

namely, acceptance of data from non-authoritative sources. It goes without saying that the validity of any wide generalization depends upon the soundness of the mass of facts upon which such generalization be based. The testimony of casual field observers must be uncompromisingly *excluded*, until it be known that they are *qualified to furnish authentic information*. This, we realize, will mean a departure from the custom heretofore prevalent in many countries where data is being assembled on bird migration and distribution. But, in the interests of scientific exactitude, some such rule must be followed rigidly, if a high standard of output is to be striven for.

There can be no doubt that extensive accumulations of statistical data bearing on bird population, and its modifying influences, are greatly worth while. Inferences of wide economic importance are sure to come. And of all the institutions now in existence, only a Government Bureau can be expected to handle an undertaking of such magnitude. Our adverse comments, as above, apply only to a detail of method.—J. GRINNELL.

CONSERVATION OF OUR | WILD BIRDS | METHODS
OF ATTRACTING | AND INCREASING THE
NUMBERS OF USEFUL | BIRDS AND THE | ESTABLISHMENT
OF SANCTUARIES | By | BRADFORD
A. SCUDDER | ... | Issued by the | Massachusetts
Fish and Game | Protective Association | 748 Tremont
Building | Boston; 71 pp., illustrated. Price 50 cents.
Our copy received October 30, 1916.

During recent years there has been a great deal written on the conservation of wild life, but only a small proportion of the books and papers which have appeared have dealt with the subject in a concrete manner and given definite and usable information. The present paper is distinctly practical. It describes in an authoritative yet simple manner some of the means which can be used in Massachusetts for "attracting and increasing the numbers of useful birds".

Following the brief "Introduction" in which are set forth the several ways in which birds are useful to man, the causes of their decrease and the means which have been used to conserve them, the following subjects are considered, a chapter being devoted to each: "Birds that we should encourage to nest about our country homes", "Nesting boxes", "Nesting houses", "Bird baths", "Winter feeding of birds", "Berry and seed bearing trees and shrubs", and "Enemies of

wild birds". Finally there is a "Bibliography of works pertaining to birds and the out-of-doors".

The pamphlet should prove useful to bird lovers in the New England states and has something of value, in suggestions at least, for western students.—TRACY I. STORER.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The November meeting of the Northern Division was called to order by Vice-president Carriger, at 8 P. M., November 16. As the Secretary was late, business was deferred and Dr. Grinnell was introduced. He gave a most interesting talk on "Birds and Bird People of San Bernardino". The personnel of the new branch of the Cooper Club, which is being organized in San Bernardino, with their varied interests and abilities, was no less interesting than the account of the birds of the cactus and sagebrush belts of Reche Canyon. No doubt the future work of the branch will command much attention.

After some discussion of Dr. Grinnell's paper, the business of the evening was dispatched. The minutes of the October meeting of the Northern Division were read and approved, and those of the Southern Division were read. Mrs. Frances Webster Fish and Mr. Frank J. Steinmetz were elected to membership, and several proposals from the Southern Division were read.

About thirty members and visitors were present, among whom were Messrs. Grinnell, Bryant, Carriger, Evermann, Hansen, Swarth, Wright, Cohen, Dixon, Stone, Ray, Heinemann and Kendall; Mesdames Grinnell, Newhall, Knappen, Ferguson, Swarth, Sweezy, Schlisinger, Parsons, Fish, Allen and Wythe. Miss Ferguson, Mrs. Newhall, Mr. Schlisinger, Mrs. Ray and Mr. Thomas were among the visitors.

Several items of interest with regard to birds were presented: a Florida Gallinule was reported as wintering in Golden Gate Park, by Mr. Hansen; a Townsend Solitaire has been seen repeatedly on the University Campus by Miss Wythe; a beautiful specimen of a Snowy Owl just received at the Museum from Del Norte County, California, was exhibited by Mr. Bryant. Instances of nesting Valley Quail becoming very tame, and also of others nesting in trees, were related and discussed.

