

any theory that is new must remain subject to correction until fully substantiated by repeated effort and the critical investigations of fellow workers looking at the problem from some other angle. . . . Experimental biology, however, is peculiar in this respect, that the investigator must of necessity have a preconceived theory upon which to work."

Rowan's concept of the mechanism of migration gains weight with each additional experiment. The present volume brings under one cover his work to date in this field, which work is the most searching and thorough investigation of its kind. In the foregoing discussion I have freely transcribed into my own words only a very few of the author's ideas. A careful reading and study of the book is to be highly recommended to all students of birds.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *January 23, 1931.*

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was called to order by Vice-President Harold Michener, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, at 8 p. m., Tuesday, November 24, 1931. Minutes of the October meetings of both divisions were read, and those of the Southern Division were approved.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Marie Everett, Randsburg, California, proposed by Loye H. Miller; Miss Mary E. Fancolly, Apt. 1, 819 North First Ave., Tucson, Arizona, proposed by Walter P. Taylor; and Miss Elizabeth Hager, 2322 Observatory Ave., Los Angeles, proposed by Berry Campbell.

The matter of a delegate to the Fifth Pacific Science Congress having been held over from the last meeting, the secretary stated that Dr. Miller had received a later announcement that the Congress has been postponed for one year.

A letter was read from the Secretary, Pacific Division, A. A. S., requesting that representatives be appointed to meet with the Affiliation Committee in San Francisco in January. Harold Michener stated that it is customary in such cases to ask any representative who may be appointed by the Northern Division to represent the Southern Division also.

The following resolution was read:

Whereas, The all-wise power that controls the destinies of men has seen fit to withdraw from our companionship our friend and fellow worker, John Eugene Law; and

Whereas, We realize that for many years our Club has benefited from his unselfish and devoted efforts for its betterment, and that the science of ornithology has been materially advanced through his earnest endeavors to solve many of its complex problems; then be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, hereby express our appreciation of the great loss that has come to us individually, to our Club, and to the science of ornithology at large; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to extend our sympathy to the bereaved family of our friend.

It was moved by Dr. Miller that the resolution be adopted, and that a standing vote be taken. The motion was seconded by Chester Lamb and was carried unanimously. A short note from Mrs. Laura B. Law, expressing her appreciation of the flowers sent to Mr. Law's funeral by the Southern Division, was read.

As there was no regular program the meeting was opened for discussion. Chester Lamb told of some of his recent experiences collecting in Lower California. Dr. Miller reported the finding of fossil bird remains in a new horizon near the breakwater at San Pedro, and of having recently seen a Summer Tanager in Los Angeles. Chester Lamb spoke of having recently seen the Great-tailed Grackle in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Dr. Miller told of the Mearns Quail in southern Arizona hatching young in late August after the rains had brought on spring-like conditions.

J. W. Sugden was present and told how some of the Cooper Club members in Salt Lake City still meet although the Inter-Mountain Chapter has not functioned for a number of years. He also reported the Eastern Kingbird, the Arkansas Kingbird and the Cassin Kingbird to be found nesting within a mile of each other in Utah. He also gave some interesting observations on the nesting waders of the Salt Lake region.

Chester Lamb reported a man at Santa Rosalia, Lower California, who claimed to have taken 11,000 Heermann Gull eggs from the islands in the Gulf of California, and told of others who had taken 6,000 more. The eggs are sold for food.

J. W. Sugden said that the California Gull, the sacred bird of Utah, has been reported to be a menace to the cherry crop in some sections of Utah, picking the ripe fruit from the trees as they fly past. After some further discussion the meeting adjourned.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Secretary.*

DECEMBER.—The December meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, at 8 p. m., Tuesday, December 29, 1931, with about twenty-five members and friends present. The minutes of the November meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved; the minutes of the November meeting of the Northern Division were read.

Applications for membership were received as follows: Louis A. Sanford, 6518 Moore Drive, Los Angeles, proposed by George G. Cantwell; and Lucien B. Howsley, 715 Bankers Bldg., 629 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

A copy of Jean M. Linsdale's report on conservation, adopted by the Northern Division at its November meeting, was read by the Secretary. It was moved by Dr. Loye Miller that the Southern Division go on record as endorsing the action of the Northern Division in adopting this report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rich, and was carried.

A letter addressed to W. Lee Chambers asking about the date of the coming Annual Meeting was read. Dr. Loye Miller stated that the last half of April seems to be the most suitable time for this meeting, and after some discussion, it was moved by Chambers that the Southern Division suggest to the Board of Governors that the 1932 Annual Meeting be held between the dates of April 18 and 25. The motion was seconded by Dr. Loye Miller and was carried.

It being time to consider the election of officers for the year 1932, the chair appointed W. Lee Chambers, Dr. Loye Miller, and J. S. Appleton as a nominating committee to report at the January meeting.

Alden H. Miller was called on for remarks on recent field experiences, and after expressing his appreciation of the action of the Southern Division in endorsing the stand of the Northern Division on conservation, he told briefly of the collecting trip taken by himself and wife last summer. Their object was to study the subspecies of Juncos of the Rocky Mountain area, and they camped in Junco breeding grounds from southern Arizona to northern Utah, and found some interesting problems in subspecific relationships.

