the Club and visitors. The scientific sessions on May 17 will be held in the Auditorium of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and those of May 18 on the Campus of the University of California at Berkeley. An art exhibit of natural history subjects will be included in the attractions of the meeting. Members expecting to attend are asked to notify the Committee of this fact, on the blanks which shortly will be mailed to them. Those who expect to present papers are asked to give for each

the exact title and the time required, and to indicate whether lantern slides or motion pictures are to accompany the paper. Lantern and film projection facilities will be provided at the meetings. If the supply of papers is in excess of the allotted time for reading and discussion the Committee will reserve the right to limit papers to a maximum of 15 minutes and contributors to a single appearance on the program. The Committee in charge will be glad to arrange for field trips to points of ornithological interest in the San Francisco Bay region, provided a sufficient number of members or guests are interested. At the annual meeting of the Board of Governors it is hoped that the articles of incorporation, which will place the Club in position to receive bequests, will be acted upon finally. Further information on the annual meeting may be obtained from either of the following

Committee members: T. I. Storer, University Farm, Davis (chairman); H. S. Swarth, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco (program); Loye Miller, 6066 Hayes Avenue, Los Angeles (president Board of Governors); or J. Grinnell, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley (finance).

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

**THE BIRDS OF NEW MEXICO\*** by Florence Merriam Bailey will be consulted by many appreciative readers even outside the confines of the state to which it is nominally restricted, for it is in fact a reference book to the birds of the southwestern United States. In make-up it is about as follows: The sequence of entry of Orders and Families is that recently adopted by the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union; the names used are ("with some exceptions") those in the 1910 edition of the A. O. U. Check-list and its three supplements. Under each species and subspecies there is first a heading, with the English name emphasized, then eight-point introductory paragraphs covering such subjects as "description," "range" (that is, entire habitat), "state records," "nest," and "food," then "general habits," in ten-point type, and finally an eight-point paragraph listing "additional literature." The subject matter under the several headings is, of course, elaborated or condensed in accordance with the local importance of the species and with the amount of information available. Introductory chapters deal with "distribution of birds of New Mexico," "zonal distribution of breeding birds," "value of birds to the state," "national and state refuges and state organizations for the conservation of wild life," "birds first described from New Mexico," "fossil birds found in New Mexico," "location of collec-

tions made in New Mexico," "itineraries and reports of field work in the state," "localities visited by observers," and "glossary of technical terms."

Mrs. Bailey's years of study of western birds and her extensive field observations in the Southwest have thus yielded an abundant harvest. The book is well planned and well executed, and will assuredly be useful and a source of pleasure to those who refer to it. The descriptive matter, while not in such detail as in more technical works, is well presented and is perfectly adequate, especially in conjunction with the numerous illustrations; the historical chapters, dealing with expeditions long past and recent, with localities, and with individuals, contain a wealth of pertinent information; and the sections on "general habits" permit the author to depict in her usual happy vein her reactions to the actual presence and companionship of the birds she loves so well.

There is an abundance of illustrations, well chosen as supplementary to and as elaborating the descriptive printed matter. The outstanding illustrative feature lies in the 24 colored plates of birds, one by Fuertes, the remainder by Brooks, all made for this publication. They are the beautiful and accurate bird portraits that we are accustomed to see produced by these artists, and in addition, in the many cases where but one or two species are portrayed on one plate, the birds fit into pictures, charming bits of Southwestern landscape, that are calculated to make any exiled old-timer of the region homesick upon sight.

In any book of this nature, running to some 800 pages, there are bound to be details open to criticism, but in the *Birds of New Mexico*, with the best of intentions, we found so few of these of any moment, and, at that, so few that could not be said to be debatable, that we prefer to leave them for the most part unmentioned. We do wish, though, that the bibliography with which the book concludes had been rigidly confined to titles pertinent to New Mexico, and that the many supplementary citations had been handled differently. We wish, too (an inconsequential detail), that *Buteo lineatus elegans* had been omitted; its inclusion we are sure is a glaring error. Finally, we wish that the publisher had given us a book of lighter weight. And with this sop to the fault-finding instinct of the

\*Birds of New Mexico | By | Florence Merriam Bailey | Author of Handbook of Birds of the Western United States | With Contributions by the Late | Wells Woodbridge Cooke | formerly Assistant Biologist of the Biological Survey | Illustrated with Colored Plates by | Allan Brooks | Plates and Text Figures by the Late | Louis Agassiz Fuertes | And Many Other Cuts from Drawings, Photographs, and Maps | based mainly on field work of the Bureau | of Biological Survey, United States | Department of Agriculture | — | Published by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in Cooperation | with the State Game Protective Association and the | Bureau of Biological Survey | 1928; pp. xxiv + 807, 79 pls. (25 in colors), 136 text figs., 60 distribution maps, and 2 diagrams.