

## NOTES AND NEWS

At the recent meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Madison, Wisconsin, the Brewster Award was made to James Bond for his writings on the birds of the West Indies. The Marcia B. Tucker Student Award was made to Robert K. Selander. Elections resulted as follows: Honorary Fellows, Finn Salomonsen and Yoshimaro Yamashina; Corresponding Fellows, Lars von Haartman, Rene Verheyen, Constantine W. Benson, and F. Bourliere; Fellows, W. Earl Godfrey, Joseph Hickey, Howard L. Mendall, and Charles Vaurie; Elective Members (formerly designated Members), Herbert H. Beck, E. Alexander Bergstrom, Irvin O. Buss, Nicholas E. Collias, Ernest P. Edwards, Brina Kessel, Chester C. Lamb, Louise Lawrence, Henry M. Stevenson, and Howard F. Young; new Councilmen, Ira N. Gabrielson, George H. Lowery, Jr., and Roger Tory Peterson. Current officers otherwise were reelected.

Cost of publishing tabular material in the article on the Greenland Wheatear has been contributed by George M. Sutton.

### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE GIANT CACTUS FOREST AND ITS WORLD. By Paul Griswold Howes. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, xii-xviii + 243 pp, frontispiece, 1 color plate, 186 figures. 1954. \$7.50.

To an old Sand Rat who fell in love with the Arizona desert 60 years ago, this profusely illustrated book is like looking over the "old family album" except that its photographs are all done in the sharp technique of modern outdoor photography. To one who is a stranger in desert country, there will come the strong call to go and see it, to smell it, to breath it. For the Condor reader there is a chapter of friendly gossip about the birds—truthful gossip on the whole except that one might challenge the statement that the Pigmy Owl is smaller than the Elf Owl. The museum calipers show a close approximation in size but to one who has handled many of each species in the flesh (or has cleaned skeletons), the Elf appears as more truly elfin—a really fragile creature.

But what bird man is satisfied with a "bird in the hand"? A bird in the bush is worth twice as much to the nature-minded modern. That bush may be a cholla or a saguaro as this entertaining book points out. Along with the bush go the bird's

neighbors, vertebrate and invertebrate. Even the soil, the sun and the meager rainfall help to frame the picture the author paints—and it is a pleasant picture.

There are many questions left unanswered but unanswered questions are strongly stimulating.

Meanwhile the wind sings through the spines of the tall giant cactus (an incredible creation), the creosote and sage scent the air by day, the night-blooming cereus by night. The silence at dawn, the sun at noon, the purple shadows at sunset, all are brought to mind afresh by reading "The Giant Cactus Forest and its World."—LOYE MILLER.

### COOPER SOCIETY MEETINGS

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

JUNE.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held on June 3, 1954, at the University of California, Berkeley, California. The following names were proposed for membership: Robert J. Bennett, Astoria, N.Y., by D. W. Johnston; and Andreas B. Rechnitzer, La Jolla, Calif., by A. H. Miller.

R. I. Bowman reported on a visit to the Farallon Islands on May 18, 1954. During the 1½ hours on the most eastern island, where the Coast Guard Station is located, the following species were noted. The Western Gull, the only nesting larid, was the most abundant species. Nests were made of sections of the yellow-flowered composite *Baeria maritima*, which is extremely common on the island. Brandt Cormorants far out-numbered Pelagic Cormorants, and no Double-crested Cormorants were seen. On the gently sloping terraces of the north side of the island there was a colony of Brandt Cormorants containing over 150 nests, many of which held eggs, 1 to 5 in number. Pelagic Cormorants were seen on nests at two very steep bluffs on the north coast. Also on the north coast were two small nesting colonies of Common Murres, each of about 15 birds. No Rhinoceros Auklets were seen. G. W. Treichel, another member of the party, noted two Tufted Puffins in flight. Pigeon Guillemots were extremely abundant in the numerous holes among the rocks or under boards.

Mr. Donald L. McLean of the California Division of Fish and Game, discussed "Introductions of Birds and Mammals in California."—ROBERT I. BOWMAN, *Acting Secretary*.