

Joint Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Club of California

THE combined forces of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Club assembled at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, May 15 and 16. The members of the A. O. U. and their friends, about forty strong, had just completed an enjoyable trip from the east via the Santa Fé route, upon which stops were made at Santa Fé, Adamana and the petrified forest, Grand Canyon, Hesperia in the Mohave Desert, Riverside, and Los Angeles. At Los Angeles a reception was tendered by members of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club.

The meetings were held in the Lecture Hall of the Academy and the first session was called on Friday, the 15th, at 11 o'clock, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Charles R. Keyes acting as secretary. Subsequent sessions were held on the afternoon and evening of the same day, and on the following morning. An elaborate luncheon was provided on both days, by the members of the Academy, at the Poodle Dog, where good cheer was dispensed with a lavish hand. To the kindly hospitality of the Academy in large part was due the success of the meeting.

During the first session Mr. Joseph Grinnell read a valuable paper on the 'Origin and Distribution of the Chestnut-backed Chickadee,' which was followed by remarks by Dr. Merriam. Mr. Leverett Mills Loomis then read 'Recognition of Geographic Variation in Nomenclature,' in which he took issue against the present-day tendencies towards trinomial profundity. This suggestive essay was discussed by Mr. Chapman and Drs. Merriam and Dwight.

During the afternoon session Mr. Walter K. Fisher exhibited a set of slides illustrating 'An Island Community, or Bird-life on Laysan.' Laysan is a little coral islet situated about 800 miles west-northwest of Honolulu, and harbors a considerable variety of sea-fowl and a few land birds, all the latter being peculiar to the island. Mr. Donald A. Cohen read an interesting paper, 'Some Observations on the Prairie Falcon' which was followed by a talk by Mr. Joseph Mailliard, 'Notes on the Birds of Chili,' in which the difficulties of a collector in that country were vividly portrayed. Mr. Joseph Grinnell read a short paper on 'Call Notes of the Bush-tit,' followed by 'Remarks on the A. O. U. journey across the Continent,' by Mr. Louis A. Fuertes.

During the evening session Mr. Frank M. Chapman gave a most entertaining lecture on 'The Bird Islands of our Atlantic Coast' illustrated with beautifully colored lantern slides. Mr. Chapman commenced with the bird community on Percé Rock in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and sketched the principal bird islands of the coast, finishing with a remarkable flamingo colony in the Bahamas. Mr. W. Otto Emerson then took the meeting to 'The Farallon Islands,' in an illustrated talk showing many views of these celebrated bird rocks off our California coast.

The Saturday morning session was occupied largely by Mr. Wm. L. Finley's 'Oregon Birds Caught with a Camera,' illustrated with superb lantern slides, from photographs taken by Messrs. Bohlman and Finley. In point of interest and value this set has never been surpassed. Especially noteworthy were the series of life-history views, detailing various stages in the growth of young birds, and the domestic duties of many of our western species. Mr. Fuertes, by request, then entertained the meeting by imitating the songs and calls of a number of eastern birds. The following papers were read by title: 'The Cassin Auklet,' Howard Robertson; 'Notes on the Bird Conditions of Fresno District,' J. M. Miller; 'Do Valley Quail Use Sentinels?' Jno. J. Williams.

The A. O. U. then passed resolutions thanking the Cooper Club, the Academy of Sciences and the Committee on Arrangements, after which the meeting adjourned. In a special meeting the Cooper Club passed resolutions of thanks to the Academy and Mr. Loomis, for the generous entertainment extended to members of the Club.

After luncheon, on the invitation of President Jordan, the meeting visited Stanford University in a body.

The following members of the A. O. U. from the east were in attendance; J. A. Allen, F. E. L. Beal, Louis B. Bishop, H. C. Bumpus, F. M. Chapman, J. L. Childs, Mrs. E. B. Davenport, J. Dwight, Jr., J. H. Fleming, Louis A. Fuertes, C. Hart Merriam, T. S. Palmer, Otto Widmann. Of the Cooper Club there were thirty-three members present.



DR. EDGAR A. MEARNS

WE take pleasure in resuming our series of portraits with that of Dr. Edgar A. Mearns, U. S. A. Dr. Mearns is well known to westerners thru his connection with the Mexican Boundary Survey, and by his numerous articles on western ornithology and mammalogy. The Doctor began his bird studies in the east, but has worked pretty much over the far west, in line of duty, particularly in the arid regions of the southwest, adjacent to our National Boundary. Dr. Mearns' first paper was on 'The Birds of the Hudson Highlands, published in the Bulletin of the Essex Institute (1878-79). The greater number of his later articles have appeared in *The Auk* and in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum.