

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

J. D. D. LA TOUCHE: A HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF EASTERN CHINA. PART I. . . . Taylor and Francis, London, July, 1925. Octavo, pp. 1-96, plates I-III. Price 7s. 6d. net.

David and Oustalet's *Les Oiseaux de la Chine* has been out of print for a long time, and the works of Dresser, Hartert, and Oates (second edition re-written by E. C. Stuart Baker) have of late been widely used by students of Chinese birds. These books are valuable in themselves, but not particularly applicable to the avifauna of China. La Touche's work now appearing gives every evidence of providing at last a good manual of Chinese birds.

The author is uniquely qualified to prepare such a handbook. For many years he served in the Chinese customs service, and spent most of his leisure time in the study of Chinese birds. His previous contributions to a better knowledge of the Oriental avifauna are to be found scattered through *The Ibis*, *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, and several other journals. I have examined part of his collections in the Shanghai Museum and also met his Chinese collectors T'ong Wang-wang and T'ong Ch'un-K'ai while I was in China. The birds treated in the present work are limited to the eastern portion of the Republic, that is, Chihli, Shantung, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Chekiang, Foukien, and Kwangtung.

The 95 species and subspecies of passerine birds herein mentioned cover the families Corvidae, Paridae, Panuridae, Sittidae, Certhiidae, Troglodytidae, Paradoxornithidae, Timaliidae, and Pycnonotidae. Two subspecies are described as new: *Pycnorhis sinensis major* (p. 72), and *Pycnonotus sinensis stresemanni* (p. 94).

For each form, the author gives scientific name, common name, synonyms, detailed description of color and form, together with some measurements, geographical distribution, and some field notes. The system of classification is based upon Baker's Avifauna of India. The completion of this handbook will require seven or more "parts".

It is a little unfortunate that there are no keys for identifying the families, genera and species, though some brief keys to certain groups of subspecies are given. It is to be hoped that the author will make up this lack somewhere in the later "parts". I feel convinced that keys and some text figures would be a great aid to beginners as well as even to experts.

I wish to congratulate both the author and the working students in Chinese

ornithology upon the appearance of so useful a handbook.—TSENHWANG SHAW, *Berkeley, California, November 16, 1925.*

BAILEY'S BIRDS OF FLORIDA.—The close of 1925 saw the appearance of still another bird book of the more sumptuous class. This is Harold H. Bailey's "The Birds of Florida", privately published for the author by The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland. The book is of quarto size—hardly a handbook. Yet it is the only publication now available on Florida bird-life aimed to suit the needs of the layman.

The outstanding feature of this work lies in the colored plates, 76 of them, each averaging 7 x 10 inches. On each plate there are from four to nine figures, and the majority of the smaller species are depicted life size. Practically every bird of Florida is presented in lively color, and the whole constitutes an atlas of striking bird portraits. As to outline of each bird, detail of structure and markings, these portraits do great credit to the artist, Mr. George Miksch Sutton.

The text (xxii + 146 pages) aims chiefly to supplement the pictures with such information about each species as the lay reader would seem to require.

We feel confident that this book will prove to have fulfilled the author's purpose in publishing it, namely, to stimulate more wide-spread popular interest in the bird-life of Florida and in the conservation of the wild life generally in that state, where just at the present time the processes of settlement are going on at an accelerated rate.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California, November 23, 1925.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on August 27, 1925, at 8 P. M. President Lastreto was in the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for July were read. Harry R. Caldwell of Ketchikan, Alaska, was proposed for membership by H. S. Swarth.

The seating facilities of the Museum were exhausted, even to the attic camp stools, in an effort to provide chairs for club members and friends from far and near who gathered to listen to Mrs. James T. Allen's account of her observations upon the birds of a classic land.

