

of the ground. At dusk, or in the daytime when it is raining, the nuptial flight of the males begins. The species is crepuscular, and thus the flight only occurs in dim light as just before dawn, at dusk, or during a shower, and lasts but two or three days each fall.

In the afternoons of October 14 and 15, 1935, Mr. M. A. Cazier, Mr. F. R. Platt, and I visited Strawberry Canyon, east of the University of California Campus, Berkeley, to collect specimens of this species of scarab. While waiting on a hillside for the flight to begin, I observed several Red-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes cafer collaris*), Coast Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea*), and California Jays (*Aphelocoma c. oocleptica*) perched on the branches of a number of dead eucalyptus trees near-by, facing the setting sun. As soon as the sun disappeared behind Marin Point, across the bay, the pleocoma flight began. Here and there, flying low over the tops of the chaparral shrubs we could observe individual male scarabs. Just as I started after a specimen, one of the California Jays swooped down the canyon and, following the erratic flight of the beetle, snatched it in mid-air and returned with it to one of the dead trees. Thereafter I observed several California Jays, two Coast Jays and three Red-shafted Flickers capture individual beetles in flycatcher fashion. In each case, the bird attained a position behind its intended victim, then, taking up the erratic zigzag course of the beetle, suddenly swooped down and captured it in mid-air. In relatively few instances did the birds miss their prey. After a capture had been made, each bird apparently returned to its original tree to eat its prize before starting in pursuit of another.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, October 17, 1935.*

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NOTES AND NEWS

As this issue of the *Condor* goes to press, word comes of the death of Harry S. Swarth. No brief statement can appropriately express the loss of so eminent an ornithologist. His well known achievements in the study of birds and mammals on the Pacific Coast are perpetual testimony of his scientific and literary abilities. Intimate knowledge of birds from many sections of the West in which he explored and collected and from regions so far separated as the Galapagos Islands and Alaska enabled him to deal authoritatively with distribution and speciation in western North America. In the course of his professional career he had been associated with the Los Angeles Museum, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and the California Academy of Sciences. These varied connections developed close acquaintances with many Club members. In both northern and southern divisions he was widely known and respected. Few people have played so large a part in the affairs of the Cooper Club. He gave generously in serv-

ice through his 39 years of membership. From 1910 to 1927 he was associate editor of the *Condor*. But aside from these tangible things there stand in the memory of his associates the wit and subtle humor which he imparted to many hours of conversation and debate.—A. H. M.

Part VIII of Hellmayr's "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas" appeared September 16, 1935, making the second volume of this extensive work to be issued in less than a year. This part covers the Alaudidae, Hirundinidae, Motacillidae, Bombycillidae, Ptilonotidae, Dulidae, Vireonidae, Vireonidae, Cyclarhidae, Lanidae, Sturnidae, Coerebidae and Comptolypidae. It follows the style of the previous volume (see review, *Condor*, 37, 1935, pp. 90-92). The rapid appearance of the sections of such a comprehensive work is a distinct advantage in that it makes for uniformity in style and viewpoint. It also means that earlier volumes will not become seriously antiquated before completion of the project.—A. H. M.



Fig. 54: Professor Charles T. Vorhies, University of Arizona, active leader and teacher of ornithology, and author of numerous articles on the natural history of southern Arizona.

The Fifty-third Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held at Toronto, October 21-24, 1935, proved to be the best attended of the three meetings of the Union so far held in Canada. A program of sixty-seven papers was presented. Mr. A. C. Bent was elected President; James P. Chapin was elected Second Vice-President; and Alfred O. Gross was added to the Council. Otherwise, the officers remain the same. One Fellow was elected, Mr. Edward A. Preble, of Washington, D. C. Seven Members were elected: James L. Baillie of Toronto; Albert R. Brand of White Plains, N. Y.; Walter J. Breckenridge of Minneapolis; Hildegard Howard of Los Angeles; Aldo Leopold of Madison, Wisconsin; Roger T. Peterson of New York City; and Dayton Stoner of Albany. It was voted to hold the next annual meeting in Pittsburgh.—J. G.

The annual index for 1935 again has been prepared by Miss Selma Werner, who returns to this task after a year's absence in Europe. In 1934 Miss Margaret Wythe

served in her stead. To these two Club members, generous of their time given in a tedious task, the editors are grateful. Likewise appreciative are those many users of the *Condor* who depend on the the index for references to species in which they are interested.

John W. Sugden, member of the Cooper Club since 1915 and a founder of the Inter-mountain Chapter died at his home in Salt Lake City, August 16, 1935, at the age of 68. Born in Doncaster, England, March 26, 1867, he came to Utah with his family two years later. As a pioneer naturalist in the State, his activities were remarkably varied. He was not a product of the schools and yet his interests were essentially intellectual. Around him grew up an enthusiastic circle of naturalists, chiefly entomologists and ornithologists. A woodworker by trade, he spent all time possible in the field. His extensive collections of insects and birds were kept with great care. Scarcely a day passed without some contact between him and other enthusiasts, and his home became a center for students of the region. Unwittingly he took on the role of a teacher and latterly was much in demand as a lecturer. To members of the Club not personally acquainted with him he is known through his beautifully illustrated articles on breeding birds of the Salt Lake area. Much lasting credit is due him for the inspiration and friendly interest he gave others in the pursuit and development of natural history in Utah.—A. D. Boyle and A. H. Miller.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The July meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on July 25, 1935, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with thirty-five members and guests present and President Miller in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for June were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for June were read. Charles Barrows Bennett, 1122 University Avenue, Berkeley, California, was proposed for membership in the Club by Jean M. Linsdale; and Miss Kathleen Dougan, 1829 Spruce Street, Berkeley, California, by