

gathers comparatively few specimens, and these frequently most indifferently prepared. With 1165 skins, however, the combined series of many public and private collections, the author appears to have had the subject matter sufficient to cover most of the points involved, though it is easy to appreciate his statement that the elucidation of the group "involved the expenditure of an incredible amount of time and labor".

Some of the most important of the conclusions reached by Mr. Oberholser are as follows. A new family, Chordeilidae, is erected, with *Chordeiles* as the type genus, and including also the genera *Nannochordeiles*, *Nyctiprogne*, *Lurocalis*, and *Podager*, the last four being all from outside the limits of the *Check-List*. The three species of *Chordeiles* are treated in minutest detail, *virginianus* with nine subspecies, *acutipennis* with five, and *rupestris* with three. One new subspecies of *Chordeiles virginianus* is described, *C. v. howelli*, from the central United States, breeding north to Wyoming, south to central Texas. *C. v. aserriensis* Cherrie, based on winter birds from Central America, is revived and considered applicable to the form breeding in southern Texas and extreme northeastern Mexico. Of *Chordeiles acutipennis* a new subspecies, *C. a. micromeris*, is described from Central America, and another, *C. a. inferior*, from Lower California. *Chordeiles rupestris*, confined to South America, is, from the paucity of material, necessarily passed over in a somewhat cursory manner, compared with the treatment accorded the others, but one new subspecies is described here also, *C. r. zaleucus*, from Peru.

In the introductory pages of the work there are some important discussions relative to branches of the Caprimulgi other than *Chordeiles*. The genus *Antrostomus* is divided, only one species, *carolinensis*, being left in *Antrostomus*, while a new genus, *Stochalcis*, is described, with *Caprimulgus vociferus* Wilson as type, and inclusive of certain other species heretofore referred to *Antrostomus*, mostly Middle and South American in their distribution. Mr. Oberholser considers *Antrostomus vociferus arizonae* Brewster to be a recognizable form, and distinct from *A. v. macromystax*, under which it is synonymized by the A. O. U. Committee.

Altogether it seems evident that this study is one of the most important contributions thus far made to the literature of American Caprimulgi. There will probably be differences of opinion as to the need of sep-

arately naming certain of the forms here recognized, but this is not a feature to detract from the value of such a work. The trained specialist, laboring on some special group, and poring for weeks or months in painstaking study over large series of specimens, will certainly see things that the more casual observer can not be expected to appreciate, and it will doubtless always be impossible to bring everyone in accord in such matters. The conclusions of a student such as Mr. Oberholser, reached after most careful consideration of ample material, are deserving of the utmost respect; and doubtless the majority of ornithologists will be quite content to accept his decisions, at least until some future worker with greater opportunities arises to revise the subject further. On the other hand, it is possible to see how it may not be expedient to admit in such a manual as the A. O. U. *Check-List* all of the finely differentiated geographical races, based on average differences, which the specialist feels obliged to describe, such action not necessarily implying disbelief in the statements of the latter. In other words, the student, in order to properly elucidate his problem, may feel obliged to attach a name to a race which, as far as concerns the ordinary user of an average manual of the subject, had best be omitted from such a catalogue.

To the present reviewer the work under consideration appears to be most excellent in every way. It is well conceived and carefully executed to the smallest detail; the subject matter is divided and set off in such a way as to make everything readily accessible; while the facts themselves and the deductions derived therefrom are presented by one who is evidently master of his subject.—H. S. SWARTH.

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS SOUTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science, and Art, Thursday evening, April 30, 1914, with the following members in attendance. Messrs. Chambers, Daggett, Edwards, Miller, Morcom, Rich, Robertson, Swarth, Willett, and Wyman. In the absence of the president, vice-president Robertson took the chair. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved, followed by the minutes of the Northern Division for April. The following new members were elected: C. A. Brant, El Tovar, Grand Canyon, Arizona; William T. Martin,

Oakland; Halstead G. White, Claremont. New names presented were: J. Howard Richey, Pasadena, and Edward E. Armstrong, Chicago, both proposed by W. Lee Chambers. The resignation of B. W. Arnold, Albany, New York, was read and accepted.

No papers were presented, but there was more or less discussion of recent finds and observations by such of the members as had been doing field work.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

MAY.—The regular meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science, and Art, Thursday evening, May 28, 1914, with President Law in the chair, and with the following attendance: Messrs. Bent, Chambers, Colburn, Daggett, Edwards, Eggleston, Law, Rich, Robertson, Snyder, Stivers, Swarth, Wood, and Wyman. Mr. I. D. Nokes was a visitor. The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. Two members were elected, Mr. J. Howard Richey, of Pasadena, and Mr. Edward E. Armstrong, of Chicago, both presented by W. Lee Chambers. New names to be acted upon were Miss Charlotte Bowditch, of Santa Barbara, presented by W. Lee Chambers, and Dr. Irwin D. Nokes, of Los Angeles, presented by A. E. Colburn.

The secretary was in receipt of several communications from the acting secretary of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, relating to the Cooper Club's relations to the Association, the proposed new constitution of the latter, and in regard to the meeting to be held in San Francisco in August, 1915. These questions were discussed at some length, but were finally left to the secretary, to be acted upon, at his discretion, but in general accord with the sentiments of the Club as expressed in the course of the discussion.

The fortunate presence in Los Angeles of Mr. A. C. Bent, of Taunton, Massachusetts, gave the Club members an opportunity of learning something of his plans and work on the life histories of North American birds. Mr. Bent kindly responded most fully to the request for an informal relation of what has thus far been accomplished, and his account of the history of the undertaking was given the closest attention.

