

as an initial step in the compilation. The results give evidence of the highest plane of accuracy. McGregor has thereby won an enviable reputation for achievement in the field of avian taxonomy.

In a review published in the "Transactions of the North Staffordshire Field Club" (vol. III, 1917-18, p. 97), our British confrere, Mr. F. C. R. Jourdain, makes some timely comments on the standards that should be demanded in modern ornithological work. Compilers of local reports may well take these remarks to heart: "Ornithology must necessarily be a progressive science and what was deemed satisfactory half a century ago ought not to satisfy the student of today. A far higher standard of accuracy and precision is demanded from the recorder of the present day than in time past, and the bald and unconvincing statements, often entirely lacking in detail, which fill the pages of the older writers are now quite out of place. A county recorder must also be capable of discriminating between dubious and unreliable material and dependable observations, and should allow no personal considerations to influence him in accepting or rejecting records."

Northern Division members, and others likely to visit the San Francisco Bay region, should take note that the meetings of that Division are now scheduled for the *fourth* Thursday evening of each month. See announcement on inside back cover of this issue.

If a fair degree of prosperity has been yours this year, share it with the Cooper Club. Make a substantial contribution to our Endowment Fund. Become a benefactor in ornithology.

Collectors should bear in mind that for many reasons the autumn season is the most favorable time of the year for securing specimens. Plumages are then complete and unworn and they present their colors with intrinsic tones unfaded. Then, too, there is no danger of breaking up families, as during the spring months. Remember that adequate value, scientifically, is to be secured from a dead bird, only by recording, in addition to the usual data, its weight, its age (as determined from the condition of the skull), and the colors of the soft parts (by comparison with Ridgway's *Color Standards*).

#### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

##### NORTHERN DIVISION

**JULY.**—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology the evening of July 15. In the absence of the president and the vice-president,

Mr. Storer presided. Those present were: Members: Mesdames Abernathy, Allen, Hendren, Lander, McLellan, Mead, Schlesinger, and Thomson. Messrs. Bell, Carriger, Davies, Evermann, Storer, and Swarth. Visitors: Mesdames Lueddemann, Swarth, and Thomson; the Misses Barron, Bennet, Cowan, Jefferson, Lander, Lane, Latta, Livingstone, MacMillan, McCardle, Potter, Vaughan, and White. Also Messrs. Abell, Bean, and Master George S. Swarth.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. Mr. A. C. Maxson, Mr. Roy B. Lyon, Mr. E. S. Cheney, and Mr. L. A. Elmore were elected members of the club. One name was proposed: Mr. R. Bruce Overington, 220 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, by J. Grinnell. There was also a recommendation filed, signed by four members, that Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey be elected to Honorary membership in the Club.

Informal reports included those of two additional nests of the Western Robin found in the Bay region, one in Golden Gate Park, and one on the Berkeley Campus; also a report of crossbills feeding on aphides at Seattle. A report of the June Seattle meeting in connection with the meetings of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was given by Dr. Evermann. The program for the evening consisted of a talk by Mr. Carl Abell on "Color Engraving as Applied to Bird Pictures," using as an example of the complicated process the four color plates used in printing a group of Fox Sparrows as painted by Allan Brooks.

A motion presented by Dr. Evermann provided that the chair should appoint a committee of three to cooperate with the Audubon Association of the Pacific in an effort to bring about the repeal of the Alaska Bald Eagle Bounty Law. The motion was carried, the committee to be instructed to investigate also the movement to commercialize the waters of the Yellowstone. (The committee as appointed later consists of Dr. Evermann, Mr. Storer, and Mr. Lastreto.) Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

**AUGUST.**—The regular meeting of the Northern Division was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, August 19, at 8 P. M. President Wright called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were: Members: Mesdames Allen, Bridges, Davidson, Griffin, Grinnell, Mead, Neugass, Parsons, Roe, Thomson, and Wythe; Messrs. Bell, Carriger, Cooper, Davies, Dawson, Gignoux, Grinnell,

Hill, Lastreto, Loomis, McLean, Mailliard, Storer, Swarth, and Wright; visitors, Mrs. Thomson, Miss Wythe, Mr. Bridges, and Douglass Aiken.

