

NOTES AND NEWS



Fig. 40. Wilfred H. Osgood.



Fig. 41. Harry R. Painton.

Fifty years ago, on June 22, 1893, the Cooper Ornithological Club was organized in San Jose by Chester Barlow, Wilfred H. Osgood, Harry R. Painton, and Fred A. Schneider. Like a great many nascent societies, it had at the start worthy objectives and ideals but no special promise of permanent success. Swarth (*A Systematic Study of the Cooper Ornithological Club*, 1929:5) well pointed out, that the "nineties" were a time when California was ready for an active, unified organization of serious bird students. The wonderful avifauna of the state "had up to this time been subjected to but relatively casual and superficial observation, and no one had as yet any real insight into the complicated problem of local distribution and variation. . . . At various places in the state, however, there were ornithologists of a younger generation growing up. . . . Some of these . . . were at this time already beginning to do good work and here and there little coteries of these beginners were coming together, as a preliminary to the general crystallization that later resulted in the founding of the . . . Club." In Los Angeles in 1896, the Southern Division was formed from the Southern California Natural History Society, certain well known leaders of which were W. Lee Chambers, Howard Rob-

ertson and H. S. Swarth. Thus was established almost at the outset the dual organization of the society which has persisted to the present with admirable unity of purpose and harmonious accord. Although events of the times may naturally have favored the formation of the Club, we are convinced that its persistence and growth are attributable to a remarkable set of devoted men that saw it through its early years and developed steadily and wisely its magazine and its business organization. Not all these people can be named here, but one may say that they are typified by Barlow, Grinnell and Chambers. On this anniversary occasion we want our new members to know especially of the heritage they take over—not only the reserve of money and experience that yields them dividends, but the invaluable tradition of service freely given which has been the stout bond running through fifty years of successful activity.—A.H.M.

Mr. Oscar P. Silliman joined the Cooper Club in the first year of its existence. His death, on May 9, in Salinas removed from the Club's rolls one of its most enthusiastic members. He was born on October 1, 1876, in Watsonville, and spent nearly all of the sixty-six years of his life



Fig. 42. Chester Barlow; 1899.



Fig. 43. Fred A. Schneider.

in Monterey County, California. After 1906, Mr. Silliman made his living by operating warehouses, but always his chief interest was in the birds of California and especially of Monterey County. He spent great effort in compiling exhaustive records of the occurrence of every species known to occur in the county. His interest in the history of bird study in this area led him to assemble a remarkably complete library of bird books. This library finally came close to including every published mention of birds in California. Aside from becoming a life member of the Cooper Club, in 1937, Silliman aided bird study in the west by contributing to funds for Club publications and by employing collectors to carry on organized field exploration in Monterey County.—J.M.L.

Just as we close this editorial page, the distressing word reaches us of the death of James Moffitt who was serving as a lieutenant with the U. S. Navy in the Aleutian area.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, April 22, 1943, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Robert C. Miller in the chair and about 25 members and guests present. Because of the length of the program to follow, minutes of the Northern Division for March and of the Southern Division for February and

March were read by title only. There was one proposal for membership: Miss Lola Catherine Marraccini, International House, Berkeley, California, by Alden H. Miller.

Mrs. Allen had seen Rough-winged Swallows at the south end of the Stadium, April 6 and 13, and during the following week, but thought it probable that they would not remain for nesting. She gave a number of last dates for winter visitants, including: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, March 30; Western Winter Wren, March 11-12; Townsend Warbler up to March 30 (although migrants will be likely to pass through later); Cooper Hawk, April 1; Hermit Thrush, April 13; Puget Sound White-crowned Sparrows, April 11, 13, 14; Audubon Warbler, March 23 and again April 12; and the local Fox Sparrow, April 9 (migrants likely to pass through later). Mr. Covel reported Avocets, American Egrets and two Snowy Egrets at Moss Landing, April 16.

Mr. Clarence F. Smith, Junior Biologist with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, spoke on "Birds of the Mount Shasta Region." There has been interest in studying the relationship of seed-eating animals of the brushlands of this area to new growth of timber in chaparral areas. After forest fires, the subclimax vegetation of brush may persist for thousands of years, unless reforestation, to which the land is well suited, is carried out. Mr. Smith presented an annotated list of the many birds he has observed in the region and illustrated the ecological conditions with Kodachrome slides.

An especially fortunate circumstance was the