

Francisco fire of April, 1906, were all destroyed. But some of the field notes of this period are included in the present paper along with those resulting from the work in subsequent years. The present paper is based primarily on Beck's field observations; but critical notes on the large series of specimens secured since the fire are often added, and for these Loomis and Gifford, of the Academy's curatorial staff, are evidently largely responsible.

The paper under consideration is couched in excellent form, literarily and typographically, practically ideal in the latter respect, a rather rare thing in this day of hurriedly proof-read publications. The great value in the paper lies in the large addition to our knowledge of the seasonal occurrence of the species dealt with, especially the Jaegers, Gulls, Terns and Shearwaters. One species is newly recorded not only for California but for the American side of the Pacific, namely the Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*), of which Beck has taken no less than ten specimens, from 1903 to 1907. Of *Puffinus bulleri*, of which only one example was previously known from Californian waters, ten more specimens have been secured, all in the fall. Of the Skua (*Megalestris skua*) a second specimen for California is recorded. A number of species previously thought to be of but casual occurrence along the Californian coast, have been found by Beck to occur regularly in large numbers. Only concentrated and long-continued work, such as this has been, can be expected to yield a knowledge of the true status of any pelagic avifauna.

The reader of the paper in hand is at once impressed with the uniform occurrence of certain usages at variance with ruling custom among American ornithologists. Trinomials are tabooed; but instead of treating all forms (both small-species and remotely divergent species) as binomials, all of the small-species or subspecies (evidently forms which are found to intergrade in any way) are lumped under a binomial, the earliest nomenclaturally appropriate name being employed. Thus our California Murre is just Murre, *Uria troille*; the Pacific Kittiwake is just Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*; etc. This does not appear to be an advantageous move in the interests of a better knowledge either of the ranges or of the migration-routes of birds. The recognition of even the smallest geographic variants is essential. This was emphasized by Stejneger many years ago (*Birds of Kamtschatka*, 1885, p. 348), and the principle holds with increasing force.

The reader must recognize the peculiar usage above referred to, in weighing such records as that of "*Ereunetes pusillus*" for California, which is given as including *E. mauri*. The implication is that intergrades have been found between *E. pusillus* and *E. mauri*; but

no data is presented in this regard. In the same way, *Fulmarus rodgersi* is lumped under *F. glacialis*.

Doubt is cast upon the validity of *Brachyramphus craverii* as distinct from *B. hypoleucus*. *Larus brachyrhynchus* is combined with *Larus canus*; that is, the separate existence of a species *brachyrhynchus* is denied. This is at variance with the idea of Bishop (CONDOR XII, 1910, 174) that previous records of *Larus canus* for California should probably be referred to *Larus delawarensis*.

It would of course have been of enormous interest and value if the data substantiating the above conclusions had been presented. However, the reader of the paper under review is left with the feeling that this is but a preliminary report, and that extended critical treatment may be expected to follow in due course. Certainly no ornithologists in the country are in a more fortunate position for the handling of problems of this sort than the persons connected with the California Academy of Sciences, whose Museum contains at the present time with little doubt the finest collection of water birds in America.—J. GRINNELL.

METHODS OF ATTRACTING BIRDS. By GILBERT H. TRAFTON; with thirty-nine illustrations (twenty-four of them from photographs) and a chart of fruits eaten by birds. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, September 1910, pp. xv + 164; price \$1.25 net.

This book, published under the auspices of the National Association of Audubon Societies, "has been written from two view-points, that of birds and that of human beings; for the protection of the former and the pleasure of the latter."

It is written by the Supervisor of Nature-Study, Passaic, N. J., and gives beside his own experience, the results of many observers, thus summarizing very completely the work being done throughout the country. An appendix gives a list of ninety-one to whose contributions the author has had access, or who have furnished information through personal correspondence.

The practical value of the book in nature-study in the schools should be great; for the methods given have thus had the test of experience. A statement of the results obtained makes them the more valuable.

The chapters deal with the need and value of attracting birds; nesting houses; attracting the winter birds; drinking and bathing fountains; planting trees, shrubs, and vines; bird-protection in schools, and bird photography.

Special drawings bring out details of plans and constructions presented.