The members then adjourned to inspect specimens and exhibits in the Museum.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of

the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, April 23, 1914, at 8 p. m. President Bryant was in the chair, with the following members present: Mrs. Allen, Miss Atsatt, Messrs. Camp, Carriger, Chandler, Daggett, Grinnell and Storer. Miss Susan B. Culver and Messrs. L. R. Dice, C. W. Fender and B. H. Pratt were present as visitors. The minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved, followed by the reading of the minutes of the Southern Division for March.

Miss Edna A. Andrews, Berkeley, California, Henry F. Bailey, Santa Cruz, California, and James A. MacDonald, Lathrop, California, and the persons proposed at the Southern Division meeting for February were elected to membership. The following were proposed for membership: Miss Ada Ethel Crane, 7 Ross St., San Rafael, by H. C. Bryant; Miss Susan B. Culver, 2908 Channing Way, Berkeley, by Mrs. Amelia S. Allen; R. A. Emmons, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., by Alex Wetmore; Frank H. Lord, 726 Schrader St., San Francisco, by F. E. Newberry; and H. L. Pillsbury, 73 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, by W. P. Taylor, and two names proposed at the Southern Division in March.

Mr. Grinnell suggested that a committee be appointed to confer with the committee of the A. O. U. in regard to a joint meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club and the American Ornithologists' Union in San Francisco in 1915. It was moved and carried that a committee of three, Mr. Joseph Mailliard to be one member, be appointed to consider the matter. Mr. Storer reported that arrangements were being perfected for a meeting of members of the Cooper Club at the general session of the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies in Seattle in May.

Mr. Grinnell then presented a paper on "Adaptations in Structure and Habits in Boreal Birds". A very interesting discussion followed the presentation of the paper.

Mr. Daggett, a member of the Southern Division for many years, spoke briefly on the earlier years and membership of that Division. Adjourned.—TRACY I. STOREE, *Secretary*.

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, Thursday evening, May 21, 1914. In the absence of both the president and the vice-president, Mr. Carriger was appointed

to the chair for the evening. The following members were present: Mrs. Allen, Miss Andrews, Messrs. Carriger, Grinnell, Storer and Taylor. Miss Crane and Miss Culver, and Messrs. Martens and Schaeffle were visitors. The minutes of the Northern Division for April were read and approved and the minutes of the Southern Division for April read.

The following were elected to membership: Miss Ada E. Crane, Miss Susan B. Culver, Mr. R. A. Emmons, Mr. Frank H. Lord, Mr. H. L. Pillsbury, Mr. C. A. Brant, and Mr. H. C. White. The following were proposed for membership: Mr. Ernest Schaeffle, 734 Mills Bldg., San Francisco, by Tracy I. Storer; from the Southern Division: Mr. J. Howard Richey, Pasadena, and Mr. Edward E. Armstrong, Chicago, Ill., both by W. Lee Chambers. The resignation of B. W. Arnold, Albany, New York, was accepted.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. A. L. Barrows, Associate Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, relating to plans now being made to establish a Pacific Division of the American Association to supplant the now existing Pacific Association of Scientific Societies. The letter was accompanied by a copy of the constitution which is proposed for the Pacific Division. The Secretary outlined the salient features of the constitution which concern the Cooper Club and pointed out the relation which the Pacific Division would bear to the Club in the event that present plans are carried out. It is planned that scientific organizations may affiliate themselves with the Pacific Division in much the same way as is now done in the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies. The principal advantages under the new organization will be (1) that a permanent secretary will be in charge of the affairs of the Division, and (2) that members of affiliated organizations (such as the Cooper Club) will be given the privilege of joining the American Association without paying the initiation fee of \$5.00. After some debate it was moved and carried that it be the sentiment of the Northern Division that the new arrangement is a desirable one and that the adoption of the constitution as outlined be favored.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to a report of the Permanent Committee on the Conservation of Wild Life by Mr. Taylor, the chairman, and discussion of the report by those present. Mr. Taylor first outlined the history of legislation for wild life conservation in California and dwelt

with particular emphasis on the recent campaign for a no-sale law. He pointed out that legislation for wild life conservation in California to be effective at all must be enacted immediately. In the past the sportsmen have been the promoters of such legislation, such organizations as the Audubon Society and the Cooper Club having appeared on the field in comparatively recent times. The legislation in regard to protection of wild life, recently put into effect by the federal government has come to the assistance of the conservationists in the state but the relief is not all that is desired.

Mr. Ernest Schaeffle, Secretary of the California Fish and Game Commission, then spoke on the same subject giving many facts determined by the Commission. He pointed out that the pursuit of wild life in California by hunters and others yields large financial returns to many people engaged in various lines. In his opinion the initiative measure for the sale of game which will be presented to the voters of the state at the election in November, if carried, will set back the work of wild life conservation twenty to twenty-five years. If the Fish and Game Commission had been on a scientific basis in the past there would not be so many problems in wild life conservation facing the people of the state today.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Schaeffle for his kindness in attending the meeting and participating in the discussion. Adjourned.—TRACY I. STORER, *Secretary*.

#### MEETINGS OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

**SOUTHERN DIVISION:** At the Museum of History, Science, and Art, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Time of meeting, 8 p. m., the last Thursday of every month. Take south-bound car from town, on Spring Street the car marked "University"; on Hill Street the car marked "Vermont and Georgia". Get off at Vermont Avenue and Thirty-ninth Street. Walk two blocks east to Exposition Park. The Museum is the building with the large dome.

**NORTHERN DIVISION:** At the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley. Time of meeting, 8 p. m., the third Thursday of every month. Take any train or car to the University Campus. The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology is a large corrugated iron building situated on the south side of the campus immediately north of the foot-ball bleachers.