

time since he joined the society in 1886. Dr. T. S. Palmer, secretary, guide, courier—the Pooh-Bah of the organization—was here, there and everywhere, from the moment when he herded his Washington associates into the hotel, to the time when he saw them all safely embarked upon the departing busses. Indefatigable himself, he saw that others, too, were occupied. In clear, resonant tones he told us where to go and when; what tickets to buy, at what price, and what for; when the trains left, and where transportation could be arranged. Nor shall we soon forget the emphasis with which he urged—no, instructed—everyone to be sure to catch the earlier departing of the fleet of boats in which we made our field trip. No wonder that, when he, himself, strolled leisurely down to the wharf at the last minute to embark upon the largest, swiftest, and least crowded of the boats (the last one to leave the dock), an embittered member, bereft of his early morning sleep, hurled the epithet “Mussolini” after him!

The program of papers and talks was a long one. In fact there was expression of opinion from several people present that fifty-four papers was too many for all to receive the attention they were justified in demanding. A few contributions by absentees were necessarily omitted, but even so, though of the remainder none was markedly curtailed in length, nor were many discussions cut short, there was a feeling of hurry to keep up with the program, that, with the present writer, at least, militated against complete enjoyment of the subject matter presented. Such general comment and discussion as was evoked by Griscom's talk on “The Green Herons of the World,” and by Roberts' on “Changes in Distribution of Certain Birds in Minnesota during the Past Fifty Years,” are among the most valuable features of such a meeting, but there were not many cases where such supplementary remarks could be carried to any length.

“Popular” bird talks illustrated with excellent slides, and some with remarkably fine and instructive motion pictures, and an exhibition of bird paintings and drawings in one of the rooms of the Charleston Museum, were attractive to all, and held the attention of many who were not particularly drawn to technical discussions.

A surprisingly large number of those

in attendance remained in Charleston for most of the day following the formal close of the occasion, affording again opportunity for the social foregathering that is such an enjoyable and valued feature of the A. O. U. meetings. The Charleston meeting has passed into history, and the local committee and their collaborators may well feel content with the result of their efforts, and with the pleasure they gave to an appreciative assemblage of visitors.—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The September meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held on Thursday, September 27, 1928, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, with about 100 members and guests present. In the absence of president and vice-president Mrs. Amelia S. Allen occupied the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. The following applications for membership were read: Prof. S. F. Light, Department of Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, proposed by Alden Miller; Mr. Vaughan MacCaughy, 508 Sheldon Bldg., 461 Market St., San Francisco, proposed by J. Grinnell; Mr. A. L. Pickens, Room 216, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, proposed by Alden Miller.

Mrs. G. E. Kelly reported that on September 16 a group of Audubon Association members including herself saw two Pectoral Sandpipers on the edge of a fresh-water pool near Baumberg, Alameda County. Even though these birds were not taken, the opportunity for observation was so excellent that the group of observers felt certain of the identity of the birds. Two encouraging reports on the status of the California Clapper Rail were given, Mr. Swarth having observed an individual several times during the past month in the tall marsh grass which has become established along the Key Route fill, and Mrs. Kelly adding that she had recently seen six birds of this species near Dumbarton Bridge. Mrs. Mead saw a Wandering Tattler during the first week of September when visiting the edge of the bay near the ship yards to study Phalaropes. Mrs. Blake reported that two weeks ago she had seen

Gambel White-crowned Sparrows on her home place and the first Ruby-crowned Kinglet on September 27. Mr. Laidlaw Williams contributed the following notes on the birds of Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley: Black-throated Gray Warblers were noted there on September 7, 8 and 15; on the 19th, the first Audubon Warbler of the season was observed, and the Fox Sparrow and the Hermit Warbler were seen on the 20th.

The talk of the evening was given by Mr. A. L. Pickens, of South Carolina, who spoke upon the "Relation of hummingbirds to form and color in flowers," detailing his experiences in the eastern states. According to his observations hummingbirds visit only or chiefly flowers of a yellow, orange, red or purple classification in the color scale, and certain plants, as *Macranthera* of the Mississippi swamps, are dependent on these birds for fertilization. Mr. Pickens' talk was well illustrated by blackboard drawings in colored chalks. The problem chosen for study by Mr. Pickens proved of much interest to his hearers who were charmed by his manner of presenting it as well as by the actual subject matter of his discourse.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on October 25, 1928, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, with President Bassett in the chair and about sixty members and visitors present. Minutes of the Northern and Southern Divisions for September were read by title. The following names were proposed for membership in the Club: Mr. Harlan B. Hess, Morrill, Nebraska, proposed by Junius Henderson; Miss Leigh M. Larson, 2329 Prospect Street, Berkeley, Calif., by Edna M. Fisher; Miss Inez Meader, 830 McKinley Ave., Oakland, Calif., by C. A. Harwell; Ignatius McGuire, 209 Guyot Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, by H. S. Swarth; Mrs. Jean M. Nelson, 2920 Benvenue Ave., Berkeley, Calif., by H. S. Swarth; Miss Mary F. Sanford, 2212 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, by Margaret W. Wythe; Francis H. Sumner, 5218 17th Ave., N. E., Seattle, Washington, by R. C. Miller.

Mr. Grinnell suggested that interested members secure from the Division of Fish and Game copies of an excellent bulletin

upon the Owls of California, written by Donald McLean. Mr. Swarth called the attention of book lovers to the fact that copies of a popular edition of Wm. Beebe's monograph of the Pheasants may now be secured from an eastern book dealer for \$5.50. Mrs. Bailey's forthcoming "Birds of New Mexico" was discussed by Mrs. Kelly who stressed the facts that this most desirable book is being published in a limited edition and sold at cost. Those present were invited to look over a set of the twenty-five beautiful colored plates, one by Fuertes and the rest by Major Brooks, which are to appear in Mrs. Bailey's book.

