

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB
MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 24, 1931, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, California, with Vice-president Linsdale in the Chair and sixty members and guests present. August minutes of both divisions were read and those of the Northern Division corrected and approved. Mrs. Ede M. Van Duyne, Secretary of the California Cat Welfare Association, 2237 Parker St., Berkeley, California, was proposed for membership by the Secretary.

A communication from the California Cat Welfare Association was read stating its aims and requesting the approval and cooperation of the Cooper Club. Mr. Grinnell moved that the Chair appoint a committee of three to consider the matter and report at the next meeting. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously carried. The Chair later reported the appointment of Mrs. A. S. Allen (chairman), Miss Cornelia C. Pringle, and Mr. Ben Thompson.

Mr. Linsdale, permanent chairman of the Committee on Bird Conservation appointed in 1929, presented for consideration a report. Mr. McCabe moved the adoption of the report and his motion was duly seconded. The Chairman asking for remarks, Mr. Grinnell stated that he would like to hear the opinion of Mr. Ira N. Gabrielson, a visiting member of the Club from Oregon. Mr. Gabrielson stated it to be his conviction that we must face the fact that as agriculture becomes intensified wild bird life must decrease, but that during the fifteen years of his residence in Oregon he believes that needless and incidental destruction of birds has lessened. Mr. Sumner, Sr., and Mr. Bunker added to the discussion and Mr. McCabe read a report, to be published elsewhere, revealing the slow death through sun and starvation suffered by thousands of young of the Tri-colored Blackbird, following the "experimental" poisoning of the adult birds. Mr. Grinnell offered a substitute motion, to replace the one before the meeting, empowering the Chairman to appoint a committee of three to read the report of the Conservation Committee and to return a recommendation to the Club at the October meeting

of the Northern Division. This motion was duly seconded and carried. The Chairman subsequently announced this committee to consist of W. I. Follett (chairman), B. C. Cain, and Paul F. Bunker.

Reports from the field were: Charles Bryant, six Pileated Woodpeckers seen at Mount Cobb on September 6; two male and one female of Wood Duck on Phoenix Lake, September 13; one pair of Western Tanagers, two Pied-billed Grebes feeding half-grown young, and one Black Rail, near Lake Merced, September 20. Mr. Bunker, the observing of four California Gulls directly diving into Fallen Leaf Lake on August 23, a matter of special note after having for ten years watched them "side-slip" into San Francisco Bay. Gordon Bolander, the seeing of a Lewis Woodpecker and a Tolmie Warbler in Mosswood Park on September 21. Mrs. Allen suggested that those who had read in the current *Condor* of the nesting of the Mockingbird in Contra Costa County would be interested in knowing that just now there are four Mockingbirds in the garden of Mrs. Edwin T. Blake on Rincon Road, Berkeley.

Dr. Walter P. Taylor of Tucson, Arizona, present at the meeting, cordially renewed his invitation to the Club to hold an annual meeting in that city.

Speakers of the evening were Mrs. G. E. Kelly and Mr. Ben Thompson. Because of the lateness of the hour both speakers curtailed their planned accounts of summer observations. Mr. Thompson told vividly of the environments in which five pairs of Sandhill Cranes and one young of that rare species were seen by him in Yellowstone Park. Mrs. Kelly spoke especially of the almost tropical environment which Lake Placid of the Adirondacks furnishes in summer for birds which winter in the Canal Zone of Central America, and of the efficient way in which the American Museum is providing help to nature students along the trails of Bear Mountain Interstate Park.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, Secretary.

OCTOBER.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the Life Sciences Building, Room 2003, Berkeley, California, at 8 p. m., on October 22, 1931. President Wright presided and about thirty members and friends were present.

September minutes from both divisions were read and those of the Northern Division were approved. Mrs. Louise Hatton, Box 942, Salinas, California, was proposed for membership by O. P. Silliman.

Mr. Cain announced that the Audubon Association is inaugurating a monthly series of Saturday afternoon trips afield for beginning students—each one to be held on the Saturday following the regular Sunday trip. Junior Audubon Leaflets for the year were exhibited by Mr. Cain.

Dr. Evermann reported that the advisory board had recommended that the Fish and Game Commission acquire, for a Duck and Goose Sanctuary, 2000 acres on Joyce Island with the hope that the sanctuary will begin to function this season. A dyked embankment surrounding the area provides an automobile road from which the whole tract can be easily patrolled.

Mrs. Allen presented the following report from the committee appointed at the last meeting to consider the proposal of the Cat Welfare Society:

"Your committee has considered carefully the request of the Cat Welfare Association that the Cooper Ornithological Club indorse their movement to procure legislation to protect cats belonging to owners who are willing to purchase tags for their pets and to mercifully dispose of strays. We feel that this legislation is desirable but that enforcement of it would require the machinery of a State or Federal bureau such as the State Fish and Game Commission or the Bureau of Biological Survey. The cat, we believe, cannot be caught, kept in captivity, fed, or disposed of simply by making use of existing pounds arranged for the handling of other domestic animals. To ask for legislation which would become a dead letter as soon as passed seems to us an undesirable step to take. If one city could work out a practicable method of handling the problem, other cities would no doubt follow suit and the movement would gradually spread. State legislation with enforcement carried out only by a few city pounds would seem to us far from ideal."

