

lated forms in adjoining valleys, and so, I suppose, any criticisms I might make should be thrown out of court. The point at issue, though, is not so much whether or not there is perceptible in these several series the nice shades or trends that Dr. Oberholser describes. No one, I think, will claim that these new names represent concepts that are comparable with, say, the "subspecies" that were painstakingly admitted by the A. O. U. Committee to the 1910 edition of the Check-list. No curator, I think, but would throw up his hands in despair at the suggestion that he should put his collection and catalogues in order, to accord with these and similar "descriptions." All these recent names, implying a comparison of characters as nebulous and fleeting as melting snowflakes, tend to make our delicate structure of nomenclatural conventions more and more top-heavy and unworkable. They will, so far as is humanly possible, be ignored by the real students of the questions involved. And now, having said my nasty say, let me add that, judging from other publications of the authors here reviewed, I have no reason to question their own ability to deal with those same questions, could they but forget the hunger for mere names and "types."—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The August meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, August 30, 1932, at 8 p. m., in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with Vice-president J. McB. Robertson in the Chair and twenty members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division were read and a correction noted. Minutes approved. Minutes of the Northern Division were read.

Chester Lamb reported the presence of the Mexican Ground Dove at San Ysidro, California, and mentioned that another record had been noted for Escondido, California. He also reported the presence of English Sparrows in Mazatlan and four to six hundred miles south in Lower California. Mr. Willett noted the presence of various species of migratory birds now in southern California waters, mentioning the Pink-footed Shearwater in flocks of about a dozen, and much larger flocks of Sooty Shearwater, the Black-vented being conspicuous by their absence. Common

Terns were present and one jaeger. Curlews and godwits were seen five to six miles off-shore, and murrelets seemed to be particularly numerous. Mr. Willett also pointed out that information on the migration of orioles in the fall is exceedingly scanty and suggested that the subject is worthy of more attention, especially as to the difference in time at which the sexes migrate. He also raised the question as to when the English Sparrow first reached the borders of the state and requested information on the nesting season of this species in southern California, mentioning that no records seem to be available on the subject. J. McB. Robertson responded with the information that he had seen young English Sparrows during the latter part of July and again in August. The sparrows select as their nesting sites the spaces between the roofing tiles and the eaves. Dr. Rich described the nests of the English Sparrows in New York State, upon their first appearance in that section, as being built in hardwood trees, domed, and with a side entrance. Later the species took up the present habit of nesting in holes and crevices. Mr. McCoy reported English Sparrows utilizing the nests of Cliff Swallows in April. Mr. Little reported that the sparrows nest in the machine-shops of the industrial section of Los Angeles, in spite of the loud and incessant noises.

Mr. Glassell described some of his recent observations in British Columbia, stating that the Bald Eagles appear to be holding their own in that territory. Miss Hager mentioned the presence of three gulls, species not definitely known, on top of Mt. San Antonio during a high wind, and three or four Cedar Waxwings in Big Pines on August 19. Dr. Rich inquired as to whether any one had knowledge of Mockingbirds rearing three broods of young during a summer, stating that this might be possible judging from recent observations. Raisins had proved an attractive food for the species. Mr. Appleton mentioned the use of the same food for attracting bluebirds in the San Fernando Valley and stated that the species had been induced to nest in bird boxes there.

Adjourned.—R. B. COWLES, *Secretary*.

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday, September 27, 1932, at 8 p. m., in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Michener in the

Chair and twenty-three members and guests present. Minutes of the Southern Division were read and approved; minutes of the Northern Division were read.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Arthur P. Marshall, 778 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, California, and Allan Robert Phillips, P. O. Box 357, Scarsdale, New York, both by W. Lee Chambers.

Dr. Miller briefly described the finding and identification of a bone fragment of a flightless auk, the second known specimen of the species, and explained the geological significance of the find. Mr. Peyton reported on the damage caused by the recent fire back of Piru, Fillmore and Santa Paula, stating that it was so severe that the brush had burned down to the roots. Rangers had reported seeing a mountain lion and three bears crossing the burned area, and the finding of many animals killed by the flames. Condors had not been reported from the vicinity of the fire, although the region about one of the nesting sites had been burned off. One known Condor nesting site fortunately escaped damage.

Mr. McCoy reported a flock of White Pelicans numbering 250 to 300 from Lake Elsinore; the birds were difficult to approach, but were seen closely enough to be sure of their identity. Mr. Glassell described the numbers and damage caused by the Japanese Starling around Vancouver, and Dr. Bishop commented on the fact that the colonies appear to be intensively rather than extensively developed. Mr. van Rossem described some of his observations on the Charleston Mountains and vicinity, commenting on the plumage of the Linnets. Mr. Willett reported briefly on this season's migration of marine birds, noting particularly their relative scarcity. Attention was also drawn to the migration of White-crowned Sparrows and the need for additional records for the San Diegan region. Mr. Michener and John McB. Robertson contributed notes on the species which emphasized the scarcity of information, and the need for more such observations.

Adjourned.—R. B. COWLES, *Secretary*.

