

have been pretty well avoided, or else differing opinions are cited without sides being taken. A vast amount of basic detail is given in small compass; and this is fortified by an abundance of original citations, together with an exhaustive terminal bibliography.

Professor Henderson gives a broad interpretation of the word "practical": "Whatever tends to make the world better and happier; whatever ministers to the esthetic longings of the human soul; whatever leads the thoughts of men and women for the moment from the sordid pursuit of gain or from the race for personal aggrandizement to beauty in any form; whatever entices tired and care-worn people for a time from the shop, or office, or store, or mine, or quarry, and brings them into closer contact with the beauty, grace and charm of things out-of-doors; is of direct material value to the human race, even though that value may not be measureable in yards, acres, tons, bushels or dollars." With this definition everyone, surely, will heartily agree.

The reader finds the work of special students of the food of birds, such as McAtee, Beal, Kalmbach and Wetmore, summarized, so that essentials are available in small space. The author has also gone through the entire literature relating to this subject with extreme thoroughness. The reviewer knows pretty well, for instance, the content of the 28 volumes of THE CONDOR, and he has been unable to recall anything really important that is omitted and that should have been considered in a book of the present nature. For example, we find reference to Bassett's observation of siskins shelling grubs from leaf-galls; to McGregor's observation of woodpeckers as fly-catchers; to Law's record of a Road-runner killing a Golden-crowned Sparrow in a bird trap; to Tyler's itemization of the food of Barn Owls; and to Wyman's interesting case of a Red-tailed Hawk capturing pigeons. In Henderson's book we have an excellent illustration of how widely scattered observations may be gathered together into one volume where available in connection with a single field of significant fact and special bearing.

In a book of less than 350 pages the reader cannot expect to find exhaustive treatment of all of the numerous subjects dealt with. But we do find a fair digest, as well as a guide to numerous sources. Some of the subjects summarized are as follows: the balance of nature; the function of birds in nature; complete protec-

tion of birds not desirable; birds as enemies of injurious mammals; birds as disease carriers; remedies. These are only a few of the chapter headings.

Henderson's book is not one that will appeal to the sentimental bird lover. It will, however, meet in admirable measure the needs of the general ornithologist, the teacher of biology in colleges and high schools, the forest zoologist, and the economic entomologist.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California, August 12, 1927.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, on August 25, 1927, at 8:00 p. m. In the absence of president and vice-president, Mr. Lastreto was asked to occupy the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for July were read.

The following proposals for membership were made: Mary S. Albro, 1801 Highland Place, Berkeley, California, proposed by Susan E. Chattin; Ruth E. Bailey, 1022 Spruce Street, Berkeley, by Wm. E. Ritter; William H. Burt, Berkeley, by E. Raymond Hall; Jean Delacour, Chateau de Clères, Seine Inférieure, France, by Margaret W. Wythe; Masa Ujii Hachisuka, Mita Shiba, Tokyo, Japan, by Margaret W. Wythe; Mrs. Vivian Reif, 2033 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, by Roswell S. Wheeler; Josephine E. Smith, 1801 Highland Place, Berkeley, by Margaret W. Wythe; R. A. Stirton, Berkeley, by E. Raymond Hall; George C. Wood, Danville, California, by J. Grinnell.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly reported the nesting of White-throated Swifts at Leona Heights Quarry, near Oakland, and stated that at least twelve of the birds had been seen. Mr. H. S. Swarth spoke briefly of Thomas Bridges, of the part he carried in the growth of early California ornithology, and of his death at sea on September 9, 1865, and his burial in an unmarked grave in San Francisco. Mr. Swarth stated that he had been urged by Dr. Theodore S. Palmer to bring before the Northern Division the suggestion that certain scientific societies about the Bay unite to erect a suitable memorial above the grave. Mrs. Kibbe stated that the Audubon Association

of the Pacific would aid in such a movement. Dr. Evermann thought that the Academy of Sciences would contribute; and Mr. Swarth said that the Botanical Society had agreed to help. Mr. Harwell made a motion that the chair appoint a committee to take charge of the matter. The motion was duly seconded and Mr. Dixon moved an amendment, that the committee be empowered to solicit and accept funds. Both amendment and motion were duly carried, and the chair appointed Mr. Swarth and Dr. Evermann to serve.

It was the good fortune of the Northern Division to have present for the evening Dr. Loye Miller, President of the Board of Governors. Mr. Grinnell resigned his place upon the program in favor of Dr. Miller, who expressed his pleasure at meeting with the Division and told of his absorbing interest in the fossil birds of California and the rapid accumulation of material since Dr. Lucas described the first fossil bird from the State twenty-six years ago. Since then there have been recorded one hundred and six fossil species, represented in many cases by extensive series of bones. So interested were Dr. Miller's hearers that had such a thing been feasible an outing meeting would have been embarked upon at once to visit the Miocene shallows of the Lompoc embayment.

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, on July 26, 1927. In the president's absence, the meeting was called to order at 8:15 p. m. by vice-president Chambers with about twenty-five members and friends present. The minutes of the June meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved.

The following applications for membership were read: James Spear, Jr., Wallingford, Pa., and Benjamin Walworth Arnold, New York State Bank Building, Albany, New York, both by W. Lee Chambers; Granville Plumber Ashcroft, 6516 Hubbard St., Culver City, Calif., and Ronald Harrison Coombs, 642 Duquesne Ave., Culver City, Calif., both by George G. Cantwell.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. George G. Cantwell, told of a three months' trip

in which he and Mr. Paul E. Trapier covered nearly all the state of Arizona, gathering final bits of information needed by the Bureau of Biological Survey to complete the forthcoming Biological Survey of Arizona. They were collecting mammals, birds, reptiles and insects, so their time was very fully occupied even when winds, cloud-bursts, and automobile trouble necessitated delays in travel. They collected some rare specimens, among them being a pair of Flammulated Screech Owls. After describing their trip twice across the state, then into the extreme northeastern corner, then to Gallup, New Mexico, and home via the highway along the Santa Fe railroad, Mr. Cantwell passed around some photographs showing the country through which they had passed.

Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.

AUGUST.—The regular meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on August 30, 1927, at 8:00 p. m. at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, 15 members and friends being present. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Dr. Comstock was asked to take the chair. The minutes of the July meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the July meeting of the Northern Division were read.

A letter from Mr. H. S. Swarth was read in which it was stated that the Northern Division had voted to help the Audubon Association of the Pacific, the California Academy of Sciences and the California Botanical Society in erecting a tombstone over the grave of Thomas Bridges, the first resident ornithologist in California, and asking that the Southern Division obtain some contributions to that end. It was moved, seconded and carried that the secretary reply to Mr. Swarth saying that the Southern Division will undertake to collect some money for that purpose.

There being no prepared program, the chairman asked for items of interest from those present. Mr. Robert T. Moore told in a general way of his recent visit to Ecuador where he devoted particular attention to hummingbirds. All present know that a treat is in store for the October meeting at which Mr. Moore will be the speaker of the evening. After a general discussion the meeting adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.