

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.

reviewer we hasten to urge anyone interested in Southwestern birds to get this volume, profit by it, and enjoy it.—H. S. SWARTH, *January 7, 1929.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on December 27, 1928, at 8:00 p. m. Vice-president Clabaugh presided, with thirty members and visitors present. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The name of Dr. Theodore Sherman Palmer of Washington, D. C., was proposed for honorary membership in the Club, the proposal being worded as follows:

We, the undersigned members of the Cooper Ornithological Club, hereby propose for Honorary Membership in this organization, Theodore Sherman Palmer of Washington, D. C. We believe that by the election of Dr. Palmer to honorary membership in the Club, our organization would gain merit, and we also believe that Dr. Palmer's long and scholarly identification with the ornithology of western North America justifies our extending to him whatever recognition honorary membership in this Club can confer.

Signed: Joseph Grinnell, Joseph Dixon, Jean M. Linsdale, Ernest D. Clabaugh.

In accordance with a provision of the constitution of the Club final action upon this proposal was deferred until the January meeting of the Division.

The Secretary announced the receipt of a communication from the secretary of the Hayward Memorial Aviarium requesting assistance in the indicated enterprise. Mr. H. S. Swarth reported upon the meeting of the Affiliations Committee of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held in San Francisco on December 14, 1928.

Officers of the Northern Division for 1929 were nominated as follows: President, John G. Tyler, by H. S. Swarth; Vice-president, Ernest D. Clabaugh, by J. Grinnell; Secretary, Hilda W. Grinnell, by Mrs. H. B. Mikesell.

Mr. Swarth reported upon the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held in Charleston, South Carolina, November 20 to 22, 1928. Incidentally he spoke of seeing for the first time the Black Vulture, acquaintance with which he renewed a few days later near Tucson, Arizona. Mr. C. P. Smith spoke also of

his interest in the Black Vulture during a recent Eastern trip and of his observance of its habits as differing from those of the Turkey Vulture. Mr. Clabaugh reported the capture of a Harris Sparrow in his bird trap last December and of another capture this December. Mr. Swarth announced seeing a Mockingbird in Berkeley on December 22, at Ellsworth Street and Bancroft Way.

Dr. Gayle B. Pickwell gave the talk of the evening upon "Reactions of Parent Birds in Nest Protection and Reactions of Young in Self Protection." Dr. Pickwell's talk was illustrated with an excellent series of slides, and his consideration of the selection of territory for nest building, the different phases of parental solicitude, and related topics was most interesting. Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary.*

SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on November 27, 1928, at 8 p. m. in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, with twelve members present and President Chambers presiding. The minutes of the October meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved; those of the Northern Division were read by title only.

The following applications for membership were read: Mrs. Bessie M. Reid, Gulf Refinery, Port Arthur, Texas; and P. O. Fryklund, Roseau, Minnesota; both proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

A communication was read from A. G. Vestal, Secretary, Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, in regard to the meeting of the Affiliations Committee to be held on December 14 in San Francisco. The Secretary was instructed, by a motion that was duly carried, to request the Northern Division to instruct its representatives at this meeting also to represent the Southern Division.

Those present were much disappointed when President Chambers announced that Dr. E. W. Nelson, who had been expected to be the speaker of the evening, was not able to be there. In Dr. Nelson's absence, the meeting was thrown open to general discussion. The program of the recent A. O. U. meeting was looked over and talked about, and a discussion of the ability of birds to take care of them-