

NOTES AND NEWS

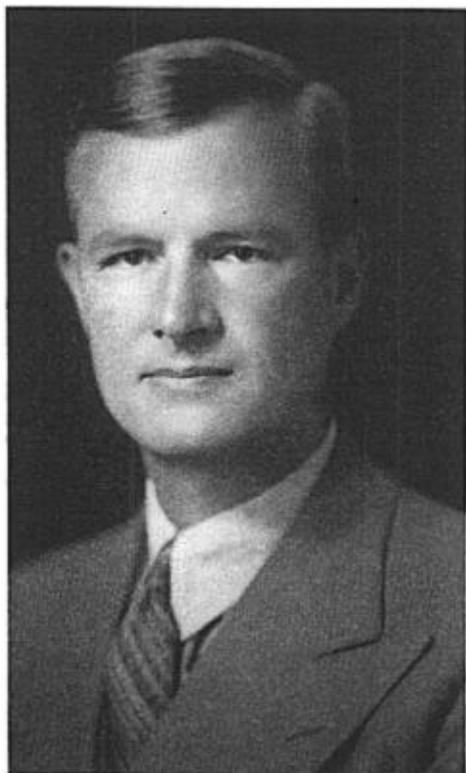


Fig. 65. Robert Cushman Murphy, Chairman of the Department of Birds at the American Museum of Natural History; author of *Oceanic Birds of South America*.

As many inquiries are coming in to the undersigned as to the progress of my work on the *Life Histories of North American Birds*, perhaps the readers of the *Condor* would like to know that there are two finished volumes in Washington awaiting publication; another, the 17th, is so near completion that I am beginning to gather information for the 18th volume, which is to contain the wood warblers. The material now in manuscript form covers all the birds from the jays to the vireos, inclusive. Nothing more is likely to be published during the war, but manuscript is to be piled up for future publication. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed notes and photographs for previous volumes, and to request that similar material be sent to me now for use in the warbler volume. The sooner I receive this material, the better use I can make of it.—A. C. BENT, *Taunton, Massachusetts*.

The Sixty-first Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, October 20, 1943. Due to travel restrictions, the usual five-day meeting with program sessions was dispensed with, all activities being condensed into a stream-lined one-day business session to meet requirements of the by-laws and incorporation rules. Fifteen members of the Council, 19 Fellows, and 11 Members were present.

Officers elected for the new year were as follows: President, James L. Peters, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Vice-presidents, George Willett, Los Angeles, California, and Hoyes Lloyd, Ottawa, Canada; Secretary, Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio; Treasurer, J. Fletcher Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Editor, John T. Zimmer, New York City; new members of the Council—Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, Cleveland; Ludlow Griscom, Boston; Dr. Alden H. Miller, Berkeley.

The Brewster Medal Award was made to Dr. Alden H. Miller for his publication on "Speciation in the Avian Genus *Junco*." Two fellows were elected: Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, Champaign, Illinois, and Austin L. Rand, Ottawa.

In addition to 155 new Associate Members, 5 new Members were named: Dean Amadon, New York City; Robert J. Niedrach, Denver, Colorado; Frank A. Pitelka, Berkeley, California; Julian K. Potter, Collingswood, N. J.; Terence M. Shortt, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The 1944 meeting, if conditions permit, will probably be held in New York City, in October.

—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Secretary, American Ornithologists' Union*.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, July 27, 1943, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, with President I. D. Nokes in the chair.

Minutes of the June meeting of the Southern Division were approved and minutes of the Northern Division for March to June, inclusive, were read by title. Applications for membership were read from Robert L. Mansfield, Capt. U.S. M.C., Rt. 1, Box 1103, La Mesa, Calif., proposed by Mrs. N. Edward Ayer; and for life membership from Edward McIlhenny Simmons, care of E. A. McIlhenny, Avery Island, La., proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

Mr. George Willett reported that James Moffitt recently was killed in the Aleutian area and

that W. E. Saunders of London, Ontario, had died.