The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved and minutes of May, June and July meetings of the Southern Division were read. Mr. Bruce Overington was elected to membership, and the following names were proposed: Mrs. Edward Hohfeld, 754 2rd Ave., San Francisco, by Mrs. E. C. Pitcher; Mr. Arthur Frank, care of Western Washington Experiment Station, Puyallup, Washington, by Amelia S. Allen; and Miss Eleanor V. Bennet, 2904 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, by Tracy I. Storer. Elections by the Southern Division in May, June and July were presented and approved. The recommendation presented at the July meeting that Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey be elected an Honorary Member of the Club was adopted by an unanimous vote, and the secretary was instructed to submit the proposal to the Southern Division for its consideration.

The following communication was then read by the Secretary:

To the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club,  
Mrs. Amelia S. Allen, Secretary;

Ladies and Gentlemen: It has been brought to my knowledge that the Cooper Ornithological Club has been subject to a certain amount of criticism on account of the continued non-appearance of my projected work upon "The Birds of California". This is a regrettable injustice, for such criticism has been in nowise deserved either on the part of the Cooper Club or of its leaders. It is my earnest desire, therefore, to remove at this time any grounds of misapprehension which may exist, both by means of a frank review of our previous relations, and by the elimination of a possible occasion of future misunderstanding.

In the first place, it should be clearly understood that the Cooper Ornithological Club has not now and never has had any slightest responsibility for the business management or the financing of "The Birds of California" enterprise. In my conduct of the business canvass on behalf of this publishing venture, I have scrupulously observed this point, and any misapprehension on the part of the public has been due to unwarranted inference and lack of inquiry. So far as the relations of the Birds of California enterprise and the Cooper Club are concerned, our agreement is vested in the resolutions passed at the November meetings of the Northern and the Southern Divisions of the C. O. C., in 1910, and reported on pages 39 and 40 of the Condor, Vol. xiii, Jan., 1911. It is well to recall the exact language of these reports. The minutes of the Northern Division state:

"...A motion was made by Mr. J. Mailliard, seconded by Mr. W. P. Taylor, that the Cooper Ornithological Club heartily endorse Mr. Dawson's plans, and pledge its moral

support and cooperation in the task of preparing a work upon the Birds of California. Motion was carried. A motion was made by Mr. W. K. Fisher, seconded by Mr. H. C. Bryant, that Mr. W. Leon Dawson be granted permission to associate the name of the Cooper Ornithological Club with his own on the title page of the forthcoming work, after the following formula: "The Birds of California, by W. Leon Dawson with the cooperation of the Members of the Cooper Ornithological Club".

And the minutes of the Southern Division read:

"On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Shepardson, and duly carried, the Southern Division approved the action of the Northern Division in endorsing the proposal of Mr. W. L. Dawson; and also pledged its moral support and cooperation in the task of preparing a work on "The Birds of California". It also approved the decision that Mr. Dawson be permitted to associate the name of the Cooper Club with his own on the title page of the work."

These generous resolutions are plainly concerned with the authorship and scientific sponsorship of the proposed work, and not at all with financing and administration. I have never made any other representations or cherished any other hopes. The Cooper Ornithological Club is in nowise responsible, therefore, for the regrettable delay which has attended the preparation of the MS of "The Birds of California", for the speed of that preparation has always hinged squarely upon the financial support vouchsafed. That the MS has only just now been completed, after incredible difficulties and delays, is in nowise chargeable to the account of the Cooper Club.

In this connection I wish to testify that the Cooper Club has done all that properly lay within its power or province to facilitate the preparation of "The Birds of California". Its generous solicitude for the success of the enterprise has been manifest at every turn and now upon the eve of the hopeful success of that enterprise I wish to record my sincerest gratitude for the use of materials and for privileges unnumbered that have been vouchsafed in generous fulfillment of the Club's early promises. And if in any slightest degree our relationship has failed of its earliest expectation of mutual helpfulness, the fault has been mine through inability to fully appropriate the help offered. (I make solitary exception of cooperative help in picture-making; for when in the early spring of 1917 I was ready, according to program long promised but regrettably deferred, to organize a cooperative campaign of bird-photography, the use of the Condor columns was refused—upon what basis or authority I never clearly understood. The occasion did prove inappropriate, for patriotic reasons, and I mention the circumstance here not by way of animadversion, but in the interest of exact justice.)

Now in spite of the most explicit statements foregoing, I suspect that the ever undiscriminating public will still refuse to dissociate our responsibilities, and so to give the Cooper Ornithological Club the complete exoneration which is its due. In view of this probability I respectfully propose that our official relationship be henceforth dissolved.

