

## NOTES AND NEWS

The Cooper Ornithological Society has recently learned that it is a beneficiary in the will of the late Dr. Harry R. Painton. The Society is to receive 20 per cent of the estate which is appraised at approximately \$197,000; the money will very importantly augment the endowment reserves of the organization, perpetuating Dr. Painton's deep concern for its welfare and its publication program. Dr. Painton was one of the four founders of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1893 at San Jose (see *Condor*, 45, 1943:162, fig. 41). Following a life-time of active service in medicine, he resumed his ornithological interests in 1936. In 1940 and 1941 he served as President of the Northern Division and subsequently was President of the Board of Governors until 1946. He was elected an honorary member in 1947.—A.H.M.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society in 1956 will be held in Seattle, Washington, in late June at the time of the meetings of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. Exact dates will be announced later. The Cooper Society meeting is being held in Washington at the invitation of the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society and the University of Washington. A future annual meeting is contemplated in Salt Lake City at the suggestion of Dr. William H. Behle.

Dr. T. S. Palmer, Honorary Member of the Cooper Ornithological Society and for many years Secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on July 23, 1955, at the age of 87. He had been a member of the Cooper Society since 1904 and was known in the West especially for his participation in the initial biological exploration of the Death Valley area in 1891 as a member of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey.

Readers of this issue of the *Condor* should realize that the Whooping Cranes involved in the report by Harvey Fisher were anatomical specimens salvaged from birds that were found dead; there was of course *no* collecting of this very rare bird. Ornithologists the world over who are concerned for the preservation of the Whooping Crane will be dismayed to learn of a proposal to establish a bombing practice range next to the Aransas Refuge in Texas where apparently the

entire remnant population of the species spends the winter. Should such a development carry through despite protests to government officials, it seems likely that this will mean the end of this magnificent crane.—A.H.M.

## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE WATERFOWL OF THE WORLD. Volume 1. By Jean Delacour with sixteen plates in color by Peter Scott and thirty-three distribution maps. Country Life Limited, London, 284 pp., with frontispiece. September 30, 1954. Price, five guineas.

This is a magnificently prepared and published book constituting part one of a projected three-volume work on the anseriform birds of the world. It is seldom that a reviewer can wholeheartedly agree with advertising statements on the book cover, but one may in this instance subscribe without reservation to the fact that "the author and illustrator . . . are beyond question the two men with most knowledge of waterfowl in the world today . . . Both have formed world-famous [live] collections of waterfowl—Mr. Delacour at Clères in Normandy before the Second World War, and Mr. Scott at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire since the war ended."

Part one deals with the subfamilies Anseranatinae, Anserinae, and Anatinae, thus including such familiar types as tree ducks, swans, geese, shelducks, and steamer ducks. The classification naturally follows the reclassification of the order Anseriformes of Delacour and Mayr of 1945. There is only one properly called-for alteration that affects the groups here covered, namely the elevation of the Australian Magpie Goose, *Anseranas*, to a division of subfamily rank. In the treatment of groups and species the approach is that of synthesis and summarization in which opinions are expressed without full documentation. Thus the work is not exhaustive, and should critical users be inclined to reexamine the full basis for decisions, they will have to search elsewhere among many uncited items. But of course the experience of the author is such as to guarantee well supported conclusions on most issues.

The treatment includes keys, brief descriptions of species, synopses of habits, distribution, and, most appropriately, matters related to holding waterfowl as captives. Excellent maps are provided and Scott's superb comparative illustra-