

March. At the end of March only a small number is left. They are molting during February and March and are not migrating back before the molt is nearly completed. Mr. Walter Wenzel, who drew my attention to this fact and published a note about it in the *Ornithologische Monatsberichte* (xxxvi, 1928, p. 76), has now started to mark the birds in the chimney with rings of the Biological Station, Helgoland (Germany). He ringed 99 of them on April 7, 1929, and is prepared to continue the scheme in 1930 on a larger scale. The guess, that the species is *Chaetura pelagica*, has proved to be an error. I since got a specimen for identification and found it to belong to *Chaetura vauxi*. It may be advisable to draw the attention of California ornithologists to this fact. A note about recovered birds would be welcome to Dr. R. Drost, Biologische Anstalt, Helgoland, Germany."

An item in "The official Record," United States Department of Agriculture (volume 8, number 20, May 16, 1929) records the shipment of some 3,000 live Mexican quail to Bologna, Italy, for "re-stocking purposes". These quail were brought into the United States from Mexico at Brownsville, Texas, and were shipped through an American importer on February 28 of this year. We can thus expect practically no limit in the transportation of game species from one place to another all over the world! It is curious to us that Government authorities should not only approve but apparently encourage such activities which are, admittedly by most serious students, of dubious propriety. In this connection, we see by the daily press that one Carl Ring, of the San Diego Zoo, is ardently advocating the stocking of southern California with various kinds of foreign pigeons and doves, so that our depleting "bird life would gain immensely". It is implied that our native Mourning Dove would in no wise suffer; there is "room for all". Fortunately San Diego has citizens of a sounder point of view. We understand that the San Diego Society of Natural History, through its Director, Mr. Clinton G. Abbott, has announced itself as opposing any such liberations of non-native birds. Mr. Frank F. Gander, another bird student of San Diego, asks cogently, "Why not practice conservation of what we have rather than replacement?"

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on April 25, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about one hundred members and guests in attendance. Upon the invitation of Vice-president Clabaugh, Mr. Joseph Mailliard occupied the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Proposals of membership made at the March meeting of the Southern Division were read. New names proposed for membership were: Mrs. Helena E. Lindsey, Route 4, Box 30, Hayward, Calif., by Mrs. G. Earle Kelly; Mr. W. R. Penny, Hotel Carlton, Berkeley, Calif., by Genevieve S. Burk.

A letter of appreciation from Mr. J. Eugene Law was read, in which he thanked the Northern Division for its part in electing him to Honorary Membership in the Club. A motion was made by Mr. Clabaugh that since the Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club is to be held in the Bay region in May, the usual monthly meeting of the Northern Division be omitted. This motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Dr. Ritter requested help in replying to a correspondent who wished to know of some way in which he might divert the attacks of a Red-shafted Flicker upon the gable-end of his house. Mr. Clabaugh reported the finding of 26 occupied birds' nests among trees bordering a Fresno orchard on April 21. Ten of these nests proved to belong to mockingbirds. Mr. Mailliard reported the gratifying fact that California Clapper Rails are now to be seen along the slough near Mill Valley Junction in Marin County, and Dr. Bryant added that these birds have been noted also near Baltimore Park, a fact as gratifying as the increase, under protection, of Cranes and Band-tailed Pigeons.

Mrs. G. Earle Kelly gave the evening's talk, upon a "Trip to the Tropics in Winter". Leaving San Francisco on December 8 by steamer, Mrs. Kelly had the pleasure of studying birds at Fort Randolph, Panama, Cristobal, and the Barro Colorado Island Laboratory on Gatun Lake in the Canal Zone, in Jamaica,

in Cuba, and on the Florida Keys. Mrs. Kelly's sprightly and vivid account of her journey and of the birds she saw, as well as of the natives' study of *her*, was most entertaining.

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The March meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Arroyo Seco Branch Library, Pasadena and Piedmont avenues, Los Angeles, on March 26, 1929. President Harris called the meeting to order at 8 p. m., with about thirty members and friends present. The minutes of the previous meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved.

The following applications for membership were read: Jacob Bates Abbott, 3491 Country Club Drive, Altadena, Calif., Dr. John B. May, 136 State House, Boston, Mass., and Charles Eliot Underdown, Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Circle, Philadelphia, Pa., all proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Elizabeth Shirley Jenkins, 3769 Grim St., San Diego, Calif., and Guy Edward Boothby, 904 Pomona, Coronado, Calif., both proposed by Frank F. Gander; and Albert E. Hodgkins, 347 East Flora St., Stockton, Calif., proposed by W. B. Sampson.