Mrs. Allen, with her husband, who was engaged in archeological researches, spent the preceding two summers and included winter in and around Athens. Although Greece is a land of dry rocky mountain sides and of valleys densely populated by human beings, birds proved to be there in interesting variety when sought for by an eager naturalist. The Acropolis had its kestrels, the Parthenon its black redstarts, and Mycenae its rock nuthatches. The speaker's audience was able to share vividly with her the pleasures of making these new avian acquaintances, as well as to appreciate some of the minor vicissitudes which beset the travellers when they left the metropolis for the country roadways. The evening was for all present an occasion of unusual pleasure and profit.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its regular monthly meeting at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, September 24, 1925, at 8 P. M., with President Lastreto in the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read.

The following is an incomplete record of those present: Mesdames Allen, Delport, Grinnell, Kibbe, Mikesell, Taylor and Pitcher; Misses Burke, Cockefair, Fisher, Flinn, Head, Howard, Randolph, and Thomson; Messrs. Borell, C. A. Bryant, H. C. Bryant, Bunker, Cain, Carriger, Clabaugh, Dixon, Hall, Haley, Jesser, Kibbe, Lastreto, Palmer, and Perine. Visitors were: Mesdames Ballard, Clabaugh, Elizabeth Grinnell, Jesser, Hall, and Palmer; Misses Dixon and Purdue; Messrs. Mikesell and Sumner. Mr. P. A. Taverner of the Geological Survey of Canada, although a member of the Club since 1909, was for the first time present at a Cooper Club meeting, and he was heartily welcomed.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Catherine S. Bastin, 1207 Bonita Avenue, Berkeley, California, by Tracy I. Storer; Norman Clyde, Independence, Inyo County, California, by J. Grinnell; Edith A. Pickard, 2640 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, California, by H. C. Bryant; Daniel Rowen, Berkeley Inn, Berkeley, California, by Margaret W. Wythe.

Mrs. James T. Allen reported seeing a flock of Lewis Woodpeckers near Lafayette, and Mr. R. H. Palmer of Palo Alto reported having been told of a possible occurrence of a Condor near Porterville.

The talk of the evening was an illustrated account of the "Birds of Eagle Lake" by Mr. Joseph Dixon. The interesting chapters in the life histories of the land and water birds about Eagle Lake portrayed by Mr. Dixon were much appreciated by his hearers, especially since with the clearing and settling of the land about the lake and the lowering of its waters by irrigation projects the very existence of its bird colony seems doomed. This fact was stressed by Mr. Dixon.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, on Thursday, October 22, 1925, at 8 P. M. President Lastreto was in the chair, with the following members present: Misses Beaman, Burke, Cockefair, Fisher, Howard and Pickard; Mesdames Grinnell and Taylor; Messrs. Cain, Clabaugh, Cooper, Cozens, Evermann, Foster, Hall, Lastreto, Mailliard, Perine and Swarth. Visitors were: Miss Bogle; Mesdames Clabaugh and Evermann; Messrs. Bell and Shaw. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read and approved. Applications for membership were received from Miss Frances Holcombe, 2527½ Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, California, endorsed by Hildgarde Howard, and Miss Estelle Tucker, Box 218, Yosemite, California, endorsed by Donald D. McLean.

Because the regular meeting date of the Northern Division for November and December conflicts with holidays, it was voted to hold the November meeting on the 19th of the month and the December meeting on the 17th.

Mr. H. S. Swarth most heartily recommended to the notice of Club members two newly published books: "Birds and their Attributes", by Glover M. Allen, and "A Fieldbook of Birds of the Southwestern United States", by Luther E. Wyman and Elizabeth F. Burnell. Mr. Goodwin L. Foster gave a report upon the food of a Berkeley barn owl, as shown by an examination of pellets found under the roost. Miss Susan Beaman reported the finding of a dead Tennessee Warbler on a Berkeley school ground, this constituting the second record for the state (see page 47, this issue). Mr. Joseph Mailliard told of an autumn field trip in northeastern California and read notes which showed wonderful success in trapping and banding Gambel sparrows.

