

action was reflex and instinctive,—entirely willy-nilly on their part.

"Blood will out, the crocodile ancestry was working. To make sure that this was not an accident, with malice aforethought, I dropped a young red-winged blackbird into the pool below his nest. He, too, performed in exactly the same manner, and safely reached some reeds, up which he scrambled, and was there well taken care of by his excited parents. It is probable that many a passerine bird, nesting over the water, has been thus saved from destruction by this return to primitive methods.

"Further experimentation showed me that very young birds generally moved the wings alternately, while older ones always flapped both wings together as in flight. From this one would infer that the primitive reptilian scramble was naturally an alternate method, while the simultaneous method was simply the more advanced style used in flight. . . ."

"I recently placed a half-grown domestic pigeon in a wash tub of tepid water. With head and neck erect the bird swam with rapid alternate strokes of the feet to the side of the tub. The wings were arched up and waved slightly,—not stretched out and flapped in the water, as in the case of the sparrow. Its position was like that of a duck but low in the water, which was due, no doubt, to its well-filled crop and its lack of buoyant feathers. Progress was much more rapid than on land, where the bird stumbled awkwardly along,—indeed it had never before left the nest."

Thus, Dr. Townsend's homely observations continually bring out materials for the liveliest sort of philosophizing. The environs of most anyone's home city will provide the active seeker and interpreter with an exhaustless supply of equally fresh natural history—"new to science" in large measure.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, July 21, 1925.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, held its regular monthly meeting Sunday, May 31, 1925, at "Las Leyes", the delightful home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Eugene Law in Altadena. About thirty-five members and friends were present to enjoy Mr. and Mrs. Law's hospitality.

The meeting was called to order by President Wyman, and minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. April minutes of the Northern Division were read by title only.

The following names were proposed for membership: Paul F. Covel, 4350 Cleveland Ave., San Diego, Calif., by Clinton G. Abbott; Oliver Ames Lothrop, M. D., 101 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., by W. Lee Chambers; Mrs. Mabel C. McVitty, 1272 Summit Ave., Pasadena, Calif., by Mrs. Myrtle S. Edwards; Miss Louisa P. Merritt, P. O. Box 315, Pasadena, Calif., by Mrs. Myrtle S. Edwards; Florence C. Mull (Mrs. Bert F.), Foothill Blvd., Glendora, Calif., by J. Eugene Law; Mrs. Oliver S. Ormsley, 5658 Blackstone Ave., Chicago, Ill., by W. Lee Chambers; Laurence B. Potter, Gower Ranch, Eastend, Sask., by W. Lee Chambers; William Richardson, care of Walter L. Richardson, R. F. D. 3, Box 243, Porterville, Calif., by J. Eugene Law; Miss Elsey R. Taft, Banning, Calif., by Roland C. Ross.

The secretary was in receipt of a letter from Dr. C. O. Esterly signifying his willingness to act, as requested, as representative of the Southern Division at the Portland meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science next month.

Mr. Chambers raised the question of making a change in the regular meeting night of the Club, as a number of prominent members are unable to attend on Thursday evenings. His motion that a committee of three be appointed to investigate and see if some evening more generally convenient could be determined upon, was seconded by Dr. Bishop and duly carried, whereupon Mr. Wyman appointed Mr. Chambers as chairman to act with Mr. Law and Mr. Allen on such committee.

Two communications were read by Dr. Bishop; one a request for contributions to the Ernest Harold Baynes Memorial fund, the other from the New England Bird Banding Association, calling attention to the probability of the total extinction, in the near future, of the Heath Hen, if some active measures are not taken to save this bird.

Miss Miller told of a Screech Owl having been seen on several different days to frequent the bird bath in her yard, and asked for an explanation of its uncommon behavior. Mr. Law suggested the presence of mites on the bird as a possible reason for its unusual desire for bathing. Mrs. Edwards reported the finding of a Night-

hawk's nest, containing two eggs, and the later hatching of the young, near her home in Altadena.

