

In their own neighborhood Mr. and Mrs. Baynes have had wonderful success in making the intimate personal acquaintance of many birds. A very full discussion of such problems as those concerning methods of attracting birds, feeding birds in winter, devices which have been found useful, nest boxes, and the best shrubs and plants for attracting birds, is one of the chief contributions of the book.

The much argued questions as to the relations of the farmer, the sportsman, the foreigner, and the scientific collector to the preservation of birds are discussed in a refreshingly impersonal way. Mr. Baynes has avoided sweeping statements, and it must be admitted that his words have a correspondingly convincing quality.

Worthy of note is his attitude toward the predatory fur-bearing mammals and other bird enemies, so often condemned unconditionally by bird enthusiasts. Evidence for as well as against them is carefully entered, and in concluding the chapter treating of destruction of birds by natural enemies, he says (p. 37): "Yet it is a fact that all the storms that sweep the earth and all the natural enemies, including savage people, would seldom make any lasting impression on the normal bird population, if it were not for civilized man and his works." He makes clear the fact that the market demand for bird plumage or for the flesh of wild birds has been of foremost importance as a factor in the decrease of many species and the extermination of others.

It is of decided interest that the author, although not a collector himself, has not allowed his devotion to the birds to blind him to the relation of the scientist to conservation. On page 267 he says: "As for scientific collectors, the writer believes that they should be allowed to go about their work unhampered by petty restrictions. Compared with other gunners they shoot few birds and these are generally made good use of. The complaint that scientific men do not do their share in the work of wild life conservation, is generally unfair. It is usually the cry of some conservationist who wishes he were scientific but is not, who wishes to attract attention to his own work by belittling that of others, or who does not appreciate the fact that the work he himself is doing is based largely on the work of the scientist."

As a step toward the solution of the cat problem, admittedly one of the most difficult before bird lovers, a tax of one dollar on each male cat and five dollars on each female cat is recommended.

The English Sparrow, or European Sparrow as Mr. Baynes calls it, apparently has no terrors for the author. The birds have been banished completely from his home town, Meriden, New Hampshire. Trapping is asserted to be the safest method of elimination, poisoning the most effective. As to the possibility of eradicating the English Sparrow he says (pp. 245, 246): "Almost any town or city can be cleared of European Sparrows and kept clear of them, if just a few men of resource and resolution will undertake the work. In almost any town there are a certain number of men who have made a great success in business, and I know and they know that if the sparrows had stood between any one of them and the success he has made, there would not be a single sparrow in that town."

Mr. Baynes gives ample space and adequate treatment to the economic argument for bird protection, but wisely realizes that without feelings and passion as well as economics and intellect behind it the movement for conservation will not get as far as it ought to. The following is from his discussion of the aesthetic and moral reasons for protecting the birds (p. 116): "No woods are dreary if the jays or crows are calling; no field but is full of joy if the bobolinks are sprinkling it with their song; and he is not quite human whose heart does not beat faster when at night and far above him he hears the cry of the wild gander as he leads his flying squadrons northward, homeward, through the pathways of the skies."

The note of Mr. Bayne's argument, throughout, is an optimistic, a constructive one. His is not a code of *don't's*, but rather a compellingly persuasive program of *do's*. Realizing the fundamental importance in our complicated civilization of organization as an aid to individual effort he places much emphasis upon the desirability of the formation of bird clubs.

After reading the book one is not surprised to learn that a new edition has had to be prepared already.—WALTER P. TAYLOR.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, Thursday evening, October 28, 1915, at 8 P. M. In absence of both the President and Vice-President, Dr. H. C. Bryant assumed

the chair and appointed Mr. H. W. Carriger, Secretary pro tem. The following members were in attendance: Mesdames Allen, Bryant, Purington, and Schlisinger, Miss Culver, and Messrs. Bolander, Bryant, Carpenter, Carriger, Kendall, and Noack. Among the visitors were Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Bryant, Mrs. Noack, Miss Handyside, Mrs. Klugel, and Messrs. Harris, Heger, Purington, Wiley, and Wright.

The minutes of the Northern Division September meeting were read and approved, and the minutes of the Southern Division and of the Inter-Mountain Chapter were also read. The following were elected to membership: C. A. Purington, 2223½ Chapel St., Berkeley, Lydia Atterbury, 2620 LeConte Ave., Berkeley, and Cornelia C. Pringle, Cupertino. Applications for membership were received from H. T. Liliencrantz, Hollister, proposed by Margaret W. Wythe; Mrs. Edw. A. Klugel, 2623 LeConte Ave., Berkeley, and Miss Francis MacCulloch, 2213 Union St., Berkeley, both proposed by Geo. E. Stone; and Leo Wiley, Palo Verde, proposed by J. Grinnell.