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Southern Division, was held on Tuesday, October 25, 1932, at 8 p. m., in the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Michener in the Chair and thirty members and guests present. Min-

utes of the Southern Division were read and approved.

An application for membership was read, as follows: Frederick A. Hemphill, 128 Broad Street, Elizabeth, N. J., by W. Lee Chambers. A committee appointed by President Michener presented the following resolution:

Whereas, in the death of Barton Warren Evermann systematic biology has lost a friendly and encouraging spirit, older men have lost a loved and respected colleague, and the present has lost to history an outstanding builder of standards based on sound judgment and discrimination; be it therefore Resolved, that the Cooper Ornithological Club, recognizing its great loss, hereby place on record its indebtedness to this tireless worker for his inspiring example and for the rich contribution that a lifetime of activity has left to the literature of Natural History.

Raymond B. Cowles, Caroline P. Canby, Loye Miller, Chairman, October 20, 1932.

It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted. Motion carried by an unanimous vote.

Dr. Loye Miller, the speaker of the evening, talked on the topic "Fossil Birds." The need for preservation of skeletal material was stressed and illustrating this need a comparison was drawn between the abundance of available ornithological material as found in skins and the paucity of skeletal material. Other phases of paleontological ornithology were discussed, notably under such topics as the place of such studies as a means for determination of distribution in relation to geographic areas in periods of time, that is, time-space relationships; reconstruction of previously existing conditions for comparison with the present; training in observation and synthesis; and other fields of importance.

Adjourned.—R. B. COWLES, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, September 22, 1932, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Linsdale in the Chair and seventy-eight members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for August were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for August were read.

Applications for membership were read as follows: Herbert Beverly Blanks, 845 Contra Costa Ave., Berkeley, Calif., by J. Grinnell; Mrs. Laura Anne Richardson, 5216 Proctor Ave., Oakland, Calif., by Hilda W. Grinnell.

The committee appointed at the August meeting to draw up resolutions on the death of Ralph Hoffmann presented the following through their Chairman, Mr. Alden H. Miller, who moved their adoption:

Whereas, in the untimely death on July 21, 1932, of Ralph Hoffmann, Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, the Club has lost an eminent teacher of ornithology, one who instructed largely through the medium of his scholarly and highly practical bird guides, and whose influence in the ranks of the amateur bird student has been of exceeding value, especially in that it has stimulated appreciation of birds and at the same time accurate observation, and

Whereas, he has been respected by his fellow ornithologists for his wide knowledge of the habits of birds and for his zeal to make new avian acquaintances, and

Whereas, his scholarly attainments and his search for beauty in all objects of nature have well fitted him for his able direction and development of the Museum at Santa Barbara, be it therefore

Resolved, that we of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club hereby express our deep sorrow at the loss of this valued member and our appreciation of his services to all students of birds. Be it further

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions, with an expression of our sincere sympathy be sent from the Club to the family.

Amy Rinehart, Brighton C. Cain, Alden H. Miller.

The motion to adopt was seconded by Mr. Dixon and unanimously passed.

Mr. Pease reported that two weeks ago he trapped the first Gambel Sparrow of the returning winter visitors and found that it bore one of his own last year's bands. Mrs. Allen reported that fall migrants are coming in tardily this year. A few days ago she noted a small group of Savannah Sparrows near the end of the Arlington Avenue car line. Mr. Swarth told of seeing the Black Vulture near Tucson, Arizona, several years ago, and last week observing it between Tucson and Yuma. He predicted its appearance before long in the Imperial Valley. Mr. Tonkin told of a recent experience with a young eagle on a tributary of the Pit River. When first seen the bird was standing on a rock near the stream bed. When approached it ran rapidly up the hillside to a position far above the creek before launching into the air. Mr. Tonkin asked whether other observers had noted any young eagle seeking a "take-off" for flight. Mr. Dixon replied that he had seen a young Golden Eagle behave in a manner similar to that observed by Mr. Tonkin. Mr. Cain presented several observations of interest, among them the first fall appearance of the Townsend Warbler, on September 15. Mr. Blanks told of seeing a Calaveras Warbler, rare in this region, on September 14 at his home in North Berkeley.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. George M. Wright of the National Park Service, who reported upon the "Birds of Yellowstone's Waters." The knowledge acquired during three summers of field work in this Park combined with Mr. Wright's marked ability to describe birds and their backgrounds animated anew the sympathy we all have for the Trumpeter Swans in their endeavor to rear young in the face of overwhelming odds. We were familiarized also with the conditions under which Sandhill Cranes, Canada Geese, Ospreys, White Pelicans, gulls and many of the shore birds spend their summers in the Yellowstone.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, Secretary.