Mr. Charles H. Sawyer spoke upon the "Collecting and Care of Pheasants", illustrating his talk with the specimens of pheasants contained in the Museum collections. Mr. Sawyer's enthusiasm and his long familiarity with pheasants, both in their Asiatic surroundings and in the aviary, combined to make his discussion of these beautiful birds both entertaining and instructive.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, held its regular monthly meeting Thursday evening, July 30, 1925, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, with the following members in attendance: Miss Potter, Mrs. Ellis, Messrs. Appleton, Campbell, Chambers, Hanaford, McBride, Peyton, Rich, Reis and Wyman. Visitors were Mesdames Reis and Wyman, Messrs. Chambers and Jepson.

President Wyman called the meeting to order and minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. No meeting of the Northern Division was held in June. The name of Dr. Spencer R. Atkinson, Pacific Southwest Bank Building, Pasadena, California, was proposed by W. Lee Chambers. Mr. Chambers, as chairman of the committee on change of meeting, announced that cards of inquiry had been sent to all members in the southern part of the state, but, so far, very few replies had been received.

Mr. Wyman, who has just returned from a trip in the East, told of the change in the bird population of northern Illinois; Red-headed Woodpeckers, Flickers and Crows, which in former years had been very scarce, are now present in great numbers, while Grosbeaks, small Flycatchers and other forest birds are wanting.

Numbers of Wood Ibis have been observed by several members during the past few days. The Band-tailed Pigeon was reported by Mrs. Ellis as nesting on Mt. Wilson this month. Mr. Peyton recorded none on Mt. Pinos. He found the Pygmy Nuthatch very plentiful there, nesting in almost every dead stump. Nests of the Anna, Black-chinned and Costa hummers were discussed. A young Condor was reported as having recently been captured above Fillmore. In speaking of the growth of nature study in the public schools Mr. Wyman said that the number of skins loaned to schools by the Museum this year more than doubled the record of any previous year.

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

AUGUST.—The Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, held its regular monthly meeting Thursday evening, August 27, 1925, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, with an attendance as follows: Members: Misses Merritt, Miller, Potter, Pratt; Mesdames Edwards, Ellis, Everhart, McVitty, Schneider, Warmer; Messrs. Appleton, Cantwell, Hanaford, McBride, Rich, Runner, Warmer and Wyman. Visitors included Mrs. Wyman and Messrs. Edwards and Prapier. The meeting was called to order by President Wyman. Minutes of the July meeting were read, followed by July minutes of the Northern Division.

After some interesting vacation reports the evening was devoted to the study of our various Hummingbirds, several trays of skins being shown to illustrate the changes in plumage of the different species.

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

SEPTEMBER.—The Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club met Sunday afternoon, September 27, 1925, as guests of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Warmer. About forty members and friends gathered on the broad veranda overlooking the trees and hills of Griffith Park. The meeting was called to order by President Wyman. Minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. August minutes of the Northern Division were also read.

The following names were proposed for membership: Edwin C. Anderson, Dell Rapids, South Dakota; Henry Boettner, 127 N. Murat St., New Orleans, Louisiana; Chas. A. Brunn, 512 Reliance Bldg., Kansas City, Missouri; Charles E. French, M. D., 62 Holyrood Ave., Lowell, Massachusetts; Parlez E. Jensen, 704 Ogden Ave., Ogden, Utah; Eley R. Taft, Banning, California; J. W. Winson, Box 642, Sumas, Washington—all by W. Lee Chambers; and Axel L. Peterson, 1615 California Ave., Bakersfield, California, by H. C. Bryant.

Miss Merritt presented a communication from Mary C. Judd, in which Dr. Huntington, president of the Pasadena Audubon Society, was quoted as wishing the Cooper Club to take the initiative, if willing, in the attempt to secure some portion of the Playa del Rey marshlands for a Los Angeles County Seaside Bird Preserve. After some discussion it was voted that the matter be held in abeyance until some further information as to Dr. Huntington's plans.

