



Fig. 54. Professor Charles T. Vorhies, University of Arizona, active leader and teacher of ornithology, and author of numerous articles on the natural history of southern Arizona.

The Fifty-third Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held at Toronto, October 21-24, 1935, proved to be the best attended of the three meetings of the Union so far held in Canada. A program of sixty-seven papers was presented. Mr. A. C. Bent was elected President; James P. Chapin was elected Second Vice-President; and Alfred O. Gross was added to the Council. Otherwise, the officers remain the same. One Fellow was elected, Mr. Edward A. Preble, of Washington, D. C. Seven Members were elected: James L. Baillie of Toronto; Albert R. Brand of White Plains, N. Y.; Walter J. Breckenridge of Minneapolis; Hildegard Howard of Los Angeles; Aldo Leopold of Madison, Wisconsin; Roger T. Peterson of New York City; and Dayton Stoner of Albany. It was voted to hold the next annual meeting in Pittsburgh.—J. G.

The annual index for 1935 again has been prepared by Miss Selma Werner, who returns to this task after a year's absence in Europe. In 1934 Miss Margaret Wythe

served in her stead. To these two Club members, generous of their time given in a tedious task, the editors are grateful. Likewise appreciative are those many users of the *Condor* who depend on the the index for references to species in which they are interested.

John W. Sugden, member of the Cooper Club since 1915 and a founder of the Inter-mountain Chapter died at his home in Salt Lake City, August 16, 1935, at the age of 68. Born in Doncaster, England, March 26, 1867, he came to Utah with his family two years later. As a pioneer naturalist in the State, his activities were remarkably varied. He was not a product of the schools and yet his interests were essentially intellectual. Around him grew up an enthusiastic circle of naturalists, chiefly entomologists and ornithologists. A woodworker by trade, he spent all time possible in the field. His extensive collections of insects and birds were kept with great care. Scarcely a day passed without some contact between him and other enthusiasts, and his home became a center for students of the region. Unwittingly he took on the role of a teacher and latterly was much in demand as a lecturer. To members of the Club not personally acquainted with him he is known through his beautifully illustrated articles on breeding birds of the Salt Lake area. Much lasting credit is due him for the inspiration and friendly interest he gave others in the pursuit and development of natural history in Utah.—A. D. Boyle and A. H. Miller.

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

##### NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The July meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on July 25, 1935, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with thirty-five members and guests present and President Miller in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for June were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for June were read. Charles Barrows Bennett, 1122 University Avenue, Berkeley, California, was proposed for membership in the Club by Jean M. Linsdale; and Miss Kathleen Dougan, 1829 Spruce Street, Berkeley, California, by

T. Eric Reynolds and Ernest I. Dyer.

"Summer field notes" were contributed by ten members of the Northern Division, some of them in such generous measure that it is not possible to give them adequate record in this brief resumé. In this division falls Mr. Wm. B. Davis' account of birds noted early this summer in the Snake River region of Idaho; these were compared in both numbers and species with birds as known there by the speaker fifteen years ago. Also here belongs Mr. D. D. McLean's report of a three weeks' trip up the inland route to Glacier National Park, on to Calgary, Jasper, Banff, Vancouver and home down the coast to San Francisco. In many places Mr. McLean's route lay through country where representatives of eastern and western species occur within a few miles of each other, or even show overlapping ranges.

Miss Barbara Blanchard told of two weeks spent visiting the coastwise hamlets of Humboldt County, where every little colony of White-crowned Sparrows had achieved individuality of song. Mr. Paul Covell reported upon a visit to Los Baños; Mr. Ben Gerwick upon birds seen in the Sierra Nevada between Reno and Bishop; Mr. Ted Malm upon two nests of the Townsend Solitaire on the middle fork of the Tuolumne River. Mr. Kinsey told so earnestly of his fruitless search for young Phainopeplas that he was deluged with helpful suggestions concerning good localities for these birds from Los Molinos to the Pinnacles. Mrs. Allen described a nest built by Water Ouzels upon a bridge support at the crossing of the Yuba River, the birds being apparently oblivious to the vibrations caused by autos passing overhead.

In his Piedmont garden this spring, Dr. T. Eric Reynolds put up a bird box for the inspection of a pair of Red-shafted Flickers. Since it did not meet with their approval he tried wiring a dead willow branch onto an oak tree, ten or fifteen feet above the ground. Here, within a week, the flickers began excavating, and in due course raised young. The bird box became the home of a pair of Screech Owls, and three young were raised. Ten days before the present meeting of the Club, Dr. Reynolds took over the care of two of the young owls. Bringing these juveniles to the meeting with him, they proved of much interest to the members. Lights were extinguished and an effort was made by means of a flashlight to observe the eye-shine of the birds.