The methods given would seem to be well calculated to attain the results desired in the Audubon movement, by inculcating a love for

Jan., 1911

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

birds in the young student through his own work in providing protection for them.—H. T. C.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The October meeting of the Northern Division of the Club was held in the research room of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on the evening of October 22, with the following members present: J. Grinnell, J. Mailliard, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, L. H. Miller, M. Ray, Oluf Heinemann, D. Cohen, W. P. Taylor, Herbert Coggins, H. Carriger, T. I. Storer, H. C. Bryant and Mr. Judd. Dudley Brown was present as visitor.

The meeting was called to order by President Grinnell who called on Mr. W. P. Taylor to give the paper of the evening. Mr. Taylor gave a very interesting talk, illustrated by a number of skins, about the birds of the Modoc Region of northeastern California. At the conclusion of Mr. Taylor's talk the members indulged in a general discussion relative to the birds collected and as Dr. Merriam had explored at the same locality in former years the same proved very interesting.

The regular order of business was now taken up and the minutes of the last meeting were read, and approved as read. The minutes of the Southern Division were also read. The Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership Messrs. Bryant, Stern, Storer, H. Coggins, Irving, Messinger and Beers, whose names had been presented at a former meeting. The applications of Dudley C. Brown, proposed by H. W. Carriger, Carl L. Hubbs, by L. H. Miller, and Donald R. Dickey, by Mr. Chambers, were presented and laid over till next meeting. Mr. Grinnell stated that W. Leon Dawson was coming to San Francisco, and would probably locate in California and spend the next four or five years in studying the birds of the State. Mr. Grinnell also spoke about the use of vernacular names and expressed his preference for California Condor, California Linnet, and Western Kingbird, instead of California Vulture, House Finch and Arkansas Kingbird as given in the new Check-List. The matter was discussed by the members present. Donald Cohen stated that the birds presented to the Club some years ago were in a school at Oakland and were being well taken care of. Adjourned.—H. W. CARRIGER, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The November meeting of the Northern Division of the Club was held on the evening of November 19 in the research room of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, with the following members present: W. K. Fisher, J.

Grinnell, J. Mailliard, H. S. Swarth, W. P. Taylor, W. Leon Dawson, M. Ray, O. Heinemann, H. Coggins, D. Brown, N. Stern, H. Bryant, P. Judd, T. Storer, and H. W. Carriger. Mr. Carroll was present as a visitor. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p. m. with President Grinnell in the chair.

Mr. H. L. Coggins, formerly secretary of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, was introduced by the president and gave a very interesting account of that society, the interests, activities and membership of the club being briefly outlined in a most interesting and amusing manner.

At the conclusion of Mr. Coggins' talk the business of the club was taken up, and the minutes of the last meeting were read, and approved as read. On motion the secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of members present electing to active membership the following individuals, whose names were presented at the last meeting: Carl L. Hubbs, Donald R. Dickey, and Dudley H. Brown. The application of Althea R. Sherman, McGregor, Iowa, proposed by Mr. Chambers, was read and laid over till next meeting.

The committee having in charge the revision of the Club's constitution presented a draft of the same, and, on motion, the President referred it to a committee of three, consisting of Messrs. W. P. Taylor, J. Mailliard, and M. Ray. Mr. Grinnell spoke of the advisability of having stated nights on which the Club would meet, and on motion it was decided to meet every third Saturday of each month. The use of vernacular names was again discussed by the members but no definite action was taken.

The President then introduced Mr. W. Leon Dawson, author of the *Birds of Ohio*, and *Birds of Washington*; also secretary of the Caurinus Club of Washington. Mr. Dawson extended greetings from the Caurinus Club, and proceeded to outline his plans in regard to his proposed work on the *Birds of California*.

At the conclusion of Mr. Dawson's talk the members present discussed the matter, and a motion was made by Mr. J. Mailliard, seconded by Mr. W. P. Taylor, that the Cooper Ornithological Club heartily endorse Mr. Dawson's plans, and pledge its moral support and cooperation in the task of preparing a work upon *The Birds of California*. Motion was carried. A motion was made by Mr. W. K. Fisher, seconded by Mr. H. C. Bryant, that Mr. W. Leon Dawson be granted permission to associate the name of the Cooper Ornithological Club with his own on the title page of the forthcoming work, after the following formula: "The Birds of California, by W. Leon Dawson with the cooperation of the members of the Cooper Ornithological Club." This was carried also.