

I have been able to determine, this is the first record for Utah, as well as for Zion National Park. This bird must have crossed several hundred miles of deserts and high mountain ranges to get here from its normal range. Mr. Grantham says it was in a mixed flock of Gambel Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) and Mountain Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia fallax*).—W. S. LONG, *Zion National Park, Utah, January 26, 1936.*

Red-shafted Flickers Feeding on Aphids.—On the morning of November 14, 1935, my attention was attracted to the peculiar actions of a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer collaris*), outside one of the windows of a classroom in Hilgard Hall, University of California, Berkeley. It was attempting to perch near the end of a branch of a large shrub, but apparently the branch was not rigid enough at that point to support the bird's weight. It persisted in its attempts and grasped the branch in its feet, spasmodically beating its wings in an effort to maintain an upright position. However, the branch continued to bend until the bird was upside down. After a few minutes the struggle to gain a normal perching position ceased, but the flicker continued to cling to the branch and began to peck at the under side of the leaves and the branch.

I was able to approach quite close to the window without being seen by the bird and observed it for approximately half an hour. I noted from its brown malar stripes, or "mustache," that the bird was a female. The shrub is about fifteen feet from the building and the branch to which the flicker was clinging was about twelve feet above the ground. I suspected that it was feeding upon some kind of insect which probably was abundant on the shrub, as evidenced by the length of time which the bird remained there, repeatedly pecking at the under side of the foliage in kinglet fashion.

Three times the bird lost its hold on the branch, but returned each time. However, after the first mentioned occurrence, it no longer attempted to maintain itself upright, but immediately assumed the inverted position and resumed its feeding. A sudden move by myself caused it to take alarm and fly off.

Noting the position of the branch on the shrub, I immediately went out to investigate and found that practically all of the branches, near the ends, were literally infested with aphids (*Aphis* sp.). Upon pulling down the particular branch on which the flicker had been, I found that it had only a few aphids left on it.

In the afternoon I carefully approached the same shrub to see if the bird might have returned. Upon my arrival I found not one, but four individuals feeding there in the same manner as had the one in the morning. The following morning there were three flickers there, but none when I visited the site in the afternoon.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, November 16, 1935.*

The Range of the Sharp-tailed Grouse in New Mexico.—Mrs. Vernon Bailey in her work on the Birds of New Mexico (p. 210) records the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus columbianus*) only from Johnson, Barillo and Fisher Peak Mesas, east and northeast of Raton, from information secured by Mr. J. S. Ligon. As indication of a more extensive range in earlier times I wish to record the distal part of a tibiotarsus of a Sharp-tail identified in a considerable collection of bird and mammal bones collected during archeological work in a cave near Jemez Springs, New Mexico, and received for identification from Mr. Paul Reiter, Curator of the Museum of New Mexico at Santa Fe. Associated with the specimen were numerous bones of turkey and of dusky grouse, and fragments from a teal of the genus *Querquedula*, a hawk of the genus *Buteo*, the American Merganser, and the Great Horned Owl. The cave seems to have been used by Indians as a temporary camp site at a date set at about 1300 A.D.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., December 9, 1935.*

NOTES AND NEWS

The Cooper Ornithological Club will hold its eleventh annual meeting at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, 1936. The an-

nual dinner will be held Saturday evening, the 18th. Sunday, the 19th, will be devoted to a trip afield. The official hotel will be the Coliseum, at 457 West Santa Barbara Street, near the Mu-

seum. Members may bring interested friends to all the scheduled activities. Call is hereby made for papers for the program; the dead line for filing titles is April 10. All members, whether attending or not, should return their signed "proxies," for presentation at the business meeting.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Chairman of local committee, Box 343, Claremont, California.*

This is the year in which the regular biennial membership roster of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be printed. It is due to appear in the May issue of the *Condor*, which issue will go to press on or before April 15. Correction of address, as it appears on the wrapper of this number, or any other new information properly pertaining to this sort of record, should be sent to Mr. John McB. Robertson, Buena Park, California, who is the officer of the Club having the compilation in charge. Accuracy and down-to-date-ness are features that everyone can help to insure.

Pacific Coast Avifauna number 23 was issued by the Cooper Ornithological Club on February 7, 1936. This number comprises an account of "The Birds of Nevada" (146 pp.). The author, Jean M. Linsdale, has therein drawn from every available source to produce a basic repository of facts—the first available from that interesting state. This new number in the Avifauna series may be had by C. O. C. members for \$2.00 from the Club's business manager, W. Lee Chambers, 2068 Escarpa Drive, Eagle Rock, California.

Experimental evidence pertaining to the problem of seed dispersal by birds is found in Mrs. Elizabeth S. Roessler's paper appearing in this issue of the *Condor*. Her well planned tests of viability of weed seeds ingested by linnets admirably illustrate the way in which a vital question may be approached in simple fashion, without elaborate technique. The point may be stressed that close at hand, and in our most abundant species, lie opportunities for significant investigation.—A. H. M.

Ornithologists, especially those residing in western North America, will be interested in the newly appeared "Systema Avium Rossicarum," volume I, by G. Dementiev (Paris, 1935, pp. vi + 288, 8 pls.). By special arrangement of M. Jean Delacour, the sponsor of this publication, copies may be obtained in America at the price of \$1.25 each, plus postage, from Dr. Ernst Mayr, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West, New York City. The present volume deals with the Accipitres, Striges and Passeres, of which groups 709 species and sub-

species are accorded formal standing. Quite instructive is it to compare the representations, genus by genus, of the birds of Russia, in both Asia and Europe, with those of northwestern America.—J. G.



