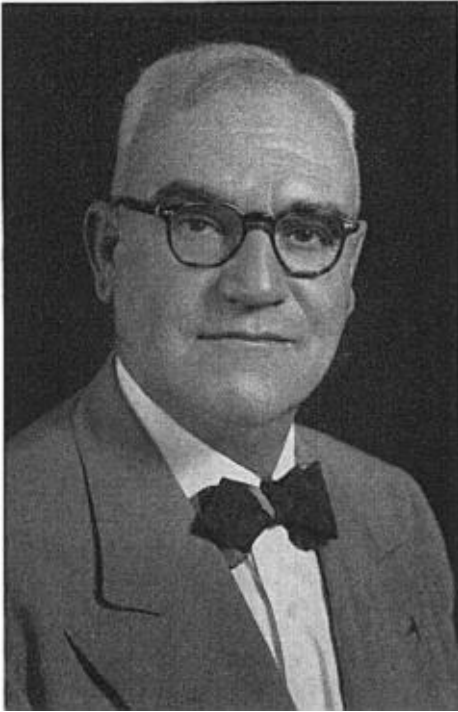


NOTES AND NEWS



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

and tells many little things about newly met species, some accounts of which nicely capture the essence of the living bird. In the effort to develop this narrative and register the impact of first acquaintances, the writing becomes extensively personal and emotionally introspective. No one of us who enjoys bird life has failed to derive pleasure in meeting new and interesting birds and each hopes to continue to do so. But transferring this kind of esthetic experience to another person by describing the series of emotions of the observer is difficult to accomplish. To characterize an encounter with a new bird as a thrill, or even a "thrill of thrills" as Sutton does, is not likely to make the experience such to the reader, even though he knows the author as a personable fellow and is glad he had a good time in Mexico.

Probably the greatest contribution of this book is the excellent set of drawings made in the field or from field sketches. Sutton has no peer in this regard in our opinion. These analyses of Mexican birds with pen and brush capture pose and structural detail magnificently, and from a practical standpoint, too, serve to aid the visitor to Mexico in identifying species.

The appendix treats Mexican birds by families, describing each species not found in the United States; knowledge of the latter is properly assumed for the English-speaking visitor to Mexico. The general range of each species also is given briefly. This material is drawn from standard references on Central American and New World birds and of course from much personal experience of the author. Species most easily identified or most likely to be seen are mentioned first under each family. A person will of course need to be able to place the bird as to family before using the appendix for a guide. Quite properly subspecies are not dealt with at all. Some helpful suggestions are put forth on appropriate vernacular species names for neotropical types. Until the manuals for Mexican birds now in preparation are completed, this section of 71 pages in Sutton's book, with the illustrations, will prove a real help to ornithologists in Mexico.

The volume is attractively printed and seems free of typographical errors so far as we can discover. There apparently are some omissions in the appendix, especially as relates to northwestern Mexico. In the family Paridae, for example, ranges for the species in Mexico are not given at all, and Mountain Chickadees, Plain Titmice, Black-crested Titmice and Verdins are not listed.

All range into the United States to be sure but the last two have extensive ranges in Mexico; these two are mentioned in the narrative section.

—ALDEN H. MILLER.

THE PHEASANTS OF THE WORLD. By Jean Delacour. Illustrated with thirty-two plates by J. C. Harrison. Country Life Limited, London, and Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 347 pp., quarto; 32 pls. (16 in color), 21 figs. in text (chiefly maps); October 29, 1951; \$35.00.

This beautifully appointed book has many virtues even though its high price is not one of them. The author's acquaintance with pheasants as an aviculturalist, museum taxonomist, and field explorer is a combination quite unsurpassed and unlikely in the foreseeable future to be duplicated. This background is sketched in the introduction we think accurately and unhampered by false modesty. Since Beebe's work on pheasants (1918-1922), new discoveries have been made and fresh information gathered. "Relationships between species, particularly, are better understood than formerly The present volume completes and brings up to date Beebe's *Monograph*. It has a two-fold purpose: to offer a summary of modern knowledge of systematics, life habits, and geographical distribution of the birds, and to supply the ever-growing numbers of Pheasant-lovers with necessary data concerning the birds in confinement." Synonymy is not repeated from Beebe and accounts of life habits in the wild have been reduced to a minimum where they are already available in the earlier work. The history and life of the species in captivity are dealt with much more fully and a great deal of practical information, general and specific, on raising pheasants is included.

The taxonomy is not radically different from that of Peters' (*Birds of the World*, 1934). The genera are reduced from 21 to 16, chiefly by merging of some monotypic and small genera in the *Lophura* complex (details given by Delacour in the *Ibis* in 1949). The total number of species, 49, is essentially the same as in Peters, although some shifts are involved, including the specific separation of *Phasianus colchicus* and *Phasianus versicolor*. The net increase in recognized subspecies is 16, the total being 122. Perhaps more significant than the change in number of genera, which is largely a matter of taste or viewpoint in taxonomy, is the rearrangement of them in a sequence which presumably reflects their phylogeny more accurately than heretofore. In doing this Delacour's rich experience with the group lends

authority. The reasons are at times exasperatingly condensed in their presentation and thus one is offered opinions and conclusions which he can not help but feel are extensively supported but which he would like very much to be able independently to verify from the facts. Doubtless limits of space have dictated this situation and in some instances the data are available in previous articles by Delacour and others.

