

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The Cooper Ornithological Club was represented formally at the Seventh International Ornithological Congress held in the first part of June in Amsterdam. The Club's delegates were: Mr. Harry S. Swarth, who also spent part of the summer working in the museums in London and Tring; Mr. H. van Straaten, a one-time enthusiastic bird student with us here in California, but now resident in Holland; Dr. Casey A. Wood, who has spent the current year in various countries abroad; and Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who also visited briefly various museums in European cities. From all accounts, the Congress was highly successful.

According to a recent reckoning, nearly one-third of the Cooper Club's membership is resident of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains; but little in excess of one-half is resident within the State of California. Our organization, then, can hardly merit any statement to the effect that it is altogether provincial. However, relative to the American Ornithologists' Union, we are representative of a rather restricted group of bird students. In no sense, can the Cooper Club as an organization be considered as equivalent to, or supplanting, the A. O. U. As a matter of fact, upwards of one-half our membership belongs also to the A. O. U. It is advisable, therefore, for Cooper Club members, those living west of the Rockies as well as east, to make every effort to attend the annual meeting of the A. O. U., to be held this year, October 20 to 24, in Salem, Massachusetts. Secretary T. S. Palmer states that prospects are favorable, by reason of geographic location and of increased membership, for a greater attendance this year than in any preceding year of the Union's existence.

We deplore the tendency toward establishing journals representative of subjects smaller and smaller in scope within the general field of ornithology. The establishing of a magazine of bird banding in the East is an example to be cited. It is too bad that the really valuable research results from that field of investigation should not be published regularly in the *Auk* rather than being "buried" from the access of many active ornithologists in an exclusive journal. Bird banding is merely a *method* of obtaining information of essentially general per-

tinence in ornithology. Anything worthy as a contribution in the field of ornithology, that comes by the way of the banding method, ought to be made available in the journal of widest circulation among ornithologists at large. In this connection we commend the decision of the Western Bird Banding Association to use the *Condor* for all of its contributions which are of scientifically ornithological value. Methodology and matter of the nature of personal news are properly made available to the members of that association through a mimeographed News Letter.

We know, not one, but at least three individuals, who dislike the Mockingbird. By such persons, the Mockingbird, blatant, loud of voice, not content to announce itself only by day, is an irritation, to be gotten rid of in any neighborhood. Some other people hate Blue Jays; others are offended by the aggressive attitude of Brewer Blackbirds in the nesting season and demand to be rid of them; other people despise the House Wren; others hate hawks and owls; and so it goes. We venture to say that scarcely a species out of our entire North American list would escape condemnation from some person or other. Logically, if all such complaints are to be *heeded*, then the only thing to do is at once to undertake wholesale extermination of every living wild bird and mammal! It seems to be "human nature" to want to make way with any animal that is in any degree annoying or destructive, no matter what other qualities it may have, and even to seek destruction of anything that can be stigmatized as of "no use." This is an absolutely unreasoning attitude of mind, inherent though it may be. It is economically and ethically *wrong* to take advantage of that human, let us say *inhuman*, trait, in devising and putting into effect campaigns of extermination (more delicately referred to as "control") against any sorts of birds or mammals, at least without the most painstaking and long-continued consideration of the deeper lying factors which must be accurately weighed. The tendency manifest in various directions promptly to yield to pressure from minority interests to eradicate "pests" can, we think, lead directly or indirectly only to the complete wiping out of a large part of our native fauna.—J. G.

The Book of Bird Life, by Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University, published early in the year by the D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. (250 4th Avenue, New York, price \$3.50), is being received, we understand, most cordially. Already, the first edition is entirely exhausted, and a new one is coming out. This is well merited recognition of what is perhaps the best book yet dealing with the problems involved in the living of birds, in brief compass, and fully and attractively illustrated. It is thus a stimulative book for the use of teachers in the schools. Also, although non-technical, it contains a good deal of suggestive material worth the reading by the more advanced student of ornithology.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The April meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on April 24, 1930, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, at 8:00 p. m., with Vice-president George Wright in the chair and about sixty members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for March were read.

Applications for membership were presented from Miss Pauline Schulthess, Kelseyville, Lake County, California, proposed by Mary M. Erickson, and Clifton B. Shoemaker, P. O. Box 14, Glendora, California, proposed by J. Grinnell. Miss Pringle reported for the Cooper Memorial Committee and stated that a bronze tablet was being considered.

Dr. Evermann told of a recent visit to Pardee Dam where he saw a large number of Cliff Swallows prospecting for nesting sites, although no swallows were there last year, and he suggested that the impounded water might attract many new birds to the vicinity. Mr. Wright reported having seen four American Egrets along the Salinas River during the third week in April, also a White-tailed Kite near Gilroy. Mr. Adrey Borell stated that on a recent visit to Panoche Pass with Mr. Tyler and Mr. Ellis he had found a dead Red-tailed Hawk near the remains of a rattlesnake and the inference seemed clear that each had caused the death of the other.

The formal program of the evening con-

sisted of a symposium upon "The American Game Policy." Mr. E. L. Sumner, Jr., presented an admirable review of the "Report of the Committee to Formulate an American Game Policy" [American Game, Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association, pp. 13-16, December, 1929, January, 1930], and distributed to members mimeographed copies of an outline of the paper. Mr. Joseph S. Hunter and Mr. Donald McLean, of the California Division of Fish and Game, read at length from the "Transactions of the Sixteenth American Game Conference" papers advocating changes in the American game policy, with reasons therefor. Mr. Joseph Dixon told of the steps being taken by the National Parks toward the preservation of wild life and of the setting aside of "Wilderness Areas." Mr. H. V. La Jeunesse of the Hayward Pheasantry closed the evening's program with a most interesting account of the rearing of game birds in captivity. His hearers were surprised to learn that many more young are reared from a domesticated pair of Quail or of Mallard Ducks in a season than are reared in the wild.

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

MAY.—The May meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on May 22, 1930, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, at 8:00 p. m. In the absence of president and vice-president, Joseph Grinnell occupied the chair. Fifty members and guests were present. Minutes of the Northern Division for April were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for April were read.

Reports from the field were the order of the evening and members responded generously. Dr. Ritter told of watching gulls alighting on piling along the Bay front and suggested that Club members having opportunity so to do photograph the birds in the different postures assumed in settling in order to show the number and variety of body members brought into play and coordinated into simultaneous action. Mrs. Allen reviewed notes which she had taken for several days on the activities of a pair of Hutton Vireos which started to build a nest in an oak tree outside her window.

Mr. Harold W. Clark of Angwin, Napa County, described the faunal position of his home territory on Howell Mountain