

and their properties. Early in 1942 he was called back to the University of Chicago by the National Defense Research Committee to assist in the solution of problems important to the war effort. The success of his part in this project afforded him great satisfaction, but it is probable that the extended period of concentrated effort was detrimental to his health, as shortly after returning to California he suffered a stroke from which he never fully recovered.

Herbert McCoy's interest in the Cooper Ornithological Club was a sincere one. He did much for the organization and greatly valued his many friendships among its members. He served as President of the Southern Division in 1938 and was a member of the Board of Governors.

Modesty and generosity were among his most prominent characteristics. Many of the world's greatest scientists were his personal friends, but prominence had no part in his choice of friendships. He seldom referred to the merited recognition he had received in his profession. Much of his research was conducted without any desire for pecuniary profit, the results being at the disposal of any one whom he considered to be working for the advancement of science. He invariably welcomed an opportunity to be of service to his friends or to institutions and organizations in which he was interested, and he was always ready to give a helping hand to a deserving student.

Herbert McCoy loved birds. He never tired of watching them, and few things could delight him more than observing a species previously unknown to him. He will be sorely missed, not only by his human friends, but by his avian guests for whom he scattered daily food right up to the time of his final illness.—GEORGE WILLETT.

The paper stock used in publishing the *Condor* has again been reduced in weight in conformity with governmental regulations. This change took place in the May issue of this year.

An ornithological publication of distinct value which might easily be overlooked is the section on birds in "A Report upon the Biota of the Santa Ana Mountains" by Willis E. Pequegnat (*Jour. Ent. Zool. Pomona College*, 37, 1945:25-41). The avifauna of this group of mountains in southern California is compared with that of the near-by San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains. One hundred and thirty-nine species are listed with notes on abundance, habitat, and seasonal movements.—A.H.M.

Your readers may be interested to know that satisfactory progress is being made in producing manuscript for future *Bulletins on the Life Histories of North American Birds*. The material

for four volumes, including all the birds on the A. O. U. Check-list from the jays to the vireos, has been in Washington for a long time, awaiting publication after the war. Two volumes on the wood warblers are now nearly completed, waiting for a few contributions from others. I am now starting work on the next volume, to include birds from the weaver finches to the tanagers, and am taking this opportunity to solicit contributions of notes on habits and photographs relating to birds in the three families, Ploceidae, Icteridae and Thraupidae. Previous contributions have been very helpful, and I hope they will continue.—A. C. BENT, *Taunton, Mass.*

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

"Modern Bird Study" (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, xii + 190 pp., \$2.50), by Ludlow Griscom of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, is addressed to the layman and to the amateur ornithologist. According to the preface, "this book is an outgrowth of a series of eight lectures given . . . in January, 1944. . . . The main object of the book . . . is to show that the study of birds is not only a branch of scientific research, . . . but that it also contains many topics of interest to the layman, and that the growing army of bird watchers have and can really assist the ornithologist in solving problem after problem by controlled, careful, and thorough observations."

The first five chapters are written for the layman with a general interest in birds; they deal with field ornithology, capacity (definable, apparently, as demonstration of free will or choice in conduct) and intelligence of birds, adaptability, and migration. No attempt is made to deal with the topics of bird-banding and life-history. These chapters, representing the contents of lectures, are written in a loose and informal narrative style. They contain much interesting information presented in simple, direct terms.

From the standpoint of the author's objective to present some notions of the science of ornithology to the layman, the treatment accorded these topics includes some puzzling items, as, for instance, his interpretation of adaptability and adaptation. At Wake Island, there was a flightless rail confined to two of three small, low islands; the rail did not spread to the third island even though it was connected to one of the other two by a bare flat exposed at low tide. This case is regarded (p. 46) as "possibly the world's record for no adaptability . . ." In the author's terms, is not the same true also of those Hawaiian honey-eaters (p. 49) which refuse to cross an open space occupied by a road that cuts an otherwise dense, dripping forest? What is more surprising is the author's example of a "truly remarkable and marvelous case of adaptability,"

one black-browed albatross, a species of the southern hemisphere, which lived in a gannet colony on the Faroe Islands during thirty-four consecutive summers, thousands of miles away from its normal range. When we read further (p. 46) that "many birds are extremely specialized and have no powers of adaptation whatever," it becomes clear that the implied interpretations do not agree with those generally held by biologists.

