

NOTES AND NEWS



Wilson C. Hanna, member of the Cooper Ornithological Club since 1902, past president of the Southern Division and member of the Board of Governors.

The Wilson Ornithological Club is again offering a Louis Agassiz Fuertes Grant in 1952. This grant of \$100 is especially intended to assist young ornithologists in their research projects. Grants are awarded on the basis of the merits and promise of the research project as appraised by the Wilson Club Research Committee. Application forms will be sent on request and must be returned to the chairman of the committee, John T. Emlen, Jr., University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin, by March 25, 1952.

The frontispiece of this issue showing the Red-fronted Parrot (*Amazona finschi*) is the seventeenth in the series of paintings by Andrew Jackson Grayson published in the Condor. This plate is given anonymously in honor of Francis H. Rudkin, Sr., of Fillmore, California. Mr. Rudkin, who will be 91 years of age on March 16, is the dean of American aviculturists. He and David Seth-Smith of England are the two oldest members of the British Avicultural Society, which recently conferred honorary membership upon

Mr. Rudkin. His counsel and advice in all fields of aviculture are sought by interested persons both here and abroad.

The Red-fronted Parrot was painted by Grayson at Mazatlán in October, 1864. Grayson writes of it as follows: "This handsome and well known species of western Mexico inhabits the region of the Tierra Caliente on the western slopes of the Cordillera, more abundant near the sea coast than in the mountainous regions . . . The parrots are gregarious, assembling in large flocks and are more numerous in the region of Mazatlán than any other portion of the country that I have visited. The forests in some localities, particularly where some kinds of fruit are in season, appear at times to be alive with them only . . . They often visit the cornfields or milpas in great numbers, about the time the green corn or maize commences to mature, committing great depredations and often destroying the small milpas of the native unless they are guarded . . . In feeding they waste much more than they swallow. In corn for instance they only take the heart or germ, throwing the other parts away . . . It is remarkable how ingeniously they hull off the parts rejected with their sharp edged under mandible, with which it would seem they could split a hair . . . They are good climbers, and for this their feet are well adapted. Their hooked beak is a great assistance in pulling themselves from one branch to another."

The food-plant shown in the plate is *Psidium sartorianum*, a member of the family Myrtaceae. The tropical tree producing guava fruit is placed in the same genus.

Because of growing concern about vernacular names of Middle American birds, it may be pointed out here that there are other "red-fronted" parrots. It has been suggested by Eisenmann, Sutton, and others that the name "Lilac-crowned Parrot" be adopted for *Amazona finschi*.

COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on October 4, 1951, in room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. The following were proposed for membership: Leo B. Olson, 835 S. 1st Street, DeKalb, Illinois, and Bayard