

the summer for many years; there they were associating with the Black-crowned Night Herons and we have felt reasonably sure that a few pairs were nesting.

Our belief was verified on July 8 of this year when we visited Barr, accompanied by Fred G. Brandenburg. A nest with three large young and an addled egg was found in a cottonwood in a Black-crowned Night Heron colony, the nest being twenty-five feet from the ground and similar in construction to the nests of the night herons. It was not composed of fine twigs as is often the case in the nests of egrets breeding in Utah. We returned to the nest on July 10 and found that only two birds remained. Inasmuch as we desire to have the egrets increase in numbers, and young of unknown age would be useless to determine their race, we did not collect them, but took the addled egg (C. M. N. H., no. 6369) and photographs of one of the young to substantiate the record. As there are several large night heron communities around Barr, and as we have often observed more than a dozen egrets flying over the colonies, we feel certain that other pairs were nesting.—ALFRED M. BAILEY and ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, September 10, 1937.*

**Fork-tailed Petrel in San Francisco Bay Region.**—On August 31, 1937, a live Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) was brought to me by Mr. W. Vernon Bernard. It had been obtained at his residence, 227 San Carlos Avenue, El Cerrito, Contra Costa County, California. This place is at the base of the hills a mile and a half distant from the bay shore. The bird first came to notice when it struggled free from a hawk perched on a telephone wire. Apparently the hawk was of accipitrine type. The petrel flew along the ground coming to rest several times, and finally was captured by hand. It seemed uninjured when I examined it a half hour later (6:15 p.m.), but it was exceedingly thin and some feathers were missing from the side of the head. The bird died during the night. Upon skinning it, no lesions could be found; the breast muscles were, however, greatly atrophied.

It seems unlikely that this petrel was carried any distance by the hawk; for surely had this been the case, it would have been killed or obviously injured. Probably the bird, in a weakened condition, had just been captured. The petrel was a male, in good plumage (no. 72288, Mus. Vert. Zool.); it showed no evidence of immaturity. The causes of its inland wandering are obscure. On the day of its capture there was only the customary, moderate, inshore wind of the summer season. Heretofore, Fork-tailed Petrels have been known from the vicinity of San Francisco Bay at off-shore localities, about the Farallon Islands and off Point Reyes.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 3, 1937.*

## NOTES AND NEWS

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in Fresno, with the bird students of that section of central California serving as hosts. The dates of the sessions are tentatively set for Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16. Field trips are planned for Sunday, the 17th. The Board of Governors will hold its Seventeenth Annual Meeting on the evening of the 15th. This will be the first general meeting of the Club "north of Tehachapi" in other than the immediate San Francisco Bay region. Thus centrally located, it should draw large attendance from both north and south. Members planning to contribute to the program will need to begin preparing their papers at once, so as to be ready to submit titles when called for by postal notice about March 1.—GEORGE WILLET.

There can be no question now but that *water* is far and away the most valuable natural resource of the arid Southwest. And with the huge increase of the human population concentrating in the lowlands, needing to be sustained there, inevitably the water-producing uplands will be more and more conserved for that one value—as against grazing in any degree, lumbering, wood-cutting, and hunting (this practice eliminated because of the fire-hazard in the long dry season). A recent tour of southern California was convincing of the trend: Many mountain ranges, small as well as large, are already closed to grazing and hunting. The watersheds, with their essential cover of chaparral and woods, are being set aside and guarded for that function alone—of water supply to the valleys and plains below.

And incidentally, to the main point of this paragraph, compatible values of other sorts are being preserved—those esthetic and educational ones pertaining to the native vegetation of all sorts and to the associated animal life. Verily, here is where the recognition of a vital factor for human subsistence, a baldly "economic" one, means also the realization of the naturalist's ideals.—J. G.



Fig. 19. F. S. Hall: President of Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society, 1920-37; Editor of *The Murrelet*; Director of the Museum, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane.

The under-INITIALED has spent much time in the past year compiling a biography of the late Richard C. McGregor. We have had to ransack all sorts of sources to get the most commonplace but essential facts. McGregor, perhaps because of a genuine feeling of modesty, apparently failed to leave behind him any personally-written record of his own life and accomplishments. We wish to urge upon ornithologists, still in their prime and older, the obligation each to compile his own "vital history," including complete bibliography. Such manuscript should be manifolded and duplicate copies placed in several archives such as those of the Cooper Ornithological Club. Future historians will be grateful.—J. G.

The Ninth International Ornithological Congress will convene in Rouen, France, on May 9, 1938. The series of sessions as planned will extend

over ten days and include an excursion to the famous area for birds, the Camargue. Those likely to attend should so notify the Secretary of the Congress, Mr. J. Delacour, at Clères (Seine Inferieure), France, well in advance. If planning to present papers, he should be informed of titles and other data necessary for entry on the printed program.—J. G.

The October, 1937 (vol. 5, no. 4), issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* contains (pp. 78-103) as its leading article "A Study of the Distribution and Migration of the Great Horned Owls in the Missouri Valley Region." Therein the author, Myron H. Swenk, has assembled a great amount of data, and essential parts of this are set forth graphically in maps. One of these shows, for the region dealt with, the western limit of breeding range of *Bubo virginianus virginianus*, the eastern limit of *B. v. occidentalis* and the northeastern limit of *B. v. pallescens*. No overlapping of breeding range is shown to occur, which, of course, in true subspecies, and as determined from carefully identified specimens, is not to be expected. In migratory status, shown on another map, the situation is quite otherwise. Rarely have racial boundaries in a geographically variable species been worked out on so detailed basis. The systematics and nomenclature are satisfyingly conservative. Swenk's study of the horned owls is admirable.—J. G.

