

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,

5185 Trask Street, Oakland, California, was proposed for membership by H. W. Carriger.

Recent field observations were as follows: Frank A. Pitelka reported the presence of a number of post-breeding birds in the vicinity of his home at 1 Canyon Road, Berkeley, mentioning in particular the House Wren. Pitelka also noted the disappearance of the Orange-crowned Warbler following the first week of July. Junea W. Kelly reported the presence of several hundred White Pelicans in the vicinity of Dumbarton Bridge on July 22 and the unusual absence of phalaropes there at that time. Walter A. Hicks added that a large number of White Pelicans had been present in the vicinity of the bridge on July 1, while Frank A. Scott reported that he had observed an estimated 1,000 pelicans there on July 25. Scott added that shore birds present there on the latter date included the Ruddy Turnstone, Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, and Dowitcher; but none of these was as abundant as usual. Junea W. Kelly suggested that the decrease in numbers of birds was due to tide fluctuations and the much increased salt concentration at this time of year.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. A. Starker Leopold, Director of Field Research of the Conservation Section, Pan American Union. Dr. Leopold's subject was the Curassows and Wild Turkeys of Mexico, which he illustrated with skins of specimens that he collected there.

Adjourned.—HAROLD C. REYNOLDS, *Acting Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on September 26, 1946, in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. The meeting was called to order by President S. C. Brooks with 58 members and guests present. The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved. Proposals for membership were as follows: Stanley Galen Smith, 2438 College Ave., Berkeley 4, Calif., by Alden H. Miller; Lt. Clarence Crane, Jr., 616 Jerrold Ave., San Francisco 24, Calif., by Frank A. Pitelka; George W. Salt, 115 Dolores St., San Francisco, Calif., John E. Chattin, 6521 Dana St., Oakland 9, Calif., Paul A. Dehnel, 1213 Park St., Alameda, Calif., and Theodore Downs, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley 4, Calif., by Charles G. Sibley; and Charles F. Park, Jr., Dept. of Geology, Stanford University, Calif., by Edwin T. McKnight.

The recording secretary made request for the use of an addressing machine in connection with the addressing of the meeting announcement cards.

Field observations were initiated by Frances Carter, who reported the presence of the Puget Sound White-crowns on the Berkeley campus until July 5. Alden H. Miller reported the first

migrant Fox Sparrow of the season on September 22 and the first migrant Gambel White-crown on the same date. Dr. Brooks exhibited a willow branch upon which a Red-naped Sapsucker had been working.

The speaker of the evening, Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, related her experiences with birds and bird observers during the spring migration at Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

Adjourned.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Recording Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Tuesday, September 24, 1946, at 8:00 p.m. President Ed N. Harrison presided, with about 75 members and guests present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division were read by title only.

The following names were proposed for membership: Mary Orr, Box 183, Reserve, New Mexico, and Vincent S. Yoder, 1346 Hyde St., San Francisco 9, Calif., by Mrs. N. Edward Ayer; Paul Anthony Greene, 1156 Adams Ave., Redwood City, Calif., Kenneth Leigh Scott Harley, 30 Gresham St., East Brisbane, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, William Raymond Lasky, 181 N. Saltair Ave., West Los Angeles 24, Calif., and Earl Sanders, 945 Richland St., Santa Ana, Calif., all by W. Lee Chambers; Burt L. Monroe, Ridge Road, Anchorage, Kentucky, by Loye Miller; Henry Oliver Todd, Jr., Box 259, 106 E. Main St., Murfreesboro, Tenn., by John McB. Robertson; Donald M. Drake, 102 Buena Vista Ave., Modesto, by Irl Rogers; Gonzalo Morejohn, Jr., L. A. County Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles 7, Calif., by Kenneth E. Stager; Geo. L. Sherman, Upper Lake, Calif., by Clark P. Streater; and Ed Paulson, 6900 Calhoun Ave., Van Nuys, Calif., by Elmer W. Strehlow.

On a trip through the East this summer, Dr. W. B. de Laubenfels said that he noted that in places where he used to see grackles there were now only starlings. Ed Harrison reported that the Lt. Maxton Brown Sanctuary near Carlsbad is threatened. Certain interests would like to make it a speedway for boats.

Howard L. Cogswell, the first speaker of the evening, gave report on his experiences in the Nature Center Camps conducted by the National Audubon Society in New England. Ed N. Harrison then showed his Kodachrome motion picture of his field trip last spring with A. J. van Rossem, Loye Miller and W. J. Sheffler, which took them 500 miles below the border into Sonora, Mexico. The meeting then adjourned to give an opportunity to examine study skins displayed.

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