After adjournment the members enjoyed the refreshments served by their hostess.—ELLA H. ELLIS, *Secretary*.

JUNE.—The Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its regular monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, June 25, 1925, at 8 P. M. with the following members present: Miss Potter; Mesdames Ellis, Martz, Mitchell, Reis, Schneider; Messrs. Appleton, Barnes, Michener, Nokes, Reis, Rich and Robertson. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Mr. Howard Robertson was requested to call the meeting to order and was elected chairman for the evening. Minutes of the May meeting were read and approved, also May minutes of the Northern Division.

Mr. Robertson announced that Dr. Bryan is preparing to have a formal opening of the new wing of the Los Angeles Museum the first of November, and as the Cooper Club has been for so many years a part of the institution, he felt it fitting that the Southern Division show its interest by an offer of assistance to Dr. Bryan. He appointed the following as a committee to confer with Dr. Bryan: Mrs. G. H. Schneider, Mrs. Ella H. Ellis, Dr. L. B. Bishop, Mr. J. Eugene Law, and Dr. Guy C. Rich.

Mr. Reis told of a recent collecting trip in the San Joaquin Valley, also in the High Sierras, and gave his observations on nests of the Mourning Dove. Dr. Nokes reported taking a set of eggs of the Spotted Owl. Mrs. Schneider commented on the birds of the Playa del Rey district. The nesting of various hummingbirds was discussed.

Adjourned.—ELLA H. ELLIS, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its regular monthly meeting at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Thursday evening, July 30, 1925. President Lastreto was in the chair and the following members and visitors were present: Members, Misses Fisher and McLellan; Mesdames French, Mikesell, Tiffany-Wood; Messrs. Borell, Clabaugh, Dixon, English, Evermann, Lastreto, Swarth. Visitors: Misses Dixon and Mikesell; Mesdames Evermann, Clabaugh, Olshausen; Messrs. Dambacker, Joseph C. Dixon, Mikesell, Geo. R. Olshausen, W. Olshausen.

Minutes of the May meeting were read and approved (there had been no meeting in June), and Southern Division minutes for May and June were read. The following names were presented for membership: Ansel F. Hall, 957 Regal Road, Berkeley, California, proposed by H. S. Swarth; Jesse Dade Figgins, Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado, by J. Grinnell.

A communication was read, received from Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania, in acknowledgment of action taken by the Northern Division at the May meeting, pertaining to preservation of certain tracts of forest in Pennsylvania.

New literature under discussion consisted of one book, "The Protection of Birds, an Indictment", by Lewis R. W. Loyd. Certain problems of bird protection here described as having arisen in England, and, according to Mr. Loyd, being inadequately met, have their counterparts in California and elsewhere in America. The book is one that should be carefully studied by every one seeking information upon this subject.

Mr. Swarth called attention to the persistence, at large, of the little colony of the Australian crested pigeon, *Ocyphaps lophotes*, established during the past two years in the section of Berkeley lying just below the entrance to Claremont Canyon. (See minutes for February, 1924, Condor, xxvi, May, 1924, p. 119.) The exact number of these birds is not known, but they are often seen and reported at the Museum. Their peculiar appearance occasions queries as to the species, as they obviously do not fit into any "key" to Californian birds. Mr. Borell described an attempt at nesting by one pair, on the grounds of the State School for the Blind. Failure ensued due to untimely pruning of the tree that the doves had selected.

The speaker of the evening was Miss Mary E. McLellan, who gave "Some Observations on the Birds of Samoa", illustrated by specimens and slides. Besides descriptions of the habits, actions and songs of the birds she encountered, Miss McLellan gave a concise, though comprehensive, account of the history of our knowledge of the ornithology of Samoa, and of the relationships of the Samoan avifauna to that of adjoining regions. Some of the more striking species were exhibited, such as certain tiny kingfishers, honey eaters, gaudy fruit-pigeons, and the extraordinary tooth-billed pigeon. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary, pro tem*.