At best, this was faint; some said it was faintly ruby red, while some thought it had a coppery tinge.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

AUGUST.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on August 22, 1935, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Miller in the Chair and sixty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for July were read. Mrs. Mary L. Courtright, 3 Elm Avenue, Larkspur, Calif., was proposed for membership in the Club by Mrs. Otis H. Smith, and Mr. C. L. Fretwell, No. 8, Elmhurst Apts., Ogden, Utah, by Mr. O. J. Murie.

Mr. Laidlaw Williams reported seeing a Sabine Gull at the mouth of the Salinas River on August 12; the bird's forked white tail was a conspicuous feature. Mr. Ernest I. Dyer told of a statement by Donald Brock that he had seen both Arizona Hooded and Bullock orioles along San Pablo Creek near Wildcat Canyon during the first week of August and that, on August 7, Western Tanagers also were seen in that vicinity. Mr. Kinsey described his most recent experiences in seeking, and finding, Phainopeplas along a dry arroyo near Livermore, he having been guided to the place by scouts from the Oakland Camp. The birds were not numerous, seeming to average about one pair per square mile; but according to one of the ranchers the species has been present in the locality for the past forty years. At this season the birds seemed to be feeding entirely on wild coffee berries (*Rhamnus californica*).

Mr. George Haley referred to a report on the flocking of Bald Eagles in Maine and said that this summer he had talked with Mr. Herbert McBride near Cherryfield, Maine. Mr. McBride showed him the preserved skin of a Bald Eagle which he said was one of a group of eighteen of the species counted at the carcass of a sheep in a near-by pasture. Mr. Alden Miller described the nest of a Purple Martin, found in a burned-out stub in Mendocino County. In the bottom of the nest-hole were pellets, insect remains and many clipped leaves of the California laurel (bay). The nest was so situated that these aromatic leaves could not have

reached the cavity save by being carried into it, and the question was raised as to whether the birds had in view the same idea which causes the housewife to put bay leaves into the nests of her sitting hens.

Mr. Miller also spoke of the elimination of baiting on duck ponds as a distinct achievement and said that conservationists should express their appreciation to the persons responsible for this apparently permanent move in the right direction.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. David Lack, of London, England, who told of his "Recent Observations on Territory in Bird Life." The theory of territory as given by Eliot Howard was discussed, and then Mr. Lack described his own experiences with the Great Crested Grebe, the English Robin, and hawks and buzzards of the British Isles, as well as the Red Bishop of the African grasslands. The warmest gratitude of the persons who were present is due Mr. Lack for his clear and entertaining exposition and also Mrs. Kenneth Saunders through whose interest the speaker's availability was learned.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Tuesday, July 30, 1935, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Vice-president Little occupied the Chair, with fifty members and guests present.

The minutes of the Southern Division for June were read and approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for June were read by title only.

Some field observations were given by Mr. Reis covering a ten day period spent in the Mascot Lake country and in Mono Lake vicinity. Mr. Willett reported on birds he had noted on a trip into the Warner Mountain district and back via Sacramento Valley. American Egrets were found to be common in the rice fields of the valley. Mr. Sidney B. Peyton spoke of watching a Cooper Tanager feeding on bees. Mr. Glassell said he had seen a pair of Man-o'-war-birds at the head of the Gulf of California on June 19. This is, to his knowledge, the first occurrence of the birds in that region.

Mr. Appleton told of a pair of Cardinals that had started to nest in a yard in Chatsworth, which is the northernmost extension of their range yet reported from southern California. Mr. Lamb gave a short and interesting talk on the Roseate Spoonbill. He remarked on the great numbers of this bird formerly to be found on the coast of Florida, but believed there was no record for California and only one record for Lower California. The Roseate Spoonbill is found, however, in Sonora and from there south, but is not at all common in Sinaloa.

The program of the evening was given by Mr. James B. Dixon, of Escondido. Mr. Dixon brought with him several reels of motion picture film showing the "Predatory Birds of San Diego County" in their native haunts and nesting sites. While the film was being run he told of several field trips taken, of birds seen, and of birds photographed. The various pictured poses of juvenal eagles and hawks were extremely interesting, and those of the adult Spotted Owl were excellent. There was need of arduous labor to secure motion pictures of some of the nest occupants, and the Chair extended to Mr. Dixon the appreciation of the members of the Southern Division for the pleasurable privilege of being permitted to see the results achieved by his many hours afield.

As a visiting member from Washington, D. C., Dr. Harold C. Bryant was introduced and gave a short talk on his recent trip to the Chiricahua Mountains, and on the work that is being done by the National Park Service for the conservation of the wild life resources throughout the United States.

Adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, on August 27, 1935, with fourteen members and guests present. In the absence of both the President and Vice-president, Mr. George Willett was chosen to occupy the Chair.

Minutes of the Southern Division for July were read, and with corrections noted, approved. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read.

After a brief round table discussion of recent field observations, the meeting adjourned.—LAURA B. LAW, *Secretary*.