

curred in by the Committee, was that these are mere age differences. The authors of the present paper think that "there is one point that has been overlooked, with regard to the occurrence of these birds in El Paso County at least, and that is that *psaltria* alone is the breeding form, so far as at present known, the dark forms not making their appearance until later, *arizonae* coming in July, and *mexicanus* the very last of July and first of August. . . ." No dark-colored birds have been discovered breeding in the County. The differences involved consist only in the relative degree of extension of black on the dorsal surface.

In the mind of the reviewer it is contrary to distributional precedent for three *subspecies* to occur in a single place during the summer season in the way these goldfinches seem to do. It seems more likely that age *does* have something to do with the observed differences, and that these are heightened by the effects of wear so that the monthly succession described becomes explainable. Examination of skins from California, from which state the same three forms used to be recorded, tends to support this conclusion. [Incidentally, the reviewer fails to find good grounds for separating the Pacific Coast bird, "*hesperophilus*", from *psaltria*!]

Aiken and Warren devote nearly six pages to an account of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*). Among the various features of this bird treated, the matters of systematic position and molts deserve comment. It is stated that comparison of specimens from El Paso County with others from California, Arizona and New Mexico, shows the local bird to possess various characters of color and dimensions which seem to warrant separate recognition. The bird of Colorado east of the mountains would retain the name *frontalis*, Say's description having been based upon a bird from the Arkansas Valley, while the more western and southern form would be called *Carpodacus mexicanus obscurus* McCall. The known wide variation in House Finches of the Pacific Slope suggests caution in considering these views, however.

As to molts, the authors' experience shows that young male House Finches acquire the red plumage, practically indistinguishable from the adults, at the first fall change. But one individual exception to this rule, as far as their material has shown, is cited. It may here be remarked that although this condition of affairs has been clearly stated in print before, Chapman, in *Bird-Lore* (vol. xvi, March-April, 1914, page 107), states

that the plumage changes in the House Finch "appear to be the same as those of the Purple Finch". This error is perhaps natural, in view of the close general similarity between the Linnets and Purple Finches. But the case teaches that extreme caution should be exercised in handling the often complicated problem of molts and plumages. Considerable irregularity is sometimes displayed within the same genus.

Returning to the paper under review, enough has been said to indicate its general features and value. The authors are to be highly commended on furnishing their locality with so useful a compendium of ornithological knowledge. Local interest should be largely increased as a result.—J. GRINNELL.

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

##### NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in Room 101, East Hall, University of California, Berkeley, August 20, 1914, at 8 P. M. President Bryant was in the chair with the following members present: Mesdames Allen and Grinnell, Miss Swezy, and Messrs. Bryant, Camp, Carriger, Dawson, Evermann, Grinnell, Moran, Storer, Trenor and Wheeler. Several visitors were present.

The program of the evening was first presented. Mr. William Leon Dawson spoke on "The Shorebirds of 1914" and illustrated his remarks with a series of excellent lantern slides prepared from photographs made during the present season at Los Baños, Santa Barbara and elsewhere in California.

The business of the meeting was then taken up. The minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved, followed by the reading of the Southern Division minutes for June and July. The following were elected to membership: Dr. George Bird Grinnell, Miss Minnette MacKay, Mr. Enos A. Mills, and Mrs. Alfred Worcester. The following were proposed for membership: Miss Hazel King, 1898 Broadway, San Francisco, by Dr. William F. Bade; Mrs. Amy M. Bryant, 2533 Hill Court, Berkeley, by H. C. Bryant; Mr. Lee R. Dice, Prescott, Washington, Miss Amy E. Gunn, Mill Valley, Miss Frieda Lueddemann, Box 105, Los Gatos, Miss Mary S. Storer, 467 San Pablo Avenue, Fresno, all proposed by Tracy I. Storer; Miss Dorothy Conger, 2425 Oregon street, Berkeley, by Miss Susan B. Culver. The ten names pro-

posed at the June meeting of the Southern Division and the nineteen proposed at the July meeting of the same Division, were also read.

