

S. Swarth (describer of *Dendragapus obscurus sitkensis*, which is here considered unworthy of mention in the comparison), as if he were instructing an Audubon class! Space is taken up with the A B C of systematic ornithology, and this in a paper in a supposedly technical series, none other than the "Novitates" series of the American Museum of Natural History. Editorial oversight seems to have been altogether lacking in this case.

It is implied very plainly that Mr. Swarth committed a blunder in naming *sitkensis*, by reason of his failure to recognize the existence of a prenuptial molt. Now, I have personally studied all of the material worked over by Mr. Swarth and listed by him in his paper describing *sitkensis*; this material, be it noted, is considerably greater in amount than that listed as the basis of Griscom's studies. Some dates for adult specimens are: April 6, 13, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29; May 3, 4, 11, 24, 28; June 2, 19. Briefly, and to the point, I find no evidence whatsoever of *any prenuptial molt*! Upon scrutinizing Griscom's paper I fail to find in it any definite evidence given for predicating such a molt. He speaks only of specimens in plumage just before or just following said "molt"!

I believe Griscom could have avoided the commission of error, or at least better assured himself of the facts in the case, if he had simply taken the pains to assemble more material; this he could have done by seeking help, which would have been freely granted, from other institutions. The modern method precludes reliance, where important critical points are involved, upon the material solely in one museum.

Since writing the foregoing I have talked with Major Allan Brooks, who has had an enviably long field experience with northwestern birds. He states it as his belief that there is no such thing as a prenuptial molt in *Dendragapus*, save for the usual sporadic replacement of feathers at any time in the year when feathers have been lost through violence. He says, furthermore, that he believes the name *munroi* to be a pure synonym of *sitkensis*—in which belief I concur.

Major Brooks permits me to quote some interesting comments of his in this regard. "J. H. Fleming described the subspecies in manuscript about 1915, but considerably refrained from publishing his description, as I asked him to hold it, first, until Swarth, who already had noted the

difference, had decided what he was going to do with it; and second, until birds from the mainland had been procured. Fleming worked from some twelve skins borrowed from my collection and taken by C. deB. Green. I have had in my collection some 45 specimens of *Dendragapus* from the Queen Charlotte Islands, and my differentiation of them would be on exactly the same character as Swarth bases his name *sitkensis*, namely, the very red coloration of the female. This series shows considerable variation (individual) in both male and female, but the female is always notably red. The male is not conspicuously darker, if darker at all, than mainland males."

It is too bad to have to say un-nice things; but, in the interest of what, if pursued seriously and discerningly, is a perfectly good science, some one has to sacrifice himself once in a while—and I decided to assume the unpleasant function of adverse critic in this case.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California, June 26, 1923.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on May 24, 1923, at 8:00 P. M. President Cooper was in the chair and the following members were present: Miss Flinn, Mesdames Allen, Bogle, Cantelow, Grinnell, Kelly, Mead, Mexia, Nienburg; Messrs. Clabaugh, Cantelow, Cooper, Dixon, Evermann, Gignoux, Grinnell, Lastreto, McLeod, Storer, and Swarth; visitors were Mrs. Hull and Mr. Simpson.

March minutes were read and approved. As the April meeting took the form of a field trip to Golden Gate Park, followed by a lecture by Dr. H. C. Bryant, given at the California Academy of Sciences, no business meeting was held at that time. Minutes of the Southern Division meeting in March were also read. Three applications were presented: Winthrop Sprague Brooks, Boston Society of Natural History, 234 Berkeley St., Boston, Mass., by Joseph Dixon; Mrs. Effie C. Cohn, Key Route Inn, Oakland, Calif., by Mr. Claude Gignoux; and Mr. Charles Dickens, Key Route Inn, Oakland, also by Mr. Claude Gignoux.

Arrangements were made for a gathering of those interested to be held at the museum on Monday, May 28, at 8:00 P. M., to

meet Mrs. Bruce Horsfall and to see her Oregon bird slides.

Business completed, Mr. Joseph Dixon opened a program, which was participated in by most of those present, on the subject, Unusual Birds' Nests I have Found. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

JUNE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on the evening of June 28, 1923, at 8 o'clock. President Cooper was in the chair with the following members and guests in attendance: Miss Thomson, Mesdames Bamford, Kelly, Kibbe, Schlesinger, Van Gaasbeek; Messrs. Allan Brooks, Clabaugh, Joseph Dixon, Evermann, Joseph Grinnell, Kibbe, Rankin, and Storer; visitors included Misses Chattin and Peacock, Mesdames Blatch, Davis, Hamilton, Wangeman, Wood, and Thomson.

Minutes of the May meeting of the Northern Division were read and approved. Mr. James H. Ferriss, West Park, Joliet, Illinois, was proposed for membership by Mr. H. S. Swarth.

Mr. A. S. Kibbe presented the program of the evening, which consisted of a showing of stereoscopic photographs of European birds and their nests. These pictures, the work of Mr. A. Burdet, are issued by the Nederlandsche Vereeniging tot Bescherming van Vogels (Holland Society for the Protection of Birds), and had been sent by Mr. H. van Straaten of Velp, Holland. The pictures were first projected on the screen and commented upon by Mr. Kibbe; then they were examined in the stereoscope. Adjourned.—TRACY I. STORER, *Secretary pro tem*.

JULY.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Thursday, July 26, at 8 P. M. President Cooper was in the chair, with attendance as follows: Members, Mrs. Bogle, Miss Randolph, and Miss Rush; Messrs. Brooks, C. A. Bryant, Bunker, Carriger, Clabaugh, Dixon, Evermann, Gignoux, La Jeunesse, McKibben, Pemberton, Swarth, and Wheeler; visitors, Mrs. Bunker, Mrs. Wheeler, Miss Rush, and Mr. Shields.