The following proposal of Mr. J. Eugene Law for Honorary Membership was read [see preceding Minutes, p. 139]. This proposal was signed by Loye Miller, W. Lee Chambers, Howard Robertson, G. Willett, and Wright M. Pierce. Upon the motion of Mr. Pemberton, which was duly seconded, this proposal was unanimously adopted.

President Harris announced that there is on exhibition at the present time at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, a collection of the bird paintings of Lynn Bogue Hunt. The sudden death of Mr. Robert Ridgway on the night of March 25 was announced by the President, who appointed Mr. Willett and Dr. Bishop a committee on resolutions.

Mr. Raymond B. Cowles, the speaker of the evening, told interestingly of some of the birds of South Africa. He first likened South Africa to southern California in climate, and stated that the topography of large areas is much like that in the vicinity of Puente, California, namely, small valleys and rolling hills. The large game is mostly destroyed except in reservations, and the bird fauna, though

very rich, is rapidly being depleted. The Zulus kill the birds with powerful air rifles. Mr. Cowles told particularly of the characteristics and habits of the Umbrette, similar to our Heron, and the Hornbill, showing some photographs of each.

Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.

APRIL.—The April meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, on April 23, 1929, with President Harris presiding and about eighty members and friends present. The minutes of the March meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the February and March meetings of the Northern Division were read.

The following applications for membership were read: Mrs. Edward L. Parsons, 2504 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, Calif., proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Mr. Alfred D. Trempe, 612 Kimball St., Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Mr. Jim Kitchin, Lake Henshaw, Santa Ysabel, San Diego County, Calif., both proposed by Harold Michener.

The committee on resolutions appointed at the previous meeting presented the following resolution which was unanimously adopted.

Whereas, in the death of Robert Ridgway at Olney, Illinois, on March 25, 1929, North American Ornithology has lost its foremost exponent, and the Cooper Ornithological Club of California an Honorary Member and an earnest, faithful friend, and

Whereas, from the time when a boy not yet seventeen he, as Zoologist, carried on the field work of the Geological Survey of the Fortieth Parallel for the United States Government, two years later preparing the scientific report on the birds collected, until the present, when at the age of seventy-eight he has passed away, his monumental work on the Birds of North and Middle America yet unfinished, a steady stream of papers and books on scientific ornithology of the highest order of excellence has come from his pen, and

Whereas, in botany and pictorial illustration he gave the world much of value and produced in his "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature" a book of much originality and one indispensable to all scientists in whose studies colors enter, and

Whereas, through his fifty years as Ornithologist of the United States National Museum, he not only kept the scientific work there on an elevated plane but gave freely of his time and learning to all that asked, therefore be it

Resolved, that we, the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, desire to express our great thankfulness for his modest and unselfish work, his ability and his charming character, his unswerving uprightness and the knowledge which he showered on us all; our sincere sorrow that his useful life has ended; and to extend to his remaining family our heartfelt sympathy in their and our great loss; and be it further

Resolved, that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Southern Division of the Cooper

Ornithological Club and that a copy be transmitted to his surviving brother and three sisters.

A letter from Mr. J. Eugene Law was read expressing his appreciation of the Club's action in electing him to Honorary Membership. A letter from Dr. Grinnell was read presenting the following resolutions which had been prepared by Mr. John G. Tyler, president of the Northern Division, and unanimously adopted by the Northern Division at its last meeting. [See Minutes, p. 139.]

Dr. Bishop moved the adoption of these resolutions. Dr. Miller suggested that it would be better for the Southern Division to indorse the action of the Northern Division in adopting the resolutions and to offer assistance to the committee appointed by the Northern Division rather than to appoint a separate committee; his thought being that the responsibility for the work should not be divided between two committees. Dr. Bishop explained that he believed the influence toward the end found desirable by the Cooper Club would be greater if presented as the findings of a committee from the north and one from the south, rather than as the findings of only a committee from the north. Mr. Howard Robertson in seconding the motion for adoption agreed with Dr. Bishop's thought on this point. The motion was carried. The President appointed Mr. van Rossem and Mr. Willett, chairman, on the committee and asked those two to choose a third member.

Mr. A. C. Bent was the speaker of the evening and he told in a most interesting way of a collecting trip taken in 1911 to the Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea and Northern Alaska. The main object of the expedition was to get a complete series of Ptarmigan. In this he was quite successful.

Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.

MAY.—The May meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order at 8 p.m. of the 28th by Vice-president Willett in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. About forty-five members and friends were present. The minutes of both divisions for the April meetings were read by title only.

