

ly we do not now have despite the great number of bird books appearing on the market year by year. The nearest approach is Coues' Key, but this work is now far out of date as regards its systematics.—J. GRINNELL.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

FEBRUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held on February 26, 1931, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, with sixty members and guests in attendance. President George M. Wright occupied the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for January were read and approved; minutes of the Southern Division for January were read.

Dr. E. R. Hall reported having received in the latest mail a letter from H. E. Anthony, Chairman of the Special Committee of the Society of Mammalogists, stating that the Predatory Animal Control bill had been passed by the House of Representatives and urging all those opposed to the bill to communicate their protests at once to Hiram W. Johnson and Samuel M. Shortridge, Senators from California. The secretary reported that, through the kindness of Mr. W. I. Follett, Assemblyman Charles W. Fisher of Oakland had become interested in the campaign to make the California Valley Quail State Bird and had on January 21, 1931, jointly with Assemblywoman Eleanor Miller of Los Angeles, introduced such a bill into the State Legislature. This bill, no. 776, is now in the hands of the Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Economy. Mr. B. C. Cain announced that Mr. Chase Littlejohn would address the March meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific upon "Birds of the Far North" and invited Cooper Club members to attend the meeting. He also stated that on the first, second, third and fifth Thursday evenings of April the Association will hold open meetings in the auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco, with the desire more fully to acquaint the public with our native birds.

Mr. Ben H. Thompson reported upon a trip through the Florida Everglades taken recently in company with Mr.

Wright. Most of the day was spent in the marshy portion where palms crowned the grassy hummocks; birds seen were Kingfishers, large flocks of Wood Ibis, Egrets by the thousands, Great Blue Herons, Louisiana Herons, a single Great White Heron, Water Turkeys, Marsh Hawks, five Glossy Ibises, small flocks of White Ibis and, when the day's end brought them to the mangroves along the coast, large flocks of Brown Pelicans against the sunset sky.

Mrs. Bracelin told of seeing a flock of forty-four Whistling Swans feeding on the flat north of the Sears Point cut-off, Napa County, California, and Mr. Charles Bryant reported about ten thousand Brant at the mouth of Tomales Bay, where he also saw seven Harlequin Ducks and eight Marbled Murrelets. Cranson Hopkins stated that he had seen a pair of Hooded Mergansers near the island in Lake Merritt. Mr. Grinnell voiced a vigorous protest against the maintenance on Lake Merritt of pinioned exotic ducks, barnyard breeds, and cripples, believing that the sanctuary would best serve its purpose if reserved for the free-flying wild fowl which come of their own volition. Mrs. Mead told of seeing a White-throated Sparrow on a feeding table kept by Mrs. Leavens who said the bird had visited the table daily since October. Mr. Cain reported the presence of a Slate-colored Junco, together with Oregon Juncos, in a group of twelve species about the feeding table at the Oakland Boy Scout Camp. Miss Stedman contributed a note upon the presence of a flock of forty Cedar Waxwings at her home on Howe Street, together with a Spotted Towhee, a species not usually seen so near the center of Oakland.

Dr. Gayle B. Pickwell of the San Jose State College provided the evening's program, a series of beautiful lantern slides of birds and flowers of the upper slopes of Mount Rainier, illustrating the life histories of the Pipit and White-tailed Ptarmigan, which species nest within the glacial cirques of the Arctic Zone, a fascinating region beyond the reach of most Club members.

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

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held on Thursday evening, March 26, 1931, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003 Life Sciences Building, Uni-

versity of California, with about sixty members and guests present and President George M. Wright presiding. Minutes of the Northern Division for February were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for February were read.

Proposals of new names for membership were: Ernest I. Dyer, 40 Selborne Drive, Piedmont, Calif., by W. F. Sampson; Wilfrid T. Frost, 2136 Grant St., Berkeley, Calif., by E. R. Hall; Mrs. D. Lorraine Roberts, 1785 Spruce St., Berkeley, Calif., by Margaret W. Wythe; Robert T. Orr, 759 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif., by Donald McLaughlin; Ben H. Thompson, 405 American Trust Bldg., Berkeley, Calif., by Joseph Dixon.

Mr. Dixon who has been a representative from the Cooper Club to the Associated Sportsmen announced that the latter organization has raised the dues of affiliated societies to fifty dollars per annum and stated that he would recommend to the Board of Governors that the affiliation be discontinued. Mr. Swarth reported upon the progress of the fourth ten-year index to the *Auk* and stated that it would perhaps be ready for the printer by the coming New Year. Mr. Grinnell announced that the third ten-year index to the *Condor*, compiled by Mr. George Willett, should be off the press by the middle of April. Mr. Marshall Jencks, representing the Audubon Association of the Pacific, cordially invited Cooper Club members to attend the evening meetings to be held by this organization on the first, second, third and fifth Thursday evenings in April, at the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 245 Market St., San Francisco. At President Wright's suggestion Mr. Alden Miller reported upon plans for the annual meeting of the Cooper Club, to be held on May 15 to 17. Mrs. H. J. Taylor reviewed briefly her attendance at the annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club, and she told of birds seen from the train as she came back West.

Mr. George Tonkin of the Biological Survey spoke of the unusual numbers of swans present this winter and of the fact that hunters sometimes shoot them in the early morning, mistaking them for geese. He told also of the exaggeration and distortion by newspapers of reports concerning game and cited several examples. Mr. Mailliard spoke of the continued scarcity of birds in Marin County. Miss Selma Werner reported upon a winter

visit to Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona, and upon the thrill of seeing and hearing new bird species. Mr. Wright told of seeing an agitated flock of about 150 Cedar Waxwings in a North Berkeley park recently and of finding upon his nearer approach one of the birds in the mouth of a cat.