I beg the Cooper Club to believe that in suggesting this step I am moved solely by a consideration of its welfare. The Cooper Club has other obligations of immediate moment. I am unwilling that "The Birds of California" should be an endlessly continuing cause, or that its fortunes should embarrass the forward-looking plans of the Cooper Club, whose patience, generous as it is, has been sadly taxed already. It would be grossly unfair of me to hold such generosity to further account.

Whether or not it will be your good pleasure to allow the ultimate use of the Club name upon the title page of "The Birds of California", where it will be very welcome, is a matter for you to decide. But for the present and with the utmost concern for what we conceive to be your real interests, which are alike dear to us, we will discontinue the use of the Cooper Club name in our advertisements and subscription sheets; and we will refer to our deep indebtedness to its officers and members in the past tense.

In conclusion, allow me to express my very deep sense of personal obligation to all who have helped and to those who will continue to help toward the publishing of "The Birds of California". There is not, I am assured, any ill-feeling on the part of any of us. Any little incompatibilities of temperament which may have appeared in a too-closely wedded state will be happily resolved by a larger measure of freedom. At least, so far as I am aware, only genuine goodwill has been manifest on either side. It is only with the hope of entering an even closer personal fellowship of cooperation with the leading ornithologists of the West that I would consent to abrogate a formal relationship fraught with at least the possibility of mutual embarrassment.

Respectfully yours,

W. LEON DAWSON.

Santa Barbara, August 14, 1920.

Mr. Swarth then submitted this report:

At the April, 1920, meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, a committee was appointed, on motion of Mr. Lastreto, "to report at the next meeting as to what support the Club could offer toward encouraging the completion of 'The Birds of California'". Messrs. Law, Swarth and Evermann were appointed by the chair. The committee gave careful attention to the matter, but has been unable to submit recommendations before this time.

Most careful consideration has revealed no way in which the Club, as such, can assist in an early completion of "The Birds of California". The committee is familiar with the letter that has been presented by Mr. Dawson; it has been supplied with a copy of that letter. Mr. Dawson's proposal, just submitted, the outgrowth of earlier conferences, appears to meet squarely the present situation. It is unfortunate that Dr. Evermann is absent and so could not join in this report, but Mr. Law and Mr. Swarth, acting for the committee, recommend that the Club accept Mr. Dawson's proposal that any official relationship between the Cooper Ornithological Club and the Birds of California Publishing Company be herewith dissolved. The committee also recommends that Mr. Dawson's letter be entered verbatim in the minutes of this meeting.

On motion of Mr. Mailliard, seconded by Mr. Carriger, the recommendation was adopted.

Mr. Lastreto reported work done by the joint committee of the Audubon Association and the Cooper Club dealing respectively with the discharge of oil from oil steamers and with the destruction of Bald Eagles in Alaska.

Mr. Storer reported on attempts to commercialize the waters of the Yellowstone Park and other National Parks and National Forests, recommending that the Club memorialize the Secretary of the Interior and the Federal Power Commission to oppose the establishment of power stations in the National Parks. The motion to this effect, duly seconded, was carried.

On motion of Mr. Carriger it was voted to hold meetings of the Northern Division hereafter on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Business completed, Mr. Swarth gave a report upon his study of the distribution of birds in the Stikine River region. Adjourned.  
—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY 27, 1920.—Regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, at 8:00 P. M. President Miller held the chair, with others present as follows: Messrs. Appleton, Bishop, Hanaford, Law, Little, Morcom, Nicholson, Pierce, Rich, Robertson, Ross, Taylor, and Wyman, and Mrs. Law; Mrs. Bishop was a visitor.

Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. Persons whose names were proposed at the previous meeting were declared elected, on motion by Dr. Rich, seconded by Mr. Robertson. New applications were: Mrs. Anne B. Terry, 935 South Union Ave., and Mrs. Bertha Davis Martin, 1644 Maltman Ave., Los Angeles, both proposed by W. Lee Chambers. The Northern Division submitted the names of Mrs. Mervyn Neugass, Berkeley, Dwight R. Disney, Rupert, Idaho, and T. F. M. Williamson, Pasadena.

Communications from several congressmen were read, acknowledging receipt of the Club's protest against exploitation of a portion of Yellowstone National Park.