The following applications for membership were read: Robert Keech Gilbert, 101 No. Arden Blvd., Los Angeles, E. J. Thomas, 230 West 23rd Street, Los Angeles, and Dwight G. Vedder, 408 Quimby

Bldg., Los Angeles, all proposed by Alfred D. Trempe; and Mrs. Benj. Little Clary, Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella, Calif., proposed by Harold Michener.

Dr. Loye Miller was called upon to tell of the Annual Meeting held May 17, 18, and 19 in Berkeley and San Francisco. He reviewed the history of the Annual Meetings of the Club, pointing out that the attendance and interest has increased with each succeeding meeting and that the one this year, the fourth, gives good reason to believe that the Annual Meeting has become an established part of our activities. He told of the various sessions for the presentation and discussion of papers and of the entertainment features provided by our northern associates. The Board of Governors meeting on the morning of the 19th was dwelt upon with particular reference to the work that has been done looking toward incorporation. Dr. Miller explained the benefits to be derived from incorporation and requested careful consideration and favorable action from the members when the question of incorporation is submitted to them.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. A. L. Pickens, was then introduced. He spoke most interestingly on "Hummingbirds in relation to form and color in flowers", citing and illustrating by means of crayon drawings many flowers which have developed into forms adapted for the utilization in one particular area or another of Hummingbirds to carry their pollen from blossom to blossom. The discussion which followed showed that Mr. Pickens had struck a responsive chord in his audience and he left with them an appeal for careful observation of birds, since birds may assist in the pollination of flowers. He asked that such observations be reported at Cooper Club meetings.

Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the San Francisco Bay region May 17 to 19, 1929. The program opened with a session at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco on the morning of May 17. Following a brief address of welcome by Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Director of the Academy's Museum, a response was made by President Loye H. Miller of the Board of Governors of the Club.

The scientific session began with a

paper on "Aëronautics in Bird Flight," by Sterling Bunnell, in which comparison was made between the manipulations used by men in the handling of aeroplanes in flight and the adjustments made by birds under corresponding conditions. "The Role of the Runt: A Taxonomic Problem," by J. Eugene Law, was an effort to point out that the species was best represented not by its average individuals but by the largest or brightest or most outstanding representatives. In "Notes on Wild Geese from Central California," James Moffitt detailed important features relating to the several species of geese which winter in the state, as reflected in recent observations.

Following the program of the morning, box lunches were served to the assembly through the courtesy of the Academy. The members then had opportunity to examine the exhibits in the Academy's Museum and the Steinhart Aquarium. The afternoon session opened with a discussion of "Faunal Conditions of Salvador," by A. J. van Rossem, based upon recent field experiences in that republic. H. S. Swarth showed that "The Eggs of Certain Galapagos 'Finches' and 'Creepers'" bear out his recently published opinion that the members of these groups represent a single distinctive family of birds. The "Growth and Reactions of the Barn Owl" were discussed by Gayle B. Pickwell. "Some Returns of Banded Birds" were discussed by John McB. Robertson who presented charts showing recent results in this field. The charts indicated the wide dispersal of some, even "resident" species after nesting. A notable feature was the number of returns from gulls, indicative of the large numbers of these birds shot in various parts of the west, despite the present laws protecting them. H. C. Bryant presented motion pictures taken by E. S. Cheney showing "Wintering Cranes in California." Joseph Mailliard offered "Gleanings from some Recent Bird Banding," based on observations in Golden Gate Park adjacent to the Academy and in Marin County. Small rather fixed local winter ranges for many individual *Zonotrichias*, as previously reported by other observers, featured these results.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Bellevue Hotel in San Francisco, with about ninety-five persons present. L. H. Miller acted as toastmaster and various persons responded briefly to his delightful

introductions. A surprise feature was the distribution of the history of the Club from its earliest beginnings down to date, compiled with much painstaking effort by H. S. Swarth and published through the courtesy of an unknown donor to the Club. The members and guests were then entertained by a showing of slides and motion pictures of Laysan Island bird life, featuring slides taken by W. K. Fisher in 1903 and slides and films taken in 1923 by D. R. Dickey, with running comments by the latter. The extermination of one or more species and great reduction in numbers of others, resulting from the introduction of rabbits on the island with consequent destruction of vegetation and subsequent damage to the terrain by tropical wind storms, was brought out forcibly, and demonstrated the danger incident upon man's introduction of alien species and disturbance of the natural balance.