Mr. Willett announced that "Susie," the pet Brewer Blackbird of the vicinity of the Los Angeles Museum, had nested the past spring and raised one young, "Susette," which acquired many of the confiding traits of her mother. A tragedy occurred a few days ago in which "Susette," untrained as to the ways of bees, was stung about the mouth, flew up from the ground to a near-by bush, and quickly dropped dead. Others at the meeting could not recall having observed any similar instance.

Dr. Frederick Kline remarked that the volume of blood in a bird is very small and the effect of a bee sting would be expected to be greater than upon a man. Dr. Kline also reported the nest of a Phainopepla near Burbank which contained three eggs; it was placed in a sumac about 7 feet above the ground. Last Saturday there were two young that were being fed, principally buckthorn berries.

An excellent report was given by J. R. Pember-ton of "A Three Months Cruise in Mexican Waters in 1938," illustrated by Kodachrome movies taken by himself.

Adjourned.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Secretary*.

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, August 31, 1943, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 145, Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles, with President I. D. Nokes in the chair.

Applications for membership were read from William H. Phelps, Apartado 2009, Caracas, Venezuela, proposed by John McB. Robertson; and from Eric Carl Willson, Box 154, Wells, Nevada, proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

After introduction of guest members of the Northern Division, brief talks were made by Captain George Miksch Sutton and A. J. van Rossem. H. L. Cogswell reported Vaux Swifts in Pasadena using a chimney for roosting from July 31, 1943, to August 28, 1943. He also reported an Arizona Hooded Oriole feeding two young Cowbirds in Pasadena recently. Miss Frances Cramer reported recent observations of Song Sparrows feeding young Cowbirds.

The principal address of the evening was given by George Willett who, with much natural humor and excellent scientific exactness, gave the story of his researches on the "Birds of Sitka (Alaska) and Adjacent Islands."

Adjourned.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, September 28, 1943, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 145, Allan Hancock

Foundation, Los Angeles, with President I. D. Nokes in the chair.

Applications for membership were read from W. W. Nichols, 1263 W. 99th, Los Angeles 44, Calif., proposed by Dr. Irwin D. Nokes; from Mrs. Jennie Lynne Kyle, 1323 McDuff Ave., Jacksonville 5, Florida, proposed by John McB. Robertson; and from Mrs. Vera Victor, care of Acme Foundry, Eureka, Calif., proposed by John M. Davis.

Recent ornithological literature was reviewed by George Willett. A general discussion ensued in which possible kinds of research problems for club members were considered.

Many members reported field observations of importance. Miss Frances Cramer discussed Sparrow Hawks while Mr. W. W. Nichols added that he recently saw two Sparrow Hawks in Los Angeles clinched in the air fighting; they dropped nearly to the ground before breaking. A. J. van Rossem reported that Bush-tits in his yard this year were laying the second clutch of eggs in the same nest before the first young had left. At this time two females were present at the nest. He raised the question as to whether this had been noted before. A letter was then read to the club from its former president, Dr. Sherman F. Wood, now in the service in Florida training as a malariologist.

Adjourned.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, July 22, 1943, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with President Robert C. Miller in the chair. Minutes for the Northern Division for June were approved as read. Minutes of the Southern Division were read. There were two proposals for regular membership in the club: Robert W. Hiatt, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana, by Jean M. Linsdale; and Mr. Jess M. Markle, 917 Sierra Street, Madera, California, by Alden H. Miller.

The special proposal nominating Howard Robertson, President of the Board of Directors, to honorary membership in the club was given its second reading and was acted upon favorably.

Dr. A. H. Miller reported finding young Grasshopper Sparrows back of Bald Peak on July 4, but heard no adult singing on this date.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Frank A. Pitelka who discussed "June Field Studies of Birds in Northwestern California," covering sixteen days spent collecting birds in Tehama and Trinity counties. Of particular interest was the investigation of Upper Sonoran Zone pockets in this area.

Adjourned.—ROBERT W. STORER, *Acting Secretary*.