

the sighting of every bird observed at sea. Much, of course, will depend upon the experience and accuracy of the individual observer. Great emphasis has been laid upon the importance of bird identification and it is intended so far as is possible to maintain the highest level in this respect. For special inquiries observers will use special report sheets drawn up for the express purpose of the inquiries.—MAJOR NOEL BEALE, *Founder and Secretary, Royal Naval Bird Watching Society.*

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

Part 10 of the Birds of North and Middle America (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, pt. x, 1946 [rec'd January 15, 1947], xii + 484 pp., 28 figs., \$1.25) covers the Galliformes, following the style and plan of earlier volumes of this work and particularly part 9. Friedmann has used many of Ridgway's notes and diagnoses, yet is responsible for the contents of the volume and should be regarded as the author. Indeed, we wish he felt less constrained to follow the pattern of Ridgway's earlier treatment; although uniformity has merit, its values diminish after the lapse of 45 years, the period since the initiation of the series. In the matter of form, we do appreciate the helpful inclusion in the keys of brief indications of ranges of species and subspecies (oddly omitted in some genera of the Cracidae).

One great value in such a compilation lies in the bibliographic material. Titles are listed for 1943, and at least some for early 1944. There is included a number of recently described races of galliforms, additional to those in Peters (Birds World, vol. 2, 1934) and in Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 1, 1942), but only part of these seem to have been critically evaluated. In fact there is a tendency here and there to accept a form merely if it has not been clearly disproved as a distinct racial entity rather than place the burden of proof upon those who would advocate its recognition. Thus *Canachites canadensis torridus* is listed, although Friedmann says his material does not bear out this race and Hellmayr and Conover (*op. cit.*:212) could give it no real support. Further, *Lophortyx californicus orecta*, although thought unworthy by several authors, is defended but weakly as follows: "The race is only faintly characterized, but in fresh material it is recognizable." The recognition of two different races of turkeys on the two slopes of the Sierra Madre Occidental of northern Mexico is a questionable decision. Turkeys range freely across the crest of these mountains, and the likelihood of them segregating there into two consistently characterized races is slight.

In the genus *Dendragapus*, although but one species is recognized formally, the arguments for two species are well reviewed and are stronger than those calling for one species; it may be

added that nowhere is an intergradation of the two species brought to light. In these grouse, there is reported an incongruous overlapping of the ranges of *sierrae* and *howardi*, the former extending south as far as Madera County, California, the latter extending north some fifty miles past Madera County to Calaveras County. These resident races in fact intergrade in the vicinity of latitude 37° on the west slopes of the Sierra Nevada over a fairly broad belt and arbitrary delimitation of range is necessary. To indicate that the ranges overlap distorts the picture and implies racial identification of individuals apart from the populations of which they are members.

There are a few errors of make-up in the volume which have been noted, the most disturbing of which is a transposition in the key on page 4 of the characters of the Cracoidea and Phasianoidae; the later text is correct. The name "Olathe Quail" is given to the California Quail of Owens Valley! Evidently this vernacular name was transposed from the account of the Gambel Quail of the race *sana* which has been provided with the new and sensible name of Colorado Gambel Quail. Such meaningful names indicating species affinity should have been provided throughout the work.

Surveys like the Ridgway series are by nature comprehensive rather than intensive. The taxonomic study of each small group cannot be complete nor wholly satisfying to the person particularly acquainted with a limited area or subject. Indication in this review of some points of doubt are not a reflection on the author of the work but rather an indication to the uninitiated that the analysis of variation and speciation in North and Middle American birds, and the taxonomy which reflects it, is far from being an exhausted field of endeavor. Friedmann is to be congratulated and thanked most warmly for bringing out this extremely useful and prevailingly accurate and dependable treatment of the Galliformes.—ALDEN H. MILLER.

#### COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

##### NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on January 23, 1947, in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with 153 members and guests present. Proposals for membership were as follows: Haven Hadley Spencer, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., by William H. Burt; Lawrence P. Richards, 5375 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Honolulu 49, Hawaii, by Harvey I. Fisher; Mrs. Roy F. Nelson, 650 Blair Ave., Piedmont 11, Calif., Miss Grace E. Ball, 1219 Leavenworth St., San Francisco 4, Calif., and Mrs. Luther Dunlap, 2817 Woolsey St., Berkeley 5,