

after a visit there June 19, 1935, found that the breeding birds were not as numerous as they were when I visited the island on June 29, 1932. Gunnison Island is extremely remote and has not to my knowledge been visited this year. Certainly the numbers of pelicans must be decreasing in the region, if for two or three years now no young have been reared on Hat Island where once one of the largest colonies of breeding pelicans was located. It is in critical times such as now exist that the White Pelican population throughout the country is most likely to be permanently reduced. Now, if ever, the White Pelican in other places as well as in the Great Salt Lake region needs all the protection that can be given.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 20, 1936.*

**An Albinistic Arizona Hooded Oriole.**—Among the two or three broods of Arizona Hooded Orioles (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*) which left their nests near my home in Azusa during June, 1936, was one individual which was decidedly lighter in color than normal. Its body and tail were uniform pale yellow, much lighter and clearer than in other members of the brood, while its wings were silvery white and unmarked. The bill was flesh colored and the eyes dark. Far from appearing freakish, like many partly albino birds, this one was more attractive than its ordinary companions, especially in

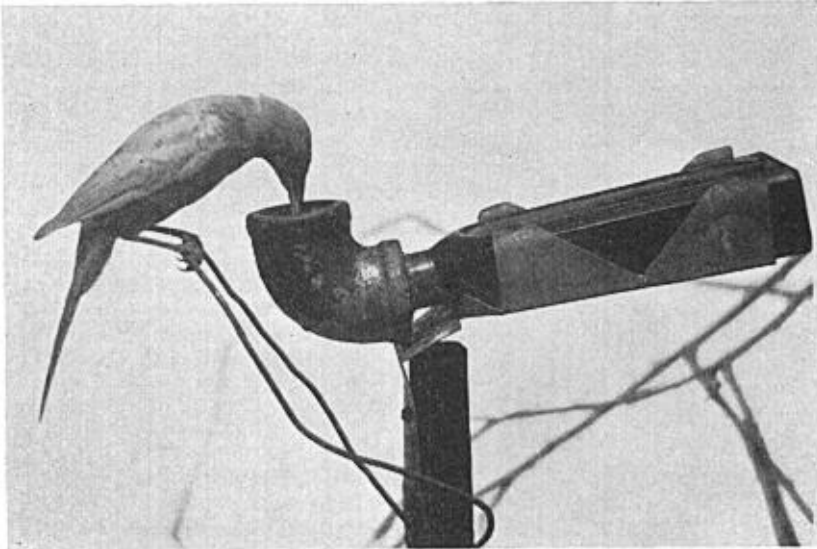


Fig. 40. Albinistic immature Arizona Hooded Oriole; body and tail pale yellow, wings silvery white. Azusa, California, June 27, 1936.

flight, when its silvery wings flashed conspicuously. It was normal in its actions, and possibly a little more aggressive than most of the others.

The photograph (fig. 40) shows this bird drinking at a bottle of sugar syrup which it visited many times a day until the brood dispersed. It is to be hoped that it will survive and return in succeeding years, in order that the nature of its adult plumage may be learned.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, July 9, 1936.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

Frank Hands, member of the Cooper Club since 1920, passed away June 19, 1936, at the age of 74. Most of his life was spent in the Chiricahua Mountain district of southeastern Arizona where he was a pioneer in the frontier

days of that country. He was a naturalist at heart and an accurate observer of nature during his constant travels in the mountains and desert. Early interest in animals was fostered by experience as a game keeper in England. The

Hands ranch in Pinery Canyon was a regular stopping place for naturalists who came to learn of the fauna of the interesting Chiricahua range. Many of the records for the region center about his place and many of those not actually reported by Hands came to light through his own endeavors. It was here the Thick-billed Parrots spent part of a winter, often feeding in the snow of his door yard. Hands was well read and kept in touch with ornithology outside his own world. He was a charming gentleman, and the generous hospitality which he and Mrs. Hands extended their visitors will never be forgotten.—A. H. M.



Fig. 41. W. Lee Chambers: Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club since 1897; for 28 years Business Manager of the Club and thus probably known to more western bird students than is any other one person. His reminiscences appear in this issue (p. 199).

A worthy suggestion in the interests of preservation of primeval conditions in our national parks has been put forward by the National Parks Association (Nat. Parks News Service, Number 41, June 8, 1936). This is embodied in the following resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Association:

"Resolved, that the National Parks Associa-

tion in its own usage, and for the benefit and understanding of the people of the country, shall segregate from all other national parks, and designate by the title of National Primeval Parks System, those national parks which, by reason of possessing primeval wilderness of conspicuous importance and supreme scenic beauty, conform to the standards originally recognized under the title of National Parks; and that it shall persistently urge this segregation and this title upon the people of the country, citizen organizations, Congress and the Government, in confident expectation that, in good time, it will receive official and universal recognition."

Persons concerned with preservation and administration of primitive areas can make good use of this much-needed classification in emphasizing the distinctness of policy and procedure suited to maintaining Primeval Parks in contrast to Historical Parks, Military Parks or other such enterprises now under the wing of the National Park Service.—A. H. M.

Steller Jay, Steller Eider, Steller Sea Lion and Steller Sea Cow are animal names which commemorate perhaps the earliest real naturalist to visit any part of western America. Dr. T. S. Palmer gave us a brief account of this man in volume 30 of *The Condor* (1928, p. 297). Now we have before us an entire octavo volume devoted to "Georg Wilhelm Steller, The Pioneer of Alaskan Natural History" (Harvard University Press, 1936, pp. xxiv + 623, 30 pls.). The scholarly treatment of this subject, documented as to every fact, is the result of years of painstaking labor by the author of this book, who is Dr. Leonhard Stejneger of the staff of the United States National Museum. Dr. Stejneger himself, in 1882 and 1883, traversed much of the territory Steller did over 140 years previously, and with a copy of the latter's account of Bering Island in hand. Stejneger's own classic report on the ornithology of the Commander Islands and Kamschatka (Bulletin 29, U. S. Nat. Mus., 1885) resulted. The present biography of Steller owes its appearance, we have reason to believe, to the active interest in the project, of Dr. Thomas Barbour, Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge. Steller, it is now clear, was the first white man to set foot on Alaska soil, which he did on Kayak Island, within sight of Mount Saint Elias, on July 20, 1741. On that day was obtained the first known specimen of the bird many years afterward named *Corvus stelleri* by J. F. Gmelin. As Dr. Stejneger happily declares (p. 271): "If Alaska is in need of a 'state bird,' it can find none more appropriate than the one which immortalize the name of its first ornithologist."—J. G.