By vote of the members present the report was accepted, a copy to be placed on file and one to be sent to the Cat Welfare Society.

Mr. Follett, Chairman of a committee appointed at the September meeting to consider recommendations submitted by

Jean M. Linsdale on conservation problems, presented a report which advised the adoption of the recommendations. Dr. Alden Miller moved the adoption of Mr. Linsdale's report. The motion was seconded and then discussed at length by Mr. Jacobsen, Dr. Miller, Mr. Follett and Dr. Evermann. Mr. Jacobsen then proposed a substitute motion that Mr. Linsdale's report be laid on the table. This motion was seconded and carried, by a vote of 9 to 6.

Under observations Mr. Cain exhibited the nest of a Junco built on a narrow ledge from which much of the material dropped to the ground. One pound and eight ounces of this material, almost two cubic feet, was a fine exhibition of excess zeal on the part of the Junco. Mr. Sumner reported the banding of an Eastern Fox Sparrow in Strawberry Cañon on October 20—the seventeenth record of this bird in California.

Mr. Chas. Bryant reported about 100 Golden-crowned Kinglets and two large flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons seen during the course of a long walk in Marin County on October 4, and on October 18 the presence of two Water-thrushes at a muddy settling tank near the Rodeo Lagoon.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. George Tonkin who spoke on "Game Birds and Federal Laws". He referred to the Migratory Bird Treaty as a treaty which will still be in operation after many others have become dead letters. After giving the history of the treaty and describing the machinery of enforcement he referred to the interesting work which is being done by each branch of the Biological Survey in its research work and the different methods used to protect the game birds.

Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary pro tem.*

SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, Tuesday evening, September 29, 1931. Vice-President Harold Michener presided and there were about sixty-five members and friends present. The minutes of the August meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved; the minutes of the August meeting of the Northern Division were read.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Miriam S. Faddis, 1942 Le Moyne St., Los Angeles, proposed by Mrs. Ben L. Clary; A. W. Gardiner, 1010 Standard Trust Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio, proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Dr. Ralph M. Crumrine, Los Angeles General Hospital, Los Angeles, proposed by Loye H. Miller; and Eugene Hester, R. F. D., Dade City, Florida, proposed by Oscar E. Baynard.

A letter was read from the American Game Association giving an outline of their plan to prevent a recurrence of the present waterfowl crisis; another letter was read from the International Hunting Council, with headquarters in Paris, asking for funds to help carry on their work. No action was taken on either letter.

A. J. van Rossem spoke in place of Dr. Loye H. Miller, who was unable to attend because of illness. The subject of his talk was the birds seen on recent trips into southern Arizona, made by himself, Dr. Miller and others, for the purpose of working out the boundaries of the main faunal areas along the Mexican border. Among the most interesting birds observed were the owls, the following species having been found in the several regions worked: Mexican Screech Owl, Spotted Screech Owl, Flammulated Screech Owl, Pigmy Owl, Elf Owl, and Arizona Spotted Owl. Of these, only the Spotted Owl could be located at night by eye shine. The Poor-will and the Stephens' Whip-poor-will were found to be easily located by the red reflections from their eyes when a spot light was turned on them. Among the other birds mentioned were the Texas and Western meadowlarks, the White-necked and Western ravens, Zone-tailed Hawk, Azure Bluebird, and Coppery-tailed Trogon.

The speaker answered a number of questions and then the meeting was adjourned so that everyone could examine more closely a number of skins that were displayed.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was called to order by President J. R. Pemberton at 8 p. m., Tuesday, October 27, 1931, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. There were about thirty-five members and

friends present. The minutes of the September meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved, the minutes of the September meeting of the Northern Division were read.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Eugene Marcelin Verges, 2nd, 1126 Beacon St., Brookline, Mass., proposed by W. Lee Chambers; and William K. Ryan, 1661 Crescent Place, N.W., Washington, D. C., proposed by John McB. Robertson.

A letter from the National Research Council was read, inviting the Cooper Club to appoint a delegate to represent the Club at the Fifth Pacific Science Congress, to be held in Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia, between May 23 and June 4, 1932. No action was taken, but it was suggested that the Secretary get in touch with the Northern Division and bring the matter up again at a future meeting.

Dr. Leon Patrick made a brief announcement of the organization of the Whittier Ornithological Academy under the auspices of Whittier College, for the purpose of propagating species of birds that are nearing extinction in the wild. Pamphlets giving more of the details of this new organization were distributed.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. George H. Corsan, who for four years was in charge of the development of the W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary near Augusta, Michigan. Mr. Corsan's talk was notably interesting and amusing and dealt mostly with his methods of controlling predatory animals and with feeding and tree planting and other phases of his work on the sanctuary. Because of a misunderstanding, through which the wrong size of projector had been provided, he was unable to show his own moving pictures; but a reel of pictures of Jack Miner's sanctuary at Kingston, Ontario, was shown and commented upon. Jack Miner's work in Canada furnished the inspiration that led Mr. Kellogg to establish his sanctuary.

Mr. Corsan is now at Whittier, and developments there under the new Academy will be watched with interest by all who are concerned with aviculture. A number of questions were answered by Mr. Corsan and then the meeting adjourned.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Secretary*.