

NOTES AND NEWS

At the recent annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society held in Salt Lake City, Utah, the following papers were presented on April 25: The Intermountain Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club, by William H. Behle; Bird Remains Collected at Kit Fox Dens, Harold J. Egoscue; Bird Hazard to Aircraft, With Special Reference to Midway Atoll, Johnson A. Neff; Migration Data on the Shorebirds of the San Francisco Bay Region, Junea W. Kelly; Premigratory Changes in Body Weight and Body Fat in Wild and Captive Gambel Sparrows, James R. King and Donald S. Farner; The Common Screech Owl of the Pacific Coast of Mexico, Joe Marshall; Unusual Occurrences and Distribution of Birds in Utah's West Desert Region, John B. Bushman; The Great Horned Owls of Middle America, Robert T. Orr and J. Dan Webster; The Breeding Behavior of Canada Geese on the Ogden Bay Refuge, Utah, Fant W. Martin.

On April 26: The Role of the Ornithologist in Epidemiological Research, Griffith E. Quinby; Some Relationships of Birds to Arthropod-borne Encephalitis Viruses, Clarence A. Sooter; Experiments on Birds as Hosts of the Western Encephalitis Mosquito, Richard P. Dow; Bird Migration and Disease Transmission, John B. Bushman; Bird Parasites and Life History Studies, D. Elmer Johnson; Los Angeles County Museum's Machris Brazilian Expedition, Jean Delacour; Life History of the Lapland Longspur, Wendell Taber; Life History Notes on the Spurred Towhee, Travis G. Haws and C. Lynn Hayward; Factors Affecting Song Behavior of the Spotted Towhee, John Davis; Interrelations of Abert and Brown Towhees at Tucson, Joe Marshall; The Analysis of Waterfowl Displays, Robert I. Smith; African Safari, Ed N. Harrison.

The field trip to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge provided an excellent opportunity to observe waterbirds.

The meetings were sponsored by the University of Utah, the Utah Audubon Society, and the Utah Nature Study Society.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS. Prepared by a committee of the American Ornithologists' Union. American Ornithologists' Union, Baltimore, Maryland, xiii + 691 pp., 1957. \$8.00 (May be obtained from C. G. Sibley, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.).

The publication of the long-awaited fifth edition of the "A. O. U. Check-list" is another milestone in the progress of American ornithology. The new Check-list reflects the great increase in our knowledge of North American birds since the appearance of the fourth edition in 1931. The fifth edition treats in detail 1686 species and subspecies, 266 more than were included in its predecessor. The geographic area covered is the same as in the fourth edition, "North America north of México, with inclusion of Greenland, Bermuda, and Baja California." The systematic arrangement of the previous edition has been retained, with only a few minor changes.

The new Check-list runs to 691 pages, 165 more than the fourth edition, although the list of extinct species which appeared in the first four editions has been omitted, and there is no section summarizing the changes, additions, and eliminations in the present edition as compared with its predecessor, as was included in the fourth edition. The great length of the fifth edition, despite the elimination of these sections, results from the greatly expanded statements of range given for each form. A few comparisons will indicate the extent of this expansion. The range statement for the Franklin's Gull in the present edition is over four times as long as that given in the fourth edition; the statement for the Sanderling is four times as long; and that for the White-throated Sparrow is three times as long. The great amount of added detail and the numerous citations of localities make the statements of range in the present edition much more useful and accurate. The usability of this detailed material is considerably increased by the separation of breeding range, winter range, and accidental or casual occurrences into separate paragraphs; these were lumped in a single paragraph in the fourth edition. A useful innovation is the addition of a general range statement for geographically variable species preceding the more detailed range statements given for the individual subspecies included. Although the section on extinct species has been omitted, fossil records of recent forms are presented in the general statement of range for the species. Another useful addition is the footnote citation of the original description of the nominate form in those cases in which this form occurs outside the area covered by the Check-list.

Vernacular names are given for species only.