J. S. Appleton told of a Horned Owl recently killed by his son at Santa Susana,

as it was killing his pigeons. Dr. Loye Miller spoke of the scarcity of owls in December in parts of southern Arizona where they were abundant in September. The question was raised as to the origin of the Chinese Spotted Dove in Los Angeles, and it developed that it has been in the Hollywood area for at least fifteen years, but no one present knew who liberated the original birds. After further comment on southern Arizona birds by Berry Campbell and Dr. Miller, the meeting adjourned.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Secretary*.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order by President Wright on Tuesday evening, November 24, 1931, at 8:00 p. m., with about 125 members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for October were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for October were read. Proposals of new names for membership were: Patrick W. Martin, Tempe, Courchan Station, Vancouver Island, B. C., by E. L. Sumner, Sr., through the Western Bird-banding Association, and Alfred P. Redington, 900 State Street, Santa Barbara, California, by Joseph Mailliard.

Mr. H. S. Swarth brought before the meeting the announcement of the death of John Eugene Law, a member of the Club since 1900 and for nineteen years one of the business managers. Mr. Swarth moved that a committee be appointed by the Chair to draw up resolutions of sympathy to be spread upon the minutes and a copy forwarded to Mrs. Law. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously passed by a rising vote. President Wright appointed Mr. Swarth, Joseph Dixon, and E. L. Sumner, Jr.

Mrs. Allen announced that many Varied Thrushes are now to be seen in Strawberry Canyon. Leslie Hawkins reported having seen forty-five Canada Geese on San Pablo Reservoir on November 22, and Brighton C. Cain told of having seen a Spotted Owl in Marin County on the same date. Dr. Gayle Pickwell described a wintering colony of White-throated Swifts found in Sycamore Canyon near San Jose. At least fifty of the birds were seen entering a two-inch crevice in the rocky walls a few moments before sunset and many

more were heard chattering in the recesses of the fissure. Mr. Swarth told of watching a Wilson Snipe at Port Rupert and stated that the bird allowed him to approach within four feet, as it stood with eyes almost shut. Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., reported baiting banding traps in Strawberry Canyon with hulled barley in place of the chick-feed usually used, in order to determine whether the birds had a preference for one or the other. Forty-one birds were caught in barley-baited traps during the time that forty-eight were caught in traps baited with chick-feed.

The topic of the evening was "Urgent Problems in Bird Protection" and Mr. John G. Tyler of Fresno opened the question with a motion that Mr. Jean M. Linsdale's report [see below] on conservation be taken from the table where it was placed at the October meeting of the Northern Division by a vote of 9 to 6. The motion was duly seconded and passed. President Wright then read Mr. Linsdale's report and the report of the special committee, consisting of Mr. Follett and Mr. Cain, which was appointed to consider it. He then invited discussion of the report. During the hour which followed, discussion was participated in by Alden Miller, W. C. Jacobsen, T. T. McCabe, Paul Bunker, E. R. Hall, Donald McLean, B. W. Evermann, Joseph Dixon, Sumner Brooks and Ira Gabrielson. Mr. Grinnell then called for the question (adoption of the Linsdale report) and the Chair asked for a rising vote. Of the 125 persons present 61 voted, 52 in the affirmative and 9 in the negative. The Linsdale report is appended to these minutes.

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

REPORT ON CONSERVATION TO THE  
NORTHERN DIVISION, COOPER  
ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB,  
SEPTEMBER 24, 1931

In 1929 the undersigned was asked to investigate problems of bird conservation in California, for the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club. Two reports have been presented and have received the approval of the Club. The following brief outline is intended to be a further report upon one phase of the situation as it has developed recently.

The welfare of the bird life of California has had no more serious threat than that which accompanies the quickening movement on the part of agricultural

interests for the artificial "control" of all animals and plants which appear in any degree to interfere with, or even not to contribute to, immediate profits from the land. The phase of this movement which most concerns this Club is the imminent plan to destroy bird life, this in response to the complaints of farmers and fruit-growers.

The progress of farming has reached a point where there is no room left on the land for wild birds and mammals, if every bit of the available energy is to be turned to the production of crops. The question must be decided: Do we want the largest possible production of planted crops with no wild animals except those which persist as pests, or do we want a stabilized crop yield with allowance for the support of representatives of our native fauna? Study of all phases of this problem shows that the interests of the whole community would be served best if provision were made for the maintenance of a substantial portion of the native fauna on the land. The situation is not to be thought of in terms of but one season or even of a short series of years.

Several agencies are teaching and even forcing people to remove the native animals from their land. This is taking place against the wishes of a large proportion, possibly a majority, of the rural population. But the movement for "pest" control is rapidly reducing the number of persons who favor the presence of wild animals, and increasing the number who consider every plant and animal, not domesticated, to be a *pest*—to be removed, no matter how great the cost.

The use of poison to kill animals not wanted on the land provides so many opportunities for unnecessary drafts upon wild life that I believe it not justified in California to the extent it has been used within recent years or to the extent desired by a large proportion of agricultural workers.

In thinking of this problem it is necessary to keep in mind the characteristics of each of the three important uses that are being, or are likely to be, made of poison in the state. These are: (1) to poison rodents, chiefly the California Ground Squirrel; (2) to poison meat-eating mammals, chiefly the coyote; (3) to poison birds, chiefly the blackbirds and finches. Care should be taken not to confuse the conditions concerned in each. Statements made about one do not neces-