The session ended with the usual hour of informal discussion of things ornithological

and oological, during which the Secretary read extracts from a letter from George Willett, dated at Craig, Alaska, where he had wintered and in which locality he had collected extensively. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

JUNE 24, 1920.—Regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Club, was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, at 8:00 P. M. In the absence of the entire executive committee Mr. Robertson was acclaimed chairman and Mr. Chambers secretary pro tem. Other members present were Messrs. Dickey, Hanaford, Nokes, L. Peyton, Taylor and Van Rossem. Mr. King was a visitor.

New presentations for membership were: Antonio McLellan, 309 San Francisco St., El Paso, Texas, by H. H. Bailey; Charles Spangler Weiser, 105 West Springettsburg Ave., York, Pa., by W. Lee Chambers; Albert H. King, 3612 No. Griffin Ave., Los Angeles, by D. R. Dickey; and Mrs. H. J. Taylor, 1711 Douglas St., Sioux City, Iowa, by H. C. Bryant.

A letter from Congressman H. Z. Osborne, relative to the Yellowstone Park matter, promising vigilance in protecting the cause espoused by the Cooper Club, was read.

Mr. Dickey presented the following communication:

The death of Mr. Daggett necessitates election of a new custodian for the ornithological library bequeathed to the Southern Division many years ago by Mr. G. H. Chambliss and known as the Chambliss Library.

Mr. Lee Chambers, owing to the fact that he is already caring for certain of the Club's books, manuscripts, field notes, photographs, etc., and to his general knowledge of books of this nature, would seem the logical successor to this custodianship.

I, therefore, nominate Mr. Lee Chambers as Custodian of all books, pamphlets, prints, photographs, manuscripts, etc., which are, or shall become, the property of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, his tenure of this position to be at the pleasure of the Club.

In making this nomination, I further move that, if elected, Mr. Chambers be instructed to formally list all such material as he becomes custodian of (including the Chambliss Library) and submit that report at his early convenience to some subsequent meeting of the Southern Division of the Club, to the end that this list of books, etc., which we hope will be the nucleus ultimately of a complete ornithological working library, may be spread upon the minutes of that subsequent meeting of the Club, and that the members of the Southern Division may know how far this work of accumulation has already progressed.

I further suggest that Mr. Chambers, in case of his election as Custodian, take such measures as he may deem fit to secure the

absolute safety of this library while at the same time keeping it as available for reference as is compatible with that safety.

Motion as above by D. R. Dickey, seconded by Dr. Nokes. Carried unanimously.

Adjourned.—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Secretary pro tem*.

JULY 29, 1920.—Regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, at 8:00 P. M. In the absence of President Miller, Mr. Chambers was acclaimed chairman. Other members present were Messrs. Brown, Colburn, Hanaford, King, Lamb, Law, Nokes, Rittenhouse, Robertson, Taylor, Wall, Wyman; and Mrs. Law. Mr. Coots was a visitor.

Minutes of the May and June meetings were read and approved. On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Lamb, the Secretary was instructed to cast an electing vote for the parties whose names were proposed at those meetings. New applicants for membership were: C. H. Woodward, 4129 Ingalls St., San Diego, by A. M. Ingersoll; John Hornung, 5219 Wilton Place, Los Angeles, by L. E. Wyman; Mrs. Dudley Baird, 2434 Prospect St., Berkeley; J. Jackson Goodrich, R.F.D. 2, Box 82, Compton; Mrs. Katherine A. Wanser, 4102 Brooklyn Ave., Seattle, Wash.; and William V. Evans, Livingston, Mont., by W. Lee Chambers; Miss Caroline B. Potter, 1314 Alice St., Oakland, by Tracy I. Storer; and Ridley Holleman, 205 Duffield St., San Antonio, Texas, by O. P. Silliman.

Mr. Chambers, as custodian of the Chambliss Library, submitted a report showing titles and number of books in that library. Mr. Robertson moved that this report be accepted, and that the Secretary be instructed to request the Editor of THE CONDOR to publish same at an early date. Motion seconded by Judge Wall. Carried.

Formal business closed, the members indulged in the usual hour of general discussion, and inspection of a tray of hummingbird skins. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

#### CATALOGUE OF THE CHAMBLISS LIBRARY, PROPERTY OF SOUTHERN DIVISION, COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

- The Auk, vols. 1 to 18, 1884-1901, incl.  
 A-Birding on A Bronco, Florence A. Merriam, 1896.  
 American Ornithology (4 vols., complete), Wilson and Bonaparte, 1831.  
 American Ornithology (3 vols., complete), Wilson and Bonaparte 1832.