The Chairman called attention to the new Avifauna, "A distributional list of the birds of California", by Dr. Grinnell. This was pointed out as the best reference work on California birds now obtainable, and as perhaps the most accurate state list ever issued. Attention was also called to the zoological survey of the Yosemite region now being made by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

In introducing the speaker of the evening, Mr. H. R. Noack, Dr. Bryant pointed out that although the breeding of wild birds in captivity is being widely carried on in Great Britain and that numerous periodicals dealing with the results obtained are published there, little is done in the United States along these lines. Much can be learned as to the habits of birds by keeping them in captivity. The aviary should be encouraged rather than discouraged.

Mr. Noack, who has for a number of years been maintaining an aviary of foreign birds, then gave a talk on "Breeding habits of foreign doves and finches in captivity". Particular attention was called to the successful breeding of Nicobar pigeons in his aviary. About fifteen different kinds of doves and pigeons have been successfully bred by him, and also a large number of interesting foreign finches. Mr. Noack illustrated his talk by sets of eggs of the orange bishop weaver and blood-billed weaver, and also by a nest of the former. A general discussion followed. Adjourned.—H. W. CARRIGER, Secretary pro tem.

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, November 18, 1915, at 8 P. M. President Joseph Mailiard was in the chair with the following members present: Mesdames Allen and

Purington, Miss Culver, and Messrs. Bolander, Bryant, Carriger, Evermann, Hubbs, Lastreto, Littlejohn, Noack, Reynolds, Squires and Taylor. Among the visitors present were Mesdames Grant and Taylor and Miss Newlon. In the absence of the Secretary, H. C. Bryant was appointed secretary pro tem.

After the reading of the minutes of the Northern Division October meeting the following business was transacted: Mr. Henry W. Henshaw, Chief of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, was unanimously elected to honorary membership in the Club. Mrs. E. A. Klugel, Francis MacCulloch, H. T. Liliencrantz, and Leo Wiley were elected to active membership. The following applications for membership were presented: H. W. Daniels, Claremont, Mrs. Sophie E. Gay, Sacramento, and Mrs. Adele Lewis Grant, Columbia, all from California, proposed by H. C. Bryant. The President then called attention to the recently published Avifauna No. 11, Dr. Grinnell's "Distributional List of California Birds" and explained why this and other avifaunas cannot be distributed free to members.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Chase Littlejohn of Redwood City, was introduced as one of the oldest collectors in the State, having been active along this line for forty-six years. Mr. Littlejohn's subject was: "Some unusual records for San Mateo County, California". Among the unusual takes mentioned were the following: Ashy Petrel, Least Bittern, Snowy Egret, Barrow Golden-eye (termed by him the rarest duck in California), American Scoter, Pectoral Sandpiper, Saw-whet Owl, Boreal Flicker, White-throated Sparrow and Forbush Sparrow. Species which have totally disappeared from the county are: California Brown Pelican, European Widgeon, White-fronted, Hutchins and Cackling Geese, Little Brown and Sandhill Cranes, Painted Quail (not uncommon in 1865), California Condor, Yellow-billed Magpie, and Western Raven. Other species once fairly common but now practically extinct are: Wood Duck, Whistling Swan, Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Ferruginous Rough-leg, and Southern Bald Eagle. An interesting discussion followed. Adjourned.—H. C. BRYANT, Secretary pro tem.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The regular meeting was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, Thursday evening, October 28. President Law was in the chair and the following members in attendance: Mrs. Law, and Messrs. Brown, Benton, Chambers, Colburn, Cookman, Howell, Holland, Layne, Miller, Nelson, Pierce, Rich, Robertson, Swarth, White and Wyman. Visitors present were Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Hickok, Mrs. Browse, and Mr. W. A. Browse.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved, followed by the

September minutes of the Northern Division, and the September and October minutes of the Inter-Mountain Chapter. New names were presented as follows: Eugene F. Clark, Los Angeles, by A. E. Colburn; Mrs. J. S. Locke, Whittier, and Kenneth Price, Whittier, by A. Cookman; H. E. Cox, Redondo, by W. Lee Chambers; Lillian Zech, Long Beach, and Myra Drachman, Long Beach, by C. B. Linton.