A second portion of the letter referred to the endeavor of the Western Rangers,

through their president, Harry James, to establish as a National Monument a certain portion of the San Bernardino Mountains. As there was some confusion as to just what this included, a motion was made by Dr. Warmer, seconded by Dr. Bishop, that a committee, of which the chair be an ex officio member, be appointed to investigate and report at the next meeting. This was unanimously carried; and the President appointed Dr. Bishop and Mr. Appleton.

Announcement was made of two publications on hand; one, a distributional list of the birds of British Columbia, the other, the 19th annual report of the California Audubon Society, copies of which were for free distribution. Miss Pratt announced that the California Audubon Society will hold monthly luncheon meetings the second Fridays, at noon, on the eighth floor of the Chamber of Commerce Building; luncheon to be served for 60 cents.

Mr. Wyman introduced Mr. P. A. Taverner of the Division of Ornithology, Geological Survey, Ottawa, Canada. Mr. Taverner told briefly of a trip up the Red Deer River in Alberta and gave some interesting observations he had made on hawks in that section of the country. Dr. Bishop was called on to tell of his summer experiences and gave a short sketch of his collecting trip into British Columbia.

The delicious refreshments served added not a little to the afternoon's pleasure. A rising vote of thanks was extended to the host and hostess. Adjourned.—ELLA H. ELLIS, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held Friday, October 31, 1925, at 8 P. M., at the Southwest Museum, with President Wyman in the chair and about seventy members and guests present. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. September minutes of the Northern Division were read. The following applications were presented: Henry C. Hasbrouck, 929 West End Ave., New York City, by Howard H. Cleaves; Herbert M. W. Haven, 500 Forest Ave., Portland, Maine, by W. Lee Chambers; Hamilton M. Laing, Comox, B. C., Canada, by Allan Brooks.

As a result of the investigation of the committee appointed at the last meeting, Mr. Wyman made clear the outstanding features of National Forests, National Parks, and National Monuments.

A letter from the Secretary of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, was read, relative to the 1926 annual meeting, and asking the Southern Division of the Cooper Club to appoint two delegates to the Affiliation meeting to be held in San Francisco in January. Upon motion of Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Reis, it was voted that the Northern Division be requested to act for the Club as a whole in the matter.

A proposal was presented, signed by Messrs. Swarth, Dixon, Law and Chambers, that Dr. Barton Warren Evermann be elected to honorary membership in the Club. Motion that the customary month's delay be waived was made by Dr. Rich, seconded by Mr. Dickey, and on being put to vote, was unanimously carried.

A communication from Mary C. Judd was read, giving the result of an interview with the Secretary of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce in regard to a proposed bird reserve near Playa del Rey; also a clipping from a recent issue of the Pasadena Star News, telling of plans for the establishing of a salt water lake and marine park between Venice and Playa del Rey. No action was taken by the Club in these matters.

A letter from Mrs. F. T. Bicknell to Mr. Wyman called attention to the fact that the Cormorants and White Pelicans had been removed from the protected list. After some discussion, Dr. Warmer moved that the Club enter a protest against this action, with the request that protection be restored to these birds. Upon motion being seconded by Dr. Miller and carried, the Secretary was requested to so write to the proper authorities.

"Field Notes", the subject of the evening's talk, comprised interesting bits from the notebook of Mr. Ralph Hoffmann taken last summer on a trip through northern California, Oregon and Washington. Mr. Hoffmann also read some few pages from the manuscript of the book on which he is working. From the samples given, the book will be a welcome addition to bird books of the West.

Two interesting reports of recent observations were, first, that of a Yellow-billed Magpie by Mrs. Schneider, and the other, a Man-o'-War Bird seen flying overhead by Dr. and Mrs. Warmer. Dr. Bishop told of a strange bird in captivity at Huntington Beach, reported to be an Albatross. Meeting adjourned.—ELLA H. ELLIS, *Secretary*.