

on conservation of wild life, gave a report, briefly outlining the work accomplished by the committee, and sketching some of the plans for the future.

It was suggested that the Club renew its petition to the American Ornithologists' Union, requesting that society to hold its annual meeting in 1915 in San Francisco, jointly with the Cooper Club, as contained in a resolution passed at the October, 1911, meeting. The secretary was instructed to draft such a proposal and send it to the Southern Division for its approval.

The paper of the evening was "The Relation of Birds to a Grasshopper Outbreak in California," by H. C. Bryant, presenting some of the results of a study of the actions and diet of certain species of birds during a plague of grasshoppers in the San Joaquin Valley. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The October meeting of the Northern Division was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on Saturday evening, October 19, with President Coggins in the chair, and the following members present: Bryant, Coggins, Gifford, Heinemann, Joseph Mailliard, Miner, Shelton and Swarth. Mr. A. L. Barrows was a visitor. The Northern Division minutes for September were read and approved, followed by the reading of the Southern Division September minutes.

The following individuals were elected to membership in the club: F. S. Hanford, J. N. Loshinski, W. P. Gee, F. C. Clarke, W. B. Bell, C. C. Schmidt, M. Johnson, H. V. Williams, A. Eastgate. New names were presented as follows: Hilda Wood Grinnell, proposed by J. Grinnell; A. L. Barrows, Berkeley, by H. C. Bryant; Hans. Hochbaum, Los Angeles, by L. H. Miller; A. Cookman, Los Angeles, by Evan Davis; P. E. Letchworth Jr., Covina, by A. B. Howell; E. W. Merrill, Sitka, Alaska, by G. Willett; and W. A. Squires, Stockton, by W. Lee Chambers.

The only new business was the ratification of the amendment to the Constitution dealing with the distribution of Club publications, already passed by the Southern Division.

Mr. Coggins read some extracts from Cassinia, as of especial interest to California ornithologists. In the absence of Mr. Taylor the report of the conservation committee was read by Mr. Bryant. Mr. Gifford, in the course of an account of some of his experiences with wild ducks in an aviary, made a strong plea for the great value of experimental work with captive birds, as supplemental to field work and the study of museum material. Some of his remarks were illustrated with study skins showing certain of

the more unusual plumages; and the speaker pointed out the danger of drawing erroneous conclusions from the mere observation of these conditions without a thorough knowledge of the life history of the bird. His remarks called forth a rather extended discussion of the subject.

Mr. Bryant had on exhibition a series of wall charts showing the food of certain species of birds, these being destined for use in an exhibit which the State Fish and Game Commission is to place in the Alameda County Fair. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

REPORT OF ORGANIZATION MEETING, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE

It now (November 14) becomes my pleasant duty to transmit a record of the organization meeting of which mention is made on page 227. Representatives of nine organizations, as well as all the members of the Cooper Club Committee on Conservation of Wild Life (Northern Division), and Secretary Schaeffle of the Fish and Game Commission, were present at the meeting. Instead of a membership of five societies and between one and two thousand individuals, as prophesied on page 228 of this issue, the California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life was inaugurated with a constituency of nine societies having a total membership of between nine and ten thousand persons.

The Executive Committee of the new association consists of the following persons: Dr. William F. Bade, Sierra Club; Roy E. Dickerson, Paleontological Society of the Pacific Coast; J. Grinnell, California Academy of Sciences; Matthew McCurrie, State Humane Association and San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; W. Leon Dawson, State Audubon Society of California; Professor L. L. Burlingame, Biological Society of the Pacific Coast; J. H. Cutter, Tamalpais Conservation Club; W. P. Taylor, Cooper Ornithological Club. Dr. William F. Bade of the Sierra Club was elected President of the California Associated Societies, and W. P. Taylor of the Cooper Club, Secretary.

A program of practical work was outlined, and it is intended to push with all diligence the passage of laws desired for wise conservation of wild life.

The most important and immediately desired measures are the following: (1) A no-sale of American-killed wild game law. (2) A law placing all assistants and deputies of the Fish and Game Commission under Civil Service. (3) The absolute protection of the Red-head, Wood Duck, Ibis, Shore-birds, Rail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, and Sea Otter.

W. P. TAYLOR, *Chairman*
Committee on Conservation of Wild Life,
Northern Division.