

NOTES AND NEWS

The Harry R. Painton Award of the Cooper Ornithological Society for 1961 was made to Robert A. Norris and Gordon L. Hight, Jr., for their paper entitled "Subspecific Variation in Winter Populations of Savannah Sparrows: A Study in Field Taxonomy," which appeared in *The Condor* in 1957 (pp. 40-52). This award is made biennially for the paper adjudged of greatest merit and significance published in the preceding four years in the journal.

At the annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society in April in Tucson, William George won the A. Brazier Howell Award for the best paper presented by a person who does not hold a doctoral degree in biology. Mr. George's paper was entitled "The Evolution of Form and Function of a Single Muscle in Birds."

Dr. Ernst Mayr has been appointed Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. He will take office on July 1, 1961, succeeding Dr. Alfred S. Romer, who is retiring from administration.

The Cooper Ornithological Society approved a change in bylaws on April 7 at its business meeting providing for the election of six members to its Board of Governors and for the retirement of inactive members of the board who have entered it by reason of service as officers of the Society's divisions. The newly elected members are: Dean Amadon, William H. Behle, Joe T. Marshall, Jr., Ernst Mayr, Robert W. Storer, and Alexander Wetmore.

The Thirteenth International Ornithological Congress will convene at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, from June 17 to 24, 1962. The official announcement and the application for membership in the Congress are now ready for distribution. Interested persons who have not already done so should send their names and addresses to the Secretary General as soon as possible.

A small fund has been obtained to provide partial support for the travel of a few persons coming from outside North America. Application forms will be sent to persons requesting them. Citizens of the United States and Canada are not eligible.

All applications for membership, travel grants, and places on the program should be returned to the Secretary General before December 1, 1961.

—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Secretary General, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A.*

The Royal Aircraft Establishment of Great Britain at Farnborough has recently released a library translation (No. 846) of a Russian ornithological paper which should be of great interest to students of bird flight. The paper is "Aerodinamika Ptits-Paritelei" (The Aerodynamics of Soaring Bird Flight) by I. N. Vinogradov and was published by DOSARM, Moscow, in 1951. The title is somewhat misleading as the paper has little to do with soaring flight but has considerable new material on flapping flight, including numerous flight photographs. The paper is available from the Ministry of Aviation, London, W.C. 2, England.—C. D. CONE, JR.

The Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Fund will have a sum of \$300 available for research awards at the end of the fiscal year, July 31, 1961. Any student of birds is invited to apply for part or all of this amount. Ten duplicate copies of an application are desired for distribution to members of the Research Committee who will determine how the funds will be allotted. The application should give a full description of the proposed research, the type of help required (equipment, travel, assistance, and so forth), the amount of money desired, and the background and training of the applicant. With young men or women just starting their careers, a supporting letter from one or more recognized ornithologists would be helpful.

Applications should be submitted not later than June 1, 1961.—S. C. KENDEIGH, *Vivarium Building, University of Illinois, Wright and Healey Sts., Champaign, Illinois.*

Because of persistent reports of a downward trend in the population of Bald Eagles, the National Audubon Society has launched a study aimed at determining the status of the species. This project is designed to cover at least five years and to gather data from all parts of North America. The study will consist of two parts, first, an inventory based on the number of active nests located and, second, an investigation of

various aspects of eagle biology. Information is urgently needed on the location of active eagle nests and also on wintering concentrations of eagles. If you have information on these or any other facets of eagle biology, please communicate with ALEXANDER SPRUNT, IV, *Box 231, Tavernier, Florida.*

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER. By Harold Mayfield. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, xvi + 242 pp., 9 figs., 8 pls., and colored frontispiece, 1960; \$6.00.

This is a research report filled with valuable information and presented in good, readable style. Truly exhaustive studies of the rare Kirtland Warbler have been pursued for many years, beginning in 1930, by Josselyn Van Tyne. From 1944 on, Mayfield was a part of the study team and it is to his very great credit that he has been able to bring the investigations to a meaningful, published conclusion.

Rare species of birds are likely to attract more attention than they deserve and more than the anticipated biological results would justify. But the Kirtland Warbler does present some special challenges and opportunities for significant results even though the total population of the species is probably less than 1000 individuals. The amazingly restricted breeding range in central Michigan and the comparably restricted winter range in the Bahama Islands invite special investigation of the factors leading to range limitation, survival, and productivity. The answers in so far as they emerge relate primarily to the breeding grounds where most of the research effort was concentrated.

The Kirtland or Jack Pine Warbler is limited in spring and summer to one small part of the range of the jack pine. The three factors suggested as contributing to this and which in combination are peculiar to the warbler's range in northern Lower Michigan are: porous soils, am-

ple ground cover, and unimpeded sweep of forest fires in the jack pines. The warbler requires extensive stands of small conifers, growing thickly, at least in clumps, and the foliage of them must reach down to the ground cover; the latter must be short but in places fairly thick and the soil must be dry and porous, for it is here that the nests are placed. By extensive correlation of environmental conditions with presence and absence of the birds, the author has been able to state the habitat requirements of the species as explicitly and dependably as has been possible for any species of passerine bird.

Chapters on territory, the nesting cycle, breeding behavior and song are rich in substantive findings and each is provided with a meaningful summary.

Although the Kirtland Warbler is a strictly territorial species, it is colonial, or perhaps better stated, it forms assemblies or settlements. Mayfield believes that "colonies" reflect a gregarious drive and that this may be beneficial in that females are aided in finding males and that there is mutual stimulation to breeding resulting from males being in communication by song; thus he tends to favor Darling's views on social stimulation.

Perhaps most significant are the chapters dealing with the influence of cowbird parasitism and with productivity and mortality. The cowbird probably invaded the breeding range of the warbler in the 1870's and became numerous there in the 1890's. Now it is calculated from survival studies that the warblers would produce 60 per cent more fledglings if there were no cowbird interference. As a consequence a pair of Kirtland Warblers at present produces only 1.4 fledglings per year. The annual survival rate for the adults of the species is about 60 per cent and the life expectancy is about two years.

This book may be regarded as a milestone in field research, representing prolonged, intensive effort, often of teams of workers, and with intelligent direction leading to clear biological results.

—ALDEN H. MILLER.