

NEWS AND NOTES

W. LEE CHAMBERS
1878-1966

When the Southern California Natural History Society (later to become the Southern Division of the Cooper Club) met in the fall of 1893, Lee Chambers—aged 15—attended. Two years later he published his first bird note in the *Avifauna*. Chambers, then a student at the University of Southern California, became a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1897. For the rest of his active life he was an enthusiastic participant in the activities of the Society. W. Lee Chambers' most important contribution was as Treasurer, later Business Manager, from 1905 to 1950. During this time, in addition to directing the Society's finances, he worked to increase membership and solicited contributions for an endowment fund to pay for publications. Among papers he wrote were several calling attention to conservation problems, and a number of notes on ornithological bibliography. His last days were passed peacefully in Topanga Canyon. He died suddenly while watching the birds from his sunny porch on 8 January 1966.—L. C. S.

The North American Nest-Record Card Program for 1966.—The principal aim of the North American Nest-Record Card Program, administered by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, is to accumulate a large amount of data on the breeding biology of birds of the entire North American continent. These data will be stored on IBM cards in a form ready for analysis. Following processing, the data will be available to investigators interested in many areas of avian biology such as annual and geographic variation in breeding seasons, clutch size, fledging periods, and nesting success. It is hoped that the program will also play a key role in the study of man's modification of his environment through marsh drainage, urbanization, and the use of pesticides.

The first year of the program was very successful. The Laboratory of Ornithology mailed out more than 45,000 cards to individuals and

regional centers from Florida to Alaska. The response was encouraging; more than 23,000 completed cards were received from 700 individuals. More than 500 cards have been accumulated for each of several species. Among these are the Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Catbird, Eastern Bluebird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. Data for the Red-winged Blackbird have been selected for trial analysis by computer, and the data from 2300 cards for that species are now being punched onto cards.

Additional data are needed from all parts of the continent. Observations from city parks and backyards, of the commonest species, are as important as those from remote parts of the continent. Cooperation is requested from all competent field observers. Please contact your local organization and inquire if it is serving as a regional center for the distribution of record cards. If it is not, then you may wish to help organize a club effort. Individuals may also obtain cards and information from *North American Nest Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.*—Helen Fessenden.

Recent meetings of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Society at Berkeley have featured the following speakers and topics: Peter Ames, "The role of DDT in the decline of Connecticut Ospreys: many questions and a few answers" (4 November); Robert K. Selander, "Evolution in the House Sparrow in North America" (2 December); Howard L. Cogswell, "Habitat ecology and movements of shorebirds in two East Bay populations, with implications for conservation" (6 January).—Larry L. Wolf, *Secretary, Northern Division.*

The cost of publication of the exceptionally long article by Robert K. Selander in this issue of *The Condor* was met in part by special subsidy. For a statement of policy concerning the assessment of page charges see *The Condor*, volume 65, page 72.