The illustrations appeal to us as very good. Not only are the color plates excellent but the monochromes, including portrayals of many of the downy young, are most instructive. All the major kinds of pheasants are figured. The distribution maps, prepared by Dr. C. Vaurie, are themselves substantial technical contributions to zoogeography. Pheasants as a group are essentially restricted in their native distribution to Asia, Malaysia and the neighboring islands with the one notable exception of the rather recently discovered Congo Peacock of Africa.—ALDEN H. MILLER.

COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on September 25, 1951, at the Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California. The following names were proposed for membership: Herbert A. Armstrong, Bly, Ore., by W. J. Sheffler; Ethel H. Cohen, 2916 W. 14th St., Los Angeles 6, Calif., by Dr. Adele Grant; Chris Eugene De Young, 1253 College Way, Ontario, Calif., and Robert E. Orth, Box S-153, Grand Ave., Elsinore, Calif., by Ralph H. Miller; Jerome J. Dobson, Rt. 1, Box 144, Exeter, Calif., by Kenneth E. Stager; Steve Gallizioli, Box 5, Pima, Ariz., by Sidney B. Peyton; Richard M. Hinchman, 75 Fairbanks Rd., Milton 86, Mass., by Francis H. Boynton; Magsayuki Ono, care of Central Tokyo, P. O. Box 950, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan, by James Rooney; Mrs. Douglas Rigby, Sedono, Ariz., by Allan R. Phillips; Lucille Valdick, 15920 Via Pinale, San Lorenzo, Calif., by Lois C. Taylor; Patrick Jerry Gould, 9118 E. Valley Blvd., Rosemead, Calif., and David W. Todd III, 1815 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek, Calif., by H. L. Cogswell; Frank A. Bartlett, 2435 N.E. 60th Ave., Portland 13, Ore., Mrs. H. M. S. Bell, 742 St. Patrick St., Victoria, B.C., Canada, William Edmund Bergmann, Jr., 6719 Betts Ave., North College Hill 24, Ohio, James Wayman Clefelter, 241 Doyle Ave., Paris, Ky., A. L. Campbell, 9434 S.W. Capitol Hy., Port-

land 19, Ore., H. Everest Clements, 49 Stoneham Rd., Rochester 10, N. Y., Percy L. Collins, 18 Vanderbilt Ave., Milltown, N. J., Mrs. Maybelle De May, 504 E. Oak Ave., El Segundo, Calif., Mrs. James D. Dresser, Jr., 9620 Von Thaden, Rt. 4, Wichita 15, Kans., Carl M. Eklund, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Mont., John Ripley Forbes, Director Calif. Junior Museum, 2751 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, Calif., Mrs. Clarence W. Hager, Rt. 1, Box 356, Tigard, Ore., John Lewis Hammar, P. O. Box 93, Empangeni, Zululand, So. Africa, Miss Grenville Hatch, 1548 Wilhelmina Rise, Honolulu 16, Hawaii, Ada Lorn Hildreth, 4223 S. E. 67th Ave., Portland 6, Ore., William K. Kirsher, Box 346, Sacramento 2, Calif., Miss Lucy Randall Knox, 2000 California St., Apt. 406, San Francisco 9, Calif., Adolf Jacob Krehbiel, 221 Jefferson St., Clayton, N. M., Martha A. Lengemann, 360 Cedar St., Imlay City, Mich., Norbert Leupold, 3555 S. E. Insley, Portland 2, Ore., Jack L. Marks, 400 S.W. Kingston, Portland, Ore., Mrs. Grace McIntyre, Devil's Tower, Wyo., Verda Mitchell, Multnomah Hospital, 3171 S.W. Jackson Park Rd., Portland 1, Ore., Frank Douglas Mueller, 49 Radford Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada, Osgood Heilman Munger, 2755 S.W. Buena Vista Dr., Portland 1, Ore., Edward Norman, Box 221, Deerfield, Mass., Mrs. Edgar R. Odom, P. O. Box 458, Orange, Tex., Robert P. Parsons, Rt. 1, Box 252, Carmel, Calif., William B. Phillips, 155 E. 82nd St., New York 28, N.Y., Norman B. McCulloch, Jr., 2013 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, N. C., Evan Randolph, Cor. Seminole and Chestnut Aves., Philadelphia 18, Pa., Stanley Moore Richmond, Eugene Medical Center Bldg., Eugene, Ore., Clarence H. Sanderson, 3 Fourth St., Oneida, N. Y., Edward W. Smith, Rt. 3, Box 698, Oregon City, Ore., Lyle K. Sowls, Leader, Arizona Coop. Wildlife Research Unit, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., Margaret Morton Sprick, 215 Santa Fe Ave., Hamden 14, Conn., Anna Mae Strahan, P. O. Box 293, Fort Klamath, Ore., Guillermo Jose Tapia, San Borja No. 526-C, Colonia del Valle, Mexico 12, D. F., Donald Julius Tucker, 103 No. Ballston Ave., Scotia 2, N. Y., and Clara S. Weedmark, 1151½ W. 29th St., Los Angeles 7, Calif., by C. V. Duff. Mr. Ed N. Harrison and Mrs. Frances F. Roberts presented their motion picture, the "Cruise of the Kinkajou."—DOROTHY E. GRONER, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on October 30, 1951, 145 Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California.