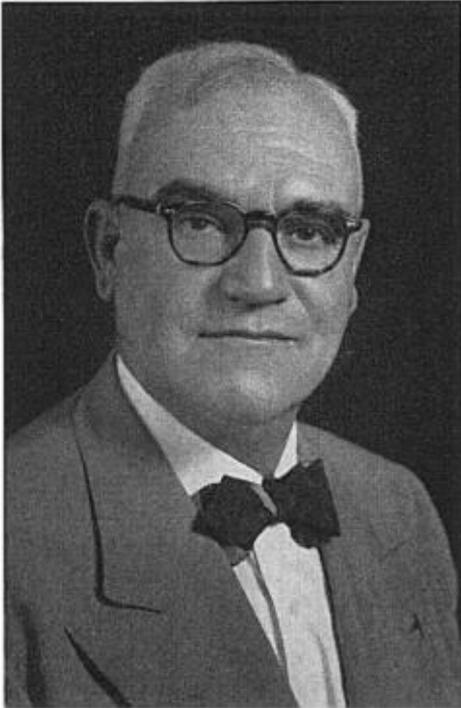


## NOTES AND NEWS



John R. Pemberton, President of the Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Club and member since 1900.

The Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in San Francisco, California, under the auspices of the California Academy of Sciences, May 9 to 11, 1952. Sponsorship is by the Northern Division of the Club. A detailed announcement and call for papers will be forthcoming at an early date. Members are urged to commence planning for attendance and participation in the scientific program.

The Grayson painting reproduced in this issue shows the race of Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos scalaris graysoni*) endemic on the Tres Marias Islands, Mexico. Grayson wrote the following in his field catalog: "This bird is more abundant in the Tres Marias than on the main coast where it is also a common species. I have met with it along the Tierra Caliente bordering the Pacific coast, from Sonora to Tehuantepec. It seems to thrive better in the Marias than elsewhere, for there it is very numerous and may be

seen, or its gentle tappings heard, in the quiet woods at all hours of the day, busy drilling into the dried branches and logs in search of borers or white ants . . . . I found a nest (in the month of April) . . . bored into the green flower stem of a maguey plant. The entrance of the nest was beautifully rounded, and about twelve feet from the ground. This tall slender smooth stem, not more than four inches in diameter, and with its soft spongy wood, afforded a convenient material to work out the nest, as well as a sure protection against the raccoon, or other intruders; the long spear-shaped leaves armed with spines at the root, prevented the possibility of a near approach to it from the ground without some labor of cutting them away."

This color plate is a gift of the James Irving Foundation in commemoration of the Society of California Pioneers, to which Grayson belonged.

Announcement has been made in Los Angeles that Jean Delacour will become the director of the Los Angeles Museum. To this important post he brings a valuable knowledge of the fine arts as well as high attainments in science, especially in the ornithological field.

## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

MEXICAN BIRDS. FIRST IMPRESSIONS BASED UPON AN ORNITHOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO TAMAULIPAS, NUEVO LEÓN, AND COAHUILA WITH AN APPENDIX BRIEFLY DESCRIBING ALL MEXICAN BIRDS. By George Miksch Sutton. Illustrated with water-color and pen-and-ink drawings by the author. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, xv + 282 pp.; 16 color pls., 64 (unnumbered) figs. in text; 1951 (November); \$10.00.

The full subtitle and explanatory material on the title page, as reproduced above accurately portray the scope of this book. The trip concerned was the Semple Expedition of 1938, from January 27 to March 8, which was reported on in 1939 by Sutton and Burleigh (Occas. Papers Louisiana State Univ. No. 3, pp. 15-46). The numerous later trips of the author into eastern and central Mexico are not involved in this book except as they contribute importantly to the illustrative material and to his background for developing the appendix.

Ornithological travelogue occupies the first 188 pages and it conveys a feeling for the country