

NOTES AND NEWS

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Mr. C. V. Duff was named Assistant Business Manager of the Club. He serves with W. Lee Chambers, Business Manager, and John McB. Robertson, Treasurer, in handling the financial affairs of the organization.

The U. S. Department of the Interior reports the death of Major Edward A. Goldman on September 2, 1946, in Washington, D.C., at the age of seventy-three. Although principally a mammalogist, Major Goldman is known to many ornithologists for his long association in Mexican explorations with E. W. Nelson as well as for a series of papers on birds. His service with the Fish and Wildlife Service extended over 51 years. He was elected to membership in the American Ornithologists' Union in 1902.

The Fourth Ten-year Index to The Condor, years 1929 to 1938, inclusive, will be issued as Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 28 early in 1947. The publication is the work of John McB. Robertson. Revised proof of the index is now in the office of the editors.

The work of preparing the annual index to The Condor has this year been borne largely by Hilda W. Grinnell and Virginia D. Miller. The editors are grateful for the important aid they have given.

We view with concern the continued curtailment of bird-banding activity through the inability of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to issue new banding permits. On the plea of inadequate staff, persons with specific research projects involving banding are not given the aid and encouragement they should have from this central clearing house for banding studies. The restriction imposed on this inexpensive type of research is poor economy on the part of a government that is still extravagant to an extreme.

A. Starker Leopold, Frank A. Pitelka, and Ward C. Russell have just returned to Berkeley from a six-weeks field expedition to Sonora and Sinaloa, Mexico.

Milton S. Ray was a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club for 48 years, and his written contributions to the Club's bulletin began with the first volume in 1899 when he was but 18 years of age. Throughout a long and highly successful career as a business man and industrialist, his intense interest in birds persisted with refreshingly youthful enthusiasm and energetic application. His death came on May 5, 1946.



Fig. 63. Milton S. Ray, 1881-1946. Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club for 48 years; field ornithologist, collector, and poet.

To Ray the dramatic and aesthetic aspects of bird study had great appeal. With a remarkable versatility he wrote and published several volumes of poetry. The teeming seabird life of the Farallon Islands was the inspiration for his first poems. Publication of a collection of his poetic writings in handsome format in 1934 by John Henry Nash led to a close friendship with this master of printing art. Later Mr. Ray purchased the unique John Henry Nash Library on Printing and presented it to the University of California, his alma mater.

Skill and persistence as a field observer led to Milton Ray's exceptional success in finding rare or hitherto unknown nests of birds. Many of his achievements in this direction were in the Sierra Nevada, where, for example, he found the eggs of the Sierra Nevada Rosy Finch, California Pine Grosbeak, and Goshawk. General reports on the nesting birds of the Tahoe district comprise some of his principal ornithological writings. A large proportion of his 50-odd contributions on California birds have appeared in *The Condor*.

Ray's large private collection of birds' eggs, nests, and skins grew to such proportions that he adopted for it the name of Pacific Museum of

Ornithology. It was quartered at his home in San Francisco. In late years increased attention was given to scientific study skins, and he arranged with the veteran collector W. W. Brown to send him large representations of birds from Guerrero, Mexico. Ray was in the process of studying and reporting on this Mexican material, with technical advice from the staffs of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the California Academy of Sciences, during the war period. His friendship and helpfulness in ornithological affairs will long be remembered and appreciated by his collaborators and by Cooper Club members.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

"Birds of the Philippines." by Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr (The MacMillan Company, New York, 1946, xv + 309 pp., 69 figs., 1 map). It is especially fitting that Delacour and Mayr should join forces in the task of preparing this book since they have long been interested in adjoining areas which have contributed many elements to the avifauna of the Philippine Islands.

The introduction (pp. 1-15) presents a brief survey of the geography and habitats of the Philippines relative to bird distribution and origin and includes a reprinting of "Hints to Observers" from Mayr's "Birds of the Southwest Pacific." The 7083 islands included within the political boundaries of the Philippine Archipelago have a land area of 144,400 square miles, being but slightly smaller in area than the British Isles. A total of 450 species of birds, of which 325 are resident and 125 are visitors, have been recorded from the Philippines.

Two main faunal provinces and three marginal districts are delineated in the Archipelago, with the Palawan Group treated as a completely separate entity since it is faunistically a part of the Malaysian subregion. The Philippines belong to the Oriental faunal region with Malaysian elements dominating. The Eastern Asiatic, Palearctic, Moluccan, and Papuan-Australian regions have contributed the remainder of the avifauna of the Philippines. Endemic genera have been reduced by the authors to seven and no endemic family is recognized.

The principal habitats are briefly described and the typical species of each habitat are listed. This section might well have been expanded, but its brevity is not entirely the fault of the authors. Previous workers have not recorded detailed ecological data and such information was not available.

The accounts of species, which occupy the greater portion of the book, follow a well conceived pattern. The family is first briefly diagnosed and general comments concerning habits or field appearance which apply to all members are discussed. Large or difficult families are accompa-

nied by keys to the species. The species of each family are considered separately following the family diagnosis. The common and scientific names are given, followed by a size description consisting of a one- or two-word designation of relative size and the length in inches. The species are described with emphasis upon field characters. Subspecies are briefly diagnosed and their ranges are outlined. The species account is concluded with a paragraph describing habitat, food, voice, occurrence, nesting, and habits whenever the facts are known.

The birds of the Palawan Group are treated in an appendix (Appendix A). The avifaunal affinities of this group are with the Malaysian region. Of 111 resident species, 43 are Malaysian and 27 are Philippine in origin while 41 are common to both regions. A system of symbols indicates the faunal affinities of each species and only those not previously described in the main text are diagnosed.

Appendix B is a list of 167 generic synonyms which the authors subtitle, "List of genera used by McGregor and Hachisuka that have been synonymized in the present work." Many of these changes have been discussed previously by Mayr and Delacour (*Zoologica*, 30, 1945:105-117). Mayr and Delacour include the species of these in 108 genera, a net reduction of 59 genera. This is not, however, as drastic as it sounds. McGregor and Hachisuka were prone to split until there were few well marked Philippine species which had not been doubtfully honored with a generic name. Furthermore, McGregor did not employ trinomials and thus his genera tended to approximate the species of most other systematists. It is not surprising, in view of these considerations, that the first modern reviewers of the avifauna of the Philippines should find it necessary to submerge many genera.

The importance of this volume is far beyond that claimed for it as a field guide. It is a sweeping taxonomic revision of a large and complex avifauna. The state of confusion which prevailed in the field of Philippine birds has been supplanted by a modern treatment. Any minor imperfections possessed by the volume are far outweighed by its importance as a reference work in a region where one has long been needed.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on July 25, 1946, in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. The meeting opened at 8:00 p.m. with Vice-President Frank A. Pitelka presiding and 36 members and guests present. The name of Leroy L. Jensen,