The session of May 18 opened in room 113 Haviland Hall, University of California, Berkeley, with a discussion by Joseph Dixon of "California Gulls Nesting at Mono Lake," with illustrations of conditions in 1916. J. E. Law showed conclusively that "The Function of the Oil-gland" was not to provide water proofing for feathers. Feathers are not oiled and the gland has some other function, possibly maintenance of the beak in satisfactory condition. W. H. Burt discussed the "Morphology of the Woodpeckers with Reference to the Adaptations," dealing particularly with the Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, and Hairy Woodpecker, and showing the progressive specialization exhibited by these forms. "A New Miocene Cormorant from Calabasas" was exhibited in picture form and briefly discussed by L. H. Miller who also presented briefly a communication from Hildegard Howard on Neogyps. Miss Leigh M. Larson discussed "The Osteology of the Roadrunner, Recent and Pleistocene", and showed that no significant difference could be detected between the birds of the present and those of the Pleistocene as indicated by material from Rancho La Brea. "The Fossil Passerines of Rancho La Brea" were discussed by Alden H. Miller.

Lunch for the Club was provided at Drake's Restaurant and during the balance of the noon recess opportunity was afforded those in attendance to view an

exhibit of bird photographs in the exhibition room of Haviland Hall, featuring pictures by Joseph Dixon, W. M. Pierce, E. L. Sumner, Jr., and J. A. Calder. The afternoon session opened with a discussion of the "Distribution of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater," by Mrs. M. E. McLellan Davidson. Bert Harwell presented a brief progress report on "The Campaign to Elect a State Bird for California" and indicated that the Valley Quail had received by far the largest public preference so far. W. E. Ritter, under the title "A Virgin Field for a Revised Type of Research in Zoology," called attention to the splendid opportunities available for study of bird activities. The "Status of Some Pacific Coast Clapper Rails" was discussed by A. J. van Rossem. Joseph Grinnell called attention to "Some Angles of the General Problem of Bird Migration," and emphasized the fact that migration is after all a type of adjustment to meet immediate conditions and therefore subject to change at any slight stimulation. As indicative of the new observations often afforded in a well worked area, A. H. Miller described a local nesting colony of "The Black-chinned Sparrow in the San Francisco Bay District," which appeared recently in the hills east of Berkeley. Under the caption "Roadways: As they Affect Bird-life," Jean M. Linsdale indicated that roadways must be looked upon as a type of habitat to be reckoned with in any plan discussing the local occurrence of various species of birds. "The Economic Status of Some California Birds" was discussed by D. D. McLean with especial reference to recent campaigns upon the part of insufficiently informed individuals in the San Joaquin Valley who are attempting wholesale clean-ups of the bird inhabitants of orchards and vineyards.

Repeating the pleasant experiences of the second annual meeting, George M. Wright acted as host in the evening and opened his home to upwards of 110 members and guests. A delightful supper was followed by a brief program featuring impressions of bird life of the Panama Canal Zone by Mrs. Junea W. Kelly and an informal analysis of bird voices and notes by L. H. Miller.

Approximately 65 persons were in attendance at each one of the scientific sessions and a total of more than 100 individuals were represented in the four half-day meetings. Of this number, 20 or more had come from south of Te-

hachapi. There is a general feeling that the four annual meetings thus far held have demonstrated beyond a doubt the desirability of this sort of opportunity for western students of ornithology to join in discussing their particular problems; it is believed that the annual meetings will continue henceforth on a well established basis.

GOVERNORS' MEETING

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Allen, 37 Mosswood Road, Berkeley, on the morning of May 19. Prior to the business session, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. H. W. Grinnell jointly served breakfast for the members of the Board.

Eighteen members were present in person and 7 were represented by proxy, from the total membership of 33. Minutes of the Seventh Annual Meeting were read and approved. The report of the business managers indicated that the Club was in good financial condition. An audit of the Club's accounts by W. J. Boland, public accountant, was provided through the courtesy of D. R. Dickey. The Board voted to affiliate the Cooper Ornithological Club with the Associated Sportsmen of California, designating Joseph Dixon as contact representative. The resignation of H. S. Swarth as associate editor of the Condor was accepted and J. M. Linsdale was selected to fill his place. D. R. Dickey presented a report of the Committee of Incorporation. The name of the corporate body when formed will be the Cooper Club, Inc., and its governing unit will be a Board of Directors. The President and Secretary of the present Board of Governors together with Howard Robertson as counsel were authorized to visé the proposed articles of incorporation and the proposed new constitution of the Cooper Ornithological Club (not incorporated) and proceed with incorporation. The need for incorporation arises out of the fact that the Club as now constituted can not receive bequests under state law. Much effort has been devoted to developing a scheme of incorporation which will continue the two Divisions and such chapters as are desirable from time to time, the corporation being merely designed to look after the property interests of the organization as a whole.

Adjournment was taken at 1:20 p. m.
—TRACY I. STORER, *Secretary*.