

ness of man has rendered temporarily indispensable, but to regard them as an end in themselves is dangerous and degrading to our wild life. Our minds, which love a record of any kind, take a poultry-farmer's delight in the multiplication of terns, for instance, at a handful of breeding stations, which Nature is far from sharing."

While it is true that many American naturalists probably have opinions similar to the majority of the ones given in the present work and that summaries of these opinions have been published, it is also true that in most cases writers have failed to publish the *evidence* upon which their views are based. The reader, then, without extensive field experience, must be guided largely by the "authority" of each writer. "Birds in England" is distinguished by containing a large amount of evidence.—JEAN M. LINSDALE, *March 2, 1929.*

Some interesting contributions have recently appeared from the pen of Mr. M. Hachisuka, of Tokyo. One of these is a well illustrated scientific account of "Variations Among Birds (Chiefly Game Birds)" (=Supplementary Publication No. XII, The Ornithological Society of Japan, November, 1928, pp. x+86+12, 4 color plates, 20 halftone plates). Here we have cited examples of various abnormalisms in the coloring of birds—albinism, melanism, xanthochroism and erythrism; also of gynandromorphs, so-called hermaphrodites, and "mutations" and hybrids. Among the latter are described and figured (colored plate by Allan Brooks) crosses between Valley and Mountain Quail, Valley and Desert Quail, and Desert and Scaled Quail.

Another paper of Mr. Hachisuka's is entitled, "Egyptian Birds Mummies" (reprinted from "Tori", Vol. VI, December, 1928, No. 26, 5 pp.). This paper lists some 35 species of birds as represented among the 1000 or more mummies examined by various investigators. We wonder if feathers of any of the species of complicated color pattern were preserved so as to show any positive differences that might obtain between the mean of the species at the time the mummies were made and the mean for specimens in the region of the Nile Valley to-day. In an elapsed interval of, say, 5000 years, there *might*, in the case of intricate barring or mottling of feathers, be apparent some

appreciable change, evidencing evolution in process. Someone with the opportunity and the experience requisite for such an inquiry ought to look into this question. So often we read comments of many laymen and some men of science to the effect that color characters in birds are fleeting—easily and quickly modifiable. We need definite data as to the rate of evolutionary change, whether fast or slow, in terms of millennia.—J.G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held in Room 101 Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, on January 24, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., with Vice-president Clabaugh in the chair and about 75 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for December were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for December were read.

Names proposed for membership were: Miss Mabel Hibbard, 990 Geary St., San Francisco, by Miss Muriel Pettit; Mr. Bob Merrill, Arlington Rd., Berkeley, and Mr. Dan Ormsbee, 333 Alcatraz Avenue, Oakland, by Mr. B. C. Cain. The proposal of Dr. Theodore Sherman Palmer for honorary membership, read before the December meeting, was brought up for final action. Dr. Palmer was unanimously elected, thus ratifying the action taken by the Southern Division at their December meeting. Mr. Swarth suggested that since Dr. Palmer's birthday was but two days off the Secretary be instructed to wire him on that date, of the Club's action. It was so ordered.

The Chairman announced that election of officers of the Division for the current year was in order and that at the December meeting the following nominations had been made: President, John G. Tyler; Vice-president, Ernest D. Clabaugh; Secretary, Hilda W. Grinnell. No other nominations being offered, Mr. B. C. Cain moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a ballot electing these persons to office. This was done as ordered.

Mr. Grinnell reported upon the second edition of Taverner's "Birds of Western Canada", recently issued by the National Museum of Canada. Considering pages,