

NOTES AND NEWS

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be held in Berkeley, California, on April 3 to 5, 1959, with the Northern Division as sponsor and the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the University of California as hosts. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in room 2503, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley campus.

Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., well-known ornithologist and Audubon lecturer, will return to the University of Michigan Biological Station for the 1959 summer session after last summer's absence to study birds in Iceland. Dr. Pettingill will teach introductory and advanced courses in ornithology at the Station, which is located near Mackinaw in Michigan.

The Division of Biological and Medical Sciences of the National Science Foundation announces that the next closing date for receipt of basic research proposals in the life sciences is May 15, 1959. Disposition of proposals received by that date will be made approximately four months later. The next closing date is September 15, 1959.

The Zoology Department of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, announces that the library of the late Arthur Cleveland Bent has been presented to the university by Mrs. Bent. The library will be housed as a memorial unit in the new Science Center now under construction and should be available for use by interested ornithologists some time in the spring of 1960.

COOPER SOCIETY MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held on December 4, 1958, at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. A. Starker Leopold announced that the following committee was appointed by President Davis to nominate a slate of officers for 1959 for the Northern Division: Enid K. Austin, Oliver P. Pearson, and Frank A. Pitelka.

Principal speaker of the evening was Dr. Frank A. Pitelka whose talk entitled "Breeding Ecology of Pectoral Sandpipers in Northern Alaska" elicited much discussion.—ROBERT I. BOWMAN, *Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held on January 8, 1959, at the University of California, Berkeley. The following person was proposed for membership by Frank A. Pitelka: Edwin C. Willis, Department of Zoology, University of California, Berkeley.

The Secretary read the report of the nominations committee. The following slate of officers for the Northern Division of the Society was submitted: president, A. Starker Leopold; first vice-president, Howard L. Cogswell; second vice-president, L. Richard Mewaldt; secretary, Robert I. Bowman. There were no further nominations from the floor. It was moved, seconded and approved that the slate of officers proposed by the nominations committee be accepted.

The following field observations were reported: Henry Weston, Jr., saw 300 Starlings at Milpitas on December 20, 1958, one dead Starling at Los Gatos on December 7, 1958, and recently 25 to 30 Starlings at Alviso. A. Starker Leopold reported Starlings fairly abundant in the Marysville region in the last few years. Recently John Ralph observed four Starlings at Point Isabela, Oakland. Howard Cogswell reported six Starlings at Lake Merced, San Francisco, on December 21, 1958; near Willows on December 14, 1958, he observed approximately fifty thousand Starlings in flocks of blackbirds roosting in the marshes. Gordon Orians reported several Starlings at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, last autumn. One of the members reported two new breeding records of Starlings in California, one in San Luis Obispo County, the other in the Stockton area.

Principal speaker of the evening was Dr. Robert I. Bowman whose talk entitled "Among the Birds of the Farallon Islands" was illustrated with color slides and motion pictures.—ROBERT I. BOWMAN, *Secretary*.

FEBRUARY.—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held on February 5, 1959, at the University of California, Berkeley.

Principal speaker of the evening was Dr. Peter Marler whose topic "Variation in Some Mexican Bird Songs: Its Extent and Significance" aroused a lively discussion from the audience.—ROBERT I. BOWMAN, *Secretary*.