Observations by members were as follows: Mr. Clark P. Streator reported that this year Robins were present at Santa Cruz during June and July, and he thought they were nesting there. A Mockingbird had come as usual to spend the fall months about his fig tree, arriving October 14. Mrs. Kelly reported seeing a European Widgeon at Lake Merritt on October 12. Mr. Bassett reported the return of two Golden-crowned Sparrows banded by him last winter. Mr. Clabaugh spoke of a Fox Sparrow which had returned to his trap for three successive winters. Mr. Laidlaw Williams reported having seen a Mockingbird in Alameda on October 3, a Black Rail and twelve Clapper Rails on the same day near the Dumbarton bridge, on the Redwood City side. In Strawberry Canyon he had seen a Varied Thrush and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on October 12, and a Winter Wren and a late Tolmie Warbler on October 14.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Vaughan MacCaughy, whose topic was "Avifaunal Zones and Habitats in the Hawaiian Archipelago", illustrated by a series of excellent slides. Mr. MacCaughy's deep interest in the natural history of the Islands and his long residence there have given him a fund of knowledge which made his talk intensely interesting.

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

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on November 22, 1928, in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, at 8:00 p. m., with sixty-five members and guests present. Vice-president Clabaugh presided. October minutes were

read by title. Discussion was opened on the question of nominating a State Bird, and Mr. Brighton C. Cain presented a form of ballot successfully used in local schools. Mr. Harwell stated that through the interest of the Audubon Association of the Pacific station K G O is now broadcasting information relative to the campaign. Mr. H. C. Bryant stated that through the efforts of Mrs. F. T. Bicknell the campaign in southern California is endeavoring to exclude game birds from the list of candidates for State Bird, a condition which seemed to members of the Northern Division unfortunate.

Mr. C. A. Bryant reported seeing Western Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Rodeo Lagoon on November 18, and Short-billed Gulls near Manzanita the same day. On the same date Mr. Cain picked up a dead Short-billed Gull on the shore of Lake Merritt. Mr. E. Raymond Hall reported on the wholesale shooting of several species of geese near Willows and Colusa by means of live decoys. Mr. H. C. Bryant said that it is hoped that a bill preventing the use of live decoys will pass the next State Legislature. Miss Selma Werner reported having seen a Surf-bird feeding on the rocks near Land's End.

Mr. H. C. Bryant spoke most entertainingly upon "Some Birds of Western National Parks" and added comments on the larger mammals and upon the geology of the regions which he visited, closing his talk with a few words upon the place of educational work in the program of National Parks.

Mr. Charles A. Bryant described "Some Autumn Birds of the Grand Canyon" as noted on a vacation trip, and his account of the 54 species of birds seen about Hotel El Tovar and Phantom Ranch, as well as along Bright Angel Creek, showed his keen powers of observation and gave much pleasure to his audience.

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

OCTOBER.—The Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, on October 30, 1928, at 8 p. m., with 25 members and guests present and President W. Lee Chambers presiding. J. R. Pemberton acted as secretary in the absence of the regular secretary. No minutes were read nor was any old or

new business brought before the Club.

The following applications for membership were read: S. Paul Jones, 509 West Avenue, North, Waukesha, Wis.; Herbert N. McCoy, 2537 Fifth Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.; Bayard H. Christy, 403 Frederick Ave., Sewickley, Pa.; R. Holtby Myers, 740 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, Calif.; Frank E. Morse, 162 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.; Arlie William Schorger, 2021 Kendall Ave., Madison, Wis.; Mrs. Mena Vestal French, Box 171, Wayland, Mass.; Cyrenius A. Newcomb, Jr., "The Junipers," Bloomfield Hills, R. 3, Pontiac, Mich.; William Gilbert Fargo, 506 Union St., Jackson, Mich.; all these proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Miss Elizabeth D. Crow, 354 Union Place, Los Angeles, Calif., proposed by George Willett; Lloyd Glenn Ingles, 515 C. St., Bakersfield, Calif., proposed by Wright M. Pierce; and Mrs. Willis Warner Brown, 4037 Alameda Drive, San Diego, Calif., proposed by Laurence M. Huey.

Dr. Bull of the Los Angeles Museum exhibited a few old coins, some of which dated as far back as 500 B. C., and upon which birds had been figured. He explained the use of the eagle on the earliest coins as an emblem of power, and the use of owls later on, in coins from Athens. He requested that Club members loan or donate such coins as they might have on which birds are depicted, in order that a movement which he has on foot to instill interest in children in the use of birds on coins be advanced.

Dr. Miller reported that a letter had been received from the Associated Sportsmen's Clubs of California requesting the Cooper Club to join in their movement which seems to be the creation and protection of breeding and shooting grounds for game birds in California. No action was taken on this because of lack of information.

George Willett gave a talk illustrated with lantern slides on Laysan Island as he found it in 1912 and 1913. He related the ornithological history of the island and explained the changes which have come to pass there through the destruction of all vegetation and the accompanying encroachment of wind-blown dune sand, all brought about through the introduction of rabbits. Following this, Mr. Willett placed on exhibition a fine collection of skins of some of the more striking and brilliantly plumaged birds of Costa Rica and Colombia. Adjourned.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Secretary pro tem*.