

# THE CONDOR

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Western Ornithology

J. GRINNELL, Editor

HARRY S. SWARTH, Associate Editor

J. EUGENE LAW

W. LEE CHAMBERS } Business Managers

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## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS.

As far as we are aware, bird banding has not been practiced to any considerable extent on the Pacific Coast. This year Mrs. Amelia S. Allen, of Berkeley, and Mr. J. S. Hunter, of the State Fish and Game Commission, have undertaken to band some wild birds. Supplies of the necessary bands together with instructions as to their use, and the objects of so doing, can be secured from Mr. Howard H. Cleaves, Secretary of the American Bird Banding Association, New Brighton, N. Y.

Dr. C. G. Stivers, of Los Angeles, a Southern Division member of the Cooper Club, is now Captain, M. R. C., Aviation Section, Signal Corps, with headquarters for the time being in San Francisco.

### FEDERAL PERMITS REQUIRED TO COLLECT MIGRATORY BIRDS, THEIR NESTS AND EGGS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

Collectors of birds, their nests or eggs for scientific purposes will be interested to know that the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which was passed by Congress and became a law on July 3, 1918, makes it unlawful to take, possess, or transport migratory game birds, or other migratory birds, their nests or eggs, without a permit issued by the United States Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with regulations under the new law which became effective July 31, 1918.

Applications for permits must be addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and must contain the name and address of the applicant, the name of the State, Territory, or District, in which the specimens are proposed to be taken, and the purposes for which they are intended. Each application must be accompanied by certificates from two well-known ornithologists that the applicant is a proper person to have a permit.

The permit will authorize the holder thereof to possess, buy, sell, or transport migra-

tory birds, or parts thereof, and their nests or eggs for scientific purposes. Public museums, zoological parks or societies, and public scientific and educational institutions may possess, buy, sell, and transport in any manner at any time migratory birds, or parts thereof, and their nests and eggs, for scientific purposes without a permit. No specimens shall be collected, however, even for such institutions, without a permit.

Permits will be issued free of charge, and will be valid only during the calendar year of issue. They will not be transferable and will be revocable at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture. Persons holding permits are required to report on or before January 10 following their expiration, giving the number of skins, nests, or eggs of each species collected, bought, or sold during the life of the permit. Every package in which migratory birds, their nests or eggs are transported shall have clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof the name and address of the sender, the number of the permit held by the shipper in every case where a permit is required, the name and address of the consignee, a statement that it contains specimens of birds, their nests or eggs for scientific purposes, and, whenever such a package is transported or offered for transportation from the Dominion of Canada into the United States, or from the United States into the Dominion of Canada, an accurate statement of the contents.

Holders of Federal permits are also required to comply with State laws and regulations governing the taking of migratory birds, their nests or eggs for scientific purposes.

In a letter dated August 10, 1918, E. W. Nelson, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, gives assurance that the requirements under the new law will be made as little burdensome as possible. Reasonable time will be given for allowing collectors to become informed in regard to these regulations and to take the necessary steps to meet them. But after that anyone who collects without a permit is liable to arrest and prosecution in the Federal court.

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The May meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was an outdoor meeting held at the home of the Secretary, Mrs. Allen, at three P. M. on Sunday, May 19, 1918. Dr. Evermann called

the meeting to order. The following members were present: Messrs. Davis, Evermann, Kibbe, Smith, Swarth; Madames Allen, Bamford, Ferguson, Kibbe, Knappen, Meade, Luëdemann, Schlesinger, Wythe. Visitors were Mr. Allen, Miss Barrows, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Evermann, Miss Ferguson, Mrs. House, Miss House, Mr. Meade, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Strong.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved and Mr. Frederick Alexander Schneider, one of the founders of the club who had dropped out for a number of years, was elected again to membership. The following proposals were made: Mr. M. Herrick Spaulding, Montana Agricultural College, Bozeman, Montana, by W. P. Taylor and J. Grinnell, and Miss Elizabeth Ferguson, 5 Panoramic Way, Berkeley, by Mrs. J. T. Allen. The committee appointed to consider the resignation of Dr. Gibbons reported in favor of establishing an absentee list with remission of dues for all members resigning to enter army service, such provision to be submitted to the Southern Division for approval. On motion of Mr. Swarth, seconded by Mrs. Ferguson, the report was accepted. Dr. Evermann then gave a very interesting account of the work of three of America's early naturalists, Audubon, Wilson and Rafinesque. After disposing of a "loan collection of specimens," the club enjoyed a short field trip through Strawberry Canyon.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at 8 P. M., June 20, 1918. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Dr. Bryant took the chair. The following members were present: Messrs. Andersen, Beck, Bryant, Carriger, Dixon, Grinnell, Hansen, Loomis, Swarth and Wheeler; Mesdames Allen, Culver, Ferguson, Gunn, Meade, Schlesinger, Smythe. Visitors: Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Dixon, Miss Hittell, Miss Marsh, Miss Roup, Mrs. Roup, Mrs. Wheeler, Mr. Meade and Mr. Schlesinger.

The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved, and the Southern Division minutes for March, April, and May were read. Miss Elizabeth Ferguson, Berkeley, and M. Herrick Spaulding, Montana Agricultural College, Bozeman, Montana, were elected to membership, and the names proposed before the Southern Division in April and May (fifteen in all) were approved. Miss Eva Griffin, San Francisco, was proposed for membership by Mrs. Allen.