The unexpected presence of Mr. E. W. Nelson gave the Club an opportunity of hearing in some detail of the present status and probable workings of the "Migratory Bird Law". Mr. Nelson spoke at some length on this subject, to an intensely interested audience and one greatly appreciative of the occasion. Many questions were asked, and much informal discussion followed. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, Friday evening, November 26, with President Law in the chair, and thirty-three members and visitors in attendance. The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. On motion the reading of the last minutes of the Northern Division, and of the Inter-Mountain Chapter, was dispensed with. New members were elected as follows: Eugene F. Clarke, H. E. Cox, Lillian Zech, Myra Drachman, Mrs. J. S. Locke, and Kenneth Price. The following new names were proposed: Henry E. Parmenter, Boston, Massachusetts, by W. Lee Chambers; Dr. C. G. Wiggins, Colton, by J. Bagley; Byron Cummings, Tucson, Arizona, by Mrs. J. W. Wheeler; Professor Samuel Rittenhouse, Los Angeles, by A. Cookman; Miss Faith Swift, Los Angeles, by Dr. L. H. Miller; W. A. Brouse, Los Angeles, and A. B. Dickinson, Los Angeles, by H. S. Swarth; Adele Lewis Grant, Columbia, California, Mrs. Sophie E. Gay, Sacramento, and Leo Wiley, Palo Verde, by H. C. Bryant.

Routine business disposed of, the remainder of the evening was devoted to an exhibition of lantern slides by Mr. William R. Flint, of Pasadena. Much of the subject matter was of eastern species, but there were many pictures of local birds also, of special interest and excellence. The Club is indebted to Mr. Flint for a most enjoyable evening. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, Thursday evening, December 30, with thirty members and visitors in attendance. In the absence of president and vice-president, Dr. L. H. Miller acted as chairman. The November minutes were read and approved, followed by the reading of the Northern Division minutes for December. New members were elected as follows: Leo Wiley, Mrs. Sophie E. Gay, Adele Lewis Grant, A. B. Dickinson, W. A. Brouse, Miss Faith Swift, Profes-

sor Samuel Rittenhouse, Henry E. Parmenter, Dr. C. G. Wiggins, and Byron Cummings. The following new names were presented: S. Harrison Eaton, North Bend, Ohio, George L. Fordyce, Youngstown, Ohio, H. H. Cleaves, New Brighton, New York, and Norman de Witt Betts, Madison, Wisconsin, all proposed by W. Lee Chambers; and A. H. Vilas, Santa Barbara, and Thomas Stevenson Bradlee, Boston, Massachusetts, presented by W. Leon Dawson.

The secretary read a letter, forwarded from the Northern Division, received from Mr. H. W. Henshaw in acknowledgment of his election to honorary membership in the club. It being in order to nominate officers for 1916, this business was then taken up. After some discussion the following nominations were made: President, Dr. L. H. Miller, on motion by Mr. Law, transmitted through H. S. Swarth; Vice-President, J. Eugene Law, on motion of W. Lee Chambers; Secretary, L. E. Wyman, on motion by Dr. Miller.

Business disposed of, the members settled down to enjoy a talk by Dr. Grinnell treating of the birds of the Yosemite region. The slides exhibited were many of them of a novel type, prepared for a particular purpose which was explained in some detail. Besides having the pleasure of listening to an entertaining general account of field work and observations in an especially attractive part of California, the members were privileged to hear announcement at this time of certain important discoveries and conclusions that will be published later on. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.

#### INTER-MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

NOVEMBER.—The Inter-Mountain Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club, met at Salt Lake City, Utah, November 9, 1915, in the office of Dr. D. Moore Lindsay, Boston Building. Meeting called to order at 8:30 P. M., President Lindsay in the chair, and the following members present: C. Barnes, J. Sugden, J. Mullen, Mrs. J. Mullen, F. Chambers, D. Moore Lindsay, A. O. Treganza, Mrs. A. O. Treganza.

Minutes of the October meeting read and approved.

The business of the meeting consisted in the election of officers for the ensuing year. Those elected were: Fred W. Chambers, President; J. A. Mullen, Vice-president; Mrs. A. O. Treganza, Secretary and Treasurer; C. Barnes, A. O. Treganza, Editing Committee; D. Moore Lindsay, J. Sugden, Program Committee; J. H. Paul, Wm. Wrathall, Investigation and Publicity.

A very interesting paper, "A Trip to Hat and Egg Islands of Great Salt Lake," by Mr. R. H. Palmer of Pocatello, Idaho, was read before the Club by Mrs. A. O. Treganza. Mr. Fred Chambers gave a most interesting short talk on successful trout fishing. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P. M.—Mrs. A. O. TREGANZA, *Secretary*.