Fig. 17. Herbert Friedmann, Curator of Birds in the United States National Museum; now at work on the concluding volumes of the "Birds of North and Middle America."

The speed at which new words, or old words with special meanings, may come into general use is of late years amazing. This is in part explainable, of course, as one thinks of the radio as the latest and swiftest agency of wide communication. In connection with the current broadcasting of conservation ideas, doubtless for the most part of great general benefit, phenomenally extensive use is being made of the expressions "game management" and "wild-life management." In these expressions is apparently visualized that kind of management that is practiced by the stockman or the poulterer. And here is a possibly unfortunate connotation. Aside from the question whether truly wild animals *can* be managed without their naturalness being damaged, there is suggested the further point that *if* said management is practiced "successfully," then *are* the animals that yield to such practices any longer really *wild*? It would seem that the term *wild-life management* must involve a contradiction!—J. G.

I have recently learned with sorrow of the death of Charles E. H. Aiken, which took place at Colorado Springs, Colorado, on January 15, 1936. He was born on September 7, 1850, and

was thus in his 86th year. It was Aiken who started me in ornithological collecting. I became acquainted with him while living in Colorado Springs in the winter of 1875. One day in conversation with him I happened to say that I was thinking of going to California in the spring. He said "Why not collect birds for me on the way?" I told him that I did not know how to make bird skins. He said he would show me how. We finally made arrangement by which I collected birds and eggs for him for three years in New Mexico, Arizona and California. He was always helpful and our dealings were pleasant. Two or three years before I became acquainted with Aiken he had been a member of a government party working in east-central Arizona and often spoke of it. I think that was the only long collecting trip he ever undertook.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, February 17, 1936.*

It turns out that the provisions of the recent National Firearms Act, intended to curb the possession of sub-machine guns and similar weapons, apply also to certain types of collecting guns. By definition, "the term 'firearm' means a shot gun or rifle having a barrel of less than eighteen inches in length, or any other weapon, except a pistol or revolver, from which a shot is discharged by an explosive if such weapon is capable of being concealed on the person." Thus, by chance, it becomes by law necessary to register on a special form with the Collector of Internal Revenue such collecting guns as the Marble Gamegetter and some models of the Stevens Pocket Rifle. Lack of compliance brings severe penalty. It is suggested that registry papers be accompanied by a statement that the fact that this law applied to collecting guns has only just been ascertained, since registration is supposed to have been made not later than September 24, 1934.—A. WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS SOUTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The October meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 29, 1935, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Cowles in the Chair and twenty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for September were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read. Applications for membership were presented, as follows: Mr. Charles K. Nichols, 212 Hamilton Road, Ridgewood, New Jersey, and Mr. Jerry E. Stillwell, 7460 San Benito Way, Dallas, Texas,

proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Mr. Norman Ronald Jackson, Camp Verde, Arizona, and Mr. Victor Ralph Kiessling, Box 203, Flagstaff, Arizona, proposed by Lyndon L. Hargrave; Mr. Herbert Buckalew, 120 Marshall St., Millford, Delaware, Mr. Paul H. Cheney, 48 Hartford Road, South Manchester, Massachusetts, Mr. Walter J. Eyerdam, 9253 Corliss Ave., Seattle, Washington, Mr. Gale Monson, Box 432, Safford, Arizona, and Dr. John W. Sugden, 1743 Yale Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah, proposed by John McB. Robertson.

In announcing the sudden death of Harry S. Swarth, a member of the Club for 39 years, and one whose friendship has been highly valued and whose scientific and literary abilities are widely known and respected, Dr. Loye Miller moved that in deference to the wishes of the family no resolutions be transmitted, but that the Southern Division place upon its minutes a record of the passing of Mr. Swarth as an appreciation of the great loss that has been sustained by the Cooper Ornithological Club and by the science of ornithology at large. This motion was seconded by Mr. Glassell and unanimously carried. The death of two other Club members, Mrs. Ella H. Ellis and Dr. James J. Parsons, was brought to the attention of members present, and on motion made by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Glassell, and duly carried, the secretary was asked to write letters to the respective families, conveying the sincere sympathy of the Southern Division of the Club.

Mr. Pierce spoke of the illness of Mr. Clinton G. Abbott, former President of the Southern Division, and on motion made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Pierce, the secretary was asked to write Mr. Abbott a letter extending the good wishes of his many friends for a rapid return to health and scientific activity.

For inspection and further action by anyone interested, the following were laid on the table: a letter from Mr. Forbes, of Vera Cruz, Mexico, suggesting the possibility of obtaining specimens for interested collectors; a letter from the American Wildlife Institute regarding the conference in 1936 to be held at Washington, D.C., February 3 to 7, inclusive; a magazine, "The Living Wilderness," published by The Wilderness Society, and a letter from them addressed as "A Word to Hikers."

Piñon Jays were reported as having been seen this fall in Claremont, by Mr. Pierce; in Fillmore, Piru, Sespe, and Santa Paula, by Mr. Sidney B. Peyton; in Buena Park, by Messrs. Calder and Robertson; and Mr. Carl Chambers said that the Piñon Jays had also been seen near Sandbergs on the Ridge Route. Black Petrels were reported by Dr. Miller as having been seen on August 31 rafting in numbers of thousands on the surface