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at 8:00 p. m., Thursday, October 27, 1932, in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with about sixty-five members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for September were read and approved. The following were proposed for membership in the Club: Eric Campbell Kinsey, Box 76, Manor, California, by T. T. McCabe, through the Western Bird-banding Association; James L. Peters, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., by J. Grinnell; Mrs. R. M. Sims, 36 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley, California, by Mrs. A. S. Allen. A letter from Mrs. Ralph Hoffmann, expressing her appreciation of the Club's message of sympathy upon the death of her husband, was read. Acting upon behalf of the appointed committee Mr. Grinnell read the following set of resolutions upon the death of Dr. Evermann and moved their adoption.

Whereas, the passing of Barton Warren Evermann, Honorary Member and one of the Board of Governors of the Cooper Ornithological Club, has taken away one who endeared himself to all of its members by his genial nature, his perennial enthusiasm, his love and interest in the whole field of natural history; and

Whereas, Dr. Evermann has been a valued member of our society for more than twenty years, during which time our debt to him has been constantly increasing; therefore be it

Resolved, that we hereby place on record our deep realization that the removal of such a man leaves a vacancy that will not be filled; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary be instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions with the sincere sympathy of the Club to his family.

George M. Wright, William E. Ritter, Joseph Grinnell, Selma Werner, Chairman.

Prof. Ritter in seconding this motion sketched Dr. Evermann's association with the California Academy of Sciences. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. G. E. Kelly told of watching a Ruby-crowned Kinglet feeding in a crab-apple tree at her home in Alameda and noting the "flashing" of the red crown patch.

Dr. Ritter then gave the talk of the evening, the outstanding scientific program of the year, a philosophical discussion of "An Exhibition of the 'Fighting Instinct' in Birds," as displayed by a California Brown Towhee outside his window at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The "shadow boxing" of this bird with its reflection in the glass of the window-pane was noticed first on May 2 by both Dr. Ritter and Mr. Seth Benson who occupied the adjoining room. Until July 11, when the bird's activities ceased, notes were kept and a conservative estimate made which led the observers to believe that the bird had assaulted its reflection in the glass at least eight thousand times.

In response to queries as to whether the towhee were not demented, Dr. Ritter replied that the bird had never been "mented", that is, that it did not possess a brain equipped to deal with the situation through reasoning ability. In other words the towhee's brain is so constituted that it can not do otherwise than fight an apparent invader of its territory during the nesting season. The comparative anatomy of the brains of reptiles, birds and mammals was discussed by Dr. Ritter and differences pointed out.

Dr. Ritter's study of the towhee's actions and his interpretations thereof from the physiological and philosophical viewpoints made us all realize the fallacy of trying to explain bird behavior in terms of human experience.

After the adjournment of the meeting many members lingered to listen to a phonographic record of eastern bird songs presented to the secretary by Albert Brand, whose description of his technique of recording them is published in the October *Auk*.

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

NOVEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held Thursday, November 17, 1932, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with Jean M. Linsdale presiding and about 125 members and guests present. Minutes of the previous meeting and of the Southern Division were not available. Proposals of new members included Miss Esther

Crissey Hendee, Department of Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, and Mr. W. D. Baker, Science Department, John Muir Junior High School, Burbank, California, by Mr. E. L. Sumner, Sr., through the Western Bird-banding Association, and Mr. Ralph Gillespie, Bay City Business College, Bay City, Michigan, by Josselyn Van Tyne.

Mr. Cain reported the banding of a Slate-colored Junco; Mrs. H. E. Lindsey the banding of three Bush-tits taken in a W.B.B.A. Warbler trap; and Mr. Clabaugh the recent capture of a Point Pinos Oregon Junco that was first banded by Mrs. Van Zandt at San Rafael in 1931. Mr. B. D. Dexter reported seeing a large number of American Egrets near the Dumbar-ton Bridge on November 13. Mrs. Allen told of seeing numbers of mergansers at Moss Landing and at the Orinda Country Club. Alden Miller reported the first indications of pairing activities in shrikes and an unsuccessful attempt to trap this species with a live mouse as bait, through the failure of the trap to operate properly. Mr. J. O. Wanzer stated that his brother when traveling by airplane near the mouth of the Amazon had seen two flocks of flamingoes, each of several thousand individuals.

Mrs. Ynes Mexia, the speaker of the evening, presented a vivid series of "glimpses of bird life along the Amazon." Her trip began in San Francisco in 1929 and took her through the canal to Rio de Janeiro, into the interior of Brazil for one and a half years, then to Para, and from there up the Amazon by way of Iquitos and the Pongo de Manseriche to the mouth of the Santiago River. Here, she spent three months in a world made up of the river, forests, and sky, with their different inhabitants which included a few semi-aquatic mammals and many kinds of mammals and birds living in the tops of the trees. The majority of these were much more frequently heard than seen. Mrs. Mexia had specimens to show and interesting facts to tell about hoatzins, toucans, cotorras, ant thrushes, trogons, manakins, honey creepers, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and various fringillids, tanagerids, ictérids, falconids, and gallinaceous birds. The brilliant plumage of many of these has led to the use of the feathers or entire skins as ornaments by the Indians. In conclusion, slides of the larger bird species seen at the museum at Para and of the trip up the river were shown.

Adjourned.—MARY M. ERICKSON, *Secretary pro tem*.