

into the heart of the flower and holding it there as though sipping nectar. On May 16 of the same year I again saw the Arizona Hooded Orioles feeding from the eucalyptus flowers, and without doubt they were sipping nectar. None of the flowers examined contained any insects. On August 9, 1928, at San Diego, I watched a male Arizona Hooded Oriole probing the tubular flowers of the Cape honeysuckle (*Tecomaria speciosa*). The actions of these birds in feeding were precisely the same as those of captive Arizona Hooded Orioles which I observed sipping the juice from grapes. The flowers of both the blue gum and the Cape honeysuckle are favorites of the Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*).

On April 5, 1928, at Pensacola, Florida, I observed several Palm Warblers (*Dendroica palmarum* subsp.) sipping the nectar of the flowers of the common yucca (*Crataegus*) of that region. These flowers were also examined for insects; bees (*Apis mellifica*), only, were found and they were visiting the flowers in numbers.

On August 23, 1927, and on several subsequent occasions, in Balboa Park, San Diego, California, I watched a Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) feeding on the berries of the lantana. The phoebe would hover in front of the bush and pick a berry or two, would fly back a few feet and settle to the ground for a few moments, and then would repeat the performance. On September 21, 1927, in San Diego, I again watched a Black Phoebe feeding on berries, this time on the orange-colored fruit of an ornamental shrub which I could not identify.

On August 31, 1927, at San Diego, I saw two Pallid Wren-tits (*Chamaea fasciata pacifica*) feeding on the green berries of the laurel sumac (*Rhus laurina*). In banding birds I have three times trapped this last species with a bait of seeds and grain. In 1924, I watched a captive wren-tit which lived for several months in a cage of sparrows and finches and fed freely on the seeds and grain supplied to those birds.—FRANK F. GANDER, *O'Rourke Zoological Institute, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, September 6, 1928.*

eds

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Again this year we are indebted to outside aid in certain of our editorial chores. In providing the index to the current volume of THE CONDOR, Mrs. Amelia S. Allen prepared the entire manuscript—an arduous labor, as those who have done similar work will understand.

In connection with the transfer of his center of activity away from the editorial offices of THE CONDOR, Mr. Harry S. Swarth, our Associate Editor of long and appreciated service, finds himself unable longer to function in that capacity. Mr. Jean M. Hensdale, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, who has already served an unrecognized apprenticeship on the editorial staff, has been asked to accept the Associate Editorship of THE CONDOR for the coming year.

Ornithological activity in Arizona centers in Tucson, where the thriving Tucson Natural History Society is located. Under its auspices a series of "bird observation trips" is conducted, with Messrs. Charles T. Vorhies and Walter P. Taylor as leaders. Mr. Taylor in his field work in

connection with the work of the United States Biological Survey is constantly on the lookout for significant relationships of birds to their forest and range environments. Mr. Vorhies has recently published a thoughtful contribution to the current discussion of the "southwestern quail and water" question, in the *American Naturalist* (vol. 52, 1928, pp. 446-452).

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, on July 26, 1928, at 8:00 p. m., with twenty members and visitors present. In the absence of president and vice-president, Mr. C. B. Lastreto occupied the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for June were read and approved. June minutes of the Southern Division were read.

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Drew reported

Purple Martins among birds seen while encamped with boy scouts near Cazadero. Two natural history books of unusual interest were reviewed, Mr. Grinnell calling attention to "Forest, Steppe and Tundra," by Maud Haviland, while Mr. Swarth spoke of Theodore Pleske's "Birds of the Eurasian Tundra."

The evening's program was given by Mr. Earl C. O'Roke, of the State Fish and Game Division, who told of his study of parasitised California Quail. Although many species of birds had been examined by Mr. O'Roke only the quail have as yet been found to harbor haemoprotean parasites. These have been found not only in California Quail raised at the Game Farm but also among wild birds. The extent and severity of the infection and the question as to whether the parasite is a native form or an introduced species are problems which cannot be solved until the preliminary investigations have been followed by much further study.

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

AUGUST.—The Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 23, 1928, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, with about 120 members and guests present. Mr. C. B. Lastreto served as chairman of the evening. The name of Miss Julia E. Harbison of Vacaville, California, was proposed for membership by J. Grinnell.

Mr. Bunker reported upon unusual occurrences of the Brewer Blackbird and the Red Phalarope. Mr. Mailliard stated he had often in past summers thought that he recognized the call of the Pileated Woodpecker in the Bohemian Grove, Sonoma County, and that in the summer of 1927 he had seen the bird, as also again this summer; in these last two summers Purple Martins had been there.

Dr. Bryant contributed notes on late summer occurrences in the Yosemite, stating that he had found Brewer Blackbirds feeding near a glacier at 12,000 feet altitude, a Mourning Dove near Booth Lake, 10,000 feet altitude, and Gnatcatchers and Bush-tits foraging in the Little Yosemite. Mr. Swarth announced that he had recently been shown a living pair of the rare and beautiful Mikado Pheasants by a Japanese bird dealer of San Francisco.

The evening's talk was given by Mr. Joseph Grinnell who described three camp sites on Eagle Lake, which he had visited during June of this year. One site was located in the green vegetation at the westerly end of the lake, the next at the point where the gray vegetation of the less humid region to the east begins to make its appearance, while the third camp, although close to the lake's edge, was among junipers and sage-brush. Mr. Grinnell showed upon the blackboard parallel columns listing the birds seen at each camp and suggested reasons accounting for the presence or absence of each species. The evening closed with an informal discussion of the problems presented.

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

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, on September 14, 1928, at 8 p. m., with 45 members and friends present and Vice-President Harris presiding. The minutes of the June meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the July and August meetings of the Northern Division were read by title only.

The membership application of Mr. George Byron Deshler, 2327 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Calif., proposed by John McB. Robertson, was read.

Mr. M. P. Skinner, who has been a student of natural history in the Yellowstone National Park for many years, was a speaker of the evening. He began his talk by reviewing the geography of that Park, which is truly the top of the continent in so far as it is the source of so many important rivers that flow in almost all directions from it. It also is traversed by many important migration routes of birds. These were described by Mr. Skinner, who pointed out many interesting features in regard to them. The habits and migration movements of many birds were described and beautiful lantern slides showed the various types of country to be found in the Park and the birds that occupied them. That the talk was of great interest was shown by the large number who lingered to talk with Mr. Skinner after adjournment. — HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.