

Z8.399). On June 8 a pair was seen feeding at least two young near the mouth of Carter Canyon, and here the species was seen regularly all summer. They inhabited the willows and alders, and until mid-August none was seen in evergreens, which are the dominant trees. T. T. McCabe has identified the specimen taken as of the race *orestera*.

Visher (*Auk*, 27, 1910, p. 286) recorded the "Lutescent" Warbler as breeding in the Santa Catalinas, on the authority of Lusk; but as Visher also claimed to have found it breeding on the desert, the record was ignored.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, December 14, 1934.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club is to be held in Berkeley, Friday and Saturday, May 24 and 25. The Board of Governors and Directors will meet on Friday evening, May 24, at the Faculty Club. A business meeting for members will be held on Saturday at 9 a. m. in the Life Sciences Building, University of California. At this time, matters pertaining to the corporate organization of the Club will be considered, including election of Directors for the ensuing year. Sunday, May 26, is to be free for field trips which the committee on arrangements expects to organize. The scientific program on Friday and Saturday will offer topics of varied interest. Already there are in prospect some excellent contributions. We urge that members favorably disposed begin planning contributions to the program so that they may respond to the call for papers which will be sent out early in April. A large local attendance is anticipated, but we also expect representations from San Diego, Los Angeles, Arizona, Utah and Oregon. Members in the East will find the meeting dates late enough so that attendance can be combined with summer trips at reduced railroad fares.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Chairman, Local Committee, University of California, Berkeley.*

The Nebraska Bird Review with the issue of last October completed its second volume. Under the accurate editorship of Myron H. Swenk it has established its place among the foremost repositories of current North American ornithology. Number 1 of Volume III, February, 1935, of 48 pages, is literally packed with valuable data concerning the birds of Nebraska, contributed by many observers and organized by the editor into accessible form. We are particularly struck by the record of a "flock of between fifty and sixty"

Whooping Cranes which appeared in the fall of 1934 near the Platte River, migrating south. This is cheerful news concerning a species the future of which has been feared for (but see also Swenk, *Nebraska Bird Rev.*, 1, 1933, pp. 111 ff).—J. G.

Volume II of James Lee Peters' "Check-list of Birds of the World" (Harvard University Press, Cambridge) has been out some months (our copy received June 21, 1934), so that there has been time to put it to practical use. It measures up in all respects to the standards of usefulness set in Volume I (see extended notice in *Condor*, 24, 1932, pp. 93 ff). That volume ended with the Falconiformes. The present one includes the Galliformes, Gruiformes and Charadriiformes; it begins with the Mound-builders and ends with the Tufted Puffin. The marked conservatism Peters shows in the delimitation of genera is again to be commended. For example, in the terns, the Least Tern, Sooty Tern and Forster Tern are all listed under the one genus *Sterna*; and among the auklets, the Crested, Least and Whiskered are all put under the one genus *Aethia*. If a bird student enjoys "reading a check-list," here is one that will afford great satisfaction.—J. G.

The attentive student of natural history, who is also concerned for the permanence of the physical and biotic resources of our land, will find much of both philosophic and economic value in a recent article by Walter P. Taylor entitled "Significance of Extreme or Intermittent Conditions in Distribution of Species and Management of Natural Resources . . ." (*Ecology*, 15, 1934, pp. 374 ff). Briefly, Taylor states that "the growth and functioning of an organism is dependent upon the amount of the essential environmental factor presented to it in minimal quantity during the

most critical season of the year, or during the most critical year or years of a climatic cycle." Among his conclusions as to the practical bearings of this law, he gives this one: "In seasons or years of climatic extremes, more than ordinarily conscientious attention should be given to game protection, grazing by livestock, wild-life relations generally (including the influence of insectivorous birds and rodents, as well as of all other forms of wild life), fire protection, and similar problems. Land-use policies, range administration, forest conservation, and game protection should be adjusted not to average conditions, but to those poorer than average, if not to those that are extreme."—J. G.

Habits Research, Bureau of Biological Survey, and his associates spent several seasons in Oregon, California and Utah, studying conditions right on the ground where what was once often called "alkali-poisoning" was manifest. After a full presentation of his subject, Kalmbach states that the one practical remedial measure to be recommended when the disease begins to show itself is to flood the affected mud flats or shallow, stagnant-water areas with deep or flowing water, or else where this is not possible to withhold all water and let those areas completely dry up. The outlook is not encouraging; unless the increasing diversion of water-supply (for irrigation) from favorite wild-fowl areas can be checked—their normal water-supply restored—then "duck sickness will continue to take, even increasingly, its annual devastating toll of western wild fowl."—J. G.



Fig. 22. Margaret Morse Nice, author of the *Birds of Oklahoma* and of numerous papers on the behavior of Song Sparrows and Mourning Doves. Photograph by Bachrach.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

HELLMAYR'S "PART VII" OF THE "CATALOGUE OF BIRDS OF THE AMERICAS" (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., publ. 330, zool. series, vol. XIII, November 15, 1934, pp. vi + 531).—In this exhaustive installment Dr. Charles E. Hellmayr, Associate Curator of Birds at the Field Museum, Chicago, deals with the crows, tits, nuthatches, creepers, wrens, thrashers and thrushes. It thus concerns the systematic status of many of our geographically variable western birds and consequently presses more than most currently appearing publications for detailed notice in the *Condor*.

The general plan of the series, the publication of which was begun by the late Charles B. Cory in 1918, remains about as originally adopted. The synonymies, especially for the South American species and races, are increasingly extensive. Greater pains have been taken to indicate type localities; and in the present installment the location of type specimens is given, whether pertaining to valid names or to synonyms. This must in itself have been a big task, and it has evidently been performed with scholarly care.

A valuable feature of the volume under review is the exhaustive system of footnotes. They occur on practically every page, not infrequently amounting to half the print on the page. In these, the user finds a great deal of critical matter, such as the author's clearly stated reasons why he accepts or rejects dubious forms; de-

Technical Bulletin No. 411, U. S. Department of Agriculture (May, 1934, 82 pp.), is an authoritative treatise which, as indicated by its title, "Western Duck Sickness a Form of Botulism," must prove of prime value to all westerners interested in game preservation. The chief author, Mr. E. R. Kalmbach, of the Division of Food