Mr. Charles Camp presented the report of the committee of three appointed to examine the constitution of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The committee reported favorably upon the constitution and recommended that the Cooper Ornithological Club accept the invitation of the Pacific Division to affiliate. The report was adopted. Adjourned.—TRACY I. STOREE, *Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science, and Art, Thursday evening, August 27. President Law was in the chair and the following members present: Miss Etta V. Little, and Messrs. Chambers, Colburn, Daggett, Edwards, Howell, Jewett, Rich, Swarth, and Wyman. One visitor was present, Mrs. Lincoln. The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved, followed by the Northern Division minutes for August.

New members were elected as follows: C. D. Hegner, Los Angeles; J. C. Sheaffer, Los Angeles; Mrs. E. G. Butler, Berryville, Virginia; W. E. Boeing, Seattle, Washington; R. W. Williams, Takoma Park, Maryland; R. Bruce Horsfall, Princeton, New Jersey; Mrs. M. A. Commons, Crystal Bay, Minnesota; F. Adam, Tropic; D. I. Simmons, Los Angeles; Mrs. Herbert Brown, Tucson, Arizona; Dr. R. L. Walker, Carnegie, Pennsylvania; George S. Shiras 3rd, Washington, D. C.; C. F. Hodge, Eugene, Oregon; Dr. W. M. Tyler, Lexington, Massachusetts; John P. Young, Youngstown, Ohio; E. B. Hunt, Washington, D. C.; H. G. Smith, Denver, Colorado; F. Barker, Parkers Prairie, Minnesota; Mrs. Harriet B. Thornber, Tucson, Arizona. A motion was also passed admitting to membership those individuals elected at the last Northern Division meeting.

New names proposed were: Melvin R. Gay, Redlands, presented by Mrs. Gertrude H. Husher; E. H. Rogers, Berkeley, by D. R. Dickey; E. V. Sands, Tombstone, Arizona, by F. C. Willard; J. G. Johnson, Berkeley, by C. A. Kofoid; H. R. Mills, Tampa, Florida, and L. B. Martin, Clearwater, Florida, by O. E. Baynard; F. C. Test, Chicago, by L. A. Test; H. L. Stoddard, Chicago, by

W. Lee Chambers; E. H. Williams, Los Angeles, by Mrs. H. W. Myers.

Mr. W. Lee Chambers was appointed a committee of one to confer with Mr. W. L. Finley in regard to an illustrated lecture to be delivered under the auspices of the Club. Mr. Howell spoke on his recent collecting trip to Owens Valley and the eastern slope of the Sierras. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the residence of Dr. L. H. Miller, Sunday afternoon, September 27. The following members and visitors were present: Dr. and Mrs. F. T. Bicknell, W. L. Chambers, A. Cookman, F. S. Daggett, Dr. and Mrs. E. A. Dial, H. A. Edwards, Dr. and Mrs. C. O. Esterly, Mrs. Minerva J. Fargo, Dr. A. K. Fisher, Mrs. Frances M. Harmon, C. D. Hegner, J. E. Law, Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Miller, Mrs. H. W. Myers, W. M. Pierce, Mrs. J. E. Pleasants, P. L. Radir, Dr. C. G. Stivers, Mr. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Swarth, L. W. Welch, Dr. E. H. Williams, Mrs. Williams, Miss Williams, G. Willett, A. van Rossem, O. J. Zahn.

The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. New members were elected as follows: Melvin R. Gay, Redlands; E. H. Rogers, Berkeley; E. V. Sands, Tombstone, Arizona; John C. Johnson, Berkeley; Dr. Herbert R. Mills, Tampa, Florida; L. B. Martin, Clearwater, Florida; F. C. Test, Chicago, Illinois; H. L. Stoddard, Chicago, Illinois; Dr. E. H. Williams, Los Angeles. New names proposed were; E. F. Averill, Pendleton, Oregon, presented by S. G. Jewett; W. H. Alkire, Hollywood, presented by A. E. Colburn; Ida G. Jenkins, Roxbury, Massachusetts, presented by E. E. Caduc.

Dr. A. K. Fisher spoke briefly on some of the phases of the work of exterminating injurious rodents in which the Biological Survey is engaged, telling of various unexpected complications arising through the resulting disturbance of the balance of nature. His talk concluded with comments on the California meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union next year, giving some welcome suggestions whereby such a meeting can be made most successful.

That the members of the Division anticipate with pleasure having at least one meeting during the year on Dr. Miller's broad, shady veranda, was evidenced by the number in attendance on this occasion. It is clearly one of the most enjoyable features of the Club's yearly program. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.