

NOTES AND NEWS

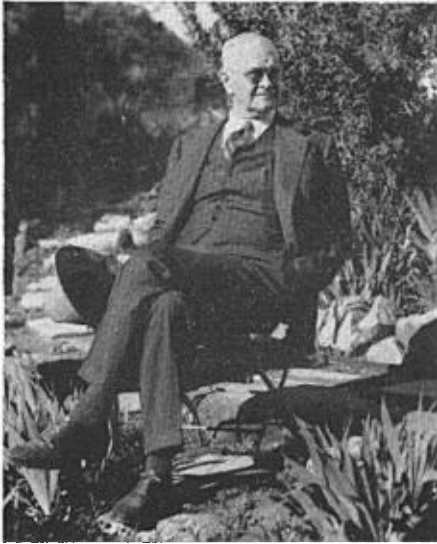


Fig. 25. W. Lee Chambers, Business Manager of the Cooper Ornithological Club and member since August 28, 1897.

THE MEXICAN CACIQUE

Grayson's name for the Mexican Cacique (*Cassicus melanicterus*) was Double-crested Oriole. It is a species that ranges from Sinaloa to Chiapas along the Pacific coast of México. His painting of it was based on specimens taken in January, 1867, on the Río Mazatlán, Sinaloa. The following are excerpts from his manuscript account of the species: The "long pendant nests . . . may often be seen . . . suspended in the air and moved by the slightest breeze . . . They appear to be loosely put together, admitting the air to pass freely through them, not unlike a net hammock . . . At first I was at a loss to determine how the bird first made a foundation from the tip end of a slender branch from which [the nest] swings. In due time, however, I was favored with an opportunity of witnessing the *modus operandi*. A long, slender pendant twig is generally selected, often without leaves and at the extreme end of which she fastens, by the aid of her bill and feet, the end of the longest and toughest grass, or [other] suitable material she can find, leaving one end to hang loosely below. After tying a number to the twig so as to give proper strength to support the structure, she then commences at the lower end and fastens them together in vari-

ous knots and loops, her acute bill playing back and forth equally as rapid as a knitting needle in the hands of our grandmothers. After the ends are well knit together, and a warp is formed, then commences the operation of weaving in the filling. This is done with astonishing dexterity, the bird keeping inside all the while and keeping the aperture free from entanglement at the same time working and binding the edges of the doorway to prevent it from becoming tangled or closed.

The Double-crested Oriole does not commence to build its nest until after the first showers of June, when all nature seems to become suddenly awakened from a long torpor of drought. Then it is they soon pair off and become very active and garrulous in their delightful task of nidification; then their finely contrasted plumage of black and bright yellow may be seen flitting among the trees, and their oft repeated attempts at song enliven the woods."

The frontispiece showing Mexican Caciques was generously provided for by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson C. Hanna.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

TRAPPING METHODS FOR BIRD RINGERS. By P. A.

D. Hollom. British Trust for Ornithology Field Guide No. 1, 40 pp., 24 figs; paper; 2 shillings, 6 pence.

Bird banders and students of bird populations generally have long felt a need for more effective methods of obtaining birds. While this manual presents mostly types of traps found in the Manual for Bird Banders, there are some not found there, particularly those of the large multiple-catch variety. For the student of territorial birds who is interested in a small, easily constructed, one- or two-cell trap, this booklet has little to offer. The Potter type trap described has projecting runners for the doors which would make the trap most unwieldy in brush areas and the treadle is in an awkward position. A noteworthy suggestion is the use of clear plastic for the rear wall of the trap. In most instances the fine points of construction are left to the builder, a fact somewhat disconcerting to the non-mechanically minded person. This manual serves to emphasize the need for new ideas in small trap construction while serving as an excellent supplement to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Manual. —HENRY E. CHILDS, JR.