The meeting adjourned for informal discussion.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

DECEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division was called to order December 21, 1916, at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. President Storer was in the chair, with the following members present: Messrs. Davis, Grinnell, Mailliard, Storer, Squires, Hansen, Lastreto, Bryant, Carriger, Swarth, Wright, Dixon; Mesdames Meade, Schlisinger, Grinnell, Bryant and Allen. Mr. Schlisinger, Mr. Meade and Mr. Kellogg were present as visitors.

After the reading of the minutes of the Northern and Southern Divisions, Dr. Hummill and Mrs. Foster Elliott were elected to membership, and five names were proposed, four from the minutes of the Southern Division and one, Miss Emma W. Ward, Alameda, proposed by Donald Cohen.

A letter from Mr. A. L. Barrows, Secretary of the Pacific Division of the Association for the Advancement of Science, asking that the Cooper Club be represented on the program of a meeting to be held at Stanford University, was referred to the Executive Committee.

The nomination of officers for the year 1917 was then called for by the President. Dr. Barton Evermann was nominated for president by Mr. Joseph Mailliard; Rev. W. A. Squires, for vice-president by Mr. Carriger, and Mrs. J. T. Allen for secretary by Dr. Grinnell.

Mr. Joseph Mailliard, who attended the meeting of the American Ornithological Union at the Academy of Sciences at Philadelphia, gave so vivid an account of the meetings of the Union and of his visits to Philadelphia, New York and Washington, that those present felt that they had a part in all his experiences. After considerable informal discussion a giant goose was exhibited by Mr. Bryant, and the meeting adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art. Vice-president Law presided, and the following members were present: Messrs. Chambers, Daggett, Holland, Lamb, Law, Tallman, Willett and Wyman. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

The following persons, whose names were presented at the previous meeting, were elected to membership: Mrs. Mabel R. O'Farrell, San Diego; C. Oscar Reis, Los Angeles; Robie W. Tufts, Wolfville, Nova Scotia; Roscoe Ivan Giles, Marlborough, Mass.

New names were presented, as follows: Jas. Moffitt, San Francisco, by John Mailliard; James A. Calder, Buena Park, Calif., by John McB. Robertson; Mrs. Victor Culberson, Fierro, N. M., by J. Stokely Ligon; Miss Alice Edward Pratt, San Diego, by W. L. Chambers; Rudolph Martin Anderson, care of Geological Survey, Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, Canada, by W. L. Chambers; Mrs. Fred J. Loel, San Jose, Calif., by W. L. Chambers; Lew Ward Hudson, Selma, Calif., by J. G. Tyler.

No members of the nominating committee being present, the annual election of officers was postponed till the January meeting. A letter from A. L. Barrows, Secretary of the Pacific Division of the Association for the Advancement of Science, relative to a special assessment of five dollars, against the Club, for the support of the Division, was read, but no formal action taken.

Mr. Law gave an interesting account of the recent meeting of the A. O. U. in Philadelphia, which he attended, and told of seeing several of the important collections in the eastern states, and of ornithological investigations going on in that part of the country. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

JANUARY.—Regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art. President Miller presided, with the following members in attendance: Messrs. Brown, Bishop, Chambers, Dickey, Hanna, Huey, Holland, Layne, Little, Law, Moran, Rich, Rittenhouse, Wyman, and Mrs. Law. Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Falger, and Mr. Reese were visitors.

Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved, followed by reading of the November and December minutes of the Northern Division.

On motion by Dr. Rich, seconded by Mr. Brown, the secretary was instructed to cast an electing ballot for the persons whose names were presented at the December meeting as follows: James Moffitt, San Francisco; James A. Calder, Buena Park; Mrs. Victor Culberson, Fierro, New Mexico; Miss Alice Edwards Pratt, San Diego; Rudolph M. Anderson, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Mrs. Fred J. Loel, San Jose; Lew Ward Hudson, Selma.

New names were presented as follows: Elmer Ufford, Oberlin, Kas., by Guy Love; Claten Osencup, Pasadena, by J. H. Richey; C. A. Thomas, Kennet Square, Pa., by W.

Leon Dawson. The resignation of Dr. John G. Sheaffer was tendered and accepted.