The last five chapters deal with distribution and classification. These "are more technical, and some knowledge of North American birds must be taken for granted." Here the author's wide experience as a naturalist, collector, and systematist forms the basis of an "attempt . . . to expound both the difficulties and fascinating problems of great biological importance in both disciplines," that is, distribution and classification. Again, I think it worth any interested layman's or amateur ornithologist's time to read these chapters. The four chapters on distribution are probably the best portion of the book.

The unnecessarily dismal outlook which the author takes on several avenues of ornithological research does not seem to me to help the case of the ornithologist, and the scientist, in the eyes of the layman. For instance, the "disappointingly different results" (p. 121) obtained by faunal studies of different groups of animals are not to be set aside because they are different; wherein, of course, some significance may be found. Nor does it seem to me to allay the prejudices of many amateur ornithologists toward systematics to dwell upon the "hopeless difficulties and insoluble problems" of classification without stating adequately the objectives of such studies on the part of biologists whose interests extend beyond "a graduated series of pigeon holes." The final chapter on classification contains several unwarrantedly strong statements. A number of ornithologists will disagree with Griscom's statement (p. 179) that "in all scientific works and articles the correct subspecific name must be given."

A six-page index and two dozen or so good text illustrations are provided.—FRANK A. PITELKA.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The annual outdoor meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on April 29, 1945, at Tapia Park in the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles County, California, with 65 members and guests present. The formal business meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Walter M. Bennett.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

The Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club wishes to express its opposition to Assembly Bill No. 89, an act to add Section 29.1 to the State Fish and Game Code, directing the Division of Fish and Game to pay from the State Fund for the Preservation of Fish and Game, a bounty of 25¢ for each Crow turned over to the Division or its agents:

1. BECAUSE, history has proved that a bounty is not the answer to control;
2. BECAUSE, a bounty provides moral justification to shoot anything that moves;
3. BECAUSE, the State Fish and Game Code provides for destruction, under the supervision of the State Fish and Game Commission, of birds in defense of property damage;
4. BECAUSE, such control should be kept in the hands of a recognized authority; and
5. BECAUSE, although in some localities Crows undoubtedly do damage, in others they have proved valuable to agriculture by their destruction of tomato worms and other similar pests.

Adjourned.—DOROTHY E. GRONER, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, May 24, 1945, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with President W. I. Follett in the chair and 75 members and guests present.

The following were proposed for membership: Roy Edgar Rodock, Lewiston State Normal School, Lewiston, Idaho, by Alden H. Miller; Bob Schuster, 3932 Ardley Ave., Oakland 2, California, by Brighton C. Cain; Howard Wayne Trimm, 165 Strong Avenue, Syracuse, New York, by Robert W. Storer; and Charles H. Yocom, 1011 Fountain Way, Berkeley, California, by Jean M. Linsdale.

Two short notes on trapping hawks and on clipping hawks' claws (pages 317, 332, Pacific Rural Press, May 12, 1945) were read and members were urged to write to the editor in protest against the control methods suggested.

Mrs. Grinnell reported a recent observation of a Cardinal by Mr. Genelly in his backyard in Oakland and stated that this was possibly an escaped cage bird. W. I. Follett reported a Lewis Woodpecker in his backyard in Oakland on May 5. Commander Hicks reported a Duck Hawk at Garberville on May 12.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Wheeler presented "Some Birds of the Coast Range in Color," after which the meeting was adjourned and members viewed an exhibit of bird photographs and paintings of birds and butterflies arranged by the Wheelers.

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