Business disposed of, the club enjoyed the privilege of listening to a talk entitled "A California Bird-Collector on South American Coasts and Islands" by Mr. R. H. Beck. Beautiful colored views were thrown on the screen, illustrating the life of the peoples of the different countries visited, as well as that of the petrels, penguins, ducks, cormorants, albatrosses and other birds. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

JULY.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at 8 P. M., July 18, 1918. Dr. Evermann presided and the others present were Messrs. Anderson, Bryant, Carriger, Dixon, Grinnell, Kibbe, Lastreto, Loomis, Noack and Trenor; Mesdames Allen, Blayney, Ferguson, Elizabeth Ferguson, Kibbe, Kluegel, Luëdemann, Meade and Wythe. Visitors: Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Evermann, Miss Evermann, Mrs. Roup, Miss Roup, Mrs. Thomson, Miss Thomson, and Mr. Meade. The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. Miss Eva Griffin was elected to membership in the club and the name of Mrs. G. E. Kelly, Alameda, was proposed by Mrs. Bessie W. Kibbe. A letter from Mr. Remington Kellogg, containing interesting comments on the wild life in France, was read by Dr. Grinnell.

In the absence of Dr. Miller, who was prevented by illness from giving his talk on the fossil birds found in the asphalt beds of southern California, Mr. Joseph Dixon gave an illustrated talk on the life histories of the Pacific Horned Owl, the Long-eared Owl, and the Prairie Falcon, as observed in southern California. After some discussion the club adjourned to enjoy a closer inspection of the skins exhibited and also of some very attractive paintings of ground squirrels by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—Regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held May 26 at 3:30 P. M. at the home of Mr. W. Lee Chambers, at Eagle Rock. President Miller was in the chair, with other members present: Messrs. Brown, Chambers, Edwards, Law, Moran, Morcom, Reis, Rittenhouse, Wyman and Zahn; Mesdames Law and Harmon. Visitors were Mr. Carruthers, and Mesdames Chambers, Edwards, Moran, Pratt and Wyman.

Minutes of the March and April meetings were read and approved. On motion by Mr. Reis, the Secretary was instructed to cast an electing ballot for the parties whose names were proposed for membership at the last meeting. New names presented were: Harry Stephen Ladd, St. Louis, Mo., by Mr. Chambers; Miss Lillian Holbert, Fort Worth, Texas, by John B. Litsey; and M. Herrick Spaulding, Bozeman, Montana, by W. P. Taylor and J. Grinnell.

A letter from the Chairman of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission, regarding the status of the Heath Hen, also an extract on the same subject, from the annual report of that Commission, were read. These showed a sad decrease in numbers, attributed to a fire which destroyed breeding birds, cover and food.

In the general discussion Mr. Reis and others told of finding many nests of smaller birds occupied by white-footed mice, which had destroyed the eggs or buried them in the nest material. Mr. Brown commented upon the great numbers of White-throated Swifts seen in Tahquitz Canyon, and upon the finding of a white Fulmar dead upon the beach recently. The unusual number of Western Tanagers this spring also was mentioned. Business ended, the members spent a most enjoyable hour in Mr. Chambers' splendid library, and in search of birds about the spacious grounds. An interesting feature was the nest of a Costa Hummer fitted neatly to the top of a section of bamboo fish pole, of nearly the same diameter as the nest, and in use as a support for a small tree. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, at 8:00 P. M., June 27, 1918. In the absence of president and vice-president, Mr. Daggett was acclaimed chairman of the meeting. Other members present were Messrs. Hanaford, Holland, Moran, Reis, Robertson, Shepardson and Wyman. Mrs. Moran, Miss Ingram, and two other ladies were visitors. Minutes of the May meeting were read and approved, followed by reading of minutes of April and May meetings of the Northern Division. On motion by Mr. Shepardson the secretary was instructed to cast an electing ballot for the parties whose names were presented at the previous meeting. H. E. McMinn, Professor of Biology, Whittier College, was proposed for membership by Dr. C. O. Esterly. On

proper motion the members unanimously approved the action of the Northern Division in establishing an absentee list, with remission of dues, for members resigning to enter army service.

In the general discussion that followed the formal business meeting several members related recent experiences in the field. Mr. Reis produced a specimen of the mouse that he had reported at the May meeting as having occupied many nests of small birds in the canyons of the Palos Verde hills, to the destruction of eggs and young; it proved to be the common house mouse. A tray of skins of finches, longspurs, etc., received the usual attention. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, at 8:00 P. M., July 25, 1918. President and vice-president being absent, Mr. F. S. Daggett was named as chairman of the meeting. Other members present were Messrs. Brouse, Hanaford, Holland, Howard, Law, Owen, Robertson, Stormont, Swarth and Wyman. Mr. Hodgkins and Mrs. Howard were visitors. Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. On motion by Mr. Robertson, the secretary was instructed to cast an electing ballot for Prof. H. E. McMinn, whose name was presented at the previous meeting. New names presented were: S. Herbert Jenks, Pasadena, and F. B. Hart, Jr., Oakland, by W. Lee Chambers; Reginald Hodgkins, Los Angeles, by Virgil Owen. The following names were received from the Northern Division for approval: Dr. R. M. Leggett, San Francisco; Adrey E. Borell, Fresno; and Frederick Alexander Schneider, San Jose.

Business disposed of, the usual discussion of matters ornithological followed. Mr. Law spoke of conditions in the Bluff Lake locality of the San Bernardino Mountains, Mr. Howard told of a trip to the San Jacintos, also of a visit to Baldwin Lake, in the San Bernardino, where he saw a pure albino Eared Grebe, and Mr. Swarth mentioned a number of breeding birds of the University of California campus, at Berkeley, but which are known to breed in Transition zone only in southern California. Mr. Swarth also spoke briefly on economic work being done by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, chiefly among ground squirrels, and of field work done by himself in 1917 in the deserts of southern Arizona. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.