The following resolution was read and ordered placed on file:

"In the passing of Dr. E. A. Mearns ornithology has lost a devotee of high rank. As an ornithologist Dr. Mearns was a tireless and thoroughly scientific worker, who published extensively the result of his labors. In his social life he was genial and warm-hearted, and left a host of friends who mourn his untimely end.

In recognition of his sterling qualities and scientific achievements, therefore, let it be resolved that we, the members of the Cooper Ornithological Club, hereby deplore his death as a distinct loss to science in general and to ornithology in particular."

In the absence of a report from the nominating committee, the chairman called for nominations from the floor. On motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Holland, the outgoing officers were renominated. Dr. Bishop then moved that the secretary be instructed to cast a ballot re-electing these officers. Carried.

Mr. Law read a letter from Mr. Willett relative to the number of geese and ducks in the Sacramento Valley, suggesting that the bag limit on geese was too high. Dr. Rich moved that the Cooper Club go on record as favoring the reducing of the daily limit of geese to ten. Seconded by Mr. Law, and unanimously carried.

Business disposed of, Dr. L. B. Bishop favored the members with an instructive talk on the Blue-winged and Yellow-winged Warblers, and their hybrids. Mr. Hanna told of catching and photographing White-throated Swifts. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

INTERMOUNTAIN CHAPTER

DECEMBER.—Meeting called at 8:15 P. M. by President Chambers. Members in attendance were: Dr. D. Moore Lindsay, J. A. Mullen, A. D. Boyle, J. Sugden, Sr., J. Sugden, Jr., Prof. J. H. Paul and A. O. Treganza. A. O. Treganza acted as secretary pro tem in the absence of Mrs. Treganza. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Business of evening was as follows: first, election of officers for the ensuing year. Dr. Paul was nominated to the presidency. J. Sugden moved suspension of by-laws and election by acclamation. Carried. Election of officers was as follows: President, Prof. J. H. Paul; Vice-president, Dr. D.

Moore Lindsay; Secretary and Treasurer, A. D. Boyle; Editing Committee, J. Sugden, Mrs. A. O. Treganza; Program Committee, J. A. Mullen, A. O. Treganza.

Motion made by Prof. Paul that Investigation and Publicity Committee be changed to read Conservation and Publicity Committee. Carried.

Conservation and Publicity Committee, C. T. Barnes, Fred W. Chambers.

Motion made that the Club support a movement begun by the City Council to exterminate the English Sparrow, the work to be done by paid assistants, that other birds might not suffer. This was followed by an open discussion on the economic value of the sparrow, and the evident failure of the bird sanctuaries set aside within the city limits, due to its ever increasing numbers.

Motion made that the Club support Mr. Fred W. Chambers for re-appointment as a non-partisan Game Commissioner, inasmuch as he had commenced much creditable work that would fall under a political appointee.

Meeting adjourned at 10 P. M.—A. O. TREGANZA, *Secretary*.

SAN BERNARDINO CHAPTER

DECEMBER.—The second informal meeting of the San Bernardino Valley section of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on December 5, 1916, at the residence of Dr. C. G. Wiggins, Colton, California. No formal papers were read but the agreed subject for the evening was Hawks. Every member attending brought all specimens of hawks and their eggs owned by him, and the assembled collection was examined and studied, together with such information as each member could give regarding the various species with which he was most familiar. The greater part of the species inhabiting southern California were represented both by skins and eggs, so that a fairly complete account of them was finally presented. The collection of eggs from the cabinets of Messrs. Pierce and Edwards of Claremont was notable.

Those present were: Messrs. Edwards, Pierce and White from Claremont; Mr. and Mrs. M. French Gilman, and Mr. W. F. Gilman from Banning; Ed. Wall, San Bernardino; Mr., Mrs., and Miss C. G. Wiggins, J. R. Pemberton, Colton. It was unanimously agreed that the next meeting be held on January 9, 1917, at the same residence of Dr. Wiggins in Colton, and that the subject for the evening be Owls. Adjourned.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Secretary*.