Minutes of the June meeting of the Northern Division were read and approved, and April and May minutes of the Southern Division were read.

A communication from the secretary of the Southern Division was read, which dealt with the meeting in September at Pasadena of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. After some discussion the suggestion was made by Dr. Evermann (to be entered in the minutes, though not as a formal motion), that any member of the Northern Division who attended the meeting should be requested to participate in the proposed symposium on the conservation of marine life, and to contribute a paper on the conservation of marine birds.

Mr. Joseph Dixon then gave a talk, illustrated with slides, on the nesting of the Wood Duck in California. This is the first time that the breeding habits of the Wood Duck, as occurring in California, have been reported upon with any detail, and Mr. Dixon's observations and photographs portrayed facts that have been imperfectly understood, or else entirely unknown, in any part of the bird's range. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary pro tem*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Southwest Museum, Thursday, March 22, 1923, at 8 P. M.

Those present were: Misses Burnell, Kennedy, Miller, Potter, Pratt; Mesdames Anthony, Bicknell, Ellis, Law, Schneider; Messrs. Bishop, Appleton, Cantwell, Chambers, Comstock, Law, Little, Pierce, Rich, Storer, Stormont, Wyman. Visitors were: Mesdames Bishop, Chambers, Martz, Mitchell, Stormont, Wyman, and Dr. Hallo.

Business was deferred until after a very interesting talk on woodpeckers by Mr. Tracy I. Storer of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley. Mr. Storer illustrated his talk with lantern slides.

A general discussion took place after the main talk. Mr. Wyman exhibited a Nuttall Woodpecker, completely albino with the exception of the red patch on the back of the head. The bird was discovered in Griffith Park by some women bird observers who reported it to Mr. Wyman.

Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. February minutes of the Northern Division were also read.

New names proposed for membership were as follows: William A. Bourne, Box

27, Yosemite, Calif., by H. C. Bryant; Miss M. Pamela Clough, 844 Arlington Road, Berkeley, by Mrs. J. T. Allen; Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen St., Ottawa, Canada, by J. A. Munro; Miss Susan H. Mackay, Cloyne Court, Berkeley, Calif., by Mrs. Edwin B. Mead; Miss Marion J. Pellew, 1637 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D. C., by W. Lee Chambers; Granville E. Thomas, 1533 Spruce St., Berkeley, Calif. by Paul F. Bunker.

Two letters were read from the secretary of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, advising of the big meeting to be held in Los Angeles on September 17, 18, and 19. Due to the late hour no action was taken. Mr. Wyman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Rich, that the matter be laid on the table until next meeting; this was agreeable to all. Adjourned.—LUTHER LITTLE, *Secretary*.

APRIL.—The April meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Southwest Museum, Thursday evening, April 26, 1923, with President Pierce in the chair: Those present were Misses Miller and Potter; Mesdames Bicknell, Ellis, Law, Schneider; Messrs. Appleton, Barnes, Bishop, Cantwell, Hanaford, Law, Rich, Wyman; visitors, Mesdames Bishop and Wyman, and Miss Sholes.

Mr. Law gave a very interesting talk on bird banding. He exhibited some traps of his own design and explained their operation.

Minutes of the March meeting of both divisions were read, and those of the Southern Division approved.

A letter was read from Mr. Sargeant, Secretary of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, requesting the Cooper Club to submit its program for the September meeting before May 5. Mr. Law made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wyman and duly carried, that the chairman appoint a committee of three, to include Dr. Loye Miller (chairman), Mr. Law, and Mr. Wyman, such committee to have charge of arrangements for participation in the September meeting.

Mr. Law made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bishop, that the following resolution be adopted by the Cooper Club.

Resolved, That in the opinion of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club the banding of wild birds by means of trapping furnishes a fertile field for the advancement of ornithological knowledge; and

Resolved, That, as such, the banding of birds should be limited to such persons as have shown sufficient interest in bird study to familiarize themselves with their local birds and whose record is such that they may reasonably be expected to render reliable reports of their operations and to trap and handle the birds with a minimum of injury and destruction to the birds themselves; and be it further

Resolved, That this Club is opposed to the promotion of bird banding as a popular movement for the delectation of the dilettante and the faddist irrespective of any previous knowledge or interest in birds.

General discussion of field experiences followed. Several interesting notes were presented and some specimens exhibited. Adjourned.—LUTHER LITTLE, *Secretary*.

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the homes of Messrs. Law and Chambers on Sunday afternoon, May 27, 1923, at 2:30 P. M. with President Pierce in the chair. Over fifty were present to enjoy the meeting which was held under some large oak trees. Refreshments were served.

April minutes were read and approved. New names presented for membership were: Mrs. Lawrence J. Webster, Holderness, New Hampshire, by W. Lee Chambers; Miss Esther Margaret Hartung, 124 Mill St., Grass Valley, California, by J. Grinnell; Frank La Grange Farley, Camrose, Alberta, Canada, by Aretas A. Saunders; Jack W. Sherwood, Salinas, California, by O. P. Silliman; Charles Piper Smith, 354 South Tenth Street, San Jose, California, by H. C. Bryant.

Dr. Miller, Chairman of the Program Committee, reported he would be glad to have papers from any one to be read at the September meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The final program will be printed August 15; therefore a quick response is necessary.

Dr. Esterly made a motion that as members of the Western Society of Naturalists, Ecological Society, Mammalogical Society, and the Cooper Ornithological Club are more or less interested in each other's activities, a joint meeting be held. Motion seconded by Dr. Miller. This motion carried.

General discussion followed in which various members related their ornithological experiences. Meeting adjourned after a most enjoyable time.—LUTHER LITTLE, *Secretary*.