

NOTES AND NEWS

The painting of the Massena or Mearns Quail (*Cyrtonyx montezumae*) reproduced as the frontispiece of this issue is the eighteenth in the series of paintings by Andrew Jackson Grayson to appear in *The Condor*. This color plate was given by Louis Cass, Sr., to whom all readers of the journal are indebted. Grayson painted this spectacular quail from specimens taken at Guadalajara, Mexico, in May of 1866.

We learn as we go to press of the death of Joseph S. Dixon in Escondido, California, on June 23, 1952.

A recent paper by George H. Lowery, Jr. (A Quantitative Study of the Nocturnal Migration of Birds, University of Kansas Publications, Museum of Natural History, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 361-472, 1951) describes the success attained by a new method of studying the movement of birds at night, using a telescope to count the silhouettes passing before the disc of the moon. In the spring of 1948, over 200 ornithologists, students, and astronomers put this method to work at 30 widely separated stations on the North American continent. No particular effort was made at that time to enlist the aid of observers in the West. As a result, all the country west of the Great Plains was represented by only a single station in California.

Improved mathematical techniques now permit the processing of data in unlimited quantities. Accordingly, a second cooperative project is being scheduled for the fall of 1952—a project that is expected to be truly nationwide. The observational procedure is a simple one. Anyone with access to a telescope has an opportunity to contribute tremendously to the solution of the many puzzling problems connected with the movement of birds at night. Details regarding both the method and other aspects of the problem may be secured by writing at once to Robert J. Newman at the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Richard F. Johnston has been appointed as one of the Assistant Editors of *The Condor* as of June of this year.

COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING

Scientific Sessions

At the Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club held at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, May 9 and 10, 1952, the following papers were presented on the scientific program: A Method for the Objective Study of Bird Song, William R. Fish; The Refractory Period for Photostimulation in *Zonotrichia*, Alden H. Miller; Preliminary Observations on the Differentiation and Growth of Down Feather Papillae, Robert E. Bailey; The San Francisco Bay Region Nesting Survey, Charles G. Sibley; Plant Succession and Quail Reproduction, Ian I. McMillan; The Daily Activity Cycle in Arctic Birds, Frank A. Pitelka; Preliminary Report on Color Variation and Environment in the Wren-tit, Darl E. Bowers; February on Barro Colorado in the Panama Canal Zone, Junea W. Kelly; Birds of the Tzitzio Region, Michoacán, Mexico, John Davis; Intestinal Morphology of Gallinaceous Birds in Relation to Food Habits, A. Starker Leopold; The Problem of Adaptation in the Galapagos Finches (*Geospizinae*), Robert I. Bowman; An Incredible Bird from a Cave Deposit in Nevada, Hildegard Howard; Discovery of an Early Publication on the California Condor, Lois Chambers Taylor; Comparative Ecology and Behavior of Hybridizing Titmice in Texas, Keith L. Dixon; Breeding Bird Populations in Relation to Plant Succession, David W. Johnston; Species Characters and Hybridization in Certain *Empidonax* Flycatchers, Allan R. Phillips; Ecologic Comparisons of Avifaunas, George W. Salt; The Changing Habitat of the Western Robin in Southern California, Kenneth E. Stager; Junior Nature Museums, an Answer to the Conservation Problem; John Ripley Forbes; The Status of Certain Species in the San Francisco Bay Region, Charles G. Sibley; Variation in the Booming Nighthawks of Western North America, Robert K. Selander; An Analysis and Survey of Contemporary Bird Painting, Gene M. Christman; The Problem of Molt of the Tarsal Scutes in Birds, Robert W. Storer.