It is a matter of common observation that the distribution of the crow is very irregular within its known winter range. Heavy concentrations and large roosts occur in some localities while in others of equally suitable appearance crows are scarce or absent. A survey to determine the actual state of affairs in midwinter is being undertaken in California this winter as part of the crow study of the Division of Zoology at Davis. One man obviously cannot cover the entire state in the short mid-winter period during which gregarious roosting is at its height. Fortunately, however, the crow is familiar to nearly everyone, and a great many trained and untrained observers in all parts of the country possess information on local conditions which, if assembled, would furnish a comprehensive picture of its distribution and numerical status. Following the pattern of a similar survey conducted in New York State in 1932-1933, questionnaire forms are being distributed as widely as possible to ornithologists and laymen. A large number of responses is needed, for thoroughness depends on a representative distribution of reports, and accuracy on concurring records from several independent sources in each region. Cooper Club members are especially qualified to assist and are asked to contribute any notes they can, be they positive or negative, general or specific. The following questions will serve as a guide to the information

wanted: 1. In what parts of the state with which you are familiar are crows found in mid-winter? 2. How common are crows in these sections in mid-winter? 3. Have you noted any increase or decrease in the past few decades? 4. Are there any well-marked morning or evening flights? Where were they observed, and in which direction were the birds flying? 5. Do you know the exact location of any mid-winter crow roost? 6. How many crows in the roost? (Date of this observation.) 7. How long has the site been used? Has it been used every winter? Please send a note summarizing any information you may have on any of these questions to the undersigned, Division of Zoology, College of Agriculture, University of California, Davis, California.—JOHN T. EMLÉN, JR.

Professor Junius Henderson, for many years a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club and a contributor to the *Condor*, died on November 4, 1937, at the age of seventy-two years. From 1903 until his retirement in 1933, he was curator of the museum of the University of Colorado, and from 1908 to 1933 professor of natural history. During the period of his curatorship the museum was organized, and established on a firm basis, as an independent department of the University; it acquired outstanding collections largely through his personal efforts in the field. Although Professor Henderson's primary interests were elsewhere, he published thirty-one papers and one book on birds over a period of twenty-seven years. In 1905 he transcribed the field notes of Denis Gale, and made a critical analysis of them, incorporating in some of his papers certain of Gale's observations not previously published by Major Charles Bendire. His most important contribution to ornithology was an exhaustive summary of the economic relations of birds in his book *The Practical Value of Birds* (Macmillan, 1927). A glance through the book is revealing of the author's thoroughness of mind and method, as well as of his broadness of interest and character. Although the major portion of the work is a thoroughly documented account of what birds eat, what good they do and what harm they do, the first chapter closes with the admonition to remember that "even if the birds had no economic value whatever, they would still well deserve our study, encouragement and protection." The fact that nowhere in the book is there foolish sentimentality, in spite of this most poetic outlook, reflects the character of the man, who could be a thorough scientist and still find "sermons in stones, and good in everything." Those fortunate enough to have known Junius Henderson, even a little, will cherish his memory not only as a careful and critical naturalist, but more than that, as a charming personality.—GORDON ALEXANDER, *University of Colorado, Boulder, November 11, 1937.*

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

## NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, September 23, 1937, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and about 115 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read, corrected and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. An application for membership was read from Walter E. Howard, Bowles Hall, Berkeley, endorsed by Dale Arvey. Mrs. Kelly urged that the Cooper Club appoint its representative in the Alameda County Wildlife Federation before the next meeting of that body, as issues vital to the future of the Federation would be taken up at that time. In order to allow more time for the remainder of the program, field observations were postponed until next meeting.

The evening's speaker was Mr. James B. Dixon, of Escondido, California, who has studied and photographed 75 per cent of the breeding birds of California. The reels of motion pictures which he showed, many of them in natural colors, dealt with his ornithological observations for 1937. Typical scenes on the Mohave and Colorado deserts included a study of the Vermilion Flycatcher. Remarkable nesting studies of raptors showed eggs and young of the White-tailed Kite, Duck Hawk, and Goshawk. Mr. Dixon observed that, although the migrating Goshawk may deserve its bad name, the nesting Goshawk subsists largely on squirrels; smaller birds often nest in considerable numbers in the vicinity of the Goshawk's nest, apparently finding there sanctuary from other enemies, such as the Pigeon Hawk. Scenes from the high sierra of Mono County closed the program.

Adjourned.—FRANCES CARTER, *Recording Secretary.*

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, October 28, 1937, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Kinsey in the chair and about 110 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. Names proposed for membership were: Victor E. Jones, University of Idaho, Pocatello, Idaho, by J. M. Linsdale; Maurice W. Provost, 2527 Channing Way, Berkeley, by Seth B. Benson.

Mr. Frederick H. Test, recently appointed by the President as representative of the Cooper Club in the Alameda County Wildlife Federation, reported upon the reorganization program of the