Mr. E. W. Ehmann of Piedmont spoke upon "the banding of ducks at Lake Merritt." His talk was so full of interest that the Secretary has attempted to report upon it in some detail.

Mr. Ehmann's banding experiments were begun January 23, 1926, at which time he banded 243 ducks. Since then he has banded birds each winter until now his records show a total of 3592 banded birds distributed as follows: Sprig, 2813; Widgeon, 511; European Widgeon, 1; Spoonbill, 11; Mallard, 14; Mudhen, 220; Brant, 2. The European Widgeon is a male and has returned to the lake the last three winters, being the individual familiar to all local students; no mate has been recognized. Of the birds banded, 339 have been killed in various places and the bands returned. Ducks banded at Lake Merritt have been taken in ten different states, Alaska and Canada, and one individual in Mexico. Oakland City Park employees reported that the year before banding began female ducks were most plentiful on the lake, but during the past five years male ducks have been the most plentiful by far, almost three males to one female, in spite of the fact, pointed out by Mr. Tonkin, that duck hunters when possible prefer to take males. Most of the banded ducks, aside from the 255 taken in California, have been reported from the North, 20 having been taken in Alaska, 24 in Alberta, and 7 in Saskatchewan.

Incidentally, as Mr. Ehmann pointed out, it seems only fair that Oakland should feed the ducks since they advertise the city far and wide. Cameramen from all the leading cinema firms have photographed the ducks feeding or being banded and the films have been shown in fourteen thousand theaters and to audiences estimated to total twenty million persons.

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

FEBRUARY.—The February meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Orni-

thological Club was held on Tuesday evening, February 24, 1931, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Pemberton in the chair and about twenty-five members and friends present. The minutes of the January meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved. The minutes of the December and January meetings of the Northern Division were read.

The application for membership of Ed. N. Harrison, Box 324, Encinitas, California, proposed by J. R. Pemberton, was read.

A letter was read from J. Murray Luck, Secretary of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in regard to participation of the Cooper Club in the meeting to be held in Pasadena, June 15-20, 1931. It was moved by Dr. Loye Miller that the Cooper Club meet in conjunction with the Western Society of Naturalists on that occasion, and that the Secretary be instructed to notify Mr. Luck to that effect. The motion was seconded by Raymond B. Cowles, and was carried.

A letter was read from Senator Frederic C. Walcott, Chairman of the Special Committee on Wild Life Resources, asking for comments and suggestions on a report of this committee that was read before the Senate on January 22, 1931. It was moved by Dr. Loye Miller that the report be submitted to Joseph Dixon and George Wright. The motion was seconded by George Willett, and was carried.

Discussion was started by Harold Michener as to the present status of the Conservation Committee of the Cooper Club and the Secretary was asked to correspond with Tracy I. Storer to find out if the committee is still active and if the Southern Division should appoint one or more members to the committee. No formal action was taken.

The following resolution was read:

Whereas, it has pleased an all-wise Providence to remove from our midst our friend and fellow-worker, Dr. Edward C. Bull; and

Whereas, the work of Dr. Bull in teaching the youth of southern California to appreciate the beauties of nature has been a strong influence toward clean living and good citizenship; and

Whereas, those who have been in contact with him have been brought to appreciate his ability as a teacher, his intense interest in the study of nature, and his readiness at all times to help any worthy cause; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club feels deeply this loss to the Club and to the community at large, realizing that the passing of Dr. Bull leaves a vacancy that will be difficult to fill; and, be it further

Resolved, that these resolutions be placed on the

minutes of the Club, and that a copy be sent to the bereaved family of our friend.

Signed: J. R. Pemberton, President; John McB. Robertson, Secretary.

Dr. Loye Miller moved the adoption of the resolution, the motion was seconded by George Willett, and it was carried unanimously.

Harold Michener referred to the report at a recent meeting, by Mr. Clary, that airplanes are sometimes used in the Salton Sea region to scare the ducks so that they will go to the gun clubs where they may be shot. He had spoken of this to Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln recently in Washington and Mr. Lincoln had shown him a copy of the law that declares this use of airplanes to be illegal.

The Secretary explained that Dr. E. W. Nelson had prepared to address the meeting on the predatory animal control work of the Biological Survey, thinking that the resolution passed at the December meeting was still pending before the Southern Division, but upon finding that action had been taken at the December meeting he asked to have the engagement cancelled, since because of his recent illness he did not care to talk on another subject at the present time.

Dr. Loye Miller reported that the fossil birds recently taken from the second horizon of the Carpinteria asphalt pits indicate a wooded and perhaps mountainous environment, differing from the Rancho La Brea deposits more in ratio than in species, however. He also spoke of the color of the eye-shine of owls.

Harold Michener spoke of having recently seen Dr. Wetmore and Mr. Lincoln in Washington, and he reported that they were preparing for a collecting trip to Haiti. The coming Annual Meeting was mentioned by Dr. Miller. George Willett spoke of the scarcity of birds seen on recent desert trips, and of how few hawks he had seen. C. O. Reis spoke of birds seen near Palm Springs and Twenty-nine Palms; of particular interest were Scott's Orioles, seen near Twenty-nine Palms on February 22. J. R. Pemberton spoke of birds seen on a recent trip to San Clemente Island.

Attention was called to a display of lithographic reproductions of paintings of Abyssinian birds and mammals by Louis A. Fuertes, some of the last and also some of the best work of that well known artist.

Adjourned.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON,
Secretary.