

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Another popular-style bird book has appeared relative to the birds of Africa—this time restricted to a southern subdivision of that continent. The author, Captain Cecil D. Priest, contributes what impresses us as promising practical help to beginning bird students, done in a workmanlike way. Under the title, "A Guide to the Birds of Southern Rhodesia and a Record of their Nesting Habits," there are presented 233 pages of text together with 14 colored plates and 112 black and white drawings. As is well stated in the "Foreword," what is probably "the most effective method of preserving bird-life is to excite an interest in the study of it." It appears that Captain Priest's work is the first of this sort pertaining to Rhodesia, where heretofore there has been a lamentable disregard of bird-life as an asset of the country worth preserving.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The July meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on July 23, 1930, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. In the absence of the president and vice-president Mr. Alden Miller presided. Forty-five members and guests were present. Minutes of the Northern Division for May were read and approved. Applications for membership from the minutes of the Southern Division for May were heard.

The secretary read a report of the committee appointed by President Storer to place a memorial tablet in the Hayward Public Library to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of James Graham Cooper, upon whose old homesite the library stands. The report was written by Mr. Joseph Mailliard, who stated that the tablet had been duly prepared, bearing the following inscription: "To recall the homesite of James Graham Cooper, M. D., June 19, 1830–July 19, 1902, foremost ornithologist of California. Noted for his book, 'Ornithology of California', issued in 1870. This plaque placed here by the Cooper Ornithological Club".

This tablet was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies on June 19. Mr. Emerson moved that the report of the committee be accepted and that the committee be thanked and discharged. It was so ordered. Mr. Emerson added that he himself had hung a framed photograph of Dr. Cooper, taken in 1879, above the plaque and that he had presented to the Hayward library a hand-colored copy of Dr. Cooper's "Ornithology of California".

Mr. Miller told of his pleasure in becoming acquainted with the Broad-tailed Hummingbird during field work in Nevada, and Mr. Emerson reported the killing of the male of a pair of White-tailed Kites in an orchard near Hayward, the owner mistaking the birds for "hen hawks".

"British Birds in Field and Museum" was the subject of the evening's main talk given by Mr. H. S. Swarth, who explained that his recent trip abroad was undertaken with two objectives—to study bird-skins in the British Museum and at Tring and to attend the Seventh International Ornithological Congress held at Amsterdam during the first week in June. Mr. Swarth's talk covered many other items besides those indicated in his title, some scarcely avian but all most interesting.

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

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday evening, August 28, 1930, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with forty-five members and guests present and President Storer in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. The following applications for membership were read: Dean Blanchard, Hotel Durant, Berkeley, California, sponsored by Dr. Evermann and Mr. Swarth; Richard N. Lewis, Inverness, Marin County, California, sponsored by Mr. Clinton G. Abbott.

Mr. Grinnell announced that the printer is at work upon Avifauna number 20, the ten-year index to the *Condor*, prepared by Mr. George Willett. Mr. B. C. Cain reported noting, as of especial interest

on his summer's outing, Pine Grosbeaks on the Tioga Road and a pair of the same species near Laurel Lake, on July 18; Piñon Jays at 6000 feet altitude near Carson City, Nevada; and being startled by the yelping of a Spotted Owl traced and seen at his camp near Iowa Hill. Attention was called by him to the new magazine "Western Nature Study," published at the State Teachers College, San Jose. Mr. Cain alluded further to a statement made in this publication that herons "spear" their prey and asked if anyone present had seen an instance of this, as he himself had only seen the bill used as a forceps in the tactics of the heron. No one corroborated the magazine statement.

Miss Selma Werner reported a walk taken in Yosemite Valley on August 2, in company with Mr. Michael, in which the high lights were the sight of a Great Horned Owl being mobbed by a bevy of small birds, and a young Hermit Warbler taking six successive baths. Mrs. Allen told of an abundance of birds seen on a quiet evening in early June at the marshy end of Donner Lake. Gordon Bolander contributed a note upon a nighthawk seen at an evening baseball game in Oakland, and Leslie Hawkins told of studying Black Swifts near Santa Cruz and of hearing their metallic calls. He also presented the largest bird census of the evening, having listed forty-two species and approximately 2000 individuals during a four-hour walk along the Santa Cruz coast.

Mr. Woodbury told of the results of investigating bird commotions in Zion National Park. Dr. Evermann announced the temporary leasing by the State Division of Fish and Game of an 18,000-acre Game Sanctuary in adjoining parts of Yolo, Colusa and Napa counties. Mr. McCabe spoke of the abnormally cold, wet summer weather this year in central British Columbia and the accompanying scarcity of birds. As the season's best record he mentioned a Bay-breasted Warbler taken by Mrs. McCabe, the first, he thought, for that region. Mr. Swarth brought over from the California Academy of Sciences a beautiful specimen of an Asiatic Partridge, the only museum example of the species, insofar as he knew, outside of the Leyden Museum where the type was placed many years ago. He said that eight of the live birds were brought to San Francisco by a ship boy who stated

that he purchased them in a Manila market. The seven surviving birds were bought by the Jordan Game Farm at Woodland. Miss Barbara Norris told of seeing an American Egret perched in a yellow pine tree. Daniel Axelrod reported having seen young and adult Audubon Warblers at Lokoya, Napa County, on June 22.

The enjoyment of the evening's program of vacation observations was enlivened by Dr. Storer's felicitous services as chairman.

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JUNE.—On Tuesday evening, June 24, 1930, the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its regular monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with about sixty members and friends present and Vice-President Pemberton in the chair. The minutes of the May meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the May meeting of the Northern Division were read.

Mr. Wright Pierce spoke of the pleasure derived by those who attended the Annual meeting from the beautiful collection of bird paintings by John Ridgway and also of how they were enjoyed by those who attended the Southern Division meeting next following the Annual meeting. He moved that the Cooper Club extend its thanks and appreciation to Mr. Ridgway for assembling this collection of his works for those occasions. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Pemberton told of the English Sparrows gathering around the radiator of his car when parked on a street in Bakersfield, but waiting until it had cooled somewhat before attempting to eat the insects that were collected on it. Mr. Reis told of a recent trip to the northwest where he saw D. E. Brown and Jack Bowles, both of whom wished to be remembered to members of the Club.

Mr. J. R. Pemberton was the speaker of the evening. He showed several reels of motion pictures taken on a recent trip to the islands along the west coast of Lower California. He accompanied these pictures with interesting comments on the islands, the animals and the birds being thrown on the screen.

Adjourned.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Secretary*.