

## NEWS AND NOTES

### PETER STETTENHEIM

This issue of *The Condor* is the first one in 11 years that has not been edited by Peter Stettenheim. His tenure in this position has been exceeded by only two predecessors, Joseph Grinnell and Alden Miller. During these 11 years Peter has been responsible for processing more than 2,000 manuscripts, a monumental undertaking that deserves the gratitude of professional ornithologists everywhere. He has been a meticulous and demanding editor who has always been willing to put in countless hours of effort to help authors improve the quality of their writing. For this, too, he deserves the thanks of all who read *The Condor*.

### NEW BOOK REVIEW SECTION

During the last decade *The Condor* has helped its readers stay abreast of new publications by brief book notices inserted wherever space permitted. However, as the literature relevant to ornithology proliferates, it has become difficult for even the most avid reader to keep up with advances outside his particular research area. To help redress this problem, we inaugurate a new Book Review section in this issue.

Naturally, the Book Review section will emphasize or-

nithological literature. However, we exercise the privilege of defining ornithology broadly to include relevant works in such areas as behavior, evolution, ecology, anatomy, physiology, and systematics. To these ends, we will be selective and eclectic, rather than encyclopedic. In this issue, for instance, we limit our reviews to two. One deals with avian breeding and the other with non-genetic transmission of information on cultural evolution, an area to which bird studies have made no small contribution.

Our goals are twofold. First, we hope the reviews will encourage thoughtful evaluation of developing fields by encouraging members of those fields to review important books. It is hoped that these reviews will present a broad perspective, identifying the intellectual tradition within which the book was conceived as well as the new directions it indicates. Although we hope the reviewers will avoid blatant advocacy, we realize that a little controversy is a productive thing (and often highly entertaining). Second, we hope that the breadth of our reviews will be useful in keeping specialists abreast of the direction of current thought outside of their particular research areas. In order to achieve these goals, we need the enthusiastic cooperation of COS members. Although we have, to date, solicited reviews, we are receptive to suggestions for reviewers or books you think it important for *The Condor* to review.

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A very appropriate gift to the Society could be your library. Proceeds from sales of library materials, books, and journals could amount to significant endowment support.

Won't you consider including the Cooper Society in your will? Your thoughtful planning now can help assure our continued growth and the production of *The Condor* for future generations.

For further information about bequests or donations to the Society, please contact any officer or C. John Ralph, Chairman, Endowment Fund-raising Committee, 7000 Lanphere Road, Arcata, California 95521 (707-822-2015 or 707-822-3691).