

NOTES AND NEWS



Junea W. Kelly

The friends and students of Junea W. Kelly present in this issue of *The Condor* the Grayson painting of the little known neotropical cotinga, the Polymorphic Attila (*Attila spadiceus*). This is done in warm appreciation of Mrs. Kelly's more than 30 years of teaching in the extension division of the University of California. Her field courses in bird study and natural history have brought to an extraordinarily large number of people pleasure and vivid enthusiasm in the knowledge of birds and recreation of a most valuable kind. Mrs. Kelly is a past president of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Society and has served the Society on the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union. At present she is representing the Cooper Society at the Eleventh International Ornithological Congress in Switzerland.—A.H.M.

Grayson's painting of *Attila spadiceus* was made in June of 1862 and was based on specimens he took on the Río Mazatlán, Sinaloa, México. The extremely yellow bird in the figure is apparently the yellow variant of the species referred to by Ridgway (*Birds N. M. Amer.*, pt. 4, 1907:809, footnote) among Grayson's original specimens of the race "*cinnamomeus* Lawrence," which is now known as *A. s. pacificus* Hellmayr.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS OF WASHINGTON STATE. By Stanley G. Jewett, Walter P. Taylor, William T. Shaw, and John W. Aldrich. University of Washington Press, Seattle, xxxiv + 768 pp., 12 color pls., 99 black and white pls., 51 range maps, 1 life-zone map. 1953 (November 16); \$8.00.

This comprehensive treatment of the birds of the state of Washington has been in the developmental stage for over thirty years, primarily as a project of the United States Biological Survey and its successor, the Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1917 Taylor and Shaw began assembling data based on their own field work but were not able to complete the task because of other duties and assignments. In the last ten years of the project, the leading worker involved in field investigations and compilation of distributional material has been the veteran ornithologist of the Pacific Northwest, Stanley G. Jewett. The classification has been the work of Aldrich.

The general introductory sections of the book treat such topics as history, topography, climate, zonation, refuges, and introduction of species. These statements although at some points a little loose or oversimplified are generally sound and reflect the intimate knowledge of the area on the part of the senior authors. The approach is descriptive; there is no faunal or ecologic analysis as such. The bibliography is apparently fairly complete up to 1945 but is limited in entries after that date and there is little or nothing after 1951.

The main purposes of the book are accomplished in the species and subspecies accounts which undertake to provide: (1) a guide, by means of descriptions, for the recognition of birds; (2) synoptic data on nesting, with specific examples for the state; (3) indication of distribution, migration, and seasonal and habitat occurrences; (4) miscellaneous commentary on natural history drawn chiefly from the literature for the state and the notes of the authors and collaborators; and (5) a complete list and current classification of races and species for the area.

Some commentary is on order on how certain of these aims are carried out. The descriptions of birds are in most instances direct and acknowledged quotations from Bailey's *Handbook of Western Birds* or, with respect to young, from

Bent's Life Histories. Dimensions are rather loosely given in inches. Nicely supplementing the descriptions is a good series of photographs, well reproduced, which represents one of the strongest features of the book. The photographs are by a number of able wildlife photographers such as Finley, Congdon, Kenyon, Alex Walker, and Yocom.

The accounts of distribution in the state are given for each kind both in general terms under "status" and in stereotyped formulations which specify limits, around the compass, and cite particular stations. A very helpful and necessary gazetteer is provided at the end of the work. The striking life-zone map is also useful in this regard; it has one unfortunate error, however, in the legends for the timbered and untimbered divisions of the arid transition zone, which are reversed. The 51 range maps show by shading the ranges of geographically variable species in the state; no individual plotting of critical specimens is entered on them.

The vernacular nomenclature is well worked out to show species units through general correspondence with the names tentatively devised by the A.O.U. Check-list Committee for its forthcoming 5th edition of the North American Check-list. On the other hand, the scientific nomenclature for species and subspecies employed by Aldrich is at variance with the views of many other workers on numerous points; this in turn of course complicates the parallel vernacular names. Any person has a right freely to take issue with the check-list committee or any other group. Also it should be realized that no two workers dealing with the difficult decisions entailed in the application of subspecies names can be expected to see eye to eye on all issues. However, it is particularly important for the amateur and beginner using this book to realize that Aldrich has approached the subspecies problem in a way quite unacceptable to a number of other taxonomists; he has in many instances recognized racial subdivisions considered by others as far too trivial and inconsistent and not conforming to the 75 per cent rule of differentiation and has credited to the state certain subspecies based on questionable determinations of what may be chance variants of other racial populations. This is the type of approach to the subspecies problem that has often brought the employment of trinomials into poor favor with biologists in other fields.

In short, the last word on subspecific classification has not yet been offered for the state of Washington and actually, as Aldrich himself indi-

cates, many ranges of races are not yet sufficiently documented by specimens. Neither in Washington state or elsewhere are there really large unit collections for the area, nor have large collections been assembled by borrowing for purposes of refined taxonomic work. The point to be made especially is that a great deal more collecting still needs to be done in Washington followed by painstaking analysis of the variation that the specimens show.—ALDEN H. MILLER.

COOPER SOCIETY MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

FEBRUARY.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Society was held on February 23, 1954, at the Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles. The following names were proposed for membership: Mrs. Cora Baker, 5111 42nd Ave., Sacramento, Calif., by Wm. K. Kirscher; Katharine T. Coakley, Mariposa, Calif., by Junea W. Kelly; Victor Lewin, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley 4, Calif., by Carl B. Koford; Mrs. Harold Rosegay, 216 Los Gallinas Ave., San Rafael, Calif., by Lois C. Stone; Ken Legg, 173 Plateau Ave., Santa Cruz, Calif., and Dr. Fred A. Ryser, Jr., Biology Dept., Univ. of Nevada, Reno, Nev., by Francis H. Boynton; Jackson Miles Abbott, 814 13th St., New Alexandria, Va., Frank C. Bellrose, Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv., Havana, Ill., Samuel Gaspavec, Box 88, Homer, Alaska, Frank E. Horn, 538 East 21st St., Brooklyn 26, N.Y., Mrs. J. L. McBride, 2224 Via Guadalupe, Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., Frank P. McConoughey, 1547 Northland Ave., Lakewood 7, Ohio, Dr. J. A. Sealander, Jr., Zoology Dept., Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark., and Mrs. Charles W. Vanek, 7441 Rewter Ave., Dearborn 1, Mich., all by C. V. Duff.

Due to an unexpected vacancy in the office of second vice-president, the Nominating Committee presented the name of Robert L. Taylor for the office. There being no further nominations from the floor it was duly moved and seconded that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast an unanimous ballot as proposed. Motion carried and Dr. Taylor was declared elected to fill the office of second vice-president.

The evening's program entitled "Bush Noises" was given by Raymond B. Cowles. The lecture was illustrated with colored slides of African birds, animals and scenery, and with tape recordings.—DOROTHY E. GRONER, *Secretary*.