

every specimen, "And you want to give them to us, that's fine." His reception was so kindly, so beyond anything Richmond expected, that the boy was in ecstasy. In later life he never could think of the visit without the tears coming. His ambition from that moment was to be an ornithologist, to be like Mr. Ridgway.

And he was like him, especially in generosity. He was kind to many others as Ridgway was to him. Despite the best of will, we are often unable to repay our benefactors, but we can in a sense repay by aiding others. With a genius for friendly helpfulness, there can be no doubt that C. W. R. over and over again repaid his debt of kindness.—W. L. McATEE.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

Occasionally there appear well-prepared studies of local distribution of birds. A recent good example is Arthur C. Twomey's survey of "The Birds of the Uinta Basin, Utah" (Annals Carnegie Mus., 28, 1942:341-490, plates XXXIX-XLIX, including 16 photographs and three folding maps). The level of organization and general standards displayed in this paper are particularly heartening; for in the past few years, the attention paid to less explored parts of the North American continent has yielded a series of local lists many of which lack signs of concentrated study and groups of which might better have been published under a single title instead of being scattered through the ornithological literature.

Twomey's field studies were made from April to October in 1937, although specimens and data collected in 1934 and 1935 by A. C. Lloyd in certain parts of the study area were available to him. Considering time limitations and the size of the area (over 10,000 square miles), the author has succeeded in accumulating a surprisingly large amount of material.

Introductory sections discuss itinerary and major collecting localities. Geological and ecological features of the area are described well, and the text is accompanied by excellent maps of surface formations and plant communities. The area ranges in altitude from 4500 to 13,500 feet, and at least six major ecological zones are recognized. For each of these, characteristic birds and plant associates are discussed. Certain successional communities of importance in bird distribution are treated similarly.

The greater part of the paper is devoted to an annotated list of 208 species: of these eight are represented by two races, one by three races; an additional hybrid is also listed. One new race, *Sitta carolinensis uintaensis*, is described. Annotations include notes on systematics, local distribution, dates of occurrence, and natural history. There is a "bibliography of works consulted"

including almost 200 titles. Typographic slips are few; only four errors were detected in the body of the paper by this reviewer.

As regards the systematic aspect of the work, Twomey follows the 1931 A.O.U. Check-list "except for such changes and additions that the author believed justifiable." This conditional statement means little when one notes certain inconsistencies of treatment. Thus, some divergences from the A.O.U. Check-list are accompanied by discussions of specimens at hand and by references to bibliographic sources. In other instances, trinomials are used (as in *Sturnella neglecta*, *Oberholseria chlorura*, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*, *Icterus bullocki*, *Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*, and others) which indicate an implicit acceptance of recently described races although no evidence is set forth to show why these races are regarded as "justifiable." There are and will be inevitable differences of opinion with respect to a number of races which Twomey lists. Several problems are opened to further study as, for example, the breeding of presumably both *Buteo borealis calurus* and *B. b. juerteri* in the same area, and the relations of *Dendroica aestiva morcomi* and *D. a. brewsteri* in the Great Basin. If only for the sake of convenience, the author might have referred to sources in every instance when a systematic change or addition subsequent to the A.O.U. Check-list was introduced, since his bibliography lists most of these sources. But the bibliography is not comprehensive. Thus, in the case of *Tyrannus tyrannus*, no reference is made to discussions of the race *hespericola* by Zimmer (Am. Mus. Nov. No. 962, 1937:12) and Wetmore (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 86, 1939:199); under *Vireo gilvus*, no mention is made of Sibley's review of the western races (Condor, 42, 1940:255-258). The footnote on page 439 concerning *Vermivora ruficapilla* is superfluous since the point in question is adjusted by the 1931 Check-list.

In most species the use of the trinomial, whatever the decision as to name, is supported by specimens. The races of only two species (pages 367 and 407) are stated to have been "determined on geographic grounds." But trinomials are used in a number of additional species listed only on the basis of either field observation or second-hand reports. No specimens of *Astur atricapillus*, *Falco columbarius*, *Progne subis*, *Corvus corax*, *Spinus psaltria*, and others, were taken; the use of the trinomial in such instances seems inadvisable. *Glaucidium gnoma pinicola* is listed on the basis of a record which, at best, is hypothetical. *Numenius a. americanus* is listed on the basis of observations of individuals which might have included migrants of *N. a. occidentalis*.

As regards general distribution of species, it is

worthwhile to mention the Mockingbird and Scott Oriole, both of which apparently have extended their ranges northward in Utah. The White-faced Glossy Ibis has appeared in the Uinta Basin with extensive irrigation. There is a well established colony of California Quail, introduced about 1914. It is surprising that no Western Sandpipers were detected in the flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers reported by the author!

Twomey's report constitutes a valuable contribution to the ornithology of the Great Basin. It is well prepared and the author seems to have obtained the most from his efforts in the field.—FRANK A. PITEKA.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, July 23, 1942, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with Dr. Alden H. Miller in the chair and 45 members and guests present. After the minutes of the Northern Division for June had been read and accepted, and the minutes of the Southern Division for May had been read, the following were proposed for membership: Mr. Benjamin H. Banta, Box 605, Reno, Nevada, and Mrs. Naoma Packwood, 100 Spring Street, Susanville, California.

Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., reported mockingbirds near Larkspur on July 7. Dr. Miller mentioned the finding of Grasshopper and Savannah sparrows nesting in the Berkeley Hills. Robert W. Storer mentioned finding a dead Fork-tailed Petrel on the beach at San Francisco on July 14.

Resolutions recommending that Harold M. and Josephine R. Michener and George Willett be made Honorary Members of the Cooper Ornithological Club were read.

Dr. Miller then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of British Columbia, who spoke on "Birds of the Alaska Highway" or "Migrants and Mud." The trip on which this talk was based was made in 1938 to the Peace River Valley about 50 miles east of the Rocky Mountains in British Columbia.

Adjourned.—ROBERT W. STORER, *Acting Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, July 28, 1942, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, with President Sherwin F. Wood in the chair and 48 members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division for June, 1942, were read and approved as corrected. Minutes of the Northern Division were read by

title only. One new application for membership was read, as follows: Kenneth R. Halstead, 4137 North E Street, San Bernardino, California, proposed by Wilson C. Hanna.

The recommendation for election of Harold M. Michener and Josephine R. Michener, of Pasadena, California, to Honorary Membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club, which had its first reading at the June meeting of this Division, was re-read in accordance with provisions of the Constitution of the Club. Upon motion by Dr. H. R. Painton, seconded by C. V. Duff, the elections were unanimously passed by the Southern Division.

A proposal that George Willett, of Los Angeles, California, be elected an Honorary Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, in recognition of his extensive service to the science of ornithology in western North America, especially through his studies and reports on the birds of Alaska and southern California, and through the essential part he plays in the organization of the Cooper Ornithological Club and the American Ornithologists' Union, was read. In keeping with provisions of the Constitution, action on this proposal will be taken at the August meetings of the Northern and Southern divisions.

Several interesting recent observations were reported. Ed Harrison told of seeing two Wood Ibises at Encinitas last Sunday. Dr. S. F. Wood made comments on the occurrence of the Water Ouzel in our local mountains. J. C. von Bloeker, Jr., reported that, while on a field trip with Dr. Adele Grant's ornithology class on July 26, a large nesting colony of Purple Martins was observed at the Balboa pavilion and a single Pectoral Sandpiper was seen on the mud flats at the entrance to the Bolsa Chica gun club. C. V. Duff told of a method of starling control, through rendering an area thoroughly unattractive to these obnoxious birds, which had been reported to him. Dr. L. A. Test reported the occurrence of Band-tailed Pigeons in flocks numbering from 10 to 60 individuals in the vicinity of Lindsay, California. He said that, because these birds had been reported to be doing damage to the olive crop, permission had been granted to some of the ranchers to destroy them and numbers of them have already been shot.

President Wood then introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Frank G. Watson, of Long Beach, California, who spoke on "The White-tailed Kite, Its Nesting and Behavior." The subject was based on Mr. Watson's personal observation of these birds in the San Joaquin Valley and proved very enlightening, especially to those of us who have observed White-tailed Kites only on rare occasions or